



# Firehouse Notes

October  
2005

## A Note From the Fire Chief

After Hurricane Katrina I expressed my pride in this Department. Since then we have responded to the need created in southwest Louisiana by Hurricane Rita. Again, each of you lived up to the challenge. The St. George Fire Department has performed as expected; completing every assigned task as we provided manpower and other assistance to communities struck by Hurricane Rita.

At the same time we have maintained the level of protection our citizens expect and deserve. We responded to 892 calls in September 2005, compared to 483 runs in September of 2004. That is an 84.7% increase over the same time period last year. Without tremendous effort and cooperation from everyone, this increase in local response at the same time that we were deploying people and equipment all across south Louisiana, literally from the Texas to the Mississippi borders, would not have been possible.

## St. George Awarded Fire Act Grant

Chief Tarleton has received official notification that St. George has been awarded a grant under the Assistance to Firefighters ("Fire Act") Grant program. The award, in the amount of \$274,442 will be applied toward the replacement of our outdated SCBA's. As you are aware, our self contained breathing equipment was nearing end of useful life.

The estimated almost \$350,000 (and maybe more at post-Katrina prices) air pack replacement project will not only provide our members with up to date life safety equipment, but will also give us an opportunity to standardize our equipment to that of the other major agencies in the area.

## Website Revamped - Check it Out

The St. George Fire Department's website has been redesigned. The new version is out there for your review and comments. If there is anything you would like to see added to [www.stgeorgefire.com](http://www.stgeorgefire.com) call or email PIO Ledoux with your suggestions.

## 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 email. We'll be happy to put your news in our next issue.

## 2005-2006 Budget Approved

The 2005-2006 Budget document was submitted to the St George Board of Commissioners. They approved the document at their September 22 meeting. The budget is still available on the St. George website ([www.stgeorgefire.com](http://www.stgeorgefire.com)) for public review.

## Civil Service Testing Completed

Testing for both entry level and promotional positions took place on September 28th and 30th. When the test scores are posted, the administrative team will begin reviewing those test scores along with other employment criteria to develop the hire list for our upcoming fire academy. That academy class is still expected to begin in early (January or February) 2006.

The size of that class has not been finally determined. It could be as small as 13 or as large as 30 St. George Cadets. We have every hope of still being under consideration for a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant. If St. George is awarded this grant, we could not only hire to staff Station 64, but also increase our engine company staffing. Our application was given a favorable review by the initial review panel, but have not received any further official notice.

## Bids Opened for Station 66 Remodel and Station 64 Construction

Bids have been received and opened for both of our upcoming capital projects. The Board is expected to review and act upon these proposals at their October 13th meeting. Hopefully, both the Station 64 construction and the Station 66 remodel projects will be underway soon.