



## **KENNER FIREFIGHTERS – FIRST RESPONDERS**

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*March 29, 2012*

*For Immediate Release*

### **KENNER FIREFIGHTERS CERTIFIED FIRST RESPONDERS**

Seventy-one (71) members of the Kenner Fire Department have successfully passed a State of Louisiana administered test certifying them as First Responders. The testing was conducted Monday, March 26, 2012, through Wednesday, March 28, 2012.

First Responder certification includes 48-hours of emergency medical responder training. Modules include instruction on patient assessment; treating illness and injury; lifting, moving and positioning patients; airway management; oxygen administration; and circulation. Firefighters receive advanced instruction on treating bleeding, shock and soft tissue injuries; caring for muscle and bone injuries; and spinal immobilization. Training also includes special instruction on dealing with children, infants, and childbirth.

In addition to Kenner Firefighters who are trained to First Responder certification level, nineteen (19) Kenner Firefighters have received even more advanced training and are Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certified. These personnel are routinely deployed throughout the City on a 24/7 basis.

“The citizens of Kenner have been, and continue to be, very well served by the level of formal emergency medical training each member of the Fire Department receives. The dedicated members of the Kenner Fire Department stand ready and capable of responding to the emergency medical needs of our citizens” said Mayor Michael Yenni.

Kenner Firefighters had successfully completed the formal First Responder training course and passed the state administered test in 2011. The training was conducted by East Jefferson General Hospital. It was recently discovered by hospital officials that certain certification formalities had not been followed by the instructor. In recognition of the formal training and testing the Kenner Firefighters had successfully completed, the state agreed to administer another test and issue temporary, interim First Responder certification to passing Kenner Firefighters, pending formal re-training.

Starting next week, Kenner Firefighters will repeat the formal 48-hour First Responder course which will culminate with a two-year certification issued by the State of Louisiana. The training will not involve additional cost to the City of Kenner.

Firefighters remain certified in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and use of the Automated External Defibrillation (AED) device, and that certification, which expires in 2013, is unaffected by the re-training.

“Based on our conversations with the State and East Jefferson General Hospital, the City administration is confident that this matter can be fully resolved in approximately 45 days” said Mayor Yenni. “The Citizens of Kenner will not notice any decrease in emergency response capability on the part of the Kenner Fire Department.”

Aside from the Fire Department’s own EMTs, East Jefferson General Hospital’s Emergency Medical Service has also increased the number of EMTs and emergency response vehicles assigned to the City of Kenner. This ensures 24/7 coverage of Kenner’s emergency medical needs during the re-training period.

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