Baton Rouge Fire Department



Annual Report 2023





In Memory Eff

Phillip P. Paternostro dedicated over two decades of his life to the service of our community. His commitment to the values of the Baton Rouge Fire Department was truly inspiring. Phillip's colleagues remember him not only as a skilled firefighter but also as a mentor and friend. His cheerful demeanor and willingness to go above and beyond for his fellow firefighters left an indelible mark on all who had the privilege of working alongside him.

William "CJ" Sanders, a beloved member of our department, embodied the spirit of selflessness and dedication. CJ's passion for his work and his infectious enthusiasm brightened even the toughest days at the station. His sense of camaraderie and teamwork were unparalleled, creating a positive and motivating environment for everyone around him.

As we remember these two extraordinary individuals, let us celebrate the legacies they leave behind. Their contributions to the Baton Rouge Fire Department and the impact they had on their colleagues will not be forgotten. The loss of Phillip P. Paternostro and William "CJ" Sanders leaves a void that can never be filled, but their memories will continue to inspire and guide us in the days ahead.



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A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

As we bid farewell to 2023, I am thrilled to share with you the remarkable progress and achievements of the Baton Rouge Fire Department. Throughout the year, our dedicated team has relentlessly worked to enhance our services and ensure the safety of our community.

One of the highlights of 2023 was the addition of 49 new members to our department, bolstering the ranks of Firefighters and Fire Communications personnel. Presently, we are proud to have 561 employees devoted to serving the citizens of Baton Rouge.

In our continuous efforts to improve, we launched the Community Connect program in 2023. This initiative enables us to access valuable information about homes registered with the BRFD. Additionally, we acquired five new fire engines, two ladder trucks, two heavy rescues, and 230 new self-contained breathing apparatus. This new equipment is a crucial upgrade, replacing some of our aged resources, and we express our gratitude to Mayor Sharon Weston Broome and her administration for securing the funding received through the American Rescue Plan.

The Baton Rouge Fire Department is not only focused on responding to emergencies but is equally committed to educating our citizens and reducing the incidence of fires within our city. We aim to ensure that every home and business has a working smoke detector and is registered in Community Connect.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the brave men and women of the Baton Rouge Fire Department who, each day, risk their lives to run into danger and save lives across Baton Rouge. Their dedication is the driving force behind our department's success.



As we move forward into 2024, we remain steadfast in our commitment to your safety and well-being. Thank you for your continued trust and support.

VISION

To be a provider of professional public service through a Class 1 fire department.

MISSION

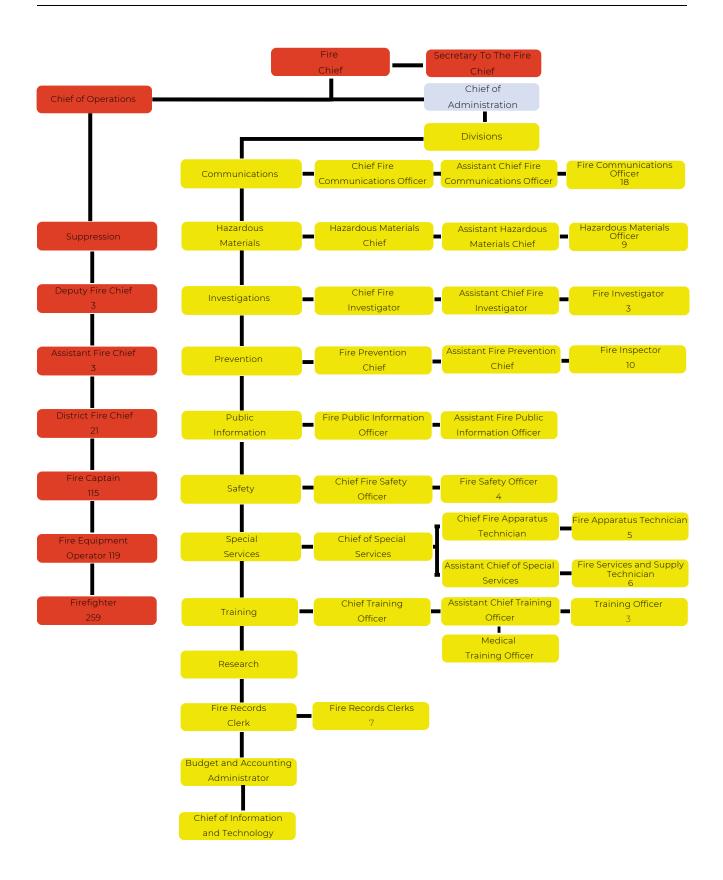
To maximize our ability to protect life, reduce injury, and conserve property through continuous training, planning and public education.



HISTORY

	1875-1877	Samuel Hart	
\bigcup	1877-1883	Robert Fairie	Vol
	1883-1891	J.C. Favrot	Vol
	1893-1894	Andrew Jackson	Vol
I + I	1894-1901	Austin Williams	Vol
	Unknown	R.A. Hart	Vol
	Unknown	Irenee Pujol	Vol
	Unknown	Jules Roux	Vol
	Unknown	Joseph Duncan	Vol
	Unknown	Hugh Waddill	Vol
	1917-1918	King Strenke	Vol
	1918-1959	Robert A. Bogan	Vol
	1959-1966	O.A. Sevier	
	1966-1973	J.E. LeJeune	
	1973-1981	Willie T. Miller	
	1981-1987	Marvin J. Castello	
	1987-1988	Thomas Woods	
	1988-1996	Ronnie Spillman	
	1996-2002	Robin Hurst	
	2002-2021	Edwin (Ed) Smith	
	2021-Present	Michael J. Kimble	

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



ADMINISTRATION

Under the direction of the fire chief and with the assistance of the chief of operations and the chief of administration, our administrative offices work closely to ensure that administrative responsibilities are handled efficiently. With the support and help of our secretarial staff, the fire chief and the chief of operations' administrative duties are made more accessible. They are carried out in a well-organized manner that results in the smooth operations of the Baton Rouge Fire Department.

This division maintains records of all personnel, training, maintenance of vehicles and facilities, budgets, and financial data, which it organizes, analyzes, and prioritizes so that recommendations may be directed to the fire chief for his use in running the day-to-day operations of the department.

The administrative/secretarial staff assignments are as follows:

Secretary to the Fire Chief Fire Records Clerks Fire Chief's Office Various Divisions (7)

2023 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Michael Kimble Fire Chief

Den Estess Chief of Operations

Jeremy S. Spillman Chief of Administration

Tracie Kelly Budget & Accounting Administrator

Curt Monte Fire Public Information Officer

Voltaire Sanders Chief Fire Safety Officer

Robert Combs Research & Statistical Analysis Officer

Britton Hines Chief Training Officer

Daryl Edgens Deputy Fire Chief

Joseph Entremont Deputy Fire Chief

Tom Jackson Deputy Fire Chief

Levert Kemp Chief Fire Investigator

Anthony Williams Fire Prevention Chief

Todd Achord Chief of Hazardous Materials

Dorothy O'Neal Chief Fire Communications Officer

Jared Roberston Chief of Special Services

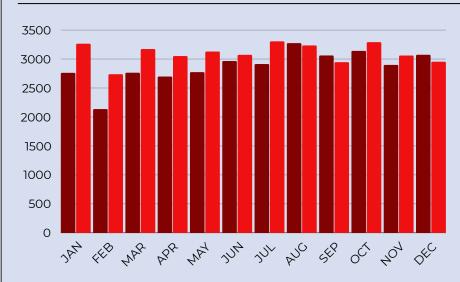
Timothy Heroman Chief Fire Apparatus Technician

Clint Sanchez Chief of Information & Technology

PERSONNEL ALLOTMENT

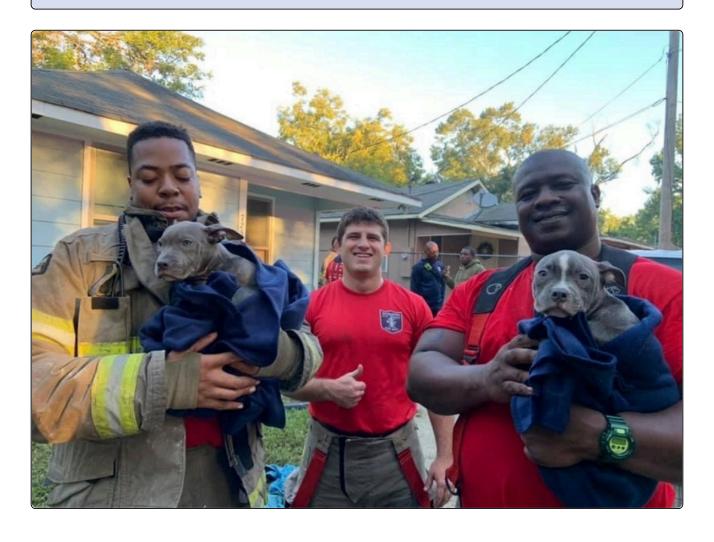
<u>Administration</u>		Eiro Supprocción	
	7	Fire Suppression	7
Fire Chief	1	Deputy Fire Chief	3
Chief of Administration	1	Assistant Fire Chief	3
Chief of Operations	1	District Fire Chief	21
Chief of Research and Statistical	1	Fire Captain	115
Analysis		Fire Equipment Operator	119
Chief Information Technology	1	Firefighter	259
Specialist		<u>Hazardous Materials</u>	
Fire Public Information Officer	1	Chief of Hazardous Materials	1
Assistant Fire Public Information	1	Assistant Chief of Hazardous	1
Officer		Materials	
Budget & Accounting	1	Hazardous Materials Officer	9
Administrator		<u>Safety</u>	
Secretary to the Fire Chief	1	Chief Fire Safety Officer	1
Fire Record Clerk	7	Fire Safety Officer	4
<u>Fire Investigations</u>		<u>Special Services</u>	
Chief Fire Investigator	1	Chief of Special Services	1
Assistant Chief Fire Investigator	1	Chief Fire Apparatus Technician	1
Fire Investigator	3	Assistant Chief of Special Services	1
Fire Communications		Fire Apparatus Technician	4
Chief Fire Communications	1	Fire Services & Supply Technician	6
Officer		<u>Training</u>	
Assistant Chief Fire	1	Chief Training Officer	1
Communications Officer		Assistant Chief Training Officer	1
Fire Communications Officer III	4	Training Officer	4
Fire Communications Officer II	4	Trailing Officer	4
Fire Communications Officer I	12		
<u>Fire Prevention</u>			
Fire Prevention Chief	1		
Assistant Fire Prevention Chief	1		
Fire Inspector II	8		
Fire Inspector I	2	TOTAL	<u>610</u>

MONTHLY NUMBER OF CALLS

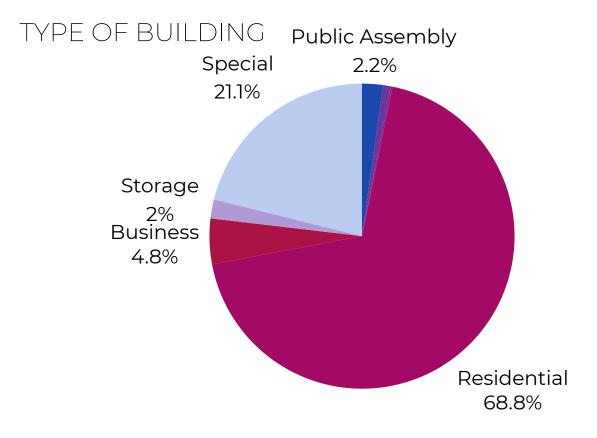


20232022

TOTAL RUNS 2023 34,465 TOTAL RUNS 2022 37,225



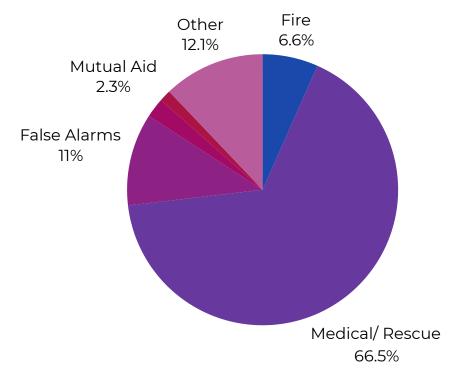
NUMBER OF BUILDING FIRES



CLASSIFICATION	NUMBER	EST. DOLLAR LOSS
Public Assembly	11	76,582
Educational	4	2,386,000
Institutional/ Healthca	are 1	45,000
Residential	342	12,145,665
Business	24	1,462,000
Manufacturing	0	0
Storage	10	93,200
<u>Special</u>	105	<u>78,584</u>
Total	497	\$16,287,528

TOTAL CALL BREAKDOWN BY CLASSIFICATION

The BRFD responds to more than just fires. The following is a breakdown of the different types of calls that we responded to in 2023.



TOTAL CALL BREAKDOWN BY SITUATION FOUND

FIRE WITH LOSS		RESCUE CALLS		
Building Fires	135	Medical Call/Rescue	23,525	
Residential Fires	342	False Alarms	3,898	
Vehicle	364	Mutual Aid (Given)	1825	
Tree, Grass, Brush	255	Hazmat	495	
Dumpster	354	All Other Responses	4,282	
Other	895			

34,465 TOTAL INCIDENTS IN 2023

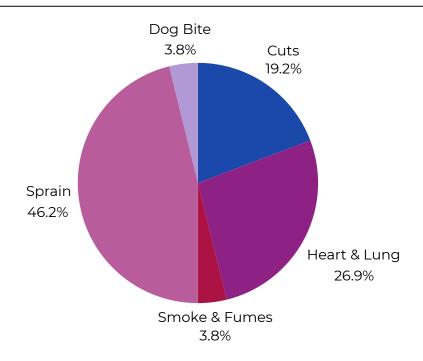
FIRE SAFETY DIVISION

The responsibility for seeing that all fire department personnel follow proper safety procedures belongs to the Fire Safety Division under the direction of the chief fire safety officer and four (4) fire safety officers. This division investigates all injuries or accidents involving personnel or equipment of the Baton Rouge Fire Department. The Fire Safety Division also maintains records about injuries/ illness of personnel and works with other fire department divisions in conducting safety programs.

The Fire Safety Division is responsible for gathering and investigating all infectious/ contagious disease exposures to the Baton Rouge Fire Department personnel.

Listed below is the number of hours lost due to sickness, accidents, or injuries to personnel for 2023.





TYPES OF INJURIES

Wounds/Cuts/Bleeding/Bruises	5
Dog Bites	1
Heart/Lungs	4
Smoke/Fumes	1
Sprains/Strains	12
Dislocation/Fracture	4
Other	3

The Special Services Division coordinates the activities and recordkeeping of the mechanic shop, the supply room, the building maintenance shop, and fire equipment. This division keeps the fire department running physically. This division also acts as a liaison between the BRFD and all other East Baton Rouge Parish fire departments. Responsibilities for each section of the Special Services Division are listed below.



<u>Mechanic Shop</u>- Manage all firefighting apparatus, vehicles, and equipment. They also preserve adequate parts supplies and records for adequately utilizing the shop.

<u>Fire Equipment-</u> Responsible for the regular inspection of all ground ladders used for rescue, firefighting operations, and training; perform repairs of fire department nozzles, including turbo-jet nozzle assemblies and straight stream nozzles assemblies; disassembles equipment, repairs or replaces damaged parts and tests equipment; responsible for issuing or repairing firefighting hose and conducting flow test. They are also responsible for the upkeep of all tools and equipment necessary to perform assigned maintenance and repair; maintain storage of replacement parts.

<u>Building Maintenance Shop</u>- Responsible for maintenance and upkeep of all fire department buildings. This upkeep includes painting, floor installation, cabinet and locker repair and construction, furniture repair, door and window glass replacement, overhead door adjustments, roof repairs, plumbing, and HVAC repair.

<u>Supply Room</u>- Responsible for storekeeping, proper receipt, storage, and distribution of the materials and supplies for the department.

OFFICES AND STATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

Fire Department Headquarters Fire Prevention Bureau

8011 Merle Gustafson Dr. 8011 Merle Gustafson Dr.

Fire Investigations Division Fire Communications Center

8011 Merle Gustafson Dr. MOHSEP Building

3773 Harding Blvd.

FIRE STATIONS

Station No.1		Station No.2	
3024 Florida Blvd		3333 Choctaw	
Constructed	2009	Constructed	2012
2022 Inferno Pumper		2022 Inferno Pumper	
Station No.3		Station No.4	
3142 Evangeline St.		6241 Prescott Rd.	
Constructed	2005	Constructed	1959
2022 Inferno Pumper		2016 Cinder Pumper	
2023 Inferno Ladder		Station No. 6	
Station No.5		5321 Greenwell Springs Rd.	
3215 Monterrey Blvd.		Constructed	2008
Constructed	2001	2017 Cinder Pumper	
Remodeled	2017	2022 Chevy Silverado	
2014 Cinder Pumper		Station No.8	
Station No.7		150 Wooddale Blvd.	
5758 Claycut Rd.		Constructed	2012
Constructed	2010		2012
2007 HME Pumper		2018 Cinder Pumper	
2013 Service Truck		2017 Inferno Ladder	
Station No.9		Station No. 10	
4025 Perkins Rd.		7380 Menlo Dr.	
Constructed	1950	Constructed	1978
Remodeled	1988	2005 HME Pumper	
2017 Cinder Pumper		2020 Inferno Ladder	
1998 Freightliner Ladder		2022 Chevy Silverado	

OFFICES AND STATIONS

FIRE STATIONS

Station No.11		Station No.12	
3186 Highland Rd.		555 Government St.	
Constructed	2003	Constructed	1975
2012 Intruder Pumper		Remodeled	2019
2017 Inferno Ladder		2022 Inferno Pumper	
Station No.13		2006 100 Ft Elevating Platform	
835 Sharp Rd.		2022 Chevy Silverado	
Constructed	2012	2006 Hazardous Materials Unit	
2022 Inferno Pumper		2023 Cinder Rescue Truck	
2023 Cinder Rescue Truck		2014 Sprinter	
2022 Chevy Silverado		Station No.14	
Station No.15		4121 Harding Blvd.	
3150 Brightside Ln.		Constructed	1977
Constructed	1984	2012 Intruder Pumper	1377
2015 Cinder Pumper		2008 Inferno Ladder	
Station No.17			
14450 Old Hammond Hwy.		2022 Chevy Silverado	
Constructed	1993	Station No.16	
Remodeled	2017	1200 Rosenwald Rd.	
2020 Freightliner Pumper		Constructed	2008
Station No.19		2012 HME Pumper	
11010 Coursey Blvd.		2019 Ford F550	
Constructed	1984	Station No.18	
2020 Freightliner Pumper		1993 Flannery Rd.	
1998 Freightliner Ladder		Constructed	1994
		2014 Cinder Pumper	
		2019 Ford F550	

Mechanic Shop-Reserve Building

8011 Merle Gustafson Dr.

2001 Freightliner Pumper
 2006 Intruder Pumper
 2000 HME Pumper
 2007 HME Pumper
 1996 Freightliner Pumper
 1998 Freightliner Reserve Ladder (2)
 2000 Freightliner Reserve Ladder
 1980 Parade Truck

During 2023, the Training Division was under the direction of the chief of training. They were supported by an assistant chief of training, four (4) training officers, and a fire records clerk. They conducted 176,932 training hours, both in-house and outside the department.

As of December 21, 2023, we are proud to say that our department holds certifications at the following national certification levels of discipline.

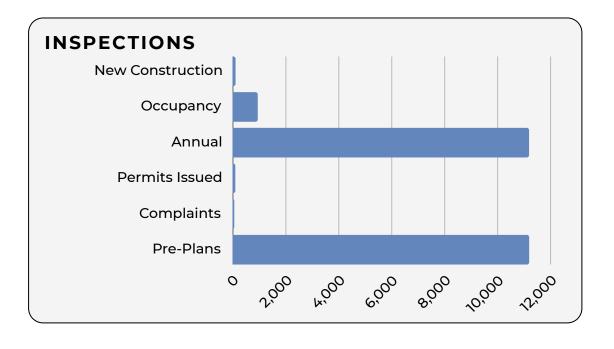
LEVEL OF DISCIPLINE STAFF CERTIFIED Airport Firefighter Apparatus Driver/Operator-Aerial 16 Apparatus Driver/Operator-Pumper 386 Confined Space 58 Emergency Medical Tech-Advance 38 Emergency Medical Tech-Basic 428 Firefighter I 527 Firefighter II 426 Fire Inspector I 65 Fire Inspector II 22 Fire Service Instructor I 106 Fire Service Instructor II 31 Fire Investigator 20 Fire Officer I 133 Fire Officer II 17 Fire Officer III 4 Hazardous Materials Awareness 561 Hazardous Materials Operations 411 37 Hazardous Materials Technician Hazardous Materials Incident Command 2 Incident Safety Officer 4 Paramedic 2 Public Fire Educator I & II 1 Rope Rescue Technician I & II 48 Safety Officer 4 Telecommunicator I 19

15

Telecommunicator II

The Fire Prevention Bureau is the inspections and education division of the Baton Rouge Fire Department. This division's job and responsibility is to enforce fire codes and regulations, inspect and abate existing and potential fire hazards, and recommend fire prevention standards. The duty of this division is to prevent incidents that require the response of our fire suppression personnel.

The Prevention Bureau is also a part of the City-Parish permitting and inspections process for commercial properties in the city limits of Baton Rouge. As a part of this process, we inspect new construction, renovations, additions, and occupancies.



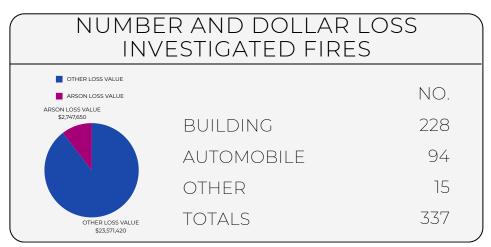
This division also conducts year-round fire safety education programs for the general public, schools, hospitals, industry, businesses, and civic and fraternal organizations. They make use of their Fire Safety House, which is a valuable educational tool. It teaches children, as well as adults, the importance of fire safety in the home. In addition to the Fire Safety House, we have Patches the Fire Dog Robot. Patches is an excellent tool for educating younger children about fire safety.

This division is responsible for investigating all fires with a suspicious or undetermined cause and origin and where a fire death has occurred. They also work with other law enforcement agencies dealing with arson.

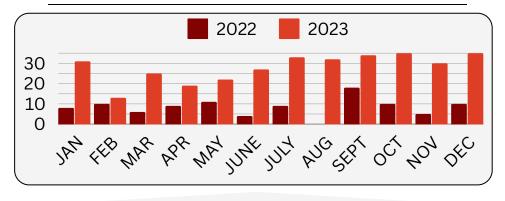
The overall goal of this division is to conduct responsible investigations to determine the cause, origin, and circumstances of each fire, including loss of life and/or injury or by which property has been destroyed or damaged. They intend to determine if the fire cause results from carelessness or design.

They investigate all suspicious fires from the time of inception to the time of prosecution.

The investigators collect the evidence, arrest the suspect, and make the court appearance. Hopefully, these efforts will lead to the conviction of the arsonist.



NUMBER OF INVESTIGATIONS



ADULTS ARRESTED	40	JUVENILES COUNSELED	2
CLEARED	104	FIRE CASUALTIES	10
CASES CLEARED BY ARREST	5	FIRE FATALITIES	0

The Hazardous Materials Division is responsible for coordinating the response resources of the city and parish emergency services in the event of an incident involving hazardous materials.

By definition, a hazardous material is any substance in a quantity or form which may be harmful or injurious to humans, domestic animals, wildlife, economic crops, or property when released into the environment. Many hazardous substances are manufactured or transported within this parish daily. Thus, maintaining a well-equipped and professional hazardous materials team for the Baton Rouge Fire Department is essential.

The Hazardous Materials Division consists of twelve (12) personnel:

- 1 Hazardous Materials Chief
- 1 Assistant Hazardous Materials Chief
- 1 Fire Records Clerk
- 9 Hazardous Materials Officers

The primary responsibility of the Hazmat Division is the response and mitigation of emergencies involving (or potentially involving) chemicals. Other responsibilities include training, planning, and exercising with public and private agencies for chemical emergencies. One crucial activity supporting the division's goal is managing the Baton Rouge Area Mutual Aid System (BRAMAS). This organization comprises paying members from the eight parishes within the Baton Rouge Area and facilitates the cooperation of these entities so they can support each other during emergencies. The hazardous materials officers staff a response unit (Unit 96) that responds parish-wide.

In 2023, they responded to 495 incidents involving chemical releases with products with the following hazards:

- Explosives
- Compressed Gases
- Flammable Liquids
- Water-Reactive Products
- Oxidizers
- Poisons
- Radioactive Products
- Corrosive Liquids
- Miscellaneous or Unknown

The division received numerous notifications from area industrial sites involving situations or incidents that could affect the public: these may include but are not limited to, chemical spills, fires, medical emergencies, flaring, training, and drills.

The division also participates with the Local Emergency Planning Committee, The Baton Rouge Area Mutual Aid System, and the North Baton Rouge Chemical Industry Task Force monthly in meetings to plan activities that make Baton Rouge Less vulnerable to and more prepared for chemical emergencies.

Hazmat Training

- Attended Advance Hazmat Technician, Tank Car Specialist, NIMS, Command Training, and Chemnet Exxon
- Attended plant tours, gathered maps and information regarding response
- Attended fire department drill training on an average of twice a month
- Attended numerous multi-company hazard drills
- Attended multi-agency training drills with the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport



COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

The Communications Division is housed in the communications center at the Mayor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness.



Twenty-two (22) fire department personnel work in fire communications.

Twenty (20) of the personnel comprise four rotating shifts keeping the center operating on a 24-hour basis. The chief and assistant chief fire communications officers supervise the division and work straight days.

The division is responsible for the dispatching, tracking, and notification of emergency calls to city fire units. This division also assists in dispatch for five (5) parish departments. The 2023 total number of incidents dispatched was 34,465.

INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY

The Information and Technology Specialist position is a pivotal role. Key responsibilities include the upkeep, programming, security, and troubleshooting of the department's computer and network infrastructure and associated equipment. Additionally, individuals in this role manage the computerized records management system's maintenance and promptly address users' requests regarding computer, networking, or technological issues. This position operates with moderate supervision, with the fire chief overseeing and reviewing the work.



This position played a crucial role in the successful launch of Community Connect, an innovative program designed to enhance emergency response effectiveness. Through Community Connect, residents and businesses have the

opportunity to upload vital information that can aid firefighters in swiftly and accurately responding to emergencies at their addresses. This initiative fosters a proactive approach to emergency preparedness by empowering community members to share critical details about their properties, such as floor plans, utility shutoff locations, and special considerations for occupants.

By collaborating closely with stakeholders and leveraging technological expertise, the Information and Technology Specialist ensured the seamless implementation and ongoing support of Community Connect, thereby strengthening the overall safety and resilience of the Baton Rouge community.

FIRE SUPPRESSION

The Fire Suppression Division is the fire department's actual "firefighting" aspect. This division consists of three (3) shifts- A (Red Shift), B (Black Shift), and C (Green Shift). An assistant fire chief maintains their shift operations through seven (7) district fire chiefs. The district fire chiefs supervise the operations of the nineteen (19) fire stations throughout the city. These fire stations are divided into five (5) fire districts and staffed by assigned fire captains, fire equipment operators, and firefighters.



Fire Station 1 3024 Florida Blvd.
Fire Station 2 3333 Choctaw Dr.
Fire Station 11 3186 Highland Rd.
Fire Station 12 555 Government St.

Fire Station 5 3215 Monterrey Dr.
Fire Station 6 5321 Greenwell Springs Rd.
Fire Station 7 5758 Claycut Rd.
Fire Station 8 150 S. Wooddale Blvd.

Fire Station 9 4025 Perkins Rd.
Fire Station 10 7380 Menlo Dr.
Fire Station 15 3150 Brightside Dr.

Fire Station 13 835 Sharp Rd.
Fire Station 17 14450 Old Hammond Hwy.
Fire Station 18 1993 Flannery Rd.

Fire Station 18 1993 Flannery Rd. Fire Station 19 11010 Coursey Blvd.

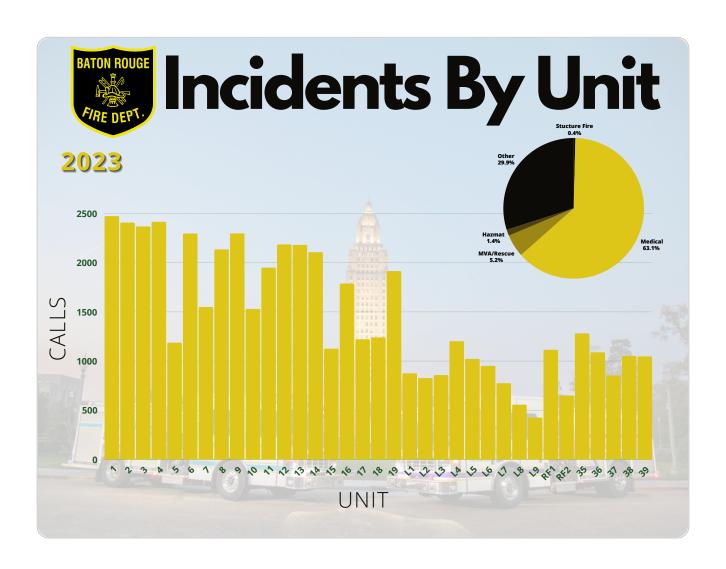
Fire Station 3 3142 Evangeline St.
Fire Station 4 6241 Prescott Rd.
Fire Station 14 4121 Harding Blvd.
Fire Station 16 1200 Rosenwald Rd.

The deputy fire chiefs work straight days, with one deputy chief responsible for each of the following aspects of fire suppression:

- Assign work schedules and approve leaves
- Manage suppression of working fires
- Inspect the appearance of assigned equipment, buildings, and personnel

The Fire Suppression Division is the most visible part of the fire department. The members of this division are in the public's eye as they respond to fires, automobile accidents, first aid calls, etc.

The following is a breakdown of the calls handled by the Engines, Ladders, and District Chiefs.



BATON ROUGE

