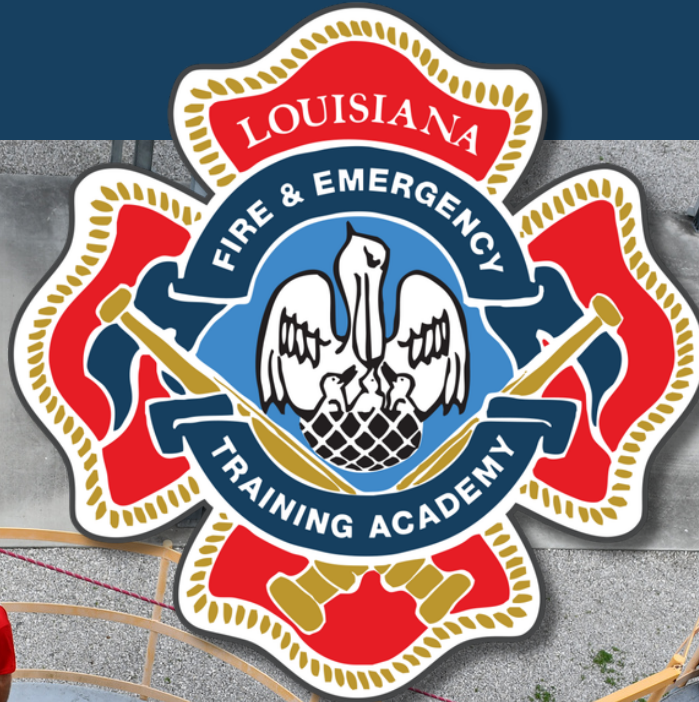


Louisiana Fire & Emergency Training Academy

FETA FLASHPOINT

The Academy Brief



AUGUST 2026





Superintendent Says...

I'd like to thank DPS Principal Assistant, Chief Bryan J Adams for the opportunity to join this highly valuable educational branch of the Louisiana Fire Service.

Many of you may know me, as I have served the fire service since 1988. I began my career in Kenner and traveled through the Westbank of Jefferson Parish. I also served as Emergency Management Director of Jefferson Parish, Chief of Westwego VFC #1 for two terms, and, most recently, spent three and a half years as Fire Chief of Jefferson Parish Fire Department. Along the way, I have served on several boards of directors and represented the Louisiana State Firemen's Association as the 2nd District Representative before completing my term as president of such a powerful and strong organization of firefighters.

I look forward to the challenges of making today's firefighters better, preparing tomorrow's firefighters to meet the challenges of the future, and providing every firefighter with the knowledge,

skills, and understanding needed to lead them safely home to their loved ones.

How do we do that? Thanks to the efforts of Chief Adams, Legislators, and Governor Landry, we have received financial support for much-needed improvements to the newly acquired Louisiana Fire & Emergency Training Academy land and facilities. These funds allow us to focus on developing this campus into a comprehensive educational resource that provides Louisiana firefighters with the training and resources they need without placing an undue financial burden on their local communities.

Planned upgrades include on-campus housing, modernized classrooms with upgraded audio/visual equipment and furnishings, a complete HVAC system overhaul, updated educational materials, a new burn building, and renovations to the campus's practical fire training props. These improvements will also support our outreach efforts and help keep our state's industry partners in Louisiana for their emergency services training needs.

As Chief Adams has stated many times, this is your campus and your educational program. I want to provide you with the very best we can offer here at FETA, on the road through our regional training sites, and through the many professional instructors who travel throughout the state.

Every day going forward, you can count on us to be the conduit to the educational leaders and resources you need and deserve. When we report for work each day, it is not about "I"; it is about "We." It is about our team of leaders working together, working hard for you, and making FETA something we can all be proud of.

I look forward to serving you and the Louisiana Fire Service as we continue building a stronger, better-trained, and safer fire service for generations to come.

Chief Charles Hudson
**FETA Superintendent
Municipal Program**

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...



A Commitment to Service, A Vision for a Safer Louisiana

For more than 37 years, I have dedicated my life to the fire service. My journey began in August 1989 as a volunteer firefighter with the Scott Fire Department. Since 2001, I've been privileged to serve as its Fire Chief. My professional path continued in August 1990 when I joined the Lafayette Fire Department, committing myself to safeguarding the lives and property of Lafayette Parish residents.

From 2006 to 2007, I served as the Fire Coordinator for Iberia Parish before returning to Lafayette as the Hazardous Materials (HazMat) Chief, a role I held until my retirement in September 2024. From 2024 to 2026, I was the Director of the Lafayette Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. During this time, I managed emergency management, disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and coordination with local, state, and federal agencies to protect Lafayette Parish.

Throughout my career, I have witnessed the courage and dedication of Louisiana's firefighters and public safety professionals. Leading an agency with such a distinguished history and vital mission is a tremendous honor.

My wife, Kelly Clause Sonnier, a retired educator, now serves as Justice of the Peace in our community. We are blessed with five children and six grandchildren. We take pride in our family's commitment to service, with all of our children and most of their spouses serving as first responders and educators.

As State Fire Marshal, my commitment is to lead with integrity, transparency, and accountability. Together, we will enhance fire prevention, firefighter safety, support for emergency responders, code enforcement, and fire investigation capabilities across Louisiana. Building strong partnerships with local fire departments, officials, businesses, and communities is equally vital.

The fire service faces evolving challenges, but our determination to meet them is unwavering. By embracing innovation, fostering collaboration, and remaining steadfast in our mission, we aim to make Louisiana safer for every citizen.

I am eager to listen, learn, and work alongside each of you. My door is always open, and I am committed to ensuring that the Office of State Fire Marshal remains a trusted partner and valuable resource for every community in our great state.

It is a privilege to serve the people of Louisiana, and I look forward to the important work ahead.

May God bless each of you, the dedicated men and women who faithfully serve our communities, and may He continue to bless the great State of Louisiana.

Chief Chad Sonnier
Louisiana State Fire Marshal

In the Can...

Baton Rouge Campus



Fire Instructor I - July 13-17

- *Instructor I introduces fire service instructors to instructional methods, including training objectives, lesson planning, adult learning principles, and evaluation. Participants will develop lesson plans and deliver class presentations. The course meets NFPA 1041 Level I objectives and prepares students to take the Fire Service Instructor I certification examination.*
- *23 students representing six departments.*



EMT Refresher - July 13-22

- *FETA's EMT Recertification Course is designed to meet the current NREMT 2025 Continuing Education Model and Louisiana Bureau of EMS requirements. This 20-hour course combines classroom instruction and skills training to update EMTs on current emergency medical care practices and fulfills National Content, Local Content, and Basic Life Support recurrent training requirements for EMT re-registration.*
- *Eight students representing three departments.*

Pine Country Campus



Fire Investigator I - July 13-17

- *This 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.*
- *19 students representing 13 departments.*

Instructor Insight

- **Name:** Varsha Rideau
- **Time with FETA:** Since 2019
- **Department:** Recruit Academy



From Unexpected Calling to Shaping the Next Generation

Varsha Rideau never imagined a career in the fire service. After graduating from high school in 2000, he attended Southern University to study sociology before returning home in 2002 to work at a Walmart distribution center.

His path changed in 2004 when a friend introduced him to an officer with the Opelousas Fire Department. Rideau applied, became a firefighter, and quickly fell in love with the profession.

“I didn’t know anything about the fire service,” Rideau said. “When I was a freshman in high school, the cleaners across the street from my house caught fire. They saved a kid, and it caught my attention.”

Rideau advanced through the ranks, becoming a captain in 2012. In 2019, while attending a bus extrication class at the Louisiana Fire and Emergency Training Institute, now known as the Louisiana Fire and Emergency Training Academy (FETA), his performance caught the attention of the training staff, who invited him to become an instructor.

Since then, Rideau has served as an instructor at 16 academies, helping prepare Louisiana's future firefighters for the challenges of the profession.

His dedication was recognized in May 2026 when VFW Post 2483 in Opelousas named him its 2026 Firefighter of the Year for his leadership, professionalism, and years of service to the Opelousas community and fire service.

For Rideau, teaching the next generation is also an opportunity to grow as a leader.

“I enjoy being an instructor and playing a role in preparing the next generation of firefighters to answer the call. I take pride in that, but it also helps me become a better captain and leader with my crew at the Opelousas Fire Department.”



FEATURED COURSE

- **Course Title:** Fire Officer IV
- **Course Details:** 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.
- **Course Date:** October 19, 2026 | FETA Pine Country

On Deck...

September

Rope Rescue Technician

September 8 | FETA – Pine Country

Common Vehicle Rescue Awareness

September 16 | FETA – Pine Country

Fire Service Instructor III

September 14 | FETA – Baton Rouge

Fire Officer III

September 21 | FETA – Pine Country

Common Vehicle Rescue Operations

September 28 | FETA – Pine Country

Open Testing

September 9 & 23

*See location list below

October

Common Vehicle Rescue Technician

October 13 | FETA – Pine Country

Fire Officer IV

October 19 | FETA – Pine Country

Heavy Vehicle Rescue Awareness

October 28 | FETA – Pine Country

Open Testing

October 14 & 28

*See location list below

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. Testing is available at both FETA campuses and four regional sites on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, with sessions offered from 5–7 p.m. and 7–9 p.m. The initiative increases testing capacity, reduces wait times, and helps address statewide certification backlogs. Register today in ACADIS.

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 Road
West Monroe, LA 71292

SMH Wellness Pavilion, 2nd Floor

501 Robert Boulevard
Slidell, LA 70458

2026 Training Opportunities

Recruit Academy

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 II

August 17 | FETA – Pine Country

Fire Officer III

September 21 | FETA – Pine Country

Fire Officer IV

October 19 | FETA – Pine Country

First Responder Inspector Testing

October 5 - 9 | 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

December 1 | FETA – Pine Country

Common Vehicle Rescue Awareness

September 16 | FETA – Pine Country

Common Vehicle Rescue Operations

September 28 | FETA – Pine Country

Common Vehicle Rescue Technician

October 13 | FETA f Pine Country

Open Testing

September 9 & 23 | October 14 & 28

*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 prior to 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.

Please note: 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

00760 - New Fire Chief: Challenging Issues

September 2-3, 2026

Bridge City, LA @ Jefferson Parish Fire Training Center

F0770 Fire Investigation : First Responders

Sept. 16-17, 2026

West Monroe, LA @ Ouachita Parish Fire Department

00770 - Fire Investigation: First Responders

October 14-15, 2026

Bridge City, LA @ Jefferson Parish Fire Training Center

F0633 - Youth Firesetting Intervention Specialist

October 21-22, 2026

Pineville, LA @ Ruby-Kolin Fire Department, Station #2

F0457 - Decision-Making for Initial Company Operations

January 12-13, 2027

Ruston, LA @ Ruston Fire Department, Central Station

F0458 - Preparation for Initial Company Operations

February 25-26, 2027

Chauvin, LA @ Little Caillou Fire Department, Station #2

F0457 - Decision-Making for Initial Company Operations

April 27-28, 2027

Broussard, LA @ Broussard Fire Department, Training Classroom

F0455 - Strategy and Tactics for Initial Company Operations

May 18-19, 2027

Sulphur, LA @ Carlyss Fire Department, Station 1

Register Now in ACADIS

Incident Management Training

We are proud to offer these Incident Management Team and Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Specialty Equivalent courses to help keep you current with the training that supports professional deployments and emergency response operations. Through hands-on and scenario-based instruction, participants build the skills, knowledge, and confidence needed to perform effectively in complex, high-pressure incidents while strengthening decision-making, communication, coordination, and overall team readiness.

Plans Manager

November 2–4 | 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m. daily
Monroe Fire Department

Task Force Leader

November 17–19 | 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m. daily
Shreveport Fire Department Training Academy

Logistics Specialist

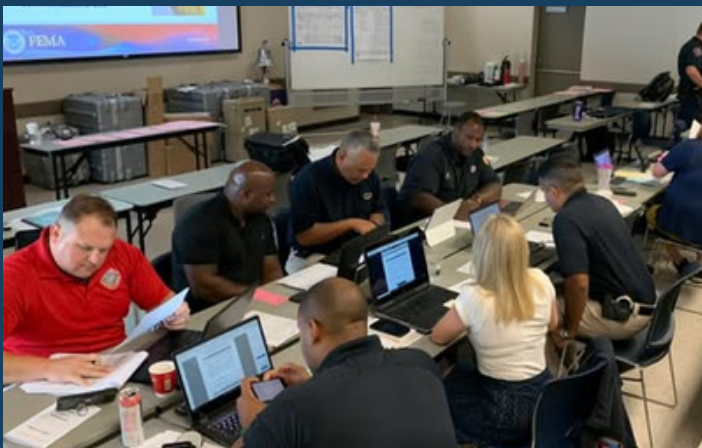
December 1–3 | 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m. daily
Jefferson Parish Fire Training Center

For more information or to request courses, contact Assistant Chief Rusty Edwards at Rusty.Edwards@la.gov.

Register at stems.gohsep.la.gov

0-305: Introduction to All-Hazards Incident Management

October 19–23 | 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m. daily
St. Tammany Fire District 1 Training Academy
Prerequisites: FEMA NIMS IS 100, IS-200, IS-300, IS-700, and IS-800



Recruit Round Up

FETA Welcomes Academy 191

The Louisiana Fire and Emergency Training Academy (FETA) welcomed recruits to Academy 191, an 18-week program that began Aug. 3, 2026.

Through classroom and hands-on training, recruits are building the skills, discipline, and teamwork needed to serve in today's fire service and protect their communities with professionalism and dedication.

IAMI Marine Investigation Training



IAMI 2ND ANNUAL HANDS-ON MARINE FIRE INVESTIGATION TRAINING SEMINAR LOUISIANA FIRE & EMERGENCY TRAINING ACADEMY

BATON ROUGE, LA - OCTOBER 12-16, 2026

OVERVIEW

The International Association of Marine Investigators & the Louisiana Office of the State Fire Marshal are proud to offer a Marine Fire Investigation Training Seminar. Attendees will conduct hands-on investigations of both recreational & commercial vessels, witness a live burn & attend 36 hours of tested training, ranging from basic fire science & scene safety to in-depth investigations.

REGISTRATION AND FACTS

- Registration is \$695 for IAMI members and \$850 for non-members and is capped at 70 attendees
- Focus will be on NFPA 921 & 1033
- Ideal for insurance, first responders, & marine experts
- CMI & CMFI Testing will be held on 10/16
- Insurance and Fire Investigators CE credits available
- For sponsorship opportunities, please email iami@iamimarine.org



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR
TO REGISTER, PLEASE VISIT
IAMIMARINE.ORG/EVENTS

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 Extinguishers
- Ladders
- Forcible Entry
- Search and Rescue
- Ventilation
- Water Supply Systems
- Fire Hoses, 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

(225) 372-6944

FETA Pine Country
214 Dutch Harbor
Minden, LA 71055

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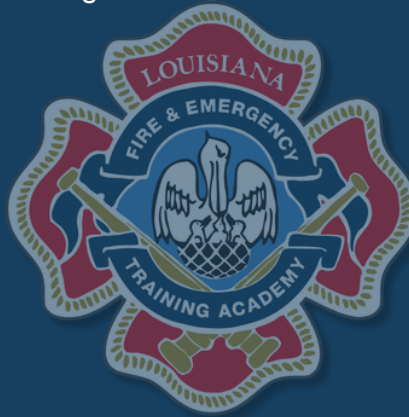
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Mission

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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