

ST. TAMMANY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT # 1

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Fire Chief - Larry Hess

For Immediate Release

April 18, 2013

Three Northshore Fire Department Take Part in a Multi-Agency Drill

On Monday April 15, 2013 St. Tammany Fire Districts 1, 7, & 11 from Slidell and Pearl River took part in a multi-agency drill at the Lafarge mining facility in Pearl River. The purpose of the drill was to simulate a trauma injury and how firefighters and Lafarge personnel would work together to rescue a victim. The Lafarge mining facility utilizes hoppers and conveyor belts that are 30 to 40 feet high to mine for the gravel that is used in concrete. Due to the height of the equipment, any accidents could result in traumatic injuries for its personnel. Firefighters are trained in high angle rescue which would be needed should an accident occur at the top of these platforms.

The scenario used for the drill involved a worker who fell 10 feet from a 40 foot platform and was incapacitated and unresponsive 30 feet above the ground. Once firefighters made access to the patient they began treatment by C-spine immobilization of the patient onto a spine board. The patient was then loaded into a Stokes basket and lowered to the ground where a waiting Acadian Ambulance unit transported the patient to a local hospital.

The drill provided valuable feedback on how communications work between multiple agencies having a unified command. The lessons learned from this drill will help with any future multi-agency situations involving technical rescues or mass trauma.

For more information about St. Tammany Fire Protection District #1 visit us at www.slidellfire.org or follow us on [Facebook](#) - *St. Tammany Fire District #1* and [Twitter](#) - *@SlidellFire_PIO*

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