



History of the NFD

The citizens of Nacogdoches organized the first volunteer fire department in 1907. It was disbanded the same year. The Nacogdoches Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 was reorganized on February 29, 1908 with Ira Link Sturdevant as Chief. It was the forerunner of today's fire department. The

constitution and by-laws were adopted March 14, 1908.

The fire department obtained a permanent home in

1910 when they moved to the south side of the square where the Central Fire Station is now.



At first, pistol shots sounded the alarm and summoned the firemen. Although this worked, it was decided a bell would be more appropriate. The first bell was purchased in 1908 from the Baptist Church. It was placed on top of the Perkins Building on the north side of the square where Kennedy's Jewelry is now. Reportedly, the bell was sometimes rung by gunshot.

In 1910, the first Fire Marshal was appointed to conduct inspections and investigations related to fires. Early firefighters were both paid and volunteer. Historic insurance maps identify paid drivers as early as 1910.



As automobiles gained popularity beginning in 1914, the Fire Department kept pace. A combination of horse and motor drawn apparatus were used for many years. In 1924, the Nacogdoches Fire Department received its first real fire engine. "Big Bertha", a 1923 Seagrave, was delivered by train. The custom-built fire engine revolutionized firefighting.

The Modern Fire Department

Today's Fire Department is a full-service public safety agency. Sixty full-time employees serve the citizens of Nacogdoches, providing emergency response, fire prevention, safety and arson investigation. The Department operates out of five fire stations, strategically located throughout the City. In 1903, the home of John S. Roberts, a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence, burned to the ground. In 1909, the City constructed a new City Hall and Fire Station. The original building was replaced in 1952 with a larger municipal building. Upon completion of the Gladys Hampton Building, the Fire Department acquired the balance of the building.

