



HOT TOPICS

CHIEF'S CORNER



Each year in October, Fire Prevention Month becomes a primary focus for our department. The theme for this year's fire prevention campaign is, "Cooking Safety Starts with You!" Each year countless people are injured or killed because of fires that started in the kitchen.

The number one cause of these fires is that the stove was left unattended. The occurrence of cooking fires is significant nationally, but also here in Oshkosh. The most common cause of a fire in Oshkosh is a cooking fire in someone's home. The rest of the theme's tagline is "Pay Attention to Fire Prevention!" I would ask that when cooking, you stay in the kitchen and keep an eye on the pots and pans on your stove.

Our Detector Trek campaign will be taking place again this year. It is our goal to prevent injuries, loss of property, and most importantly, loss of life from fires by installing smoke detectors in homes and making sure the detectors that are already there are working properly. Our firefighters will be out in neighborhoods with free detectors and batteries to install on the spot. Please allow them the opportunity to make sure you and your family are safe. They will also be able to assist you with planning your escape to exit your home in the event of fire.

Little ghosts and goblins will soon be out trick or treating too. Please slow down when driving and be alert. Grown-ups, please make sure their costumes are fire resistant too and have reflective striping.

Stay safe and well. Happy Halloween!

--Chief Mike Stanley

COOKING SAFETY IS KEY

by John Holland, Public Education

For more than a century, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has proudly sponsored Fire Week. This year, from October 8th to the 14th, we're dedicating this week to Fire Prevention. The theme for the year is "Cooking Safety Starts with You. Pay Attention to Prevention".

Did you know cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries in the United States? As a matter of fact, it accounts for 49% of all U.S. home fires. The leading cause of these cooking fires and deaths is unattended cooking.

The good news is that most cooking fires are preventable. Here are some tips to keep in mind:

- Always keep an eye on what you are cooking. Never leave the kitchen unattended while there is something cooking on the stove or in the broiler.
- If you have to leave the kitchen, set a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- Turn pot handles to the back of the stove to avoid scalds.

Continued on Page 2

COOKING SAFETY STARTS WITH YOU Continued from Page 1

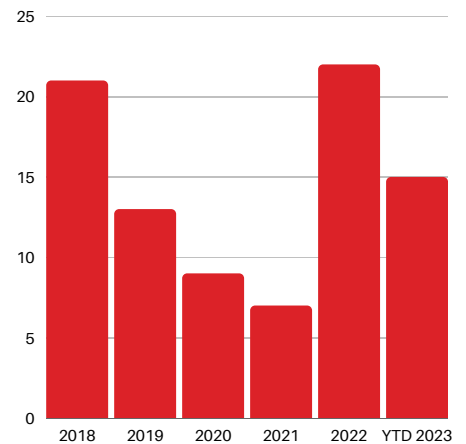
- Keep a lid close by to place over the pot if a grease fire starts and turn off the burner.
- NEVER use water to put out a grease fire.
- Keep a small and easily accessible fire extinguisher in the kitchen, just in case.
- Have a kid and pet free zone of at least 3 feet around the stove or grill. We actually have had fires in town that were started by pets on the stove.
- As always, make sure you have working smoke detectors on every level of your home.

The Oshkosh Fire Department is taking steps to encourage the community to "pay attention to prevention." We will be present throughout the city to share our fire prevention message, including school visits, classroom presentations, and fire truck and Safe House tours. Last year, we were able to reach over 2,600 children in October alone.

Our 5th grade Fire Prevention Week poster contest will once again be held this year. The winner from each school will get a ride to school in a fire truck! Additionally, we will be hosting our annual "Detector Trek" from the 10th-12th. We will be knocking on doors in the Roosevelt School area, ensuring that each home has enough working smoke detectors (one on every floor). We will replace any dead batteries and missing or expired detectors at no cost.

If you're interested in learning more about Fire Prevention Week or fire prevention in general, check out www.fpw.org. The National Fire Protection Association also has a great fire safety page for kids at www.sparky.org.

Cooking Fires in Oshkosh



Did you know that cooking fires are the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries?
Cooking safety starts with YOU.

Pay attention to fire prevention.™

NFPA | **FIRE PREVENTION WEEK™** | **fpw.org**

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READ ELEMENTARY PROJECT UPDATE



AROUND THE FIRE HOUSE

Congratulations to Nick Ruzek! Nick was recently named as the new EMS Coordinator. Nick started with OFD in March of 2020.



FOX CITIES MARATHON

Congratulations to Alex Johll and Eric Shea for completing the Fox Cities Marathon on September 17th.

In May both men ran the Cellcom Marathon. Sounds like this is becoming a habit.

Can't wait to hear where they compete next! Way to go!



ENCOURAGING DIVERSITY IN FIRE & EMS

The Oshkosh Fire Department and Firefighter ABCs have collaborated with Fox Valley Technical College to launch a student-specific grant program. This initiative aims to promote gender and racial diversity within fire and emergency medical services departments, along with addressing potential barriers such as financial need. Pursuing an Associate degree in Fire Protection Technician can cost a full-time student an estimated \$13,000.

We are thrilled to have awarded \$1,000 each to 12 students and we accept applications each semester. Eligible applicants must be planning to pursue a career in the fire service and demonstrate financial need. Special priority will be given to candidates who are traditionally underrepresented in the industry.

To apply, please visit https://www.ci.oshkosh.wi.us/fire/ABC_Grant_Program_Form.aspx. Applications will be reviewed on an ongoing basis.

DROESSLER APPOINTED DIVISION CHIEF

We are thrilled to announce a recent change at the Oshkosh Fire Department (OFD). Aaron Droessler, who previously served as Battalion Chief of C shift, has been appointed as the new Division Chief of EMS.

Aaron has been with OFD since 1998, starting as a firefighter/paramedic before moving up the ranks. In 2020, he became a Lieutenant, followed by his promotion to Battalion Chief in 2022. Aaron has been an active member of the department's hazardous materials response team, special operations/technical rescue response team, and has served on numerous department planning committees.

Beyond his work at OFD, Aaron has an impressive record of service. He is a Specialist with the State of Wisconsin Hazardous Materials Response System and has specialist training in highway and rail transport, radiation, and flammable liquids. Aaron has also been a member of the Special Operations subcommittee to the State of Wisconsin EMS Board.

He previously served as the Task Force Leader and US&R Medical Specialist for the Wisconsin Urban Search & Rescue Task Force One (WI-TF1), which he helped form and establish.

Outside of work, Aaron coordinated a nationally accredited training center for 12 years, serving as Certification Coordinator and Senior Instructor. He has instructed military and civilian responders across the country and internationally, covering topics such as hazardous materials planning, response, and recovery. He has earned a Professional Development Certificate and a Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program Certificate from the Emergency Management Institute.

Aaron is a devoted family man, married to his lovely wife Kellie for 24 years, and the proud father of three children; Hailey, Paige and Max. He also has two incredibly cute teddy bear dogs Farley and Scarlett.

Please join us in congratulating Aaron on his well-deserved assignment to Division Chief of EMS at OFD.



CONGRATULATIONS

SEPTEMBER MONTHLY METRICS

by MJ VanGompel, Management Analyst

Emergency Medical Services



744

Motor Vehicle Crashes



27

Structure Fires



13

Falls



148

Inspections



228

Overdoses



15

LET'S CONNECT

