



# **St. George**

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# **FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

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

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February 12, 2009

For Immediate Release

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### **ST GEORGE FIRE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES \$2.2 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 \$2,176,947. This grant will partially fund the addition of 21 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. The portion of salaries covered by the grant will decrease each year.

The SAFER Grant program is a nation-wide effort aimed at increasing the number of qualified, career firefighters available throughout the country. St. George was the recipient of a SAFER grant in 2005. That grant helped offset the local cost of staffing our newest fire station and also contributed to our ability to place more firefighters in each fire company.

St George has plans in place to hire an additional 23 firefighters this spring. A civil service exam has already been administered, and the screening process is set to begin shortly toward filling the 2009 St. George Fire Academy. These added positions are mostly needed to staff the Department's third ladder company. The third ladder truck will be temporarily stationed on George O'Neal Lane until the enlargement of living quarters at the Antioch Road station is completed. It will provide more rapid aerial truck response to the east side of Airline Hwy.

On behalf of the over 100,000 citizens of East Baton Rouge Parish who depend upon St. George for primary medical and fire emergency response, we extend our heartfelt thanks for the assistance we received in support of this grant from Senators David Vitter and Mary Landrieu, Congressman Bill Cassidy, former Congressman Don Cazayoux, and Congressman Charlie Melancon.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL ELDON LEDOUX (454-6573) OR CHIEF JERRY TARLETON (454-6551). YOUR INTEREST IS WELCOMED AND APPRECIATED.