
Annual Report

2022



Oshkosh Fire Department

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Message from the Chief

On behalf of all the dedicated members of the Oshkosh Fire Department, I am proud to present the 2022 annual report and appreciate you taking the time to review it. Inside this report you will find statistics and data. But most importantly you will see highlights of the many significant accomplishments we were able to achieve last year. Our commitment to adding value to our community by providing a wide range of emergency services was on display as we continued to grow, improve, and evolve to meet the changing needs of our community.

In 2022, the Oshkosh Fire Department responded to a record number of incidents. The 10,311 unique calls for service that our skilled and compassionate firefighters came to the aid of those in need provided many challenges and opportunities.

No two days are alike for our personnel when they are on duty. They may be responding to a house fire, a car crash, rescuing someone from off an icy lake, or giving a fire station tour to school children. Each of these interactions is an opportunity for them to demonstrate the incredible training and teamwork that they possess.

As you will see in the pages of this report, the individual members and the department are held in high regard by their colleagues. It is an honor to be able to feature so many of our members that received recognition this past year. Being named the 2022 EMS Service of the Year by the Wisconsin EMS Association is a well-deserved recognition for the men and women of the Oshkosh Fire Department who make a difference every day in the lives of those who live here or visit to discover Oshkosh.

I would also like to thank the Oshkosh Common Council, the Police and Fire Commission, the City Manager, and City of Oshkosh Staff for the support they give us to fulfill our mission. Most importantly, we would like to thank our community for the trust you place in us.

“Service doesn't have to be big
and grandiose to be meaningful
and make a difference.”

— Cheryl A. Esplin



Mission, Vision & Values

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.



In late fall of 2021 OFD leadership, members and community stakeholders developed a strategic plan, identified nine strategic initiatives and created a vision for our future.

The Oshkosh Fire Department's 2027 vision is to be known as an internationally accredited agency that supports the pursuit of a safe and vibrant community. This will be accomplished by honoring our history and those we serve by investing in our greatest asset, our members. We will strive to recruit and retain an efficient, trained, diverse, and healthy workforce while understanding that we must always plan for the future. Enhanced management of physical resources and greater use of technology will deliver efficacies so that we can continue to be there for those who live, work, and play in Oshkosh. As a progressive department, we will assemble and apply communication processes that deliver contemporary, transparent, and beneficial value to our members and ever-changing community.



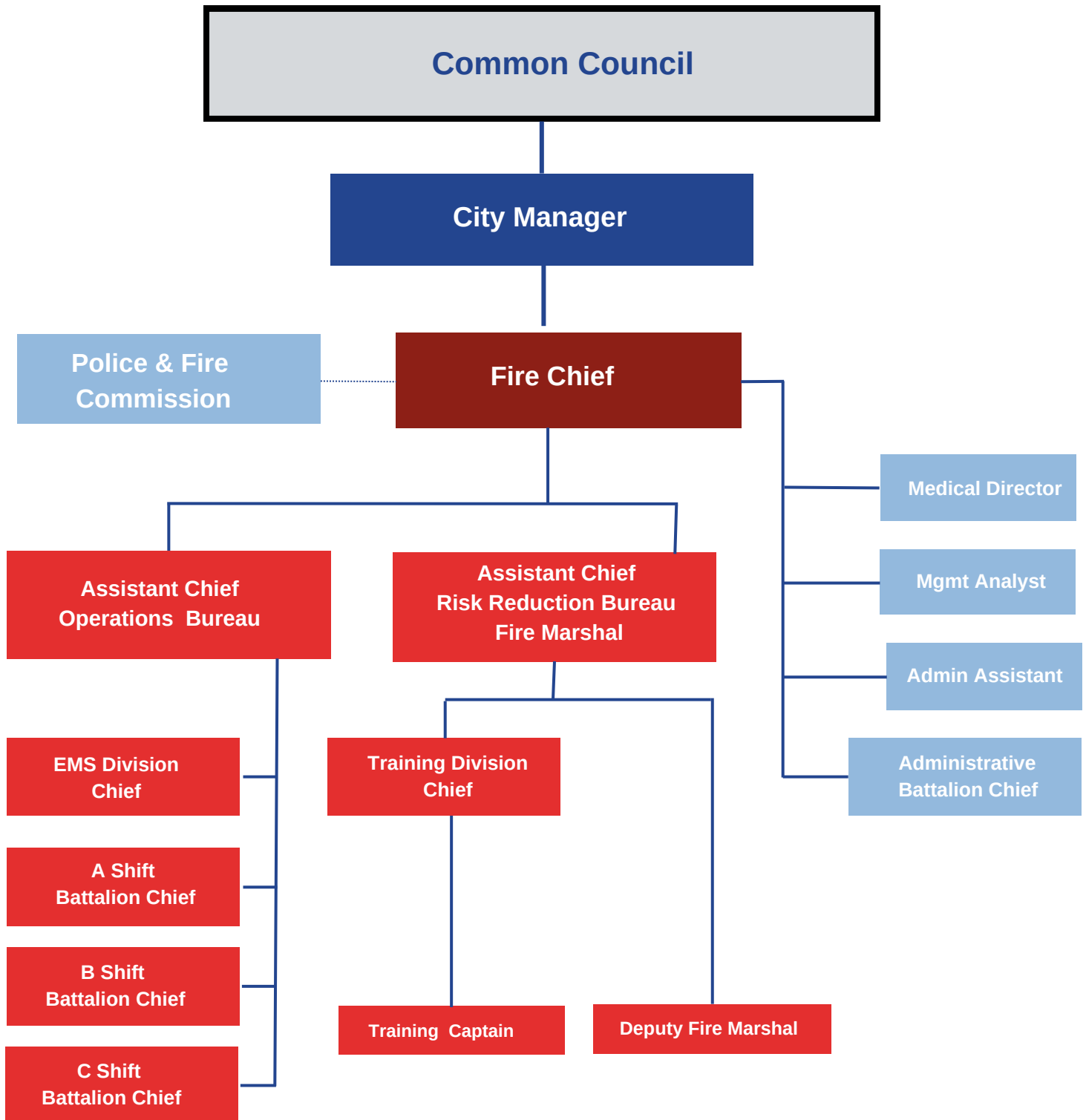
We will be an initiative-focused department responsible for building a collaborative environment of excellence and service through individual and organizational accountability to deliver our mission, live our values, and make this vision a reality.

Strategic Plan Updates

Last year was marked by significant progress toward achieving our strategic plan. Our members have demonstrated resilience, creativity, and determination, leading to remarkable successes in many areas. Some of our notable achievements included:

- **Staffing:** Conducted three recruit academies to reach full staffing
- **Recruitment and Retention:** Started an Explorer Post to introduce high school students to careers in the fire service; Partnered with Fox Valley Technical College's Summer Youth Firefighting Camp.
- **Succession Planning:** Captains and Chief Officers attended an "It's Your Ship" leadership development workshop.
- **Technology:** Began implementation of the Lexipol system to develop and manage policies and procedures. Replaced all portable and mobile radios with the latest technology which included additional safety features.
- **Physical Resources:** Completed a comprehensive station study to determine current and future needs for fire station facilities.
- **Communications:** Created a customer satisfaction survey in order to gather feedback from those who have received our services. Added a weekly *Monday Messaging* that compiles important news from the week into a comprehensive weekly update.
- **Health and Wellness:** Purchased new fitness equipment for fire stations. Utilized grant funding to purchase an automatic hose roller to reduce back and joint injuries.
- **Training:** All Lieutenants were trained and certified in Blue Card Command.
- **Accreditation:** Submitted a Fire Prevention and Safety Grant application to FEMA requesting funds to conduct a Community Risk Assessment.

Organizational Chart



Stations



Operations Bureau

The City of Oshkosh Fire Department Operations Bureau adds value to our community by providing All-Hazards emergency response and Paramedic Emergency Medical Services. We use data driven decision making to develop continuous improvements in the quality of our services and the safety of our members.



Fire Protection

The Oshkosh Fire Department has been providing fire protection services to our community since 1856. While we enjoy looking back and learning from our rich history, much of 2022 was spent looking forward to our next big change in Fire Protection. In order to enhance the safety and efficiency of our Fire Protection services, we developed specifications and placed a purchase order for a new aerial platform apparatus. This apparatus will trigger a major change in our operational profile as we move away from a Quint/Ladder concept and

into a Truck Company concept. We spent 2022 aligning staffing, procedures and response profiles for this change. We will continue these efforts so that we are prepared for delivery of Truck 15 in 2024.



Emergency Medical Services

The Oshkosh Fire Department had a record setting year in 911 calls for ambulance service. The largest portion of calls were for people who had fallen. Our Falls Prevention Program continues to be a priority as we work 'EMS Prevention' into services that we provide. Our goal is to lessen the number of times our citizens need to call for an ambulance.

Strokes and chest pain are common calls for which our ambulances are requested 911 is the safest means of transport for people suffering these ailments. Paramedics bring the Emergency Room to the patient, providing assessments and diagnostics that can predict if a person is having a large stroke or a heart attack. Treatments are based on their findings, and care is often starting right where the patient is found.



Extrication

Interstate 41 and urban traffic create the risk for motor vehicle accidents with patient entrapment. To manage this risk, the Operations Bureau maintains top quality extrication equipment, and works with the Training Division to develop proficiency in its use. In 2022, we improved our extrication equipment by adding Rescue 42 vehicle stabilization systems. These systems allow quick, safe stabilization of overturned vehicles so that our crews can access trapped occupants, and safely render medical care.

Operations Bureau



Overdose Prevention

Part of the theme of 'EMS Prevention' extended into our treatment of people with substance use issues. We know those with the disease of addiction have a narrow window in which they might be a candidate for recovery. We respect everyone that we care for, and so for those who might not be ready for recovery, we offer them or their loved ones intranasal Narcan, which can be used on anyone who may have suffered an opiate overdose.

Opiate overdoses truly are a life threatening emergency, and the rapid administration of Narcan, even before the ambulance arrives, may be a life saver. We partner with Solutions Recovery, Inc. and Recovery Coach program if the patients is interested in recovery.



Ice/Water/Dive Rescue

The City of Oshkosh is located on Lake Winnebago, Lake Butte des Morts, and the Fox River. These large waterways are popular with recreational users. To manage the risks encountered by users of these waterways, the Operations Bureau provides surface water and dive rescue services. We also cooperate with the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department to operate B15, a fan boat that can traverse ice or water.



Aircraft Rescue

Oshkosh is world famous for the annual EAA AirVenture Fly-In. The Operations Bureau provides Airport Rescue Firefighting service to Wittman Regional Airport throughout the year, and we cooperate with multiple agencies to provide ARFF and EMS service to AirVenture. OFD members commit vast amounts of time to staff ARFF apparatus during this event and provide the best ARFF/EMS service possible to our guests from around the world.



HAZMAT

The Oshkosh Fire Department Hazardous Materials Response Team (OFD Hazmat) serves as a regional type 2 hazmat team for the State of Wisconsin, as well as being the primary hazmat team for Winnebago and Green Lake Counties. OFD Hazmat members continuously train to respond to hazardous materials commonly found in our area, as well as emerging threats. The team is well supported and equipped, and carries state of the art monitoring, detection, and mitigation equipment on Hazmat 119 & 219, which are our hazmat response vehicles based at Station 19. New monitoring equipment was added in 2022 with the purchase of QRAE 3 meters.

Community Risk Reduction Bureau

The Community Risk Reduction Bureau offers a variety of services designed to create a safe environment for our community. We accomplish this through the five E's. Education, emergency response, engineering, economic incentives, and enforcement.



The bureau is staffed by an Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal, a Deputy Fire Marshal, and a Public Education Specialist. The Community Risk Reduction Bureau is responsible for inspecting all commercial properties and interpreting fire prevention codes and ordinances. The bureau conducts fire investigations and plan review for construction to ensure compliance with the city's proper fire and life safety codes. Fire safety and prevention activities are done through presentations and demonstrations throughout the community.

The bureau performs an average of 25 fire investigations annually, 3,300 fire/life safety inspections, 350 public education hours per year, and 75 child safety seat installations.



Fire Inspections

The City of Oshkosh conducts approximately 3,300 inspections annually, including all commercial properties, multi-family residential occupancies, schools, and churches. Another service we provide is inspections of new and remodeled construction projects and fire protection systems. In 2022, 1,209 fire code violations were documented.



Fire Investigations

Fire investigations are conducted under the direction of the Fire Marshal or Deputy Fire Marshal to determine the origin and cause of all fires. The primary obligations of the fire investigation unit are scene examination, discovery, evidence recovery, photography, and documentation of findings to determine the cause and to ensure there was no criminal activity involved. Last year we investigated 23 fire scenes.

Community Risk Reduction Bureau



Public Education

The Oshkosh Fire Department has a very proactive and varied Public Education Division. The goal of our Public Education efforts is to reduce all injuries across the board. We offer a wide variety of, locally-centered, programs starting with preschoolers and working all the way up to older adults. Some of the topics we cover are: basic fire safety and prevention, summer safety (bike helmets, water safety, etc.), senior safety and fall prevention, fire extinguisher training for business and industry, child safety seat inspections and installations, and Project SAFE (Smoke Alarms for Everyone). We spent 291 education hours and had contact with 8,045 people.



Child Safety Seat Installation

The Oshkosh Fire Department has the only Child Safety Seat program done by appointment in the area. They are done by a car seat technician certified by Safe Kids Worldwide. Our car seat technician has over 20 years experience ensuring children are buckled safely in vehicles. In 2022, we checked 48 child safety seats.



Smoke Detector Installation

Project SAFE (Smoke Alarms for Everyone) is our smoke and carbon monoxide detector check and installation program. The goal of this program is to keep the people of Oshkosh safer from the dangers of fire. Residents can call to make an appointment to have us check to ensure that they have the proper number of working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in their home. If they are missing any detectors or batteries we will install or replace them free of charge.

A large part of this program is our Detector Trek. Each October (Fire Prevention Month) we choose a different neighborhood and go door-to-door checking for the proper number of working detectors and install or replace any as necessary. All of the supplies for this program are provided through donations; zero tax dollars are spent. In 2022, through Project SAFE we installed 295 detectors.

Training

The Training Division provides training in five main areas:

Fire & Rescue
Operations

Emergency
Medical
Services

Special
Operations

Community
Risk
Reduction

Administrative
Functions

Training is primarily provided through:

- Monthly company level training;
- Quarterly Company Standards (QCS) skills training;
- Battalion level shift training;
- Company Proficiency Drills (CPD) and
- Multi-company department level training.

Additional emphasis will be placed on areas identified in SPS 330:

- Hose;
- Ladders;
- Search and Rescue;
- PPE; and
- Firefighter Survival.

2022 Training Accomplishments:

- Utilized strategic plan to define goals and formulate an implementation plan
- Exceeded ISO and NFPA training requirements
- Completed Blue Card Training & certified 10 new members; re-certified class of 2019
- Implemented standards based performance training to evaluate progress
- Collaborated with FVTC for improved ARFF training
- Developed Part 139 ARFF recertification program
- Collaborated with regional training cadre to bring in nationally known speakers
- Implemented Company Performance Drills
- Completed three Recruit academies



Where's the Next Fire:

Reducing Risk in our Community

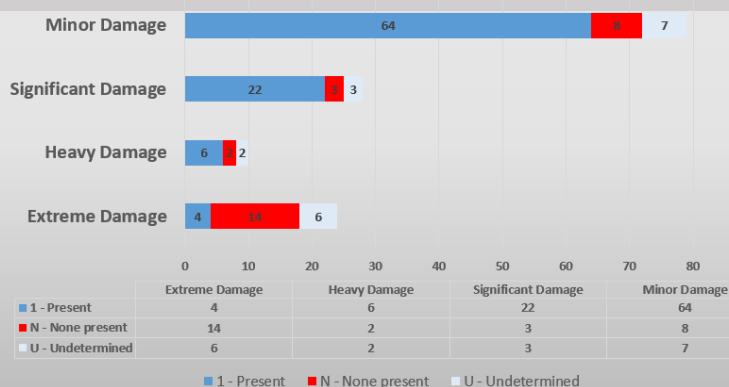
In 2022, the Oshkosh Fire Department strategically reviewed its past fire data to see if we could identify trends or patterns from past fires. The intent of this analysis was to assist the department in making decisions about what should we train for and how do we mitigate risk in those areas of our community. Our data set contained information from 2019 through mid-year 2022 for structure fires only in the City of Oshkosh.

During that time period we responded to 27,533 unique incidents; less than 1% were structure fires. Yet, in those 163 fires, three civilians died, 20 civilians and 15 firefighters were injured, and nearly \$6 million dollars in property and contents were lost. According to the NFPA, "the annual losses from floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes and other natural disasters combined in the US average is just a fraction of those from fires".

Key Findings from *Where's the Next Fire*:

- Family dwellings made up 65% of the fires; 2-story 1,500 square feet first floor;
- Over 24% of all structure fires started in the kitchen;
- In 90% of the time, we responded to the fire in 6 minutes and 44 seconds or less;
- A fire detector device was present in 68% of the incidents;
- Damage was minor when smoke detectors were present;
- OFD was able to confine the fire to the object of origin or room of origin 67% of the time;
- The highest dollar loss, most firefighter injuries and greatest number of building exposures occurred between midnight and 4:00 a.m. (when most people are sleeping); and
- All 3 deaths occurred between 4 pm and midnight.

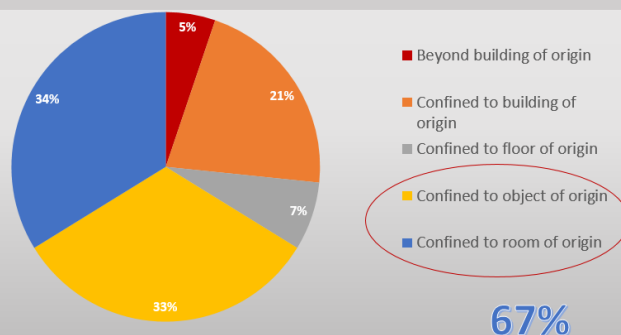
Smoke Detectors & Damage



Based on this data, OFD plans to install more smoke detectors in areas with higher risk for fires and design training to attack fires in 2-story single family homes with 1,500 square feet on the first floor.

In 2022, OFD responded to 48 structure fires in the City of Oshkosh.

Fires Confined To:



New Faces New Places

Retirements in 2022

John Ziemer, Assistant Chief
Dan Mrochek, Battalion Chief
Scott Abbrederis, Captain
Bob Buchholz, Lieutenant
Kurt Heid, Lieutenant
Jim Gentry, Lieutenant
Steve Stini, Equipment Operator

New Hires in 2022

David Burroughs
Ben Cook
Jeremy DuCharme
Miranda Galligan
Rick Guerra
Alex Johll
Dennis Kilgore, Jr
Megan Klansky
Andrew Lepien
Brayden Litton
Jacob Myers
Ben Patterson
Nicholas Peppard

Promotions in 2022

Greg Stelter, Assistant Chief
Aaron Droessler, Battalion Chief
Jason Shikoski, Battalion Chief
Drew Jaeger, Battalion Chief
Scott Rasmussen, Captain
CJ Wedell, Captain
Zach Beatty, Lieutenant
Mike Bryan, Lieutenant
Dave Koller, Lieutenant
Ryan Koplin, Lieutenant
Bret Krajnik, Lieutenant
Mike Krajnik, Lieutenant
Tony Montag, Lieutenant

Andy Pinter, Lieutenant
Mike Stephens, Lieutenant
CJ Wedell, Lieutenant
Brian Blaha, Equipment Operator
Chris Clark, Equipment Operator
Joe Dutscheck, Equipment Operator
Shawn Millard, Equipment Operator
Dave Neuber, Equipment Operator
Keegan O'Hearn, Equipment Operator
Tim Reitz, Equipment Operator
Ben Schoenborn, Equipment Operator
Matt Sommerfeldt, Equipment Operator
Mike Vos, Equipment Operator

Service Milestones



Employee Recognition



City of Oshkosh Employees of the Year Award

Pictured left to right, Firefighter/Paramedic Josh Antes, Equipment Operator Christopher Heder and Captain Scott Krause were working the evening of February 18, 2022 when a blinding snow squall moved through Winnebago County.

The service, dedication, determination, teamwork and communication skills of this crew helped them save eight people from hypothermia and possible death after they were stranded on Lake Winnebago. The crew was selected by City Manager, Mark Rohloff and recognized at the City of Oshkosh *State of the City* presentation. They exhibit the values of the City of Oshkosh and the Oshkosh Fire Department.



WEMSA 2022 EMS Service of the Year

OFD was recognized by WEMSA Wisconsin EMS Association for our exceptional care and service that we provide each and every day. This peer recognition award demonstrated that our department is viewed as an industry leader, progressive, well trained, and highly skilled.

We take care of the sick and injured, helping those in need in our community, reducing risks, and most of all acting with compassion. Our providers embody our values and make our mission a reality.



Honor Wall

On December 7, 2022 the Wall of Honor was dedicated at Station 15. The wall recognizes both past and active members of the department who were or are veterans. The wall honors OFD members who died in the line of duty and the 343 firefighters who perished in the 9/11 attacks.

Thanks to committee members: Craig Downs, Paul Friday, Tony Montag, Chris Clark, Ken Kiefer, Drew Jaeger and retired OFD member Gary Ross for their work on this project.

Employee Recognition



Instructor of the Year Award

Division Chief of Training, Tim Heiman received the 2022 Instructor of the Year Award from the Wisconsin Society of Emergency Services Instructors for his individual contributions to furthering fire and emergency services through training.

From left to right: Chief Mike Stanley, Division Chief Tim Heiman and Assistant Chief Brian Bending.



Bringing Home Safety Award

Equipment Operator Mike Wos was the recipient of the 2022 Bringing Safety Home Award from the NFPA and the Home fire Sprinkler Coalition. Mike is also the Executive Director of the Professional Firefighters of Wisconsin Charitable Foundation.



Stork Award

On June 6 the Sanchez family stopped by Station 15 to thank firefighter/paramedics Paul Friday and Hunter Resop for helping deliver baby Elijah who couldn't wait for the hospital. They were the first recipients of the Stork Award citation bar.



It's always an honor to receive recognition, but I always consider them more important when they come from your colleagues.

--Michael Laudrup

Employee Recognition

2022 Annual Award Dinner

Lifesaving Award:

Lieutenant Tony Montag

Exceptional Duty Award:

**EMS Coordinators
Ryan Homman & Andrew Knoll**

**Community Service
Award:**

**Equipment Operator Jamie Dutscheck
and Firefighter/Paramedic Tim Reitz**

Teamwork Award:

**Cathie Ercegovac, EMS Battalion Chief
Winneconne / Poygan Fire
Glenn Demler, Town of Algoma**

Guardian Angel Award:

Rexford Smith & Allen Schwartz

**Friends of the Fire
Department Award:**

**Glen Curran, Battle on Bago
Karen Kryzaniak & Chris Farrell, EAA**

Fire Chief Award:

Phil Karsnia, Country Financial

Highlights 2022



Falls Program

Nearly 14% of the Oshkosh city population is age 65 or older (estimated target population: 9,380). While falls are a safety concern across all age-groups, it is a particular risk for older adults. More than one out of four people age 65 and older fall each year. These falls can result in broken bones, head injuries and an activity-limiting fear of falling again.

The number of falls in our community has increased 31% since 2019. Last year we responded to 1,979 falls calls. The average age of our falls patient is 72. Nearly 40% live in a single family home; 27% live in an apartment or townhouse.

The goal of the falls program is to reduce the occurrence of falls resulting from loss of balance or general weakness in older adults in the City of Oshkosh. We have taken the following actions:

- In 2022 we enrolled 288 patients with partner agencies ADRC of Winnebago County, Oshkosh Senior Center or Rebuilding Together Fox Valley. These agencies provide a wide variety of prevention services including fall assessments, home assessments, installation of devices or minor home modifications and physical fitness/muscle development classes.
- Rugs are a serious trip hazard for all of us. The Mugs for Rugs program was deployed mid-year 2022. Local restaurants distributed a one-time refillable coffee mug in trade for a throw rug.
- In July 2022, OFD purchased a Biodex Balance System machine to be utilized at the Oshkosh Senior Center.



Toy & Food Drive

The 24th Annual OFD Local 316 Food & Toy Drive was a great success due in part to collaboration between OFD, Oshkosh North Communities program, Oshkosh Fire & Police Equipment and the Salvation Army. Over 800 families were served because of your generous donations of toys, food and money.

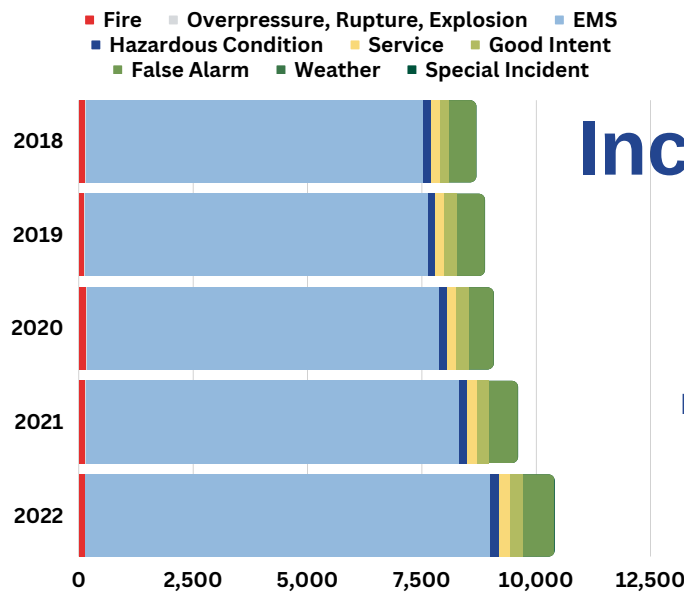


New Stuff

- Natural Gas Detector
- New Firehose
- Staff Vehicle
- Station Generator
- Nozzles
- Radios
- Turnout Gear
- Holmatro Tools
- Extractor
- Rescue 42 Struts

Metrics

The Oshkosh Fire Department is a data driven organization. It helps us make decisions, obtain grant funding and make improvements. Our management analyst reviews our data on a daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual basis. By analyzing our data we can ascertain where we need to improve and where we need to focus our resources.

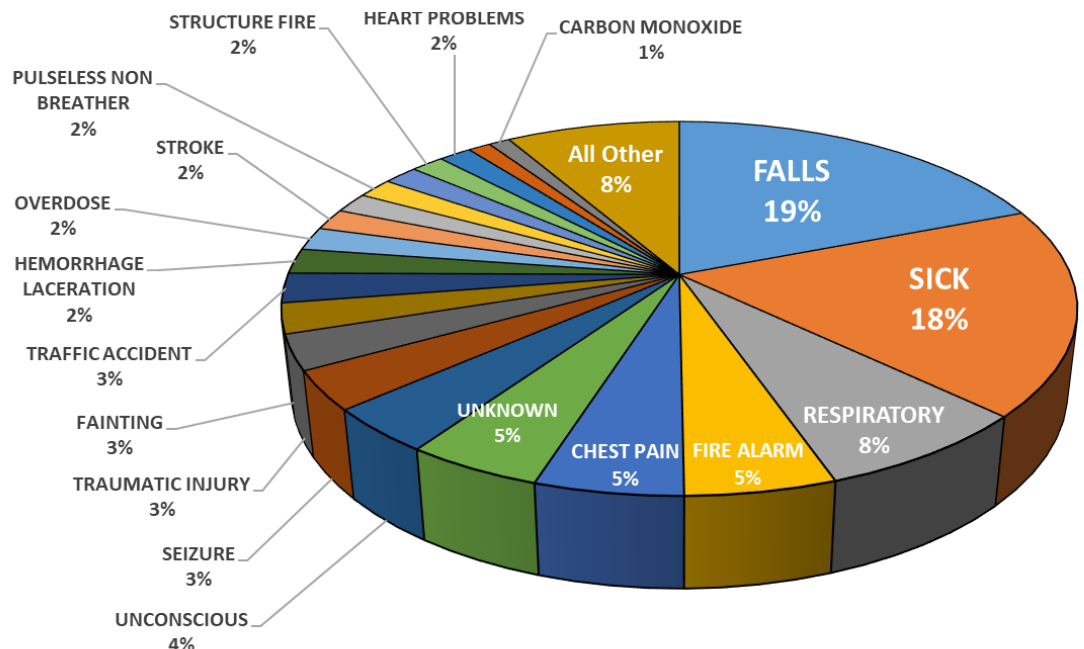


Increase in Responses

19.7%

Percentage increase between 2018 and 2022

Types of Calls



Metrics

Structure Fires



50

EMS



8,788

Carbon Monoxide



33

Motor Vehicle
Accidents



249

Falls



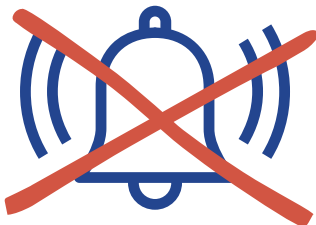
1,979

Smoke Detectors
Installed



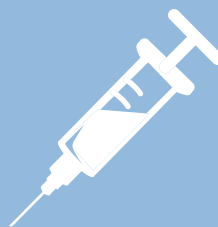
295

False or Malicious
Alarms



177

Overdoses



208

Unauthorized
Burning

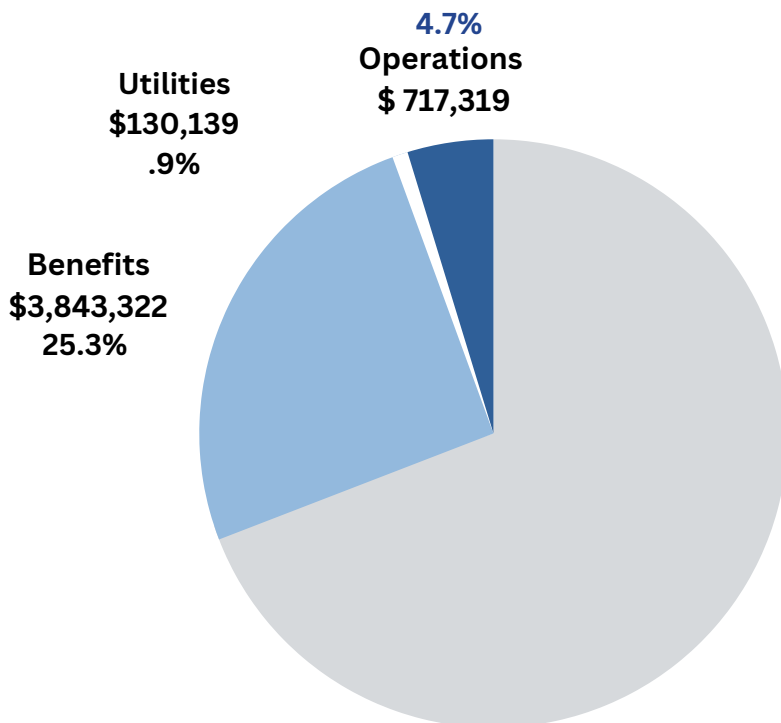
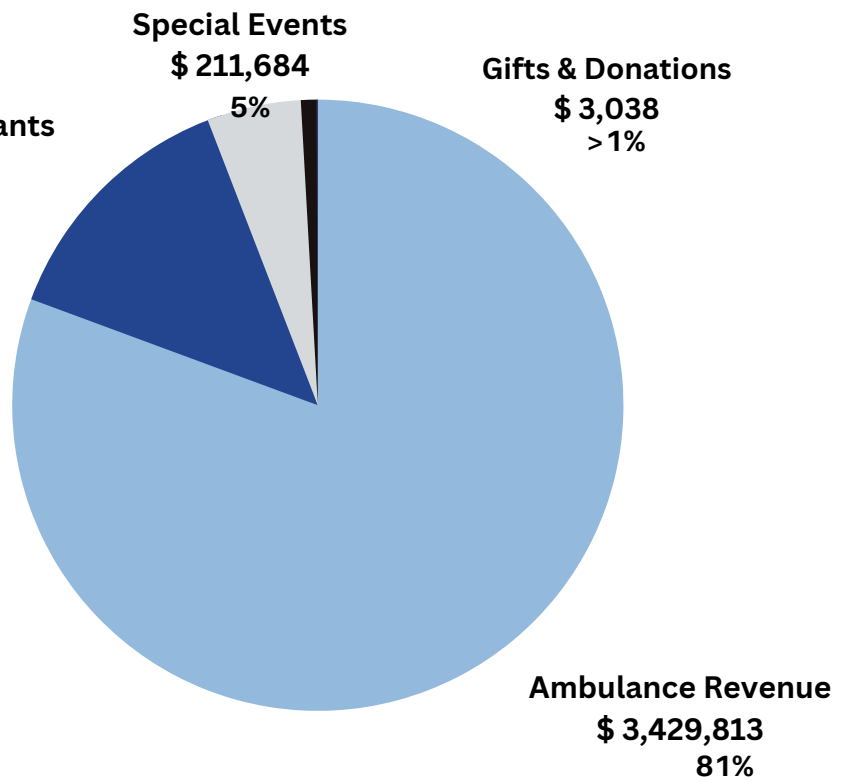


50

35,304 Total Training Hours

Financials

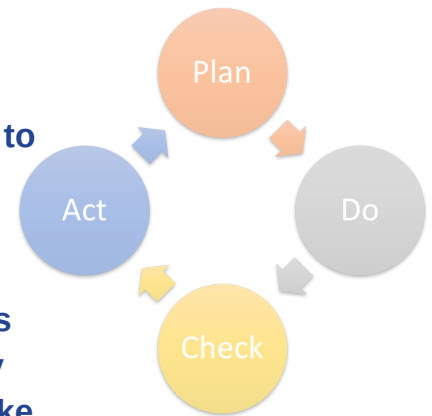
Revenue



Expenditures

Key Performance Indicators

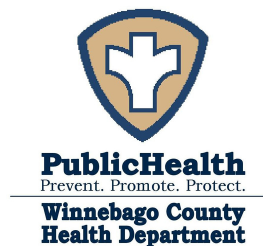
The key to success is measurement. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are measurable values used to evaluate performance in achieving strategic objectives. These KPIs were established 4 years ago and helped us provide a way to track progress towards specific goals.



With the implementation of our new Oshkosh Fire Department Strategic Plan, we will be developing new KPI's that align with the new plan. KPI's are only effective if they provide actionable insights that helps our organization make informed decisions and improve our overall performance.

Key Indicator	Activity / Project	Data / Outcome
Maintain ambulance utilization unit-hour utilization to below 24%	Reduce utilization by offering Fall prevention and Overdose Prevention programs	Ambulance Utilization for 2022 was 23.1%
Provide initial responding unit to emergencies that present and immediate threat to life or property < 6 minutes 90% of the time	Station Study identified station locations to improve response times	We responded to 78.8% of emergent City of Oshkosh calls within 6 minutes or less
All emergency response personnel will complete 80% of the training hours identified in the training plan	Developed and monitored Annual Training Plan	97.9% of emergency response personnel completed training hours

A Special Thanks to:





**We thank you for
your continued
support!**



Contact

Oshkosh Fire Department

101 Court Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901 | 920-236-5240
<https://www.ci.oshkosh.wi.us/fire/>

LET'S CONNECT

