



# **St. George**

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# **FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

## **East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana**

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13686 Perkins Road      Baton Rouge, LA 70810      PHONE: (225) 389-8600  
FAX: (225) 389-8605      E-MAIL: [StGeorge@StGeorgeFire.com](mailto:StGeorge@StGeorgeFire.com)      WEB: [www.StGeorgeFire.com](http://www.StGeorgeFire.com)

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### **ST GEORGE RECEIVES \$1.8 MILLION STAFFING GRANT**

The St. George Fire Protection District has been awarded a SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) Grant by the Department of Homeland Security / FEMA / United States Fire Administration in the amount of \$1,800,000.00. This grant will partially fund the addition of 18 new firefighters to St George's ranks. The program is structured to help defray the employment cost of these new firefighters over the next five years, with the federal share decreasing annually.

The grant is part of a \$65 Million program aimed at increasing the number of qualified firefighters available throughout the country. A similar program is in place for law enforcement personnel.

St George has plans in place and is currently interviewing to hire an additional 13 firefighters in January 2006. These added positions are mostly needed to staff the station under construction on Hoo Shoo Too. This grant will allow that number of new firefighters hired and trained in 2006 to grow to at least 31. The additional firefighters will allow adding manpower to existing engine and ladder companies. This will put more personnel on the scene in response to emergencies, which will help bring about an increased safety factor for not only our citizens, but also for our firefighters themselves.

The Department wishes to acknowledge and offer its thanks, on behalf of the citizens of the District, for the assistance it has received in the form of letters and calls of support for this grant from Congressman Richard Baker, Senator Mary Landrieu, and Senator David Vitter, as well as Congressman Bobby Jindal and Congressman Charlie Melancon.