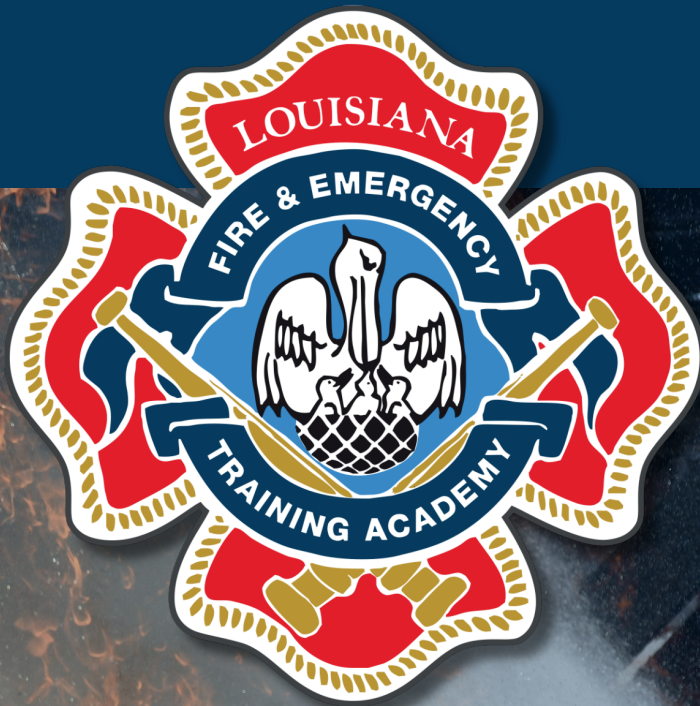


Louisiana Fire & Emergency Training Academy

FETA
FLASHPOINT

The Academy Brief



APRIL 2026





Superintendent Says...

Spring has arrived, bringing warm days, cool nights, and renewed opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. At FETA, we're feeling that same sense of energy and momentum. Exciting developments are underway, and the future is bright.

We are proud to share that the new burn building we had received federal funding approval for will soon be on site, with more details to follow. In addition, our indoor swift water rescue training prop has also secured federal funding, and we are actively moving forward with the purchasing process. These are just two examples of the many initiatives currently in progress.

Behind the scenes, our staff and leadership team are working tirelessly to plan and implement meaningful improvements.

From enhancements at our Baton Rouge campus to upgrades in our portable training fleet and strengthened regional partnerships, our focus remains on delivering the highest quality training and support.

There has never been a better time to be part of the FETA team. Over the next two years, you will see significant upgrades designed to elevate our educational delivery and better serve Louisiana's fire service community. With the leadership and dedication of DPS Principal Assistant, Chief Bryan J Adams, our State Fire Academy is poised to reach new heights of excellence once again.

As Superintendent, it is truly an honor to serve alongside such an exceptional group of professionals, all committed to educating and supporting our great Louisiana Fire Service. Our team stands ready to roll up our sleeves and get the job done.

Finally, we want to highlight a vital initiative that continues to make a lifesaving impact, Operation Save-A-Life. This program plays a critical role in preventing fire fatalities across our state. If your department isn't currently participating, we encourage you to contact your State Fire Marshal's Office and become a champion in your community by promoting and installing free smoke alarms. The difference you make could mean saving a life.

Chief Tracey Normand

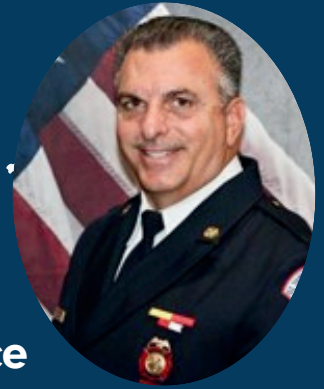
FETA Superintendent

Vision

We will meet the needs of our customers and create a destination fire academy. To do this, we will create sought after and memorable student experiences with knowledgeable and professional instructors that deliver curriculum that is current and relevant – supplemented with props on and off campus that are modern, clean, functional and safe. Committed to excellence, we will embrace new technology and techniques to adapt to the changing needs of our customers. We will be known as a premier training agency across the country.



Chiefs' Corner...



The Importance of Culture in the Fire Service

Culture is not written, it is demonstrated through actions, expectations, and the way we treat others. Fire service culture is the foundation of professionalism, accountability, integrity and mutual respect. Communication seems to be equally important to the culture of learning and growth. The fire service is an ever-changing profession that demands ongoing training and adaptability. A healthy culture encourages questions, welcomes new ideas, and recognizes that improvement is a continuous process. When firefighters feel empowered to learn and share knowledge, the entire organization becomes stronger and more capable.

The values in the fire service are built on Honor, Courage, Commitment, Compassion and Integrity. Firefighters take an oath of office to serve, protect, and put their lives on the line for people they have never met. They must know that we, as fire chiefs, have their back. We must make it well known that we care.

Creating a culture and environment that your employees enjoy can be one of the most challenging, and at the same time, most important things we do in our career. Working with a diverse group of people and personalities, how do we get to a place of common ground that we thrive and bring out the “Best Version of You?”

Communication seems to be the most important tool that we have in our toolbox. It allows us to share our vision, set our expectations, and influence behavior. Part of communications is being an active listener and understanding our employees’ point of view. The circle of communications works if we use it. To improve buy-in, everyone should have a voice.

Public campaigns have significant value by shifting public opinion, driving social and organizational change all while promoting transparency. These campaigns on social media, and in-person, continue to educate and build relationships with our stakeholders, elected officials, and media groups, as well as motivate your employees. This has evolved into an ongoing conversation with safety messages, videos of public events, as well as real time on scene working fires. This allows our public to get a close look of how we spend their tax dollars, and how their fire department operates on a more personal level.

After 36 years of service, with the last 12 years as fire chief, it has been an honor to be a public servant and lead a fire department with an exceptional team of dedicated men and women. It is not us against them; we are a team - ONE fire department, ONE family. Since we are all pulling in the same direction, the sky is the limit for us. St. Tammany Fire District #1, aka Slidell Fire, is an Internationally Accredited fire department, in our 11th year. We employ 221 employees, have nine fire stations, and have an annual budget of approximately \$31 million. Operational efficiency is part of our day-to-day operation, and this is across all six divisions. As a fire chief, I recommend you continue crew meetings, station visits, and ongoing public conversation. To be educated and informed benefits everyone both internally and externally to your department.

In closing, your leadership, dedication, and commitment to your members will speak volumes on how much you care. Caring will create a culture and environment that everyone will enjoy serving in. By doing all these things, it will have a direct effect on the service your department is providing in your community.

*Chief Chris Kaufmann
St. Tammany Fire District #1*

In the Can...

Baton Rouge Campus



Common Passenger Vehicle Operations - March 4 - 6

- *The Common Passenger Vehicle Rescue Operations course teaches students how to safely manage upright passenger vehicle incidents, including hazard identification, vehicle stabilization, access creation, patient triage, packaging, removal, and proper termination of rescue operations.*
- *8 students representing 4 departments*



Fire Officer III - March 16 - 20

- *The Fire Officer III course prepares chief officers to handle the administrative and operational challenges of today's fire service. Key topics include ethics, building community partnerships, budgeting and fiscal planning, and multi-agency emergency response coordination.*
- *17 students representing 9 departments*



Fire Investigator - March 23 - 27

- *The Fire Investigator course trains entry-level fire investigators in scientific fire and explosion investigation methods following NFPA 921 and NFPA 1033 standards, preparing them for certification and real-world investigations.*
- *17 students representing 10 departments*

Pine Country Campus



Instructor III - March 2 - 6

- *The Instructor III course prepares experienced fire service personnel for Instructor III certification by developing advanced skills in training program administration, curriculum design, leadership, and policy development, in alignment with NFPA 1041.*
- *7 students representing 5 departments*

Instructor Insight

- **Name:** Ricky Gary
- **Time with FETA:** Since 2006
- **Department:** FETA Industrial Manager



More than 112 industries operate along the Mississippi River, and the Louisiana Fire and Emergency Training Academy (FETA) prepares responders for nearly 70 percent of them. Leading and organizing this training is a natural fit for Ricky Gary.

“Our goal is simple,” said Gary, Industrial Manager, FETA. “If we equip these industrial fire departments with the right skills and knowledge, they’ll be ready to handle their own emergencies.”

From an early age, Gary knew he wanted a different path than his family’s farming roots. That path began when he became a volunteer firefighter, eventually joining the Jennings Fire Department in 1988. In 2003, he transitioned to the St. George Fire Department, where he served until retiring in 2023. During his time there, he also joined FETA in 2006, then known as the Fire and Emergency Training Institute, as a part-time instructor. After retiring from St. George, he stepped into a full-time position at FETA as industrial manager.

“I’m deeply passionate about this place,” Gary said. “I’ve seen FETA at its peak, and now we’re rebuilding it stronger than ever, so we can give students the best training and experience possible.”



FEATURED COURSE

- **Course Title:** Heavy Vehicle Rescue Technician
- **Course Details:** The Heavy Vehicle Rescue Technician course provides foundational knowledge for responding to heavy vehicle incidents. Students will learn to identify hazards, recognize when specialized resources are needed, and initiate proper scene isolation. The course also introduces relevant PPE, equipment, basic support functions, patient triage considerations, and how to assist technical rescue teams during stabilization and extrication, including hazardous materials awareness. The prerequisite for this course is the Heavy Vehicle Operations course.
- **Course Dates:** June 2 - 4, 2026/FETA Baton Rouge

On Deck...

APRIL

Heavy Vehicle Rescue Operations

April 22-24 | FETA Baton Rouge

Fire Officer IV

April 27 - May 1 | FETA Baton Rouge

Open Testing

April 8 & 22

FETA - Baton Rouge

FETA - Pine Country

Alexandria Fire Department

Jefferson Parish Fire Training Center

Ouachita Fire Department

St. Tammany Fire Dist. #1 Training Academy

MAY

First Responder Inspector

May 4 - 8 | FETA Baton Rouge

Open Testing

May 13 & 27

FETA - Baton Rouge

FETA - Pine Country

Alexandria Fire Department

Jefferson Parish Fire Training Center

Ouachita Fire Department

St. Tammany Fire Dist. #1 Training Academy

Open Certification Testing

The Louisiana Fire and Emergency Training Academy (FETA) is launching after-hours Open Certification Testing to expand access for fire service personnel. Beginning in April 2026, sessions will be offered at both FETA campuses and four regional sites on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays each month from 5-7 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. The initiative addresses scheduling challenges for working professionals, increases testing capacity, and helps reduce statewide backlogs and wait times while maintaining high certification standards.

FETA - Baton Rouge

6868 Nicholson Drive

Baton Rouge, La. 70820

FETA - Pine Country

214 Dutch Harbor

Minden, La. 71055

Alexandria Fire Department

1000 Bolton Avenue

Alexandria, La. 71301

Jefferson Parish Fire Training Center

3221 River Road

Westwego, La. 70094

Ouachita Fire Department

1000 New Natchitoches Rd.

West Monroe, La. 71292

St. Tammany Fire District #1

Training Academy

34780 South Range Road

Slidell, La. 70460

“We are committed to expanding access to certification while maintaining the high standards expected of our fire service professionals,” said DPS Principal Assistant, Chief Bryan J Adams. “By offering after-hours testing and increasing availability, we are reducing delays and better serving personnel statewide.”

“These improvements ensure a more streamlined and accessible certification system without compromising quality,” said FETA Superintendent, Chief Tracey Normand. “Providing additional evening opportunities allows us to eliminate backlogs and deliver a more efficient and reliable pathway to certification.”

2026 Training Opportunities

Recruit Academy

January 12 & August 3 | FETA Baton Rouge

Instructor I

July 13 | FETA Baton Rouge

Instructor II

August 3 | FETA Baton Rouge

Instructor III

September 14 | FETA Baton Rouge

Live Fire Instructor

December 7 | FETA Pine Country

Live Fire Instructor-in-Charge

December 9 | FETA Pine Country

Fire Officer I

July 27 | FETA Pine Country

Fire Officer II

August 17 | FETA Pine Country

Fire Officer III

March 16 | FETA Baton Rouge
September 21 | FETA Pine Country

Fire Officer IV

April 27 | FETA Baton Rouge
October 19 | FETA Pine Country

Incident Safety Officer

June 22 | FETA Baton Rouge

Fire Investigator

July 13 | FETA Pine Country

First Responder Inspector

May 4 - 8 | FETA Baton Rouge

Driver/Operator – Pumper

June 15 | FETA Pine Country

Driver/Operator – Mobile Water Supply

June 24 | FETA Pine Country

Rope Rescue Awareness

August 12 | FETA Pine Country

Rope Rescue Operations

August 24 | FETA Pine Country

Rope Rescue Technician

September 8 | FETA Pine Country

Heavy Vehicle Rescue Awareness

October 28 | FETA Pine Country

Heavy Vehicle Rescue Operations

April 22 | FETA Baton Rouge
November 17 | FETA Pine Country

Heavy Vehicle Rescue Technician

June 2 | FETA Baton Rouge
December 1 | FETA Pine Country

Common Passenger Vehicle Awareness

September 16 | FETA Pine Country

Common Passenger Vehicle Operations

September 28 | FETA Pine Country

Common Passenger Vehicle Technician

October 13 | FETA Pine Country

Open Testing

April 8 & 22/May 13 & 27

*See previous page for sites

Register Now in ACADIS

Learn Fire Service Best Practices with the National Fire Academy (NFA)

Take advantage of NFA's training opportunities to enhance your knowledge and skills in the fire service. These courses bring nationally recognized instruction right here to Louisiana.

To secure these valuable training sessions, **we must have at least 20 students registered no later than 45 days before the course start date.** This is a requirement set by NFA to avoid course cancellations. It allows NFA time to book travel for its instructors.

Register early to ensure the course can proceed as planned.

Good news: Registration will remain open until the first day of class—but don't wait! Early registration helps us keep these opportunities available to everyone in the Louisiana fire service community.



**National
Fire
Academy**
Courses



NFA TRAINING

F0647 - Leadership in Supervision: Perspectives in Thinking

April 22-23, 2026

West Monroe, LA @ Ouachita Parish FD

F0455 Strategy & Tactics for Initial Company Operations

May 19-20, 2026

Broussard, LA @ Broussard FD

F0610 - Wildland Urban Interface Firefighting for the Structural Company Officer

July 9-10, 2026

Breaux Bridge, LA @ St. Martin Parish Fire Training Center

F0770 Fire Investigation : First Responders

Sept. 16-17, 2026

West Monroe, LA, @ Ouachita Parish FD

Register Now in ACADIS

Recruit Round Up

FETA Recruit Academy 190

FETA Academy 190 recruits are nearing the end of their intensive 18-week training program. The academy began on January 12, 2026, and will conclude with a graduation ceremony scheduled for May 1, 2026.

This group includes recruits from nine Louisiana fire departments: Bogalusa, Central, DeSoto Parish, Hahnville, Morgan City, New Iberia, Opelousas, St. Tammany, and West Baton Rouge. Throughout the program, participants engage in rigorous physical training alongside in-depth classroom learning, all aimed at preparing them for the realities of a career in the fire service.

Emphasizing hands-on experience, personal responsibility, and teamwork, the academy is designed to ensure each recruit can respond safely and effectively in emergency situations. Upon graduation, these individuals will return to their home departments equipped with the skills and confidence needed to serve and protect their communities.



Next Academy...

- Class 191
- Aug. - Nov. 2026
- Register in ACADIS

Tools of the Training

Rapid Intervention Team (RIT)/Firefighter Survival Prop

Firefighting is inherently unpredictable, and preparation for worst-case scenarios is critical. The Rapid Intervention Team (RIT), or Firefighter Survival Prop, is designed to do exactly that, placing firefighters in realistic, high-stress situations they may encounter on the fireground.

This hands-on training prop simulates challenges such as entanglement hazards, confined attic spaces, and emergency entrapment. In a controlled environment, firefighters practice essential survival skills, including air management, situational awareness, and self-rescue techniques, all while operating in full personal protective equipment and self-contained breathing apparatus.

More than just skill-building, the experience strengthens confidence and decision-making under pressure, key factors in surviving life-threatening incidents.

The Louisiana Fire and Emergency Training Academy (FETA) makes the RIT/Firefighter Survival Prop available statewide through its Regional Training Program. Fully deployable and accessible upon request, departments can schedule training by contacting their FETA Regional Manager.



On-Site Training Offerings

Firefighter Training Classes

- First 5 Minutes
- Scene Size-Up, Strategies and Tactics
- Smoke Reading
- Fire Ground Simulations
- Basic Fire Ground Search and Rescue
- Thermal Imaging
- Rapid Intervention Team Concepts
- Firefighter Survival Training
- Mayday
- Flashover
- Car Fire
- Modern Fire Attack: Incumbent Firefighters
- Live Fire Training Evolutions
- Multi-Story Attack
- Forcible Entry Practical
- When Hydraulics Go Down (Vehicle Extrication)
- Introduction to Elevator Technology
- New Vehicle Design Awareness
- Max Fire Box
- Flammable Liquids and Gases (FLAG)
- Firefighter Safety and Photovoltaic Systems
- Grain Bin Awareness
- Traffic Incident Management: Responder Safety on the Roadway
- SCBA Refresher

Driver/Operator Classes

- Water and Water Supply
- The Fire Pump
- Mathematics of the Driver/Operator
- Performing Check-Out and Maintenance
- Driving
- Emergency Vehicle Driving
- Fire Ground Operations
- Drafting and Water Shuttle Operations
- Relay Pump Operations
- Foam
- Aerial Device Operations
- Fire Service Communications

FETA on the Geaux



Fundamentals of Firefighter Skills, 5th Edition

- The Fire Service
- Evolution of the Fire Service
- Firefighter Health and Safety
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Firefighter Rehabilitation
- Fire Service Communication
- Firefighter Tools and Equipment
- Ropes and Knots
- Fire Behavior
- Building Construction
- Portable Fire Extinguisher
- Ladders
- Forcible Entry
- Search and Rescue
- Ventilation
- Water Supply Systems
- Fire Hose, Appliances, and Nozzles
- Supply Line and Attack Line Evolutions
- Fire Suppression
- Advanced Fire Suppression
- Firefighter Survival
- Salvage and Overhaul
- Wildland and Ground Fires
- Vehicle Rescue Extrication
- Assisting Special Rescue Teams
- Fire Detection, Suppression, and Smoke Control Systems
- Fire and Life Safety Initiatives
- Fire Origin and Cause
- Establishing and Transferring Command

STAY CONNECTED

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6868 Nicholson Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70820

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214 Dutch Harbor
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Mission

The mission of the Louisiana Fire and Emergency Training Academy is to train, certify and support emergency responders to safely perform basic and advanced skills through the delivery of high-quality, relevant and accredited training curriculum developed to meet the needs of the ever-changing Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Medical industries.

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Course Evaluation



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