



HOT TOPICS

Oshkosh Fire Department



CHIEF'S CORNER



As Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) or drones have become more advanced and affordable there have been countless new uses for them being explored. Our friends in Oshkosh Media received a grant to purchase a drone for their department. After going through many hours of training and becoming

certified to operate it, they are now flying the friendly skies over Oshkosh. They are able to capture and stream video to a monitor on the ground.

The fire department and Oshkosh Media recently met to discuss how we could collaborate to utilize this resource. Many questions were asked. "If a building was on fire, could you give us a view of the roof that may be too dangerous for firefighters to be on? If someone was lost on the ice on a lake could you fly over and spot them? If we had areas devastated by flooding or a tornado could you be our eye in the sky to assess damage?" The answer to all of these questions and more was a resounding "Yes!" We are working out the details and creating a policy so that we can put this in place and start utilizing a new tool in our toolkit.

We greatly appreciate Oshkosh Media with being so enthusiastic to help and share their resources and training to utilize new technologies to make our firefighters and community safer. Up, up, and away!

--Chief Mike Stanley

9-1-1 WHEN TO CALL

by John Holland

There is a lot of confusion out there about when you should or shouldn't call 9-1-1. Hopefully the following will clear up some of that confusion.

9-1-1 should only be called for life-threatening emergencies, or something that could have the potential to be life threatening. Some of those are:

- constant chest pain;
- difficulty breathing;
- choking;
- unresponsiveness;
- overdose;
- seizures;
- falls where you can't get yourself up;
- severe bleeding;
- drowning;
- electrocution;
- severe injuries;
- reporting a fire;
- carbon monoxide alarm sounding;
- reporting a crime;
- suspicious activity happening that is being personally witnessed;
- traffic crashes;
- major debris on a high-speed roadway; or
- smell of natural gas.

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9-1-1 WHEN NOT TO CALL

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9-1-1 should NOT be called for the following:

- Minor injuries or illnesses;
- colds or flu;
- ongoing aches and pains;
- routine transportation to hospitals or clinics;
- to ask questions of the Fire or Police departments;
- for information during severe weather;
- to report a power outage (unless personal medical equipment is in jeopardy of failing);
or
- for information about fireworks.

Having said all of the above please remember:

WHEN IN DOUBT DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL 9-1-1

When you call 9-1-1, stay calm; speak clearly and slowly. Please be patient with all of the questions the dispatchers will ask you. The more information they have, the better they can help you.

The first question they will always ask is: "WHERE is your emergency?" The more specifics you can provide the better; provide the exact address, cross streets etc.

Other questions they will ask:

- What phone number are you calling from?
- What is the emergency?
- How many people need help?
- Are they conscious and breathing?

Answer all their questions the best you can and stay on the line until the dispatchers say you may hang up.

After you hang up, stay with the patient if it's safe for you to do so. Don't move them unless it's absolutely necessary, and let them know that help is on the way.

By following these tips, you can help us cut down on unnecessary calls for service and keep emergency resources available for those who are truly in need of our services.



THE PERFECT STORM

Recently Captain Scott Krause, Equipment Operator Chris Heder and Fire Fighter Josh Antes were recognized for their exemplary work the evening of Friday, February 18 and into the morning of February 19.

City Manager Mark Rohloff presented them with the *Employee of the Quarter* award. This award recognizes the outstanding qualities and contributions of employees toward departmental and the City of Oshkosh mission, vision, values and strategic goals.

Most everyone will remember the snow squall of *Battle on Bago*. High winds, blinding snow, extreme cold, glare ice, and open abandoned sturgeon holes, all made for the perfect storm of conditions.

This crew from Ladder 15 took the boat out on Lake Winnebago multiple times to eventually rescue 8 individuals over an extended period of time. The boat brake failure, multiple ice shanties and high winds made it even more difficult as they traversed the glare ice.

These individuals embody the values of the Oshkosh Fire Department:



From left to right:
Fire Chief Mike Stanley
Equipment Operator Chris Heder
City Manager Mark Rohloff



From left to right:
Captain Scott Krause
Fire Fighter Josh Antes
City Manager Mark Rohloff

WHAT'S NEW

Assistant Chiefs Brian Bending & Greg Stelter attended National Night Out on August 2.



Congratulations to Training Captain CJ Wedell. He recently received the City of Oshkosh *Outstanding Service Award* for the extra time and effort put forth working with interns and HAZMAT Team.

July was a busy month for OFD. We staffed EAA from July 25- to July 31.



OFD firefighters volunteered to serve food to the campers attending Burn Camp at Camp Timber-Lee



Fox Valley Technical College's Fire Exploration Camp for middle and high schoolers visited Station 14 to learn about ARFF (Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting).

KITCHEN TABLE TRAINING

by Captain CJ Wedell

Recently a New York firefighter was seriously hurt after responding to a crash. Firefighters were trying to stabilize a SUV that had crashed on top of another car. As firefighters were stabilizing the car and trying to remove the occupants, the driver hit the gas, causing the SUV to fall onto a firefighter pinning him down.

For the full article, see

<https://www.firehouse.com/safety-health/video/21274377/fdny-firefighter-ryan-warnock-was-seriously-hurt-while-responding-to-car-crash-in-manhattan>

How could this injury been prevented?

Every time you stabilize a vehicle, ask yourself:

Q: What is the best stabilization technique that can be used to quickly and safely gain access to the patient?

A: Every situation may require a different stabilization solution. You need to weigh out responder/occupant safety to occupant condition, and choose the right stabilization technique for that situation to save time and maximize safety.

Q: When is it appropriate to make entry into the vehicle to continue patient care or extricate the patient?

A: When the vehicle is safely stabilized to do so. "Scene Safety" should drive all operation on all incidents!!



"The hero is the person who lets no obstacle prevent them from pursuing the values he/she has chosen."

- Andrew Bernstein

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KITCHEN TABLE TRAINING

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Review the RESUE 42 Strut Jack Operation

As part of training in May, we reviewed the RESCUE 42 Strut Jack Operation and in June we conducted practical evolutions at the Training Center. We respond to a number of motor vehicle accidents annually and while not all those responses call for strut jack stabilization, some do. Please take time to review the RESCUE 42 Strut Jack System and our other stabilization procedures in general.

The Next Few Months

- Lithium Ion Batteries and Electric Car Fire
- High Rise Deployment
- Roof Operations
- And more

As the year goes along and we move into the fall and winter months, the roads will naturally become more slippery. Going out on I-41 in January is not the time to use the RESCUE 42 Struts or our other stabilization procedures for the first time! Take some time in late summer or early fall to review these procedures with your company or to conduct a company drill.

Below are links to training information on the RESCUE 42 Strut Jack:

[Rescue 42 Strut Jack System Operations](#)

[Rescue 42 Chapter 4 Strut Assembly](#)

[Rescue 42 Chapter 5 - Ratchet Straps](#)

[Rescue 42 Chapter 7 - Anchoring Strut Head](#)

[Rescue 42 Chapter 9 - Anchoring the Strut Base](#)



[Know the warning signs](#)



[Learn about the risk factors](#)

988 has been designated as the new three-digit dialing code that will route callers to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (now known as the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline). 988 is now active across the United States.

When people call or text 988, they will be connected to trained counselors that are part of the existing Lifeline network. These counselors will listen, understand how their problems are affecting them, provide support, and connect them to resources if necessary.

Understanding the issues concerning suicide and mental health is an important way to take part in suicide prevention, help others in crisis, and change the conversation around suicide.

EVERYONE GOES HOME

by Battalion Chief Drew Jaeger

The first of our stated values of the Oshkosh Fire Department is Integrity. Commonly, this gets confused with being a person or group with high moral values. More correctly, it means that you act in alignment with your values. If your values are self above others, then it is still acting with integrity if your actions may cause harm to others. The values of our department come from our vision and mission statements. For example, being a “highly trained team” and performing with “skill and compassion.” It means that we will do what we say that we are going to do.

It is actually quite rare in our lives that we make a vow or oath to act in accordance with our values. We may do it in marriage, in affiliation with a union or service organization, or enlisting in the military. All of the members of this department took an oath to serve the citizens of Oshkosh to the best of our ability in their times of crisis. When we meet the values of being highly trained by keeping up with our training and giving it our full effort, then we are accomplishing the goal of being integrated with our core values, as well as honoring our oath.

Being human, we will sometimes fall short of this goal of acting with integrity. We also celebrate athletes and citizen heroes that show exemplary integrity, such as a runner who might come to the aid of another who has fallen during a race. This concept of integrity and occasionally falling short has some tactical implications on the fire ground as well. We practice completing tasks that are outlined in our policies and standard operating guides, such as the steps of medical care or crew assignments at a fire. Our fellow team members count on each other to do those steps, for example the second due fire engine is normally supposed to obtain a water supply by connecting to a hydrant. Best practice would dictate that if there is some obstacle to our completing that task as a company, the officer should let command and the other units know of that challenge, and either request help or a different assignment.

I was the officer of the second due engine on a fire in the south side of the city a few years ago. After announcing our arrival via radio, and saying that we would secure a water supply, we ran into the reality that to do so would close a major street and cut off access for the following units. We proceeded to the scene, and pulled a backup hose line and secured utilities as the first in crew searched for fire in the basement. We were doing good work, but I failed to communicate that we had not secured a water supply. The following companies and incident commander were not thrilled. It was not due to my decision, but by the lack of communication. So in this circumstance, acting with integrity would have been to either do what I said we would do, or share the revised decision. I am sure that the firefighters reading this newsletter know of situations that they have encountered where the scene was not as safe as it should have been, created by an officer or crew that either failed to follow standard actions, or failed to communicate them. Acting with integrity is not just a question of ethics, it also is a critical component in all we do to ensure that *Everyone Goes Home*.



COVID VACCINE CLINICS

TUESDAYS

Fox Crossing Fire Department
1326 Cold Spring Road, Neenah
Time: 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 pm

THURSDAYS

Ascension Medical Group
2700 W. 9th Avenue Oshkosh
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAYS

Sunnyview Expo Center
Time: 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

SATURDAYS until August 20

Oshkosh Farmers Market
Time Community Theater, 445 N. Main Street
Time: 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon

WINNEBAGO COUNTY IS CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING A MEDIUM COVID-19 COMMUNITY LEVEL.

- Talk with your doctor about wearing a mask in public if you are immunocompromised or at risk for severe disease.
- Consider wearing a mask indoors if you live with or come into contact with someone who is high risk.



Stay up to date



Get Tested



Sick? Stay home

Winnebago County Health Department
www.winnebagohealthdepartment / 920-232-3026

Children and COVID-19 Vaccination

Age group	Series How many shots and when?	Booster Dose Are boosters recommended?
Pfizer		
6 months - 4 years	3-shot series; 2 doses, 3 weeks apart, followed by a 3rd at least 2 months later.	Not at this time.
5 - 11 years	2-shot series; 2 doses, 3 weeks apart	Yes, at least 5 months after second shot.
12 - 17 years	2-shot series; 2 doses, 3 weeks apart	Yes, at least 5 months after second shot.
Moderna		
6 months - 5 years	2-shot series; 2 doses, 4 weeks apart	Not at this time.
6 - 11 years	2-shot series; 2 doses, 4 weeks apart	Not at this time.
12 - 17 years	2-shot series; 2 doses, 4 weeks apart	Not at this time.

Winnebago County Health Department
www.wcvaccine.org / 920-232-3026
*This schedule is for persons who are not immune compromised.
Recommendations are from the CDC as of June, 18, 2022



Our Mission

The City of Oshkosh Fire Department is a highly trained team that adds value to our community by providing a wide range of emergency services with skill and compassion.

We advocate risk reduction through prevention and education, and we provide leadership in times of crisis.

LET'S CONNECT

