



## St. Tammany Parish Fire Protection District 7

Fire Chief Gary C. Whitehead

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### **Fact Page**

- St. Tammany Parish Fire Protection District No. 7 (FD7) provides services for fire protection, first response emergency medical care, motor vehicle accidents, hazardous materials and responds to all 911 calls that are not solely law enforcement issues. When someone calls 911 for any reason they deem an emergency, we are dispatched.
- FD7 serves one hundred seventy-six (176) square miles of area in St. Tammany Parish which is approximately 21% of the parish.
- FD7 responded to 675 calls in 2021. In year 2022 we have responded to 840 calls. 73% of calls are medical in nature.
- FD7's approximate response time is 7.5 minutes. National Fire Protection Agency states response times to be 5.5 minutes maximum.
- FD7 receives approximately 900K in property tax revenue which is less than 2% of total revenue received by all fire departments in St. Tammany Parish. To restate, we cover the largest area with the second lowest revenue. This is disproportionate.
- FD7's current millage rate is approximately 20 mils. The surrounding fire districts are at 35 and 42 max mils. Residents and businesses in the FD7 area have enjoyed reduced rates for many years while other areas have paid more for fire and emergency service.
- FD7 currently has five fire stations but should have more based-on recommendations from the Property Insurance Association of Louisiana (PIAL).
- FD7 has a class 5 rating through PIAL (class 1 being the best rating and class 10 is non-existent fire department)
- FD7's fire truck fleet is around twenty (20) years old. NFPA states fire trucks be taken out of service at fifteen (15) years old.
- FD7 currently staffs three (3) stations with one person per day. Staffing must be 24 hours per day and seven days per week. To cover one station with one person requires the equivalent of three (3) full-time employees. NFPA standards are to staff fire truck companies with four (4) persons.
- The current millage rate/revenue has not allowed our fire district to maintain fire trucks, equipment and stations to the level required and has not afforded the ability to hire more firefighters. Much of our firefighter equipment is outdated. Our stations were not constructed with long term plans of full-time staffing.
- Fire Districts can only fund through mileages and parcel fees. We cannot fund through for sales tax.
- Our PIAL rating has suffered due to staffing which is a funding issue. The rating is a determining factor for property insurance rates.

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