

St. Tammany Fire Protection District No.1



Department History

Updated January 19, 2009

St. Tammany Fire Protection District No.1 History

Community Overview and Brief History

St. Tammany Fire Protection District No.1 encompasses the City of Slidell and the surrounding unincorporated area of St. Tammany Parish. St. Tammany originally was a region known for farming and timber. While scattered houses were built as early as 1852, the beginning of the city came with the first railroad survey team in 1881. The City of Slidell was founded around 1882 during construction of a major new railroad from New Orleans to Meridian, Mississippi, connecting New Orleans with Cincinnati, Ohio and eventually with New York, NY. The New Orleans and Northeastern (N.O.N.E.) Railroad established a building camp on first high ground north of Lake Pontchartrain which eventually grew into the City of Slidell. The first train trip took place on October 15, 1883. In 1883 the town was surveyed and mapped by the railroad surveyors and named Slidell Station in honor of John Slidell, a U.S. senator and Confederate official. The post office, telephone and telegraph lines were added in 1884. In 1886, Fritz Salmen started a successful brick making company that helped the town to develop. Slidell was chartered as a town on November 13, 1888 by the Louisiana legislature. The first council meeting concerned construction of a jail, which was built together with the mayor's office in 1889.

In the thirty or so years after its founding, Slidell developed a creosote plant, one of the country's largest brick manufacturing facilities, a large lumber mill and a shipyard. The Slidell shipyard contributed significantly to the national effort in both World Wars. Slidell residents also worked in the New Orleans ship, tank and airplane construction industries during World War II. Slidell has always been the industrial center of the parish. Currently, Slidell produces seafood, meat, furniture, chemicals, boats, concrete, apparel, and machinery.

As a location for a major NASA facility, and strategically located between the NASA John C. Stennis Test Site and the Michoud Assembly Center in New Orleans; Slidell has served as a bedroom community for the aerospace industry.

The City of Slidell is located at the southeastern tip of St. Tammany Parish in Louisiana's famous Ozone Belt. It is about three miles from the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain and is surrounded by rivers and bayous. The

largest municipality in the parish, Slidell has grown from a population of 364 in 1890 to 24,142 in 1990; Slidell's 1999 population is estimated to be 32,000. Today, Slidell continues to deal with urban planning and growth, of preserving a sense of present and past, while accommodating an ever increasing number of residents.

The Pravata Family Influence and the early Fire Department

The earliest history of a fire department in Slidell originates with the Pravata family in 1923. Specifically, Carol, Joe, Frank and Pete Pravata were dedicated to the early days of the volunteer fire department in Slidell. Carol C. Pravata was the Fire Chief; however, either Carol, Joe, Frank or Pete assisted or attended every alarm believing it was their civic duty. The Triangle garage was the first true fire station; the "Triangle" was owned by the Pravata brothers and located at Front Street and First Street. The fact that the garage was open 24 hours and had a capable staff of young men made this the perfect civil defense post. The staff of the Triangle garage not only provided vehicle maintenance and mechanics but also vehicle rescue. Medical transports to Charity Hospital in New Orleans included "bullet service" or transportation by motorcycle and sidecar. In addition to all of these services, the Triangle staff was also dedicated to fire fighting. The Triangle Garage was the city center in much the same way the Train Depot had been prior to automobiles. Until the arrival of the new fire truck in 1926, firefighting efforts were limited to that of hand pumped wells and the "Triangle Bucket Brigade."

The Pravata boys played an important part of the "Bucket Brigade Fire Department". According to Pete Pravata: "Surely everybody got excited and helped, a fire was the biggest excitement of the times. You can bet when one got started EXCITED or NOT, it was a BURNED DOWN proposition, unless the owner was there first with a pitcher of water to put it out while it was little. YEP-when that NEW FIRE TRUCK came in, everybody was THANKFUL, They put a SIREN on top of the WATER TOWER, and the 'BUTTON' on the late B.T. CARROLL PLUMBING building across the street from the TRIANGE GARAGE. The Plumbing shop closed at 5p.m., the CITY CLERK, where the CITY TELEPHONE was closed at 3:30P.M. and the FIRE ENGINE was exactly where the 'DRIVERS LICENSE' office is, of course the CITY HALL was above the JAIL, where the CIVIL DEFENSE is now located. SO it dosen't take a 'PHILADELPHIA LAWYER' to describe or relate, that the TRIANGLE SERVICE STATION,

with all the mechanics, service attendants, and the HANG OUT for many ambitious boys, was in reality a “CIVIL DEFENSE” headquarters, besides a “VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT”.

From the days of the “BUCKET BRIGADE” Carol C. Pravata automatically became Fire Chief and Joe Pravata, as a mechanic and trained under Carol, was his assistant. Mr. B.T. Carroll was Superintendent of water, sewerage and the fire department. Joe Faciane worked for Mr. Carroll plumbing, and was right there with Carol, Joe and the volunteers. Joe Faciane would stay with the Fire Truck and work the pumper to keep the pressure going.

Whether it was a wreck, catastrophe or a fire, any calls to the Triangle for trouble were answered. The men who worked at the garage went no questions asked. Their ambulance was their automobiles and the trip to Charity hospital could take as long as 2 to 3 hours depending on the availability of ferries.

The First Engine was a 1926 American LaFrance 500 GPM pumper which was the “Death-Nell” or End of the “Bucket Brigade”. In 1926, the Original City Hall was used to store the First Engine until Central Station was constructed.

The Pravata brothers performed the following duties:

1. Weekly starting and examining of the fire truck.
2. Keeping gas and oil at the proper level.
3. Recharging batteries if necessary.
4. Greasing the truck regularly.
5. Washing the truck regularly.
6. Tire changing and tube repairing.
7. All minor mechanical adjustments including regular spark plug cleaning, electrical and ignition checking.
8. Cleaned truck and polished all parts.
9. Restacked hose after a fire.
10. Recharged fire extinguishers.
11. Painted fire plugs and cut grass around fire plugs.
12. See to it that volunteers are kept interested with practice and through means of a club, dances and other pleasures.
13. See to it that the department has sufficient weather protection including coats, hats, etc...

14.Last and most important...responsible for getting the fire truck to the fire at the shortest possible times.

In 1928, the Watson-Williams Toll Bridge (Hwy 11) opened connecting the North and South Shore. Soon after, the “free” Hwy 90 bridges across the Chef and Rigolets would open diverting all New Orleans traffic around the City of Slidell.

Pete Pravata waged a fight for greater fire protection in Slidell from his first association with firefighting in 1923. For many years Pete, Joe and Carl Pravata were quite literally the fire department. Pete’s fight for adequate fire protection in Slidell was a long but ultimately successful campaign. Pete also served on the Board of Commissioners since its formation in 1952.

In the Wake of Catastrophe...An Organized Fire Department is Born

On February 5, 1951, a serious grammar school fire on Carey Street emphasized Slidell’s need for greater fire protection. The Slidell Grammar School, now Brock Elementary was completely destroyed.

In October 1951, Pete Pravata purchased a used dodge 11/2 ton truck chassis and gave an 800 gallon (gasoline) tank to be used as a water tanker. The cost of the chassis was \$400.00. This new tank truck was used for grass fire and proved to be the best piece of equipment for year.

The Slidell Volunteer Firemen’s Association became very active and recruited newly motivated members. Mr. Emile Oulliber was elected President of the Association and appointed a committee to form a Fire Protection District as defined by the State of Louisiana. On January 17, 1952, the Police Jury of St. Tammany Parish approved the creation of St. Tammany Fire Protection District No.1 and defined its borders. On February 25, 1952, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen for the City of Slidell concurred with the parish. A vote of the public confirmed the creation of St. Tammany Fire Protection District No. 1 on June 18, 1952. It is from these humble beginnings that St. Tammany Fire Protection District No.1 was created to protect 60 square miles of the greater Slidell area.

Central Station was built in 1952 for \$42,000.00. At this time, there were 5 companies of volunteers and two paid firemen. Volunteer companies included the Slidell Volunteer Firemen’s Association, the Bayou Liberty

Volunteers, the Kingspoint Volunteers, the Northshore Volunteers and all City of Slidell employees. Chief Poppler eventually required the volunteers to merge.

The Second Engine, Engine 2 a 1952 American LaFrance "Invader" Foamite with a 750 GPM Pump and 200 Gallon Booster Tank was purchased for \$15,600.00. This engine was delivered via rail ahead of schedule in April 1952. Engine 2 had one SCBA-a Scott Air Pack that was never used.

Engine 4 was a 1954/56 Ford/Boyer Combination 500 GPM pump. The remaining apparatus included three tank trucks with portable pumps. Two of the tankers were Internationals one a 1970 and the other a 1972 model equipped with baffles and exterior pumps. A third tanker was an old Ford gasoline truck converted to a tanker. This tanker was not equipped with baffles and was subsequently rolled by Firefighter Miles Hursey on Robert Road during a response. While F.F. Hursey sustained no injuries, this apparatus was immediately removed from service.

Equipment included with fire apparatus included 2-way radios that communicated with Central Station. A Louisiana Department of Forestry tractor and plow was also available for use during wild land fires.

Engine 5 was a 1968 International Gasoline powered truck with two spark plugs per cylinder and dual distributors. It held 1000 gallons of water and had a 500 GPM pump.

The building and maintenance of the department would subsequently be funded with taxes based on property assessment. Fire Protection District No.1 constructed its first station and employed the first two paid firemen in St. Tammany Parish. The tax millage at the time was a 5 mill property tax. Additionally, volunteers paid \$3.00 per year membership dues. Of the 1,000 dues paying volunteers on the books in 1952, only 18 were active. Volunteers continued to meet and train at 7:30pm each Thursday.

Not only did Volunteers train and fight fire, but they also participated in card playing, beer drinking and billiards. Simon Manegra was a volunteer and majority owner of Dixie Beer who donated the pool table for Central station. The pool table remained a centerpiece of Central Station until it was donated to the Boys Club of Slidell by Commissioner Macke Gomez where it remained until it was eventually destroyed.

In the 1960's, Slidell began to assume its modern profile as the middle of three local sites in NASA's lunar landing program: Michoud assembly facility in New Orleans, the computer facility in Slidell (now Textron), and the John C. Stennis Mississippi test facility in Hancock County, Mississippi. In the early 1960's the fire district protected an estimated population of 12,000 people, half of which lived inside the Slidell city limits and half outside. The fire district responded to approximately 300 fire calls per year from three stations.

In June of 1964, Pete Pravata donated a lot in the Carolyn Park Subdivision to be used for the development of a supplementary fire station west of the Southern Rail Road Tracks. This would be a major improvement that would fill a dire need of the community in having fire protection on both sides of the railroad tracks. In 1967, there were 4 paid firemen making \$400 per month plus state supplemental pay. These individuals were civil service employees. Additionally, there were 25 volunteers. Fire prevention activities were conducted at this time including inspection of all schools, fire drills and public buildings.

Station 13 was built in 1968. Firefighters earned \$400.00 per month base pay with \$16.66 monthly state pay. State pay gradually increased to \$33.33 then to \$66.66 per month.

From 1963 to 1974 the population within the fire district grew to over 20,000. In the late 1960's the department responded to approximately 300 calls per year. In the mid to late 70's, STFPD1 protected 48% of the entire parish population.

Prior to the 1970's firefighters worked 24 hours, were on call for 24 hours and were off for 24 hours. During this time, firefighter either responded to fires or worked the phone. In the early to mid 1970's firefighters worked 48 hours on with 48 hours off. It was not until the late 1970's that firefighters began working the 24 hours on with 48 hours off schedule.

In 1978 the base pay of Firefighters was \$500.00. After one year of service, members are entitled to \$150.00 in state supplemental pay. At this time the department had 25 full time firefighters, 15 volunteers and 9 pieces of equipment.

Due to the construction of satellite subdivisions outside of the boundaries of the fire district, and the increased number of calls outside of the district where STFPD1 responded anyway, the voters approved to expand the district from 60 square miles to 123 square miles in 1980. By the late 1990's the district alone had a population over 65,000.

Station 14 and Station 15 were built in 1980. Station size increased at this time as a result of PIAL requirements.

Station 16 was built in 1991.

Station 17 was built in 2002.

Based on the 2000 census, the population of St. Tammany Fire Protection District No.1 is 75,979. The current population of St. Tammany Fire Protection District No.1 is estimated to be 89,773. There are approximately 30,020 homes in the district and 1,773 businesses.

The Evolution of Communications

The Communications division has grown from volunteer's home phones ringing whenever an emergency was called in to a modern dispatch facility working in conjunction with the St. Tammany Communications District No.1 (911). The Communications division has certainly evolved as technology has evolved.

In the early days horns and sirens mounted on the water tower would sound during an emergency. The button for the siren and horn were located in the B.T. Carroll Plumbing building across from the Triangle Garage. A siren wailing meant there was a fire in the city limits; a horn blast meant that there was a fire outside of town. The number of horn blasts or siren wails further indicated the location; two blasts/wails meant the fire was to the north, three blasts/wails meant the fire was in the central business district and four blasts/wails indicated that fire was in the south.

In the 1960's, a red phone located above Chief Van Gilder's desk would simply be lifted and a call placed to all volunteers in their homes and businesses. The red phone would also place a call to the Slidell Police Department and Eddie's ESSO Service Station. Eddie's was the gas supplier of the department and resuscitator custodian.

The first dispatch center was established in the mid 1970's housed at Station 11 in a converted store room. There were three part timers working 12 hour shifts including Jack McClellan (Pappy Jack), Horace Red Davis, and Marvin H. Cochran (Doc Cochran). A secondary dispatch center was established at Station 14 for female dispatchers. In the early 1980's firefighters were assigned phone/radio watch at each station in shifts while on duty. In 1988 the district was dispatching for Slidell and Lacombe. Establishing 911 in St. Tammany Parish was difficult, posing major problems that had to be worked out. 911 required municipal addressing, mapping, coordination with South Central Bell in Tallahassee as well as voter approval. Projects included running cables, erecting antennas and drilling under streets to run lines.

The early communications system was State network High band based on frequencies 154 190 which was also the frequency for Houma's Fire Department. The department also operated on the State Police frequency 395. When the Slidell Police department erected their antenna, STFPD1 established a dedicated 800 MHz frequency which worked out much better.

Since 2000, St. Tammany Fire Protection District #1 has hosted a consolidated dispatch center. With a high total of 8 agencies St. Tammany Fire District #1 Communications has served over half of the parish area with emergency fire response and communications services. Employing 8 full time communications officers, one communications supervisor and a support staff of 9 part-time dispatchers, Fire Protection District #1 communications handled over 11,000 emergency calls and over 29,000 events in 2006.

Based at the Central Station location, in Olde' Town, and functioning as a secondary Public Service Answering Point (PSAP) for St. Tammany Parish, the communications center has 3 dispatch consoles and can add two additional workstations if needed. Partnered with The City of Slidell Police Department, the two agencies share a Motorola Centracom Gold Elite series system along with Mobile Tec Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system and AT&T/Positron Telephone/Mapping. The systems are supported by a Higher Ground recording system.

The Communications Division is comprised of a dedicated staff with many years of experience. Communications Officers must achieve high standards of training including: Basic APCO, EMT or EMD, and the Louisiana State

University Telecommunicator I which must be obtained within the first year of employment. Other classes taken by Communications Officers include: LSU Firefighter I/II, Hazmat Awareness, Hazmat Operations, First Aid, Telecommunicator II, APCO Communications Training Officer, APCO Communications Center Supervisor, National Incident Management System, advanced fire training, communications education and college level public safety curriculums.

The Communications Division works twelve hour shifts with four crews operating 24 hours a day 7 days a week to answer the call for our area's citizens and public safety responders. As of October 1, 2007 Fire Protection District #1 continues to dispatch for Slidell, Pearl River and the surrounding unincorporated area. Hurricane Katrina taught many lessons including the value of a local fire and emergency call center in close proximity to its customers. St. Tammany Fire Protection District No.1 has made a conscious decision to remain in the area to insure that our citizens and their property are a priority in all situations.

Fire Prevention...the single most effective strategy for reducing loss of life, and property, through education, outreach and enforcement.

Fire Prevention efforts have been continuously provided since 1979 with the creation of the St. Tammany Fire Protection District No.1 Fire Prevention Bureau by Chief Poppler in response to a desperate need for personnel to conduct Fire Investigations, Code Enforcement and Public Education. Prior to this time, volunteers provided education and school inspections traditionally during fire prevention month each October. In December of 1982, Bruce Olivier, a local contractor and STFPD1 Commissioner was unsuccessful in his attempt to abolish the Fire Prevention Bureau. Today, the St. Tammany Fire Protection District No.1 Fire Prevention Bureau consists of six full time Officers and a Fire Prevention Chief.

Duties of Fire Prevention Officers

Fire Prevention Officers are commissioned by the Louisiana State Fire Marshall's Office to enforce fire and life safety codes for public buildings in our area including new and existing structures through new construction and annual inspections. Fire Prevention Officers also investigate fires to determine origin and cause. The Fire Prevention Bureau works closely with

St. Tammany Parish Sheriff Office and Slidell Police Department Detectives on those cases where the crime of arson has been committed.

Fire Prevention education is provided year round for schools, groups and businesses. The department utilizes several resources including “Eddie the Fire Truck” and a state of the art portable Fire Safety House to simulate smoke conditions to allow effective demonstration of the principles taught during presentations. A 911 simulator is also utilized to teach proper use of the 911 system. Suppression personnel are also utilized during presentations to demonstrate apparatus and firefighting gear. As the local Safe Kids Chapter and a member of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the Fire Prevention Bureau was instrumental in bringing the “Risk Watch” curriculum to local schools grades Pre-K through 8th. This Injury Prevention Program covers topics including: Fire and Burn Prevention, Motor Vehicle Safety, Choking, Suffocation and Strangulation Prevention, Poisoning Prevention, Fall Prevention, Firearms Injury Prevention, Bike and Pedestrian Safety and Water Safety.

Fire Prevention Chiefs

Glenn Strecker Chief of Fire Prevention June 6, 1988-March 5, 1996
Milton Kennedy Chief of Fire Prevention March 7, 1996-July 10, 2000
Chris Kaufmann Chief of Fire Prevention July 10, 2000-January 1, 2007
Neil Ricca Chief of Fire Prevention January 1, 2007-Present

Training

Jim Decker and Gale Van Gilder, both would serve in the capacity of Fire Chief for the department; however, before becoming Chief this pair would act as the first training officers of the department. Both Decker and Van Gilder attended the LA State Fire College and passed on this information to anyone interested each Thursday from 7-9pm. Chief Poppler also acted as an unpaid training officer upon completion of training at LSU which he subsequently brought back to STFPD1. Chief Poppler admitted that during this time training was not a strong point of the department and changes had to be made.

There was an apparent need for a secluded spot to build a training facility to satisfy rating bureau requirements. Chief Poppler approached General Ansel

Stratt at Camp Villere regarding property for a training facility. Then Slidell Police Chief Ben Morris was a full bird Colonel with the Louisiana National Guard and Chief Poppler asked if the Police department would like to build a joint training facility to leverage Chief Morris' position with the National Guard. There was a mutual agreement to cross train Police, Fire and National Guardsmen at the facility when necessary.

In 1991 a joint training academy for St. Tammany Fire Protection District No.1 and the Slidell Police Department was constructed on 3 acres in Camp Villere with 4 additional acres being used for training grounds and practical evaluations. In 1998 Don Little was rehired as a full time Training/Safety Officer and was given free reign to build the training academy. In 2000, the Slidell Police Department required additional training space and bought out STFPD1. A new 5,000 square foot academy was constructed on the training grounds. This academy includes a large classroom, offices, bathroom and shower facilities, a kitchen, and a dual apparatus bay. Portable buildings were donated by the School Board and installed for additional classrooms and office space. Concrete was poured in anticipation of a training tower; however, the tower was not constructed until 2005.

Today, the training academy is used to certify and recertify all suppression employees in CPR/AED, EMS and Hazardous Materials incident mitigation, Emergency Operations, NIMS and ICS training. The academy also hosts portions of the Delgado Fire Protection Technology Certificate and Degree program, LSU FETI training classes, management training classes, NFA courses and any other necessary or required courses. The two portable buildings are located on site and are still used; one is used for office space and storage, the other is an additional classroom. A four story burn building constructed on the site includes two burn rooms with a third burn room to be added, fire sprinkler system for training, a standpipe system, adjustable maze, artificial smoke generator, ventilation simulation props, anchor points for high angle rescue training and other features. This facility is also used by military and law enforcement personnel for tactical training.

The training staff includes Chief of Safety and Training: Rusty Sholtz (2005-present), Training and Safety Officer Steve Billman (2007-present), Training and Safety Officer John Bauer (2008-present) and Training Secretary/Records Clerk Carolyn Gilmore (1996-present).

Maintenance Division

The maintenance of apparatus and stations was typically handled by the guys in the stations as needed. The Pravata Family owned the Triangle Garage so the Pravatas and their staff would keep vehicles running in the early days. Eddie Poppler, Larn Hunter and Irvin Voltz started maintaining vehicles in the stations out of necessity. Eventually Irvin Volts would become the full time maintenance officer. Upon Irvin's retirement, his position was not filled and maintenance of apparatus and vehicles from that point on has been coordinated by Chief Gary Jones who out sources apparatus and vehicle maintenance/repair to local mechanics.

First Responder EMS Services Save Lives

Fire District No.1 had no choice but to begin providing emergency medical services to the community. The locations of fire stations dictated that the fire department was in a better position to respond to medical calls. The fire department had a less than 5 minute response time where EMS service providers had a 10 to 20 minute response time. In 1990, the fire department began teaching First Responder and EMT-Basic classes in house. A significant increase in call volume resulted in 1992 when the fire district began providing first responder level patient care on all life threatening medical calls. This service benefited the community by providing medically trained firefighters and equipment on the scene of life threatening medical calls, in most cases before an ambulance arrived. Providing EMS allowed the department to expound on its mission of saving lives and protecting property.

Superfund Site thrusts the department into Rescue services.

Impacted by creosote contamination from a wood-treating plant that operated between 1872 and 1970, a 54 acre site along the western edge of Slidell became the location of one of the largest Superfund sites in the United States known as the Bayou Bonfouca Superfund Site. Surface water bordering the site on the downgradient sides also was affected by creosote. Removal operations costing approximately \$140 million began in November 1993 and were completed in July 1995. These operations included excavation of the plant process area, dredging of the bayou and Eastern Drainage Channel, and onsite incineration and storage of the recovered materials. A pump-and-treat system, initially installed in July 1991 and modified between 1997 and 2000, remains at the site to reduce or eliminate

the potential for ingestion of carcinogens in groundwater and control the migration of polyaromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) contamination in the Shallow Artesian Aquifer. The towers constructed at the site for waste processing were 180 feet tall and created the potential need for high angle rescue. Coordinated by Chief Dave Kuhn, the superfund site donated \$3,500.00 to St. Tammany Fire Protection District No.1 for equipment and training to assist with response to incidents at the Superfund site. This was the catalyst for STFPD1s technical rescue program.

First Female Firefighters Join the Department

The first female firefighter to join St. Tammany Fire Protection District No.1 was Debbie Luneau-Rhyce who joined the department in April of 1995. Following Debbie was Troi-Marie Higgins who joined in July of 1996. While both Debbie and Troi-Marie have moved on, female firefighters continue to serve St. Tammany Fire Protection District No.1. Volunteer firefighter and full-time communications officer Amanda Hall actively participates in suppression activities at Fire District No.1.

Fire Department Chaplains

The primary purpose of the fire Department Chaplain is to give aid, comfort and help to firefighters and their families. Fire Chaplains strive to help ease the suffering of their fellow man by providing comfort, counseling and solace to fire departments, firefighters, communities, victims of the devastating ravages of fire or other crisis happenings in the community. Our Chaplains have chosen to serve the fire service, the acknowledged world's most dangerous profession, and fire victims, whose suffering is that most beyond description. Chaplains effectively respond to crisis situations armed with little more than training and compassion; yet they make all of the difference. The first Chaplain of the Slidell Volunteer Fire Department was Rev. Father Timothy Pugh. While previous Chaplains were Catholic Priests, the current Chaplain is Keith Boyer of Faith Bible Church on Allen Road in Slidell.

St. Tammany Fire Protection District No.1 Honor Guard

In 2000 Eric Abney, John Bauer and Tony Lowe joined together in an effort to launch the first St. Tammany Fire Protection District No.1 Honor Guard. Within a few months, these members would procure a training manual,

equipment and uniforms. From these humble beginnings, the Honor Guard was formed to honor the members of St. Tammany Fire Protection District No.1, the Fire Protection District and the public. Very quickly, the Guard achieved their goal of 12 members, 10 from suppression and 2 from Communications. Today, the Honor Guard is comprised of members from the Fire Suppression, Communications, and Fire Prevention divisions as well as the Volunteers. All members of the Honor Guard serve on a voluntary basis.

Shortly after its inception, the St. Tammany Fire Protection District No.1 Honor Guard was called on to take care of one of their own in response to the untimely death of Firefighter Eric Blakely who was the first active professional firefighter to die while off duty. Firefighter Blakely died in an off-duty accident the day after completing his regular 24 hour shift. The Honor Guard was tested very early by arranging Firefighter Blakely's funeral. Later that same year, the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City took place, the Honor Guard stepped up to assist groups from around the city with memorial events.

Since that time, the Honor Guard has performed at numerous funerals and events for St. Tammany Fire Protection District No.1 in addition to representing the fire department before other fire departments, police departments, community and government entities.

On April 8, 2006 the St. Tammany Fire Protection District No.1 Honor guard participated in the first state fallen firefighter's memorial event in which the Louisiana Fallen Firefighters Memorial was dedicated. This event was the first opportunity that honor guards from around that state were brought in to participate on a large scale. It was apparent that the various honor guards utilized different approaches. In an effort to bring all of the state's honor guards together, the Louisiana State Firefighters Honor Guard Association was developed. The St. Tammany Fire Protection District No.1 Honor Guard is a charter member of the Louisiana State Firemen's Honor Guard Association. Captain Eric Abney of the St. Tammany Fire Protection District No.1 Honor Guard is the first Commandant of the Louisiana State Firemen's Honor Guard Association. The St. Tammany Parish Fire Protection District No.1 Honor Guard participates each year in the annual Louisiana Fallen Firefighters Memorial held at the Louisiana Fire Marshall's Office every March in addition to annual 911 Memorial Events.

Over the past 8 years, the Honor Guard has witnessed the positive impact that the unit has made on the department. The unit currently has 15 active members.

Current members

Coordinator: Chris Kaufmann, Chief of Administration

Eric Abney, Commander LA State Honor Guard Association

John Bauer

Mike Ford

Lester Schellinger

Larry Martin

Peter Rudesill

Mike Thiel

Russell Lindsey

Amanda Hall

Matt Dupre'

Walter Allen

John Wadsworth

Aaron Saenz

Greg Kelly

Dave Jenkins Jr.

Mark Jaubert-Photographer

The St. Tammany Fire Protection District No.1 Honor Guard represents the Fire District and all members of the organization. The primary responsibility of the Honor Guard is to honor the members and past members of the fire district by serving in whatever capacity requested by the member or member's family in preparation for and participation in memorial ceremonies, wakes and funerals. The Honor Guard also represents the department at the request of the Fire Chief. The Honor Guard is a charter member of the Louisiana State Honor Guard Association and participates as requested in active or retired public servant's funerals, memorials, monument dedications and at the request of outside agencies at the Federal, State and Local levels.

Hurricane Katrina

In the wake of the Oklahoma City Bombing and September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, St. Tammany Fire Protection District No.1 began training members in Urban Search and Rescue to be able to respond to such incidents if the need were to arise. Little did anyone know that in 2005 these skills would be used in the largest USAR initiative in U.S. History...

At 6:10 a.m. CST on August 29, Hurricane Katrina made landfall in southern Plaquemines Parish Louisiana, just south of Buras, as a Category 3 hurricane. Maximum winds were estimated near 125 mph to the east of the center. Katrina subsequently moved at 15 mph on a path that would take the eye wall directly over the entire eastern border of St. Tammany Fire Protection District No.1. STFPD1 weathered the storm and provided uninterrupted service to the community while participating in the largest Urban Search and Rescue initiative in U.S. history. This was no easy task considering the large scale destruction and devastation which claimed 4 fire stations, a volunteer station and more than 50% of the employee's own homes and property. Several departments from around the country provided mutual aid to the district including: North Maine, IL; Bloomington, IL; Morton Grove, IL; Howard Township, MI; Niles, IL; Prospect Heights, IL; Broken Arrow, OK; South Portland, ME; Portland, ME; Turtle Creek, PA; Hendersonville, NC; Palm Harbor, FL; Portland, OR; Frankfort, KY; Bessemer, AL; Glencoe, IL; Byron, IL; SCTF-1, SC (South Carolina USAR Task Force #1); Gurnee, IL; Carp Lake Township, MI; Hammond, IN; Louisville, CO; Lake Mary, FL; Dothan, AL; Highland Park, IL; Waukegan, IL; Cary, IL; Glenview, IL; Prattville, AL; LSU Fire Academy USAR Team L.A. City, CA; L.A. County, CA; Long Beach, CA; Attleboro, MA; Deerfield/Bannockburn, IL; Newport Township, IL; FDNY, NY; Taylorville, IL; Skokie, IL; Somerville, MA; Evanston, IL; Green Castle, IN; Madison, WI; Coweta County, GA; NH Fire Training Academy, NH; Northbrook, IL; Chicago, IL; River Grove, IL; Lake County Mechanic Group, IL; Lake County S.O., IL; Tonto Basin, AZ; Roosevelt, NY; Nashua, NH; Tuscaloosa, AL; Hoover, AL; Madison, AL; Trussville, AL; Marshall County, AL; Bangor, ME; Shreveport, LA; Anniston, AL; Anniston Army Depot, AL and Owensboro FD, KY.

Although Katrina will be recorded as the most destructive storm in terms of economic losses, it did not exceed the human losses experienced in past storms. Even with four of St. Tammany Fire Protection District No.1's seven stations and Headquarters severely damaged due to the flooding caused by Katrina, firefighters continued to staff these stations working out of the

apparatus bays and sleeping in RV’s until stations renovations could be completed. In less than one year, each of the stations were completely renovated.

The Headquarters building on Old Spanish Trail would ultimately be sold and the property at 1358 Corporate Square purchased to house Headquarters including the Fire Chief, Chief of Administration, the Information Technology, Fire Prevention and the Administrative staff.

A Bright Future

Today, St. Tammany Fire Protection District No.1 continues to protect 122 square miles including the City of Slidell and surrounding areas of St. Tammany Parish. The district extends as far north as Pearl River, LA, South to the Orleans Parish line, west to Lacombe, LA and east to Highway 90 from Pearlington, MS to the Rigolets. The department responds to fire, EMS, Hazardous Materials and Rescue calls to the tune of about 6,928 per year. The district continues to offer a minimum of EMS First Responder care to the public. Additionally there are 57 EMT-Basics (3 volunteers are EMT-B), 2 EMT- Intermediates and 7 EMT-Paramedics who are capable of performing at the level in which they are trained on medical scenes. The continual improvement of the medical response capabilities of FD1 has greatly enhanced patient care and survivability of patients suffering medical emergencies within Fire Protection District No.1.

The current population of St. Tammany Fire Protection District No.1 is estimated to be 89,773. There are approximately 30,020 homes in the district and 1,773 businesses.

Personnel Changes Over the Years

St. Tammany Fire Protection District No.1 has evolved with the community and has attempted to forecast the future needs of the community in order to make proactive decision to be ready when the community has a need. Below is a chart depicting the personnel changes over the years:

Full time and volunteer personnel change timeline:		
<i>Year</i>	<i>Full Time Personnel</i>	<i>Volunteers</i>

1963	4 full-time personnel	24 volunteers
1966	7 full-time personnel	24 volunteers
1968	8 full-time personnel	24 volunteers
1974	14 full-time personnel	22 volunteers
1976	24 full-time personnel	22 volunteers
1980	35 full-time personnel	20 volunteers
1983	47 full-time personnel	30 volunteers
1985	65 full-time personnel	30 volunteers
1989	71 full-time personnel	30 volunteers
1990	82 full-time personnel	20 volunteers
1996	107 full-time personnel	35 volunteers
2003	132 full-time personnel	25 volunteers
2008	148 full-time personnel	16 volunteers

***The Public Insurance Association of Louisiana (P.I.A.L.)
And St. Tammany Fire Protection District No.1***

The Property Insurance Association of Louisiana (P.I.A.L.) utilizes a modified version of the Insurance Grading Schedule as developed by the Insurance Services Organization (ISO). The Insurance Grading Schedule is an evaluation device that is used to mathematically formulate the preparedness of a Fire Response Agency in regards to its handling of fire related emergencies for structures within the protected area.

The schedule is broken down as follows: 10% Communications, 40% Water Supply, and 50% Fire Department Operations. There is also a Training Bonus and Fire Prevention Bonus. The scale applied is from 1 to 10 with 1 being the best and 10 meaning there is no fire protection in the area.

Public Insurance Association of Louisiana (P.I.A.L.) Rating Changes		
Year	Classification	Comments
March 1963	8	4 paid, 24 vol.
February 1974	6	14 paid, 22 vol. better rating because of commercial structure reduction for water hauling.
July 1982	6	No Change

December 1987	6	No Change
January 1989 "A"	4	Service areas created for better rating.
January 1989 "B"	5	Service area created for better rating because of limited water supply.
July 1992 "A"	3	Added manpower, stations, and equipment.
July 1992 "B"	5	Remained static due to lack of appropriate water supply.
September 1992 "A"	2	Added training academy.
September 1992 "B"	5	Remains due to water supply.
June 1995 "A"	2	No Change
June 1995 "B"	4	Added dry hydrants, improved shuttle, hose tender added.
September 2000 "A"	3	Retrogression from Class 2.
September 2000 "B"	4	No Change
April 2008 "A"	3	No Change
April 2008 "B"	4	No Change

Noteworthy Fires/Incidents

Creosote Plant Fire	1915	55 workers/3 F.F. killed (unconfirmed)
Train Collision	April 1916	2 trainmen killed
Slidell Lumber Company Fire	1946	\$50,000 in damage
Slidell Grammar School Fire	Feb. 5, 1951	75% damage, over \$152,000.00

The White Kitchen Fire	1959	Total Loss
Hurricane Camille	Aug. 18, 1969	
National Food Store	1972	Unknown
Beauty Salon and The White Kitchen	1976	Unknown
Leto Packing-Thompson Box Factory		
First Baptist Church	Nov. 21, 1975	Unknown
Ace Hardware Store Robert Rd.	?	Total Loss
Slidell High Gym and Cafeteria Fire	Oct. 5, 1976	Total Loss
Buck's Place	June 28, 1977	\$37,000.00
Levy's	June 28, 1977	\$7,000.00
Grace Memorial	May 4, 1978	\$400,000.00
Doyle's Bakery	1979	Engine 1-exposure
Southern Shipyard	September 1981	Total Loss
Twin Span Wreck (Fog)	March 21, 1987	49 vehicles 4 killed, 35 Injured
Lakeshore Chrysler	?	Minor Damage
St. Christopher Curve Inn	October 28, 1987	\$80,000.00
Union 76 Truck Stop Pete's Family Restaurant	Sept. 8, 1993	
Sacred Heart Church (Lacombe)	Sept. 11, 1993	Arson \$60,000
Southern Shipbuilding Corp.		

(Closed Aug. 1993)	Nov. 1993	Arson \$50,000
Cross Gates Athletic Club	Feb. 4, 1995	\$4,000,000.00
Flood	May 8, 1995	approx 20" of rain over 12 hours
Twin Span Wreck (Fog)	Dec. 31, 1996	100 cars, trucks and busses; 1 killed, 24 injured, 2 critically; bridge shut down most of the day
I-12 Wreck (Smoke and Fog)	?	?
Twin Span Wreck (Fog)	Jan. 14, 1998	Fiery 4 vehicle wreck, involving an 18-wheeler, 1 killed, bridge shut down 9 hrs.
First Baptist Church Old Town		
The Second Story, Olde' Town	Jan. 13, 2001	\$250,000.00
Corporate Square	Sept. 26, 2001	\$700,000.00
T.S. Isidore	Sept. 9, 2002	
Chamale' Country Club	July 27, 2003	\$895,000.00
Hurricane Katrina	Aug. 29, 2005	

Governance Model of the St. Tammany Fire Protection District No.1

The Board of Commissioners

The governing body of St. Tammany Fire Protection District No.1 is comprised of a five member board of commissioners. Two members are appointed by the parish governing body. (St. Tammany Parish), two members are appointed by the municipal corporation in the district (The City of Slidell) and the fifth member, the Chairman of the Board is appointed by the other four members. Current Members of the St. Tammany Fire Protection District No.1 board include:

- Calvin “Bud” Kline-Chairman
- Commissioner Shannon Davis-Parish
- Commissioner Theresa Risley-Parish
- Commissioner Mike Rich-City
- Commissioner Kevin Kingston, Jr.-City

Members of the Board of Commissioner serve 2 year terms; the terms of the board members are staggered. Commissioners are eligible for reappointment. If a vacancy occurs, it shall be filled for the unexpired term by the body originally making the appointment.

The duties and responsibilities of the board of commissioners include:

- Fixing time and place of regular meetings
- Levying taxes
- Operating and controlling property acquired by the district
- All things necessary to carry out the purpose for which the district was created which includes appointing such officers and agents to perform duties determined by the board

According to R.S. 33:2537, “the board shall:

(1) Represent the public interest in matters of personnel administration in the fire and police service of the municipal government, or parish government, or fire protection district government of which the fire service is a part.

(2) Advise and assist the governing body, mayor, commissioner of public safety and the chief of the fire department of the municipality, or the parish governing authority, or fire protection district, governing authority, as the case may be, with reference to the maintenance and improvement of personnel standards and administration in the fire and police service, and the classified system.

(3) Advise and assist the employees in the classified service with reference to the maintenance, improvement and administration of personnel matters related to any individual or group of employees.

(4) Make, at the direction of the mayor, commissioner of public safety, chief of the fire department of the municipality, or president of the parish governing authority, or chairman of the board of commissioners of the fire protection district, or upon the written petition of any citizen for just cause or upon its own motion, any investigation concerning the administration of personnel or the compliance with the provisions of this Part in the fire and police service; review and modify or set aside, upon its own motion, any of its actions, and take any other action which it determines to be desirable or necessary in the public interest or to carry out effectively the provisions and purposes of this Part. However, any investigation requested of the board by the mayor, commissioner of public safety, chief of the fire department of the municipality, or president of the parish governing authority, or chairman of the board of commissioners of the fire protection district, or upon the written petition of any citizen for just cause shall be completed within sixty days of the receipt of the request for an investigation or receipt of a written petition of any citizen, or both.

(5) Conduct investigations and pass upon complaints by or against any officer or employee in the classified service for the purpose of demotion, reduction in position or abolition thereof, suspension, or dismissal of the officer or employee, in accordance with the provisions of this Part. Investigations conducted pursuant to the provisions of this Paragraph shall be completed within sixty days. However, the sixty-day limitation shall not apply to any investigation conducted pursuant to the provisions of Subpart H of Part II of Chapter 4 of this Title, comprised of R.S. 33:2181 et seq.

(6) Hear and pass upon matters which the mayor, commissioner of public safety, the chief of the fire or police departments of the municipality, or any

member of the parish or fire protection district governing authority or the state examiner of fire and police civil service brings before it.

(7) Make, alter, amend and promulgate rules necessary to carry out effectively the provisions of this Part.

(8) Adopt and maintain a classification plan. The classification plan shall be adopted and maintained by rules of the board.

(9) Make reports to the governing body, either upon its own motion or upon the official request of the governing body, regarding general or special matters of personnel administration in and for the fire or police service of the municipality, parish or fire protection district, as the case may be, or with reference to any appropriation made by the governing body for the expenses incidental to the operation of the board.”

Board meetings are held monthly and special sessions may be called as necessary. Normal board meetings are scheduled the third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 pm at the STFPD#1 Training Academy. The agenda for Board of Commissioners meetings is prepared, published and posted by the Chairman at least 48 hours in advance. Meetings are conducted based on Robert’s Rules of Order.

Past Commissioners

St. Tammany Parish Appointees:

Karl Breisacher (March 1952-April 1964)

Peter Pravata (March 1952-August 1974)

Carl Fandal (April 1964-July 1978)

Ronald McCloskey (August 1974-December 1982)

Wesley Carroll (July 1978-March 1979)

Stafford Part (April 1979-June 1989)

Charles Baragona (December 1982-December 1984)

Larry Turgeau (December 1984-February 1987)

Edward Savage (February 1987-May 1988)

J. Milton Gibson (July 1988-June 1989)

Robert Lazar (June 1989-April 1991)

Jay Dees (June 1989-April 1991)

John F. O’Connell (April 1991-October 1996)

David Martin Jr. (October 1996-????)
J. Milton Gibson (February 1996-January 1997)
Clark (March 1997-April 1999)
Darryl Warner (1999-2001)
Rick James (January 2001-2002)
Charles Branton (1999-2000)
Larry Hess (2000-2002)
White (2002)
James D. O'Bryan (2003-2005)
Shannon Davis (2003-Present)
Theresa Risley (September 2004-Present)

City of Slidell Appointees:

Mayo Canulette (March 1952-January 1961)
Emile Oulliber (March 1952-June 1972)
Carl Hickman (January 1961-November 1977)
Malcolm Gomez (June 1972-March 1980)
Joseph Marchand (November 1977-February 1981)
John Coerver (March 1981-October 1981)
Ralph Moser (March 1981-December 1982)
Edward Ryan (October 1981-December 1982)
Bruce Olivier (December 1982-December 1984)
Noel Levy (December 1982-July 1983)
John Autry (July 1983-2003)
Frank Moran (January 1983-2002)
Felton Walter, Jr. (2002-2004)
David Andersen (2005-2006)
Michael A. Rich (2003-Present)
Wynn Williams (2006-2008)
Kevin Kingston Jr. (2008-Present)

Chairman:

Sam Zerkowski (March 1952-March 1979)
Wesley Carroll (March 1979-May 1981)
Joseph Marchand (May 1981-August 1983)
Mary Jones (November 1983-May 1989)
Steve Farris (October 1989-March 2003)

Calvin “Bud” Kline (April 2003-Present)

The Fire Chief

The Fire Chief is the chief officer and supervisor of the fire department responsible for the administration and coordination of all fire department activities involving fire suppression; fire prevention and public fire education; fire investigation; fire communications; personnel management and supervision; training; and public relations. The Fire Chief works with a high degree of independence, and reports to and has work reviewed by the Fire Board of Commissioners.

List of Fire Chiefs that have served STFPD1:

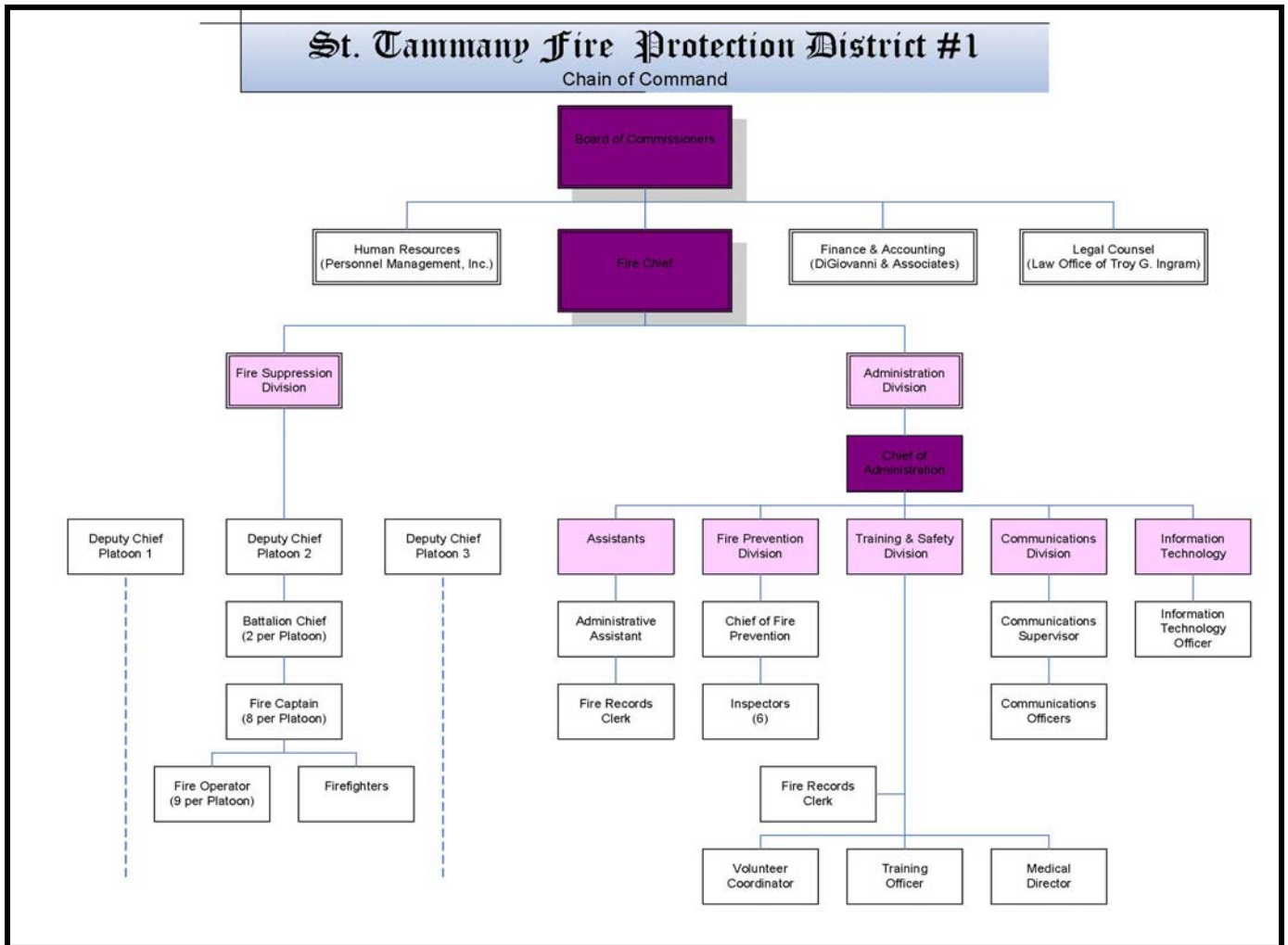
Volunteer Chiefs

Carl Pravata	1926-1937
B.T Carroll	1937-1952

Paid Chiefs:

Jim Decker	1952-1957
Gayle Van Gilder	1957-1974
Spencer Deyo	1974-1978
Edward Poppler	1978-1999
Albert Lee (Acting Fire Chief)	1999-2000
Milton Kennedy	2000-2004
Larry Hess	2004-Present

St. Tammany Fire Protection District No.1 Chain of Command/Organizational Chart



Civil Service

Employees of St. Tammany Fire Protection District No.1 are guaranteed Civil Service Protection under the Louisiana Revised Statutes.

The civil service board represents the public interest in matters of personnel administration concerning fire and police employees; advises and assists the appointing authority and governing body as to maintenance and improvement of personnel standards and administration; advises and assists all classified employees; makes such investigations and determinations as required; makes such rules as necessary to conduct the business of the board; makes and adopts a classification plan appropriate for the needs of the jurisdiction; and makes such reports, as required or requested, to the governing body.

The St. Tammany Fire Protection District No.1 Civil Service Board members include Van Joffrion, Chairman (Fire Department); Mark Myers, Vice-Chairman (College List); and Peggy A. DeValcourt, Member (Governing Authority).

The primary goal of the civil service system is the effective application of personnel activity based on a system of merit, efficiency, and length of service. Civil service accomplishes this goal in two major ways. First, it provides individual employees, with a sense of job security through the application of three principles:

1. Procedures for qualifying personnel by objective selection.
2. Classification and description of each job and position according to actual duties performed and responsibilities involved.
3. Appointment and promotion of personnel on the basis of examination qualifications, job performance, and departmental seniority.

Second, it protects elected officials from unnecessary political pressure and embarrassment in matters of personnel selection. Under this system, employees who are performing their jobs competently will not be subjected to wholesale terminations upon changes of political administrators. Personnel selections are made on the basis of merit rather than favoritism and political patronage. This creates a mutually beneficial system of efficient personnel management. Additionally, the civil service system does not

infringe upon the duties, authority, or responsibilities entrusted to the mayor or other elected officials. It insures that management of personnel will be conducted in such a manner that benefits the fire and police departments and provides to the community in which it functions, an atmosphere of continuity and professionalism as it relates to public safety for the citizens which are served by these departments.

Current Levels of Service

The following is a description of the physical and human resource assets of the department as the department currently exists.

Number of Suppression Companies:

- *7 Engine Companies*
- *1 Heavy Rescue Company*
- *1 Ladder/Tender Company*

Real Property

Headquarters	1
<i>1358 Corporate Square</i>	
<i>Slidell, LA 70458</i>	
<i>Leased 2006-2007, Purchased 2008</i>	
Training Academy	1
<i>Constructed in 1999, Not Dedicated</i>	
<i>34780 South Range Road</i>	
<i>Slidell, LA 70460</i>	
Tower	4 stories with 2 burn rooms
<i>Constructed in 2006</i>	
Classrooms	2
Apparatus Bays	2
Stations	7

Locations of existing fire stations:

Fire stations are numbered 11-17 to comply with the parish wide numbering system. The first number signifies the Fire Protection District; in this case fire protection district number 1, the second number is the station designation.

○ ***Station 11(Central Station and Fire Alarm)***
Dedicated to Arthur J. Champagne

A.J. Champagne was the first Secretary/Treasurer of the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Champagne was essentially the Superintendent of the Fire Department acting as a liaison between the Board of Commissioners and Chief Poppler.

- *1 Quint(Engine Company)*
- *1 Heavy Rescue Company*

322 Bouscaren

Slidell, La 70458

Constructed in 1952, the station was extensively renovated in 1989 which resulted in the addition of living space, a communications facility and a maintenance area. Central was also renovated after the flooding from Hurricane Katrina with renovations being completed in 2006.

○ ***Station 12***
Dedicated to Peter D. Pravata

Pete Pravata waged a fight for greater fire protection in Slidell from his first association with firefighting in 1923. For many years Pete, Joe and Carl Pravata were quite literally the fire department. Pete's fight for adequate fire protection in Slidell was a long but ultimately successful campaign. Pete also served on the Board of Commissioners since its formation in 1952 until 1974.

Land for the Station donated by Peter D. Pravata

- *1 Engine Company*
- *Deputy and Battalion Chief Quarters*

1570 West Hall

Slidell, La 70460

Station 12 was constructed in 1966, rebuilt in 1986 and renovated after the flooding from Hurricane Katrina. Renovations were completed in 2006.

○ ***Station 13***
Dedicated to Emile Oulliber

Emile Oulliber was the first president of the Volunteer Firemen's Association. He also appointed the committee to form Fire Protection District No.1 with him. The property

for the station was bought outright and was finished by the Firefighters.

- *1 Engine Company*

101 Normandy

Slidell, La 70458

Constructed in 1968, remodeled 2004

- ***Station 14***

Dedicated to Sam Zerkowsky

Sam Zerkowsky was an active volunteer firefighter and the first chairman of the Board of Commissioners serving from 1952-1979. He served on the original committee to form the department.

- *1 Engine Company*

300 Steele Road

Slidell, La 70461

Constructed in 1980 under Chief Poppler

- ***Station 15***

Dedicated to Alfred Myer

Alfred Myer was the father of the person who donated the property for the station. Naming of the station by the donor was a condition of the property donation.

- *1 Engine Company*

58405 Holly Drive

Slidell, La 70460

Constructed 1980 as a joint venture between FD1 and Bayou Liberty Volunteer Association, renovated after the flooding from Hurricane Katrina. Renovations were completed in 2006 under Chief Poppler.

Station 16

Dedicated to Pat Murphy

William P. "Pat" Murphy served the department unselfishly since 1950 and helped establish the Fire District. In 1972, he was awarded a lifetime membership in the LA State Firemen's Association for twenty years of dedicated service. Until his death in 1993, Mr. Pat monitored his scanner from his favorite chair at home and was at the stations to lend a hand whenever our firefighters were called to duty.

- *1 Engine Company*
 - *1 Fire Prevention Officer's Quarters*
- 320 Marina Drive
Slidell, La 70461
Constructed in 1990 under Chief Poppler, renovated in 2006
- *Station 17*
Not dedicated at this time.
 - *1 Engine Company*
 - *1 Ladder/Water Tender Company*
 - *1 Fire Prevention Officer's Quarters*

850 Browns witch Road
Slidell, La 70460
Constructed in 2002 under Chief Kennedy

In Service Apparatus

Fire Chief Unit 100	1
Chief of Administration Unit 104	1
Information Technology Unit 110	1
Chief of Fire Prevention Unit 161	1
Training Chief Unit 105	1
Truck Reserves TR15, TR17, U150, U159, '98 Ford	5
Deputy Chief Unit DC1	1
District Chief Units BC1, BC2	2
Fire Prevention Units FP16, FP17, Reserve Expedition	3
Engines E11 (77' Quint), E12, E13, E14, E15, E16, E17	7
Reserve Engines E1, E2, E4, E5	4
100' Aerial L17	1
Water Tenders T11, T17	2
Heavy Rescue R11	1
Reserve Rescue R1	1
Reserve Squad R-SQ11	1
Hazardous Materials Unit SU16	1
Zodiac	1
Ranger 6x6	1
High Water Truck HW 17	1
1952 Parade Truck RE 180	1
Safety Trailer	1
CPAT Trailer	1

Staffing Patterns

In the early sixties and until the late 1970's, firefighters and Chief's worked 48 hours on with 48 hours off with part time workers, (mostly school teachers) in the summer months. If an employee called in sick you could work up to 72 hours on with 24 hours off until they returned.

St. Tammany Fire Protection District No.1 currently operates utilizing full and part time personnel working 8, 12, and 24 hour shifts as well as volunteers.

All administrative staff including the Fire Chief, Chief of Administration, Chief of Fire Prevention, Information Technology Officer, Communications Supervisor, Chief of Safety and Training and the Training and Safety Officers work 8 hour days 5 days per week. Communications personnel work 12 hour shifts on a rotating schedule between day and night shifts. Suppression Personnel including Fire Prevention Officers work 24 hour shifts on a 24/48 shift schedule.

St. Tammany Fire Protection District No.1 employs 148 personnel. Including 9 part-time employees.

Current Personnel Breakdown

Fire Chief	1
Chief of Administration	1
Fire Records Clerks	3
Chief of Fire Prevention	1
Communications Supervisor	1
Chief of Safety and Training	1
Communications Officers	
Full Time	9
Part Time	9
Training and Safety Officers	2
Fire Prevention Officers	6
Suppression Personnel	114
Deputy Chiefs (3)	
Battalion Chiefs (6)	

Captains, Operators and Firefighters (105)

Volunteers:

Suppression	7
LaSar K9	9

Minimum Staffing

Per departmental policy, the minimum acceptable number of suppression personnel on duty per shift is 28. Only two personnel from the rank of Deputy or District Chief are allowed off at the same time and only four Captains are allowed off at the same time to ensure continuity. Communications minimum staffing level is two communications officers on duty at all times. Fire Prevention minimum staffing includes a minimum of one Officer on duty at all times.

Maximum daily staffing with all suppression personnel on duty would result in approximately 41 suppression personnel per shift including Fire Prevention. This configuration results in a Deputy Chief, 2 District Chiefs, 2 Fire Prevention Officers, 7-4 person engine companies, a 4 person Rescue Company and a 2 person Ladder/Tender Company.

State Mandated Division of Labor

Louisiana law, specifically R.S 33:1972 requires a District Chief for every four stations and a Deputy Chief for every two District Chiefs. “A. In all cities having a population of not less than thirty-five thousand and not more than two hundred and fifty thousand inhabitants, and in all parishes and fire protection districts, fire districts are hereby established within the fire departments. No more than four fire stations in service shall be included within each fire district. B.(1) In each such fire department, an assistant or deputy fire chief shall be on active duty on an assigned shift at all times, shall have general supervision over all fire districts, and shall be under the supervision of the chief of the fire department. (2) A district fire chief shall also be on active duty on an assigned shift at all times in each fire district, and shall be in charge of the district and under the supervision of the assistant or deputy fire chief. C. Each assistant, deputy, or district fire chief to whom this Section is applicable shall work the same work schedule as all

other fire fighting personnel under his command. D. For the purposes of this Section, "active duty" shall mean the active performance of duties and shall not be construed to mean time during which an assistant, deputy, or district fire chief is away from his place of duty subject to call."

Captain of Force

RS 33:1967, also known as the Captain of force, as it applies to STFPD#1 states: A. "A member of the department holding the rank of captain shall be in charge of each force in each fire company during each shift and at all times. "Force" as used herein means any single piece of fire fighting or rescue apparatus. In any paid fire department operated by a municipality having a population of thirteen thousand or more or by any parish or fire protection district which employs eight or more full-time paid fire suppression employees, excluding the fire chief and any training officer, every fire fighting or rescue apparatus shall be operated by a member of the department holding the rank of engineer or fire driver, by whichever designation he may be known, provided the term "fire fighting apparatus" shall not be construed to include standard passenger vehicles, nor any other type of automotive equipment assigned to fire department use other than vehicles specially designed for fire fighting or rescue purposes. Provided further, that all fire departments, regardless of the number of employees in their employ, now having engineers, captains, or fire drivers operating each force, fire car, or other fire vehicle shall continue this practice. B. Notwithstanding the provisions of this Section or any law to the contrary, the governing authority of a municipal fire department governed by the provisions of this Subpart, a parish fire department, and a fire protection district may assign a member of such department holding the rank of captain to operate fire cars and other fire vehicles."

Current Department Resources

Below is a list of the stations, apparatus and staffing on each unit as of January 2008:

Station	Engines/ minimum staffing	Trucks/ minimum staffing	Squads/ minimum staffing	Command/ minimum staffing
1	1 Quint/ 3 personnel	N/A	1 Rescue/ 2 personnel 1 Tender/ 0 personnel	N/A
2	1 Engine/ 3 personnel			3 Chief/Command Vehicles 3 personnel
3	1 Engine/ 3 personnel			
4	1 Engine/ 3 personnel			
5	1 Engine/ 3 personnel			
6	1 Engine/ 3 personnel			1 Fire Prevention Officer with vehicle
7	1 Engine/ 3 personnel	1100' Aerial/ 2 personnel (same as tender)	1 Tender/2 personnel (same personnel as aerial)	1 Fire Prevention Officer with vehicle
HQ				4 Officers/ 4 Vehicles
Training				2 Officers/ 2 Vehicles
Total	7/21	1/2	2/2 each +T11 not manned	5/5 24 hr shifts 6/6 8hr days