



# Fire Protection District No. 1 of West Feliciana Parish

## **Fire Protection District History**

The Fire Protection District was formed in 1987 on a 7 mill ad valorem tax. At the time, 8 fire stations were constructed and 17 fire apparatus were purchased to serve the unincorporated areas of the Parish. All 8 fire stations are still in service as well as some of the original 17 fire apparatus. In the years since the it was formed, the Fire District has increased services from only fire protection to include, non-transport EMS, hazmat response, technical rescue, vehicle extrication, fire investigations, fire inspections and public education. Beginning in 2004 the Fire District constructed a state of the art training facility, administration building and ninth fire station. Construction was finished in late 2009 and the Fire District began staffing 24 hours a day for the first time in department history. In addition to the new facilities, the Fire District began replacing the aging fleet of fire apparatus one by one to spread the cost over time verses lump sum purchases.

The Fire District also underwent a reorganization in 2010 with the appointment of a new fire chief and changes in positions and personnel. Today the Fire District continues to work out partnerships with other parish agencies to maximize the usage of the public funds while increasing our capabilities and services for the changing world. The Fire District has adopted a long range development plan which includes reducing the PIAL fire suppression rating, adding stations and improving response capabilities.

The Fire Protection District began a Live In Firefighter Program in 2013 in which an individual literally lives at the fire station. The program exchanges a set amount of hours the individual agrees to work in exchange for a room and utilities. The program is targeted at the Parish's youth who are either just starting out their professional career or in college or trade school but is open to all ages.

## **Past Fire Chiefs**

Chief James "Jimmy" Robinson 1987 to 1991 (Founding Chief)

Chief Tommy Robinson 1991 to 1997

Chief Tommy Boyett 1997 to 2009

Chief Mike Leming 2009 to 2010

Chief James R. Wood 2010 to current

## **Current Fire Chief**

Chief James R. Wood began his career in the fire and emergency services in the U.S. Coast Guard in 1998 where he still serves today as a Master Chief Petty Officer. In 2001, Wood began a career at the Baton Rouge Fire Department. He was assigned as a private on relief, then to Engine Co. 9 and later Engine Co. 1 before being promoted to Training Officer. During his time at BRFD, Chief Wood instituted new training courses and successfully advocated for policy changes in emergency response procedures.

Chief Wood began his career with Fire Protection District No. 1 in July 2001 when he began working as a part-time firefighter. In 2003, he moved to West Feliciana Parish and became a volunteer Fire Captain assigned to Spillman Fire Station where he served until being selected as Fire Chief in February 2010.

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## **Fire Protection District No. 1 of West Feliciana Parish**

Chief Wood's professional background includes fire, military and law enforcement. He is a reserve deputy with the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office assigned to the Special Operations Division. He served nine years as a member of the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team and continues to serve on the Maritime Response Team/ Joint Terrorism Task Force 7 (JTTF7). Chief Wood serves on the Louisiana Urban Search and Rescue Task Force 2 Team (USAR), as a former commissioner and Secretary for the Louisiana EMS Certification Commission representing EMTs, the West Feliciana Parish 911 Communications District, the Louisiana Fire and Emergency Training Institute Commission (LSU FETI), West Feliciana Planning and Zoning and is the former chairman of the West Feliciana Parish Economic Development Board.

Chief Wood holds an Associates of Applied Science in Fire Science from LSUE, a Bachelors of Professional Studies from the University of Memphis in Fire Administration and Fire Prevention Technology and a Masters in Emergency and Disaster Management from American Military University. He also has a Louisiana Emergency Management Professional Certification and holds the Nation Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Certification.

As Fire Chief, Chief Wood has worked hard to update the department's resources and equipment, partner with other agencies to improve governmental services, advance the quality of life for parish residents and be a supporter and advocate for the needs of West Feliciana Parish's fire and emergency services personnel. In 2015, Chief Wood led the Fire Protection District to improve its Fire Protection Rating from a Class 5 to a Class 4.



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