



HOT TOPICS

CHIEF'S CORNER



February 1, 2023 was a momentous day for the Oshkosh Fire Department. At 8:00 that morning, we went live with Automatic Vehicle Location (A.V.L.) Dispatching.

When there is an emergency incident, seconds count. If someone has stopped breathing, or, a building is on

fire, the faster the fire department can be there the more potential there is for a better outcome. A.V.L. helps to determine the geographic location of a fire truck or ambulance. Then the Communication Center will utilize Computer Aided Dispatching (C.A.D.) to dispatch the closest available unit to the emergency. This will decrease our response times and put our resources on scene more quickly to start providing care or extinguishing fires.

We are always searching for better and more efficient ways to serve our community and are very thankful that we have been able to put this technology in place.

A special thanks goes out the Winnebago County Communication Center for all of the work that they did to make this happen. Together we are making a difference!

--Chief Mike Stanley

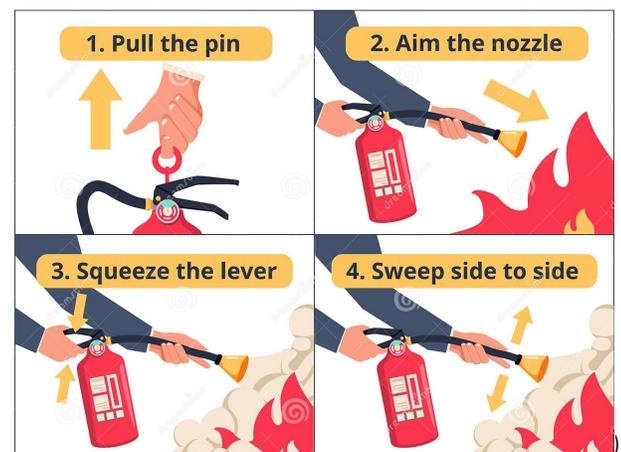
USING A FIRE EXTINGUISHER

by John Holland, PubEd Specialist

You might have a fire extinguisher in your home, but do you know how to use it? The directions are right on the extinguisher. However, when you have a fire is not the time to read them. Hopefully you'll never need to use one, but if you do, you have to know how to do it safely.

Using an extinguisher is pretty easy. You just have to remember the acronym P.A.S.S.

- Pull the pin.
- Aim the extinguisher at the base of the fire.
- Squeeze the handle.
- Sweep the extinguisher side to side.



USING A FIRE EXTINGUISHER (Continued from page 1)

Only attempt to fight a small fire. A small fire is about the size of an average human. Start about six feet away from the fire and work your way in. If the fire starts to move do not fight it. Get outside and call 9-1-1 immediately. If you are going to fight the fire make sure you are between the fire and a way out.

If you are successful and the fire goes out make sure to still call 9-1-1. We will come and make sure that it is completely out. We have had a few major fires here in Oshkosh when people skipped that step.

There are many different types of fire extinguishers out there. What you need for home use is a small ABC extinguisher that you can buy at most department and hardware stores. The extinguisher will say "ABC" right on it. That tells you what kind of fires it will put out.

There are five primary types of fire extinguishers, each designed to put out different kinds of fires.



For use with **ordinary materials like cloth, wood and paper.**

Often found in homes and businesses



For use with **combustible and flammable liquids like grease, gasoline, oil and oil-based paints.**

Often found in homes and businesses



For use with **electrical equipment like appliances, tools, or other equipment that is plugged in.**

Often found in homes and businesses



For use with **flammable metals**

Often found in factories

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For use with **vegetable oils, animal oils and fats in cooking appliances.**

Often found in commercial kitchens (restaurants, cafeterias, catering businesses)

Fire Extinguisher Checklist

- Have I alerted others in the building that there's a fire?
- Has someone called the fire department?
- Am I physically able to use a fire extinguisher?
- Is the fire small or contained in a single object (like a pan or a wastebasket)?
- Am I safe from the fire's toxic smoke?
- Do I have a clear escape route?

Use a fire extinguisher if you have answered "yes" to all these questions. If you're unsure about whether or not it's safe to use a fire extinguisher, and for all other situations, alert others, leave the building, and call 911 from a mobile or neighbor's phone. It is not recommended that children use fire extinguishers. If you have any questions or would like more information please call 920-236-5249 or email me at jholland@ci.oshkosh.wi.us.



Facts you need to know about fire extinguishers

- They must be recharged after every use.
- They don't last forever.
- They must be regularly maintained.

WHAT'S NEW

On Friday, February 3 the Oshkosh Fire Department (OFD) was presented with the 2022 EMS Service of the Year Award at the Wisconsin EMS Association (WEMSA) Conference in Green Bay. We were recognized because of the exceptional care and service that the men and women of the OFD provide each and every day.

Our EMS providers are highly trained and skilled clinicians. This can be demonstrated by the department's receipt of multiple "Recognitions of Excellence in Performance Improvement" Awards from the Wisconsin Coverdell Stroke Program. OFD has consistently exceeded the standards for the performance measures associated with the program.

As a result of our internal quality assurance measures, 9.9% of patients found in cardiac arrest were released from the hospital without neurological deficits. Furthermore, the outcomes surpassed State and National averages on the Utstein Survival Formula with a reported 54% success rate.

Our paramedics take a very proactive approach to try to prevent the emergencies from occurring in the first place. This attitude demonstrates how much the culture of being a caregiver who cares is imbedded in the beliefs of every member of the team.

The EMS Coordinator on each shift mentor and guide new providers through the onboarding process to ensure that they are competent and knowledgeable. The department also hosts technical college students from across the State as they participate in their clinical experiences to attain EMT-Basic and Paramedic certifications.

Chief Stanley said, "I am humbled and honored to be a part of a team that strives for excellence and achieves it."

Left to Right: Medical Director Dr. Kerry Ahrens and EMS Division Chief, Chuck Hable



Left to Right: EMS Coordinators, Ryan Homman, Eric Shea and Andrew Knoll

WHAT'S NEW

February 13 was an especially busy day at Station 15. Starting their first day of employment were two new firefighter/paramedics.

Please join me in welcoming:

Andrew Browning graduated from Waukesha County Technical College in Pewaukee with a Fire Science Degree. He has been a Firefighter/Paramedic for the Greendale Fire Department since 2005.

Eric Theel was a Lieutenant/Paramedic with the Beaver Dam Fire Department since 2008 and was their Health & Safety Officer for the past 4 years. He graduated from Fox Valley Technical College with a Fire Science Degree majoring in Fire Protection Technician.



From left to right:
Andrew Browning and Eric Theel

Hands Only CPR & AED Training

Date: Monday, March 6, 2023

Time: 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Registration deadline: March 2

Call: 920-232-5300 to register

FOOD & TOY DRIVE RECAP

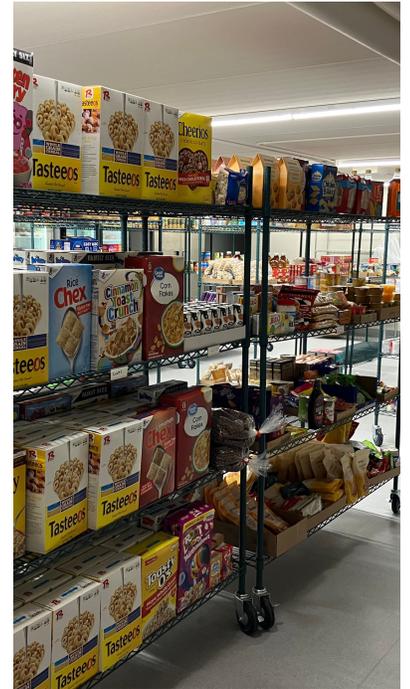
by Eric Sea, EMS Coordinator

The 24th Annual Oshkosh Fire Department Local 316 Food and Toy Drive has officially wrapped up and it was another successful year! It is always great to be out in the community and interacting with YOU, the citizens of Oshkosh, as you are the ones who make this drive so impactful year after year! We braved some pretty wintry conditions this year, but all of our volunteers made it go smoothly! Thank you volunteers!

All of the donations have been counted and we are happy to report that we had a record year. The Salvation Army served nearly 800 families through their distribution program, and our donations are one of the biggest supports to stocking the shelves for those families. We more than doubled our physical toy donations from last year, which also doubled our toy retail value from last year! Additionally, our social media campaign was a success, as we received over \$1,800 in tape and wrapping paper, along with nearly \$1,000 in gift card donations!

This year, we are pleased to announce some very exciting news regarding our annual scholarship. We again received over \$4,000 in cash donations. Due to the continued generous monetary donations from community members, we have decided to permanently increase the amount of the Gary Kassube Scholarship! One graduating senior from Oshkosh North and one from Oshkosh West who is enrolled in a police or fire science program will now be awarded \$1,000 through the Gary Kassube Scholarship!

For more information on the scholarship and how to apply, please visit www.foxriverscholarshipcenter.org and search for "Gary Kassube Scholarship."



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FOOD & TOY DRIVE RECAP (Continued from the previous page)

In the days following the drive, all of the donations were distributed to families in the Oshkosh area through the Salvation Army's distribution program. Some of our L316 members were even able to volunteer for the distribution process and help families find the food and gifts they needed to make their holidays special. We'd like to thank all of our partners who made this drive possible, most notably:

- Major James and Major Penny Mungai and Patty Zastrow from the Oshkosh Area Salvation Army;
- Darren Moxon from Oshkosh Fire and Police Equipment;
- Rick Leib, the students, and staff from the Oshkosh North Communities Program; and
- All of the members, families, and friends of Local 316 and the Oshkosh Fire Department for volunteering their time to go door to door to collect the donations.

Last, but not least, our biggest thank you goes out to YOU, the Oshkosh community, for helping this drive impact hundreds of families right here in the Oshkosh area. Your donations and support show the true generosity of our community! Thank you for all you do.

We are very excited for a milestone year in 2023, as it will be our 25th annual drive! Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for more updates.

COMMUNITY PARTNER: FINDING BALANCE TOGETHER

From the beginning of the discussion about falls in Oshkosh, Finding Balance Together (FBT) was at the table. They are a coalition of community members and health professionals that share an ongoing concern over the high rate of falls in Wisconsin. Members are actively engaged in working with adults to reduce their risk of falling. FBT has created an awesome staggered handout that contains information about a variety of topics including: pills and spills, brain health, exercise, nutrition and hydration, vision, hearing, incontinence and foot/nail care. These brochures will be available for pick up at Station 15, 101 Court Street, after March 1.

Click the logo below for more information:



- ADRC
- Aurora Health Care
- Coyle Care Management & Consulting
- Fox Valley Regional Trauma Advisory Council
- Grand Chute Fire Department
- Morton LTC Pharmacy
- Neuroscience Group
- ThedaCare
- YMCA
- Valley VNA Senior Care

LET'S CONNECT

