

Louisiana Fire & Emergency Training Academy Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: September 25, 2025

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: FETA 6868 Nicholson Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70820

1. Call to Order/Roll Call: 10:01 AM

<u>COMMISSION MEMBER</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>	<u>REMOTE</u>
Bryan Adams	✓		
Brandon Davis	✓		
Russell Di Salvo	✓		
Stephen Guidroz	✓		
Ken Himel		✓	
Michael Kimble	✓		
Hampton Grunewald	✓		
Chad Major	✓		
Cassidy Martin		✓	
Bobby Moore	✓		
Louis Romero	✓		

2. Meeting Prayer and Pledge

Chairman Major welcomed LSU appointee Hampton Grunewald to the Commission.

3. Minutes: The minutes from the August 28, 2025, meeting were approved as presented.

4. Administrative Report:

- a. Superintendent:** Chief Tracey Normand reported continued efforts to advance training by expanding regional partnerships, including securing additional Recruit Academy offerings and mini-school dates in Ouachita Parish. Staff are actively preparing for the upcoming Equipment Show. The ExxonMobil CO₂ training has been postponed due to a contractor delay, and coordination is underway with Shell Pipeline to support the fire component of the prop, ensuring full training capability moving forward.
- b. Pine Country / Northern Region:** Chief Johnny Ogden reported ongoing facility repairs and technology upgrades. Numerous certification classes have been delivered this year, including HazMat Awareness and Operations in Ouachita Parish, Incident Safety Officer at Fort Polk, and Fire Officer III at FETA. In August, 47 classes were delivered with 600 students trained. Instructor development continues to be prioritized to build depth, with Daniel Copeland completing Incident

Safety Officer and Instructor II. The Ouachita Parish Mini School is scheduled for November 7–8. Live Fire Instructor and Live Fire Instructor-in-Charge courses are ongoing, along with other class offerings scheduled through the end of the year. A total of 41 certification classes have been delivered in the Northern Region so far this year.

- c. **Baton Rouge / Southern Region:** Chief Dustin Kleinpeter reported a high level of activity in the Southern Region with the delivery of the survival prop, Max Fire, forcible entry, the portable tower, and flashover prop trainings. A total of 90 classes were delivered with 829 students trained. Fire Officer III is in progress, with two Recruit Academy instructors participating to continue building instructional depth. Recent course offerings also included Officer II and Instructor II.
- d. **Recruit Academy:** Chief Kleinpeter reported that Class 189 is in Week 8 and has transitioned into the Firefighter portion of the academy. All recruits passed the EMT portion in Week 6. Week 7 included PPE, communications, command, building construction, and SCBA familiarization (including two-minute drills and confidence maze). The January 2026 academy is filling quickly, and a waiting list is anticipated. HazMat Awareness testing resulted in a 100% pass rate, and Operations testing is scheduled for Monday. The program continues to show improved outcomes due to consistent delivery that is aligned with the standard. Discussion included upcoming adjustments to the program structure: EMT will move to the end of the academy, with EMR covered in the beginning. The Chiefs will have the option for their recruits to complete EMT after graduation.
- e. **Technical Training:** Chief Kleinpeter reported that multiple courses were delivered across technical rescue and industrial training disciplines. Recent offerings included rope and rescue programs, instructor assessments, instructor validation for Task Force 1, and industrial confined space training. Demand for industrial rescue courses continues to grow among partner facilities. HazMat Technician skills evaluations were conducted at JESTC, and staff supported the Task Force 1 structural collapse course in Jefferson Parish.
- f. **Certification and Testing:** Chief Kleinpeter reported 10,974 active users in August. Five Skills Evaluator Workshops were completed, with four more scheduled, totaling 296 trained evaluators. Over 700 Local Agency Managed programs are active, and 71 exam sessions were conducted in August with an average score of 63% and a 67.4% pass rate. Instructor workshops are being developed to assist areas with lower performance and will be piloted in October. Curriculum updates are underway, including expanding the Inspector course, and schedules are being adjusted to align with NFPA standard changes. Additional guidance will be provided to explain Acadis registration vs. enrollment status.
- g. **EMS Training:** Chief Bankston reported that August was an active month. The Summer EMT program achieved 100% graduation (17 students), with approximately half already nationally certified. The success of the program was attributed to consistent instruction and improved standardization. Industrial EMS training continued with EMR refreshers and full EMR classes delivered for Placid Refinery and WR Grace, with additional EMR refresher needs identified

statewide. The Fall EMT class has begun, and early progress is positive. October will start the Paramedic, AEMT, and EMT refresher period, which increases demand as providers renew credentials. The division is also coordinating support for Chief Ogden's academy program, as well as assisting other agencies seeking guidance for their in-house EMT training.

- h. Industrial Training:** Chief Kleinpeter reported that the industrial activity in August included a HazMat Technician course with 20 students. Staff attended six off-site industrial meetings and two onsite at FETA. Significant facility improvements were completed, including a full rebuild of the interior industrial prop and installation of a new fire pump system, along with pond and aeration maintenance to ensure proper operation. Industrial training demand remains high, with burn season now in full swing.

To better serve industry partners, the division is planning more open-enrollment Industrial Fire Brigade classes to support individuals unable to attend closed company sessions. Additional course development is underway for an Industrial Pump Operator class, working collaboratively with industrial partners to meet operational needs.

- i. Financial Report:** Katie Elliott gave the report.

Total Revenue for August: \$150,514.86

- Municipal Income: \$375.00 | Fiscal Year-to-Date: \$10,355.00
- Certification Income: \$7,230.00 | Fiscal Year-to-Date: \$20,040.00
- Industrial Income: \$142,909.86 | Fiscal Year-to-Date: \$375,373.87

Total Fiscal Year Income: \$405,768.87

The 2026 training calendar will be released on October 6 in the FETA *Flashpoint* newsletter. It will initially include Certification classes at Baton Rouge and Pine Country, with more added as curriculum updates are finalized. Social media engagement continues to rise with increased Recruit Academy coverage. The new Industrial Training flyer is in print for use in industry outreach, and open-enrollment industrial class dates have been identified. Outstanding receivables have been reduced.

- 5. Commission Chairman Report:** The Chairman expressed appreciation for Brooklynn's outstanding contributions to FETA, noting her dedication, strong work ethic, and positive impact since joining the team. He congratulated her on achieving her goal of transitioning into fire inspections and acknowledged that she will be greatly missed. The Board extended its thanks and best wishes for her continued success.

The Commission reviewed the significant progress made by the Training Academy over recent years, noting increased credibility, statewide engagement, and improved access to no-cost municipal training. Members emphasized the importance of maintaining momentum toward becoming the preferred destination for fire and emergency training. Standardization across regions remains a priority to ensure consistent skills and operational capability when agencies respond together.

Industry partnerships and mutual aid relationships continue to strengthen statewide emergency readiness. The Commission recognized the LSU AgCenter representative, Hampton Grunewald, who offered collaboration support through facilities and outreach networks.

6. **Old Business:** Nothing reported.
7. **New Business:** Chief Adams reported updates on expanding our regional training facilities, including a pending MOU in Jefferson Parish to support Recruit Academy deliveries.
8. **Next Meeting:** October 28, 2025, Louisiana Fire Chiefs Symposium in Baton Rouge, with more information to follow.
9. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 11:03 AM without opposition.

Approved on: _____

10-28-25

Signature: _____