



# HOT TOPICS



## CHIEF'S CORNER



The weather has warmed up and we are quickly approaching summer. School will be out soon, and many of us will be participating in hobbies, sports, and leisure activities. In this issue, we will talk about bicycle safety

Lots of children, and grown-ups will be out on our trails and streets. Bicycle riders, please wear your helmets and drivers please be alert for cyclists of all ages when driving.

The Oshkosh Fire Department has recently finished its department-wide training of personnel and deployment of new cardiac monitors. After an extensive research and development process, the new monitors were selected so that our responders can provide the best care possible to those who are experiencing a cardiac emergency. We have also increased our capabilities by placing a new cardiac monitor on each of our response units. This ensures that there is no delay in a patient receiving advanced diagnostic testing and treatments.

Spring is graduation season as well. Congratulations to all who are graduating from high school or college. We have been actively recruiting future employees who are completing training programs or who are considering joining the fire department in the future. We continue to make advancements toward creating a talent pipeline and look forward to having talented people join our team now and in the future.

Have some fun in the sun! Stay Safe!

--Chief Mike Stanley

## PEDALING SAFELY INTO SPRING & SUMMER

by John Holland, Public Information Officer

As the weather starts to warm up, people will start heading out on the road with their bicycles. As fun as riding your bike can be, it can also be dangerous. When a crash occurs between a vehicle and a bike, it is the cyclist who is most likely to be injured. A lot of these crashes can be avoided if both motorist and cyclists follow the rules of the road and look out for each other.

There are two main types of bicycle crashes: falls (the most common) and vehicle vs. bicycle (the most serious). The most common cause of vehicle vs. bicycle crash is failure to yield the right away. Regardless of the cause of the crash, prevention is key.

Every bike ride should begin with putting on a helmet. But in order to protect your head and brain, the helmet must fit and be worn properly. It should fit snugly on your head even before you tighten any of the straps. Next, the straps need to be tightened so that you can only fit a finger or two between the straps and your chin. Finally, the helmet should be straight across, parallel to the ground.

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## **PEDALING** *Continued from Page 1*

Before you head out, there are some things to consider. The bike needs to fit you. If it's too big or small it's very hard to control. Also, make sure that everything on the bike works. It doesn't matter how well the bike fits you if the brakes don't work and you can't stop quickly. Wear brightly colored clothing at all times. At night, you should have your reflectors along with a white light on the front and a red light on the back. Also, wearing something reflective is a great idea if you know you're going to be pedaling after dark. Anything that you need to carry should be in a backpack or strapped to the bike.

Once you hit the road you need to follow all traffic laws. Ride with the flow of traffic on the right side of the road. If you are riding with someone, ride single file. Assume that other vehicles and people cannot see you and watch out for them. Look ahead for any hazards such as: driveways, pedestrians, train tracks, potholes, and loose gravel. Be predictable so that you do not surprise motorists, causing a crash. Use hand signals to make others aware of when you plan to stop or turn. Do not text, listen to music or do anything else that can distract you from things going on around you.

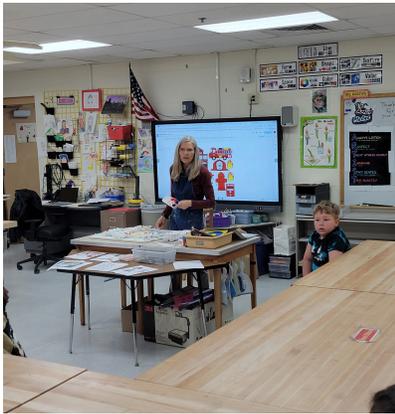
Motorists, you have some responsibility for cyclists' safety as well. Pay attention to your surroundings. Use caution when backing out of driveways. No texting or talking on your phone. Don't eat or drink in a car. This can be even more distracting than using a phone; especially if there's a spill. Share the road with cyclists. They have just as much right to be on the roads as you do. Make sure you give bike riders adequate space when you pass them and check behind you prior to turning, parking, or opening your doors.

Strapping on a helmet and hopping on your bike is a great form of exercise and a fantastic way to spend time outside by yourself or with family or friends. Don't let an unnecessary crash or trip to the Emergency Department spoil it.



## READ ELEMENTARY PARTNERSHIP

To continue the fire department's partnership with Read Elementary, we are very excited to be working with the school on a new project. Led by their art teacher Ms. Bartow, the students in 3rd grade are painting ceiling tiles that will be installed in the training room at their neighborhood fire station. The 3rd graders are showing their creativity and artistic abilities by creating firefighting-themed pictures. So far we have seen great renditions of firetrucks, fire hydrants, and Dalmatians! Once the project is complete and the ceiling tiles are installed, the students will get to visit their fire station and see their work on display.



## MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

This Memorial Day, we honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. We also honor their families, friends, and fellow service members who mourn them. There is help for Veterans struggling with grief, loss, or trauma at [988lifeline.org/help-yourself/veterans/](https://988lifeline.org/help-yourself/veterans/). #MHAM2024

This Memorial Day we remember those who have served our country.

**MENTAL HEALTH Awareness MONTH**

Get help by calling or texting **988** or chatting [988lifeline.org](https://988lifeline.org).



# AWARDS DINNER 2024

The Oshkosh Fire Department hosted its annual recognition dinner on Saturday, April 20, 2024. Awards were presented to City of Oshkosh firefighters, as well as to community members who were selected through a nomination process. The following individuals were recognized for going above and beyond the call of duty or for the impact they have made.

**Exceptional Duty Award:** This award is conveyed when members of the fire department rise above the normal call of duty, provide extraordinary customer service, or take heroic actions that could jeopardize their health and safety

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|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Captain Rick Natrop                 | Equipment Operator Eric Tate |
| Lt. Don Simonet                     | EMS Coordinator Blake Youwer |
| Equipment Operator Bret Hamer       | Firefighter Kevin Putzer     |
| Equipment Operator Matt Sommerfeldt | Firefighter Brian Ludwig     |
| Equipment Operator Eric Tate        | Firefighter Adam Van Daalwyk |

**Guardian Angel Award:** This award is conveyed when a member of the community comes to the rescue of another person to provide them with aid and assistance that could prevent death or further injury.

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|-----------------|-------------|
| Mike Brantmeier | Noah Moxon  |
| David Kotula    | Evan Murray |

**Friends of the Fire Department:** This award is conveyed to individuals or organizations that have collaborated with the Oshkosh Fire Department to work in partnership to better provide services, assist the community, and advance the department's mission.

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|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Emily Eisenchink | Dr. Jennifer Skolaski | The Salvation Army |
|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|

**Lifesaving Award:** This award is conveyed when members of the department or the community make a lifesaving intervention to prevent a person(s) death.

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|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Captain Mike Krajnik           | <b>Oshkosh Defense Team-</b> |
| Equipment Operator Chris Clark | Jesse Kolonowski             |
| Firefighter Ashley Engeldinger | Gloria Markofski             |
| Firefighter Miranda Galligan   | Andrew McHugh                |
| Firefighter Devon Goebel       | Tyler Olson                  |
| Firefighter Jordan Olson       | Joe Volgman                  |

**Fire Chiefs Award:** Captain Mike Bryan was selected by the Fire Chief for his contributions to the fire department, its members, and the community.

"We were honored to recognize Oshkosh's firefighters, EMS professionals, and outstanding members of the community," said Oshkosh Fire Chief Michael Stanley. "Their selfless service and dedication to their community is an inspiration to us all, and we are grateful for their bravery and commitment to keeping us safe."

# EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR FOR 2023

At the Oshkosh State of the City on March 27th, City Manager Mark Rohloff announced the winner of the Employee of the Year Award for 2023. Congratulations go out to Captain Jack Clark. Jack was the recipient in November 2023 for Employee of the Quarter and was selected as Employee of the Year because he embodied so many of our guiding principles.

In August 2023 a local hotel experienced trouble with their fire alarm system. It could not be repaired until the next day and the hotel manager was unable to purchase the needed smoke detectors. With nearly a full house and a major event in town, Jack exhibited a can do spirit by taking xx smoke detectors out of stock and helped to install them at the hotel. With the additional fire watch, the hotel was able to safely keep customers in place before the system could be re-stored.



**From left to right:** Fire Chief Mike Stanley, Assistant Chief Brian Bending, Captain Jack Clark and City Manager Mark Rohloff



Can Do Spirit



Engaging



Accountable



Transparent



Innovative



Economical



Equitable



Inclusive



Responsive

# EXPLORER UPDATE

The Explorer Programs is a youth-oriented initiative that provides students with opportunities to explore careers in firefighting and emergency services. This program is sponsored by the Oshkosh Fire Department (OFD) and affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America. We currently have 7 local Oshkosh high school students that meet twice a month throughout the school year. The Explorers learn in a controlled environment through practical training and action learning.



There are benefits for both OFD and program participants:

- The Explorer Program serves as a pipeline for recruiting future firefighters. By introducing individuals to the firefighting profession early on, we can cultivate interest and passion, potentially leading to long-term commitments to the department.
- Participants in the program gain hands-on experience and training in various aspects of firefighting and EMS. From learning basic firefighting techniques to understanding the importance of teamwork and leadership, this program equips individuals with valuable skills that can benefit both their personal and professional lives.
- The Explorer Program strengthens ties between fire departments and the community . Through participation in community events, outreach programs, and public education initiatives, Explorer Program members become ambassadors for fire safety and emergency preparedness, fostering stronger bonds between residents and firefighters.
- By actively recruiting participants from diverse backgrounds, the program contributes to creating more inclusive and representative fire departments. By embracing diversity, fire departments can better reflect the communities we serve and leverage a wide range of perspectives and talents to address complex challenges effectively.
- Beyond technical skills, the program emphasizes character development and personal growth. Participants learn the importance of integrity, responsibility, and service to others, instilling values that are fundamental to the firefighting and EMS profession.
- The program offer participants the opportunity to explore various career paths within the fire service. Through mentorship and exposure to different roles and responsibilities, participants can make informed decisions about their career aspirations.

The OFD Explorer Program is an invaluable asset to the department, offering a multitude of benefits to both participants and the community they serve. By investing in the next generation of firefighters and emergency responders, the Oshkosh Fire Department can ensure a legacy of excellence, innovation, and service for years to come. Through collaboration, mentorship, and dedication, the Explorer Program will pave the way for a brighter and safer future for all.

## ICE RESCUE

The Oshkosh Police Department and Oshkosh Fire Department often work together to protect the citizens of Oshkosh. But on a cold Friday evening in January, we were able to help one of our own.

Sergeant Adam Haberland said his dog Jax walked out on the ice and fell through. Adam went out to save Jax but he also broke through. Once he got himself out of the water, smashing all the ice between himself and the shore, he called 911 to have the dog rescued.

Members of the OFD were able to pull Jax from the water. Adam said he was very thankful!



Safe & sound at home



Oshkosh Police Department  
Sargent Adam Haberland

## COOKING FIRES

In 2023, the Oshkosh Fire Department responded to 20 cooking fires. Many were caused by inattentive cooking.

Thanks to a grant for \$5,000 from the Ladies Benevolent Society, we were able to purchase 167 stovetop firestops. These devices are designed to extinguish cooktop fires without any action necessary by the resident. The firestop adheres to the range hood and typically cost between \$50 and \$70. The firestops are cans filled with a fire extinguishing agent. If flames activate a fuse on the underside of the can, the agent is released and puts out the fire.

On Tuesday, April 2nd we distributed devices to customers of the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry aged 60 or older

Thanks to the Ladies Benevolent Society and the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry for their assistance in making Oshkosh a safer place.



# APRIL MONTHLY METRICS

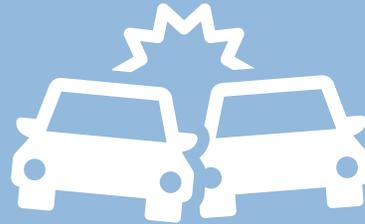
by MJ VanGompel, Management Analyst

Emergency Medical Services



770

Motor Vehicle Crashes



21

Structure Fires



17

Falls



166

Fire Alarms



52

Overdoses



14

LET'S CONNECT

