

Dear St. George Safety Network Members,

### **SCAM ALERT**

I really hate to start on this note, when we have some happy news to share, but - I've been notified by the president of the St. George Professional Firefighters Association that someone or group of persons is making telephone solicitations supposedly on behalf of the firefighters of East Baton Rouge Parish. Neither St. George nor the Baton Rouge Fire Department solicits funds by telephone. The employee organizations of both departments raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association in their annual Shake the Boot for MDA campaigns, however, they do not do so on the telephone. Should you receive such a call and can ID the caller, please call the police with that information.

### **GOOD NEWS**

As you may have heard or read, the St. George Fire Department has been awarded a FEMA SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) grant in the amount of \$2,176,947. This grant will provide partial re-imbusement, on a decreasing scale over five years, of the employment costs of 21 of the 23 new firefighters expected to make up our next Fire Academy.

In order to qualify, we had to create new positions being funded - fulfilling the grant program's purpose of adding firefighters to the ranks of public safety professionals - and demonstrate the ability and intention of sustaining those positions beyond the grant period. This grant program is a valuable asset which softens the local cost to departments like ours, which need to grow along with the communities we serve. These new positions should bring us to, or near, our budgeted number of 178 employees.

### **LAST YEAR'S CALL VOLUME UP SLIGHTLY**

#### **St. George Call Volume - A Five Year Overview**

	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
Fire	328	385	366	332	390
Explosion	8	2	6	2	8
Medical Rescue	2969	3784	3740	3815	3851
No Patient or Refused Care	329	362	281	256	193
Hazardous Condition or Material	220	297	243	246	284
Hazard Investigation	172	204	187	290	267
Public Service	380	395	405	456	450
Alarm Cancelled	951	1216	1161	1186	1118
False Alarm	567	580	561	571	700
Weather Related	10	29	9	11	14
Other	8	6	3	3	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5942</b>	<b>7260</b>	<b>6962</b>	<b>7168</b>	<b>7279</b>

It is interesting to note that the huge bump in emergency calls caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005 has remained our normal call volume.

*Eldon Ledoux*

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