



Firehouse Notes

AUGUST
2005

Do We Practice What We Preach?

We all know all the answers. We share that knowledge with the public on an almost daily basis to help make them and their families safer. But, are we getting all the right information out to those who are most important to us - our families? Do we practice what we preach?

Do an honest self-evaluation of the fire safety steps in place in your home. Do you have adequate smoke detectors? ... CO monitors? When did you last test them? How old are their batteries? Do you have at least one home fire extinguisher? When have you last inspected it? Do you have any overloaded electrical receptacles, extension cords, or power strips in your home. Before answering too quickly, take a look at the ones behind that entertainment center or computer desk. There was a recent fatal apartment fire in Baton Rouge caused by an overloaded power strip. Does every member of your family know two ways out of every room in your home? Does your family have a designated emergency safe meeting place? Well, you know all the answers. Do you practice what you preach?

It is not unusual for professionals in a field to have some lapses in their personal application of the basics of their profession. We all know what can happen, and sometimes it does. Don't let it happen to your loved ones. If you've discovered some deficiencies, fix them. Call that family meeting and have that family drill.

Congrats to Tom Cassisa

Fire Inspector Tom Cassisa was recently elected Second Vice President of the Louisiana State Firemen's Association. The action came at LSFA's 100th annual convention held during the last week of July in Shreveport. This positions Tom to head the Association during their 2007-2008 term. It also means the 2008 LSFA convention will come to Baton Rouge. Tom has represented LSFA District 6 on the group's Board of Directors for the past 7 years.

LSFA is Louisiana's largest fire service organization, with over 12,000 members.

Do You Have Anything You'd Like to Share?

Is there a new addition you'd like to introduce to your associates at St. George? A special family event, graduation or wedding? If so, pass it on to the PIO in person, by phone or via E-mail. We'll be happy to put your news in our next issue.

St. George Announces Civil Service Examination

The Civil Service Board has called for examinations on September 28th to fill our upcoming (early 2006) fire academy. The Board also called for promotional exams to be administered on the same date. All applications must be turned in by 3:00 PM, Monday, August 22, 2005.

So, if you have an interest in potential promotion (and meet all requirements) or if you know someone who is a qualified candidate for our academy call Patricia Senn or Chief Albert for more details.

LSUE Registration Underway

Registration for the fall semester is currently underway. Contact Chief Albert for details.

Positive Step Taken By Firefighter Retirement System

The Board of Trustees of the Firefighters Retirement System, at its July 28th special meeting, accepted their actuary's report that moving their investment income estimate from 7% to 7.5% would not jeopardize the system's long-term stability. What this does for St. George and other fire departments is lower the employer contribution rate to 17.5%. This will create some breathing room for departmental budgets stretched to and beyond their limits by the mandated rise from 9% to 24% over a three year period.

For the recommendation to take effect, it must be approved by the Public Retirement Systems' Actuarial Committee. That committee is expected to meet soon to hear this request for change and a similar one proposed by the Municipal Police Employees Retirement System Board.