

Louisiana Fire & Emergency Training Academy

FETA
FLASHPOINT

The Academy Brief



MAY 2026





Superintendent Says...

As the warm Louisiana weather settles in, we welcome the return of outdoor activities across our communities. Along with these seasonal changes, our responsibilities as firefighters evolve to meet the increased risks associated with higher temperatures and humidity.

This time of year brings a noticeable shift in the types of incidents we respond to—from heat-related illnesses and injuries to water emergencies. It is essential that we remain prepared, both operationally and personally. Ensuring apparatus are properly stocked with ice and hydration supplies is just one part of that readiness.

Hydration cannot be overstated. Consistent intake of water, supplemented with electrolyte-replenishing beverages, is critical for maintaining performance and preventing heat-related injuries. We must also remember that children are especially susceptible to heat illness, making it equally important to encourage proper hydration among our families and communities.

Preventative measures extend beyond hydration. The consistent use and reapplication of sunscreen, along with wearing protective clothing and head coverings during prolonged outdoor exposure, are simple yet effective ways to reduce risk.

As outdoor cooking activities increase, so too does the potential for preventable accidents. We encourage continued public education around safe cooking practices, including maintaining a 3-foot “Safety Circle” around grills and ensuring all equipment is clean, properly maintained, and checked for hazards such as propane leaks prior to use.

For those on the front lines, the combination of firefighting and extreme weather conditions significantly raises the risk of heat stress and related injuries. It is imperative to follow rehabilitation protocols, monitor one another closely, and remain vigilant for early signs of heat-related illness in both yourself and your crew.

Finally, we would like to reaffirm the importance of community risk reduction efforts such as Operation Save-A-Life. This vital program continues to play a significant role in preventing fire fatalities. We encourage all members of the fire service to partner with the State Fire Marshal's Office to promote and install free smoke alarms, strengthening the safety of the communities we serve.

Thank you for your continued dedication, professionalism, and commitment to protecting life and property. Please take the necessary steps to care for yourselves and each other during the demanding summer months.

Stay safe,

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...



Introducing the Director of Community Risk Reduction

My name is Kory Leo and I currently serve as the Director of Community Risk Reduction for the Louisiana State Fire Marshal's Office. I began my career in the fire service in 1998, and over the years I have been fortunate to serve in a number of roles that have shaped my perspective on fire and life safety.

Prior to joining the State Fire Marshal's Office in November of 2025, I served with the City of Natchitoches Fire Department as the Chief of Fire Prevention. During that time, I had the privilege of working alongside dedicated firefighters and community partners to strengthen public education and prevention initiatives. In 2025, I was honored to be nationally recognized by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) as a Rising Star in Public Education. That recognition was not the result of one individual's effort, but rather the collective work of a team committed to protecting their community through proactive risk reduction.

As I step into this role for the state of Louisiana, one of the most important things I want to emphasize is that Community Risk Reduction (CRR) is not a single program or initiative. It is an approach and a philosophy that touches virtually everything we do in the fire service. From data analysis and code enforcement to public education, emergency response, and community partnerships, CRR is about identifying the risks within our communities and working together to reduce them before emergencies occur.

Embracing this approach requires a shift in mindset. It challenges us to think beyond traditional response and to look more deeply at how we can prevent incidents from happening in the first place. That type of shift does not happen overnight, and it certainly is not something that can be accomplished by one person.

Community Risk Reduction requires a team.

My role at the State Fire Marshal's Office is not to carry out this mission alone, but to be a part of that team alongside the fire service across Louisiana. Our goal is to support departments by providing meaningful data, resources, and programs that help guide their efforts in reducing risk within their communities. At the same time, we aim to serve as a leader in helping coordinate and strengthen those efforts statewide.

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve in this position. I fully recognize that the work ahead will be challenging, but I also know that the fire service has always been strongest when we face challenges together.

Community Risk Reduction is ultimately about people, our neighbors, our families, and the communities we serve every day. By working collaboratively, sharing information, and supporting one another, we can continue moving toward a safer future for every community in Louisiana.

I look forward to working alongside each of you as we continue this important mission.

*Director Kory Leo
Community Risk Reduction
Office of State Fire Marshal*

In the Can...

Baton Rouge Campus



Heavy Vehicle Rescue Awareness - April 2

- *The Heavy Vehicle Rescue Awareness course teaches students to identify hazards at heavy vehicle incidents, coordinate resources, and initiate scene isolation. It also covers PPE, essential equipment, patient triage, and basic support roles during stabilization, extrication, and hazardous materials situations.*
- *12 students representing 7 departments*



Heavy Vehicle Rescue Operations - April 22-24

- *The Heavy Vehicle Rescue Operations course provides advanced, often NFPA 1006-compliant training in stabilizing, lifting, and extricating victims from large vehicles like semi-trucks, buses, and construction equipment. This 24-hour, hands-on program covers heavy lifting, specialized struts, and incident command, preparing responders for complex, high-weight incidents.*
- *4 students representing 3 departments*



Fire Officer IV - April 27 - May 1

- *This course prepares fire officers for executive-level leadership in accordance with NFPA 1021 standards. Topics include multi-agency emergency response, personnel and resource management, budgeting, and risk analysis. Students will complete graded group projects as part of the curriculum.*
- *6 students representing 6 departments*

Instructor Insight

- **Name:** Ryan Spiller
- **Time with FETA:** Since 2011
- **Department:** FETA Regional Instructor



Answering the Call: Ryan Spiller's Journey from Volunteer to Fire Service Mentor

Ryan Spiller didn't set out to become a firefighter. As a high school student, the path wasn't on his radar. But shortly after graduating in 1999, a simple invitation from the chief of the Forest Hill Volunteer Fire Department changed everything. What began as an unexpected opportunity quickly grew into a lifelong calling.

Spiller joined the department and discovered a passion that would shape the next two decades of his life. That early experience laid the foundation for a full career in the fire service. From 2008 to 2024, he served as a full-time firefighter with Rapides Fire District 2, steadily advancing through the ranks. Over time, he took on greater responsibility, ultimately becoming the department's fire prevention officer, a role focused not just on response, but on protecting lives before emergencies happen.

While serving in Rapides Parish, Spiller also found his footing as an educator. He became a regional instructor with the Louisiana Fire and Emergency Training Institute, which later evolved into the Louisiana Fire and Emergency Training Academy (FETA). Teaching allowed him to extend his impact beyond his own department, helping to raise standards across the region.

In 2024, Spiller stepped into a new chapter, becoming a full-time instructor with FETA. Today, he travels across Louisiana, leading courses and mentoring aspiring firefighters. Nearly 27 years after that first conversation with a fire chief, he now plays a pivotal role in preparing the next generation for the demands of the profession.

For Spiller, the work is deeply personal.

"I have enjoyed doing this," he said. "It is gratifying to know that I can make a difference in preparing the next generation. I want to make sure they are properly trained so they can carry on the fire service tradition without hurting or killing themselves."

His journey, from an uncertain graduate to a seasoned firefighter and instructor, underscores the power of opportunity, mentorship, and commitment. Today, Spiller isn't just part of the fire service tradition, he's helping ensure its future.



FEATURED COURSE

- **Course Title:** First Responder Inspector
- **Course Details:** This course prepares candidates for roles as First Responder Inspectors, Fire Inspectors, and Fire Plans Examiners. It focuses on written and oral communication, public relations, and basic math skills. Participants learn to prepare inspection reports, manage complaints, maintain records, and effectively communicate with inspectors, plans examiners, and other personnel.
- **Course Dates:** June 15 - 19, 2026/FETA Pine Country

On Deck...

JUNE

Heavy Vehicle Rescue Technician
June 2 | FETA Baton Rouge

First Responder Inspector
June 15 - 19 | FETA Pine Country

Driver/Operator - Pumper
June 15 | FETA Pine Country

Incident Safety Officer
June 22 | FETA Baton Rouge

Driver/Operator - Mobile Water Supply
June 24 | FETA Pine Country

Open Testing
June 10 & 24
FETA - Baton Rouge
FETA - Pine Country
Alexandria Fire Department
Jefferson Parish Fire Training Center
Ouachita Fire Department
SMH Wellness Pavilion (Slidell) - 2nd Floor

JULY

Fire Investigator
July 13 | FETA Pine Country

Instructor I
July 13 | FETA Baton Rouge

Fire Officer I
July 27 | FETA Pine Country

Open Testing
July 8 & 22
FETA - Baton Rouge
FETA - Pine Country
Alexandria Fire Department
Jefferson Parish Fire Training Center
Ouachita Fire Department
SMH Wellness Pavilion (Slidell) - 2nd Floor

Open Certification Testing

The Louisiana Fire and Emergency Training Academy (FETA) has launched after-hours Open Certification Testing to expand access for fire service personnel. Sessions are 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

SMH Wellness Pavilion (2nd Floor)
501 Robert Boulevard
Slidell, La. 70458

“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

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

September 21 | FETA Pine Country

Fire Officer IV

October 19 | FETA Pine Country

Incident Safety Officer

June 22 | FETA Baton Rouge

Fire Investigator

July 13 | FETA Pine Country

First Responder Inspector

June 15 - 19 | FETA Pine Country

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

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

June 10 & 24/July 8 & 22

*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

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

00457 - Decision-Making for Initial Company Operations

Bridge City, LA @ Jefferson Parish Training Center

July 21-22, 2026

00760 - New Fire Chief: Challenging Issues

Bridge City, LA @ Jefferson Parish Training Center

September 2-3, 2026

F0770 Fire Investigation : First Responders

Sept. 16-17, 2026

West Monroe, LA, @ Ouachita Parish FD

00770 - Fire Investigation: First Responders

Bridge City, LA @ Jefferson Parish Training Center

October 14-15, 2026

Register Now in ACADIS

Recruit Round Up



FETA Recruit Academy 190

Congratulations Academy 190!

On May 1, 2026, Academy 190 proudly graduated from the Fire and Emergency Training Academy (FETA). After 18 weeks of intensive instruction, these dedicated recruits have earned the title of professional firefighters, ready to protect, serve, and save lives.

Throughout more than three months of rigorous training, the recruits mastered the essential skills of the fire service: performing life-saving medical care, rescuing victims from structure fires and vehicle accidents, and safely extinguishing dangerous blazes. Their education covered every aspect of the

profession, including firefighter survival, search and rescue, hose deployment, vehicle extrication, flashover recognition, fire investigation, and ventilation techniques. Each lesson and drill built not only technical ability but also the teamwork, discipline, and resilience that define the fire service.

Now, as graduates, Class 190 has taken the oath and stepped into their new roles across the state, ready to serve their communities with courage, integrity, and compassion.

At FETA, we don't just train firefighters, we prepare tomorrow's leaders and lifesavers.

Next Academy...

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

Tools of the Training

Raising the Standard: Standpipe Training at FETA

At Louisiana Fire and Emergency Training Academy (FETA), the standpipe prop is a key training tool used to prepare firefighters for high-rise and commercial building operations. It simulates the standpipe systems found in multi-story structures, allowing trainees to practice hose connections, valve operation, and water pressure management in a controlled environment.

These systems are essential in real incidents where stretching hose lines from the ground is impractical. The standpipe prop helps firefighters learn how to quickly locate and connect to outlets, manage changing pressure conditions, and work as a coordinated team under demanding circumstances.

By practicing these skills repeatedly at FETA, firefighters build confidence and efficiency before facing them in real emergencies. The result is better preparedness, faster response times, and safer operations on the fireground.



On-Site Training Offerings

FETA on the Geaux

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



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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Baton Rouge, LA 70820

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Minden, LA 71055

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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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