



SHREVEPORT FIRE

D E P A R T M E N T

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Clarence J. Reese, Jr., Fire Chief

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For Immediate Release

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Shreveport Fire Hosts 40th Anniversary Ceremony in Remembrance of the Dixie Cold Storage Fire

Shreveport Fire Department will be hosting a ceremony on September 17, 2024 in observance of the 40th Anniversary of the Dixie Cold Storage Fire in 1984. The incident began as a hazardous materials call for an anhydrous ammonia leak. The Shreveport Fire Hazardous Materials Technicians team responded to contain the leak. During their efforts a spark ignited the fumes, endangering the crews and severely injuring two.

Captain Percy Johnson, a Training Officer responded along with Assistant Chief Pat Johnson from the Shreveport Fire Training Academy as members of the Hazardous Materials Team at 3:12 p.m. At 4:00 p.m. an explosion erupted within the facility, igniting the Class A encapsulating protective suits the firefighters were wearing. Responding fire crews entered the facility and rescued the two firefighters while combatting the blaze.

Assistant Chief Pat Johnson suffered second- and third-degree burns, leaving him in critical condition and ending his career. Captain Percy Johnson suffered second- and third-degree burns, leading to his line-of-duty death 36 hours later. Six other firefighters were transported and treated for injuries from the incident.

Please join us on September 17, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. at the Shreveport Fire Training Academy located at 6440 Greenwood Road, Shreveport, LA, 71119. We will gather in the auditorium to honor their memory and their sacrifice with a ceremony that reflects their enduring courage and dedication.

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