



# HOT TOPICS

## CHIEF'S CORNER



The Oshkosh Fire Department (OFD) is continuously striving to improve. We use data to drive decisions, solicit internal and external customer feedback, and align our services with the emerging needs of the community. To validate this, the department has a goal of achieving accreditation from the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI).

Thanks to a Fire Prevention and Safety Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) we will be able to take a step closer to this goal. We have contracted with Emergency Services Consulting International (ESCI) to complete a Community Risk Assessment (CRA) and Standard of Cover (SOC) for the City of Oshkosh. The CRA classifies risks and categorizes them in areas such as fire, emergency medical services, technical rescue, and hazardous materials. Based on these risks, the SOC identifies the need for concentration and distribution of the department's resources.

When this has been completed, OFD will be better able to define baseline and benchmark emergency response performance standards. It will help us strategically plan for the future and determine resource allocation, the need for future stations, and to evaluate workload and ideal unit utilization, and further reinforce data driven decision making.

OFD is very excited to work with ESCI to complete this project so that we can keep pursuing excellence. The CRA/SOC document will support our mission of being 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.

--Chief Mike Stanley

## BE PREPARED

by John Holland, Public Education

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) declares every September as National Preparedness Month. As we've all seen in the headlines lately, natural and man-made emergencies can and do happen at any time.

That raises the question: Is your family prepared for any disasters that might head your way? As with most things, the more prepared you are the better off you'll be.

First of all, you have to think of possible disasters that could occur here in Wisconsin. A few of the possible emergencies would be: house fires, severe thunderstorms and tornados, flooding, power outages, blizzards, and severe heat.

Next, you need to think of the specific needs for your family. Some things to consider would be:

- The ages of the people living in your household;
- Medical needs including prescriptions and equipment;

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# TRAFFIC AWARENESS

by John Holland, Public Education

Although most would consider walking to be a safe form of exercise for people of any age, there are some risks involved for pedestrians due to traffic on the roads.

According to the National safety Council's "Injury Facts", in 2021, more than 17% of all traffic deaths were pedestrians. Every age group is vulnerable, but the largest number of pedestrian deaths occur among 55- to 64-year-olds (1,343). While children ages 5 to 9 experienced the fewest number of pedestrian deaths (50) in 2021, these deaths still represented nearly 14% of all traffic deaths for this age group.

We all are pedestrians from time to time, so it's important to pay attention to what is going on around us.

- **Use Sidewalks and Paths:** The safest places to walk are on sidewalks and paths. Whenever possible, people should stick to walking in areas where they can walk safely away from traffic.
- **Walk Against Traffic:** If you must walk alongside a road, you should walk in the shoulder and face oncoming traffic. This way you can see what is coming and react if necessary.
- **Wear Bright Colored Clothing:** Choose brightly colored clothes that are easily visible to drivers when out for a walk.
- **Lights and Reflectors for Night Walking:** It's probably best if you don't walk at night. However, if you must, you should wear clothing with reflective strips, such as a safety vest. It's also a good idea to carry a flashlight or wear a headlamp.
- **Use Crosswalks:** Use crosswalks when crossing the street. Be mindful of traffic and look both ways before crossing. Make certain all lanes of traffic are clear before crossing. If the crosswalk has a traffic signal (Walk/Don't Walk sign), it's important to obey the signals. If there is a driver waiting to turn, make eye contact with the driver to ensure that they will not turn as you cross the street.
- If no crosswalk is available and your view is blocked, move to a place where you can see oncoming traffic.
- **Avoid Using Electronic Devices:** Distracted walking can be dangerous. If you have to answer a call or text, stop in a safe space to do it. Also, avoid using earbuds or headphones when out for a walk. Being able to hear well is important when checking for traffic.
- **Parking Lots/Driveways:** Pay extra attention in parking lots and when walking past driveways. Drivers might not be looking for pedestrians.
- **Pedestrian Safety Is a Shared Responsibility:** Going along with the above, drivers also play a part in pedestrian safety. Make sure you follow all traffic laws regarding walkers. Stop at crosswalks and make eye contact to let those at crosswalks know that you see them. Slow down in school zones and pay attention to flashing red lights on school buses. Use extra care when backing out of driveways and parking lot spaces. Stay alert, avoid distracted driving of any type. Finally, obviously, never drive under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

If we work together as pedestrians and drivers, we can cut down on these, all too often, preventable injuries.

## PROMOTIONS

There was standing room only at the Police & Fire Commission meeting on Tuesday August 1. Family, friends and co-workers filled the room to celebrate the promotions of the following individuals:

Justin Rutchik was promoted to Battalion Chief. Justin started his career with OFD in 1996 and spent the last six years as a Captain primarily at Station 18.



Dave Koller was promoted to Captain. Dave started his career with OFD in 2005 and spent the last year as a Lieutenant at Station 19.



Ben Schoenborn was promoted to Lieutenant. Ben started his career with OFD in 2004 and spent the last year and half as an Equipment Operator at Station 15.



Eric Shea was promoted to Equipment Operator. Eric started his career with OFD in 2007 and spent the last four years as an EMS Coordinator at Station 15.



Congratulations to all of you and best wishes for success in your new roles!

# WELCOME NEW HIRES

At the Police and Fire Commission meeting on Tuesday, September 12, three individuals were recommended and appointed. They started their employment with OFD on Monday, September 18.

Liam Daly (top right) is from Oshkosh and graduated from Oshkosh West High School. He is currently enrolled at Fox Valley Technical College for his Associates Degree in Fire Protection Technician. He gained a great deal of relevant emergency services experience from most recently working at Fox Crossing Fire Department as a Firefighter/Paramedic and various other positions with Aurora Medical Center - Oshkosh, Town of Algoma Fire Department and Superior Ambulance.

Tyler Downs (middle) is from Oshkosh and graduated from Oshkosh West High School. He is currently enrolled at Fox Valley Technical College for his Associates Degree in Fire Protection Technician. Tyler gained a great deal of relevant emergency services experience from most recently working at City of Fond Du Lac Fire Department as a Firefighter/Paramedic and various other positions with Fox Crossing Fire Department and Town of Algoma Fire Department.

Bradley Siewert (lower right) is from New London and graduated from New London High School. He graduated from Fox Valley Technical College for Emergency Medical Technology, Paramedic and Northeast Wisconsin Technical College for Emergency Medical Technology, EMT. Bradley gained a great deal of relevant emergency services experience from most recently working at Grand Chute Fire Department as a Firefighter/Paramedic and various other positions with New London Fire Department.

Please join us in welcoming all three new members to OFD!





# AUGUST MONTHLY METRICS

by MJ VanGompel, Management Analyst

Emergency Medical Services



780

Motor Vehicle Crashes



30

Structure Fires



9

Falls



162

Inspections



478

Overdoses



14

LET'S CONNECT

