



# HOT TOPICS

## CHIEF'S CORNER



Every summer thousands of airplanes descend on Oshkosh for the annual AirVenture convention. This one-of-a-kind event brings visitors to our community from every corner of the globe and provides fun and excitement to all ages.

2024 was another record-setting year for attendance. While the size and magnitude of the convention are impressive, what is more impressive to me is how the Oshkosh Fire Department prepares for and provides aircraft rescue and firefighting, fire prevention, and emergency medical services to keep our community and its guests safe.

The firefighters participate in countless hours of training each year to become familiar with airport and aircraft operations, numerous buildings must be inspected and approvals issued for fireworks, and thousands of additional work hours are spent by OFD members staffing ambulances and fire trucks on site.

For that week to ten days, for all intents and purposes, the population of our city doubles. I know of very few departments across the country who have the resilience and tenacity to step up to that challenge. I am extremely proud of the men and women of the Oshkosh Fire Department who stepped up to the challenge to protect hundreds of thousands of lives and contributed to the success of this very impactful and meaningful part of what makes Oshkosh great! Congratulations and thank you to every one of our team members.

--Chief Mike Stanley

## BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY

by John Holland, Public Information Officer

It's hard to believe, but it's almost back-to-school time. We want to make sure that the coming school year is a safe one. Here's some very simple things parents and kids can do to make that happen.

### Walking to School

Kids, always cross at designated crosswalks. Stay on sidewalks and make sure to look both ways, left-right-left, before crossing the street. Try to make eye contact with the drivers to make sure they see you. Avoid distractions such as your phone or music. If there is a crossing guard at the corner you're crossing at, please listen to them. They are there for your safety. Walk in groups if possible and never talk to or accept rides from strangers.

Parents, make sure you slow down in school zones when children are present. In case you didn't know, fines are double in a school zone. Also, please be aware of the crossing guards that are out there. There are way too many close calls with them.

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**Biking to School:** Always wear a helmet when riding your bike. In order to protect your head it has to be worn correctly. Make sure it fits your head, it's tight and you're wearing it straight across. Pedal on the right side of the road, in bike lanes if possible, and obey all traffic signs. Walk your bike across the street when you come to a crosswalk. Don't text or do anything else on your phone when you're biking.

**School Bus Safety:** Parents we want to clarify what you need to do when you come across a school bus with its red lights flashing and it's stop sign out. Obviously, if you're directly behind the bus and this is happening, you need to stop. The bus will flash its yellow lights first to warn you that is about to stop and load or unload its precious cargo.

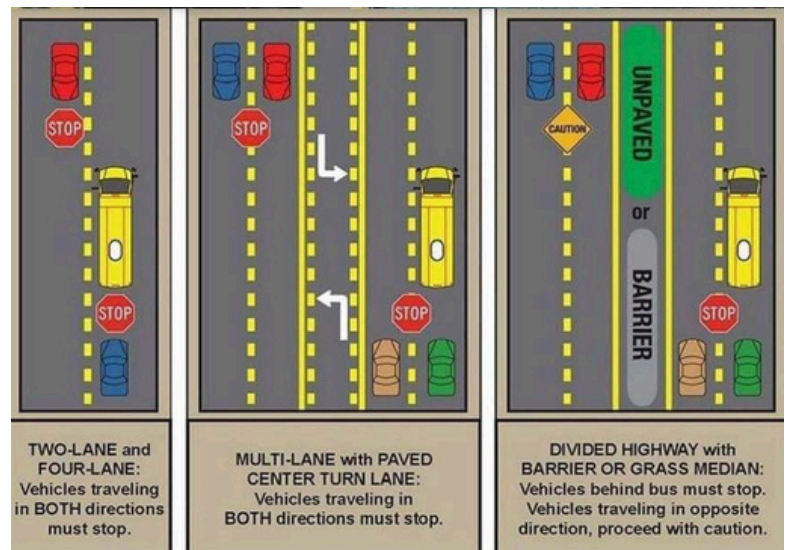
Confusion arises when it comes to divided roadways. If you are on a road that is divided by grass or a concrete barrier and heading in the opposite direction of the bus you do not have to stop. However, if you are on a road where there is no physical barrier and are heading in the opposite direction you **must stop**. Even if the middle lane is just a turn lane. A good example of this is Jackson Street in Oshkosh.

Kids, you need to stay seated while on the bus and listen to the bus driver.

**Personal Safety:** It is always important to be aware of your surroundings. If kids have cell phones, make sure they are charged and have important contact numbers programmed in. Talk with your children about who trusted adults are and places where they can go when they feel unsafe. A family code word is also a good idea.

**Social Media Safety:** Families love to post "First Day of School" photos on social media with a board that lists: their child's name, their teacher's name, what grade they are in and name of their school. It's a better idea to keep names and personal information off of the board and keep the information general.

It is important that parents monitor their kid's online activity and use privacy settings on apps and devices. It's also very important to remind your children about the risks of sharing personal information online and chatting with strangers online.



Here's wishing everyone a safe and successful school year.

# AROUND THE FIREHOUSE

## Welcome New Hires

Please join us in welcoming two new Firefighter/Paramedics to the Oshkosh Fire Department.

Christian Durken



Issac Zilles



Christian attended NWTC and completed courses to earn his Fire Fighting and EMT-Paramedic certifications. He most recently worked with Superior Ambulance and the Howard Fire Department. Christian was a Sergeant with the U.S. Wisconsin National Guard for 5 years; he graduated high school from Green Bay Southwest.

Issac attended Fox Valley Tech and completed courses to earn his Fire Fighting and EMT-Paramedic certifications. He most recently worked as a fire fighter with the Village of Fox Crossing Fire Department and was an EMT with Bell Ambulance. Issac was a Section Leader and Squad Leader with the U.S. Marine Corp for 4 years after he graduated from Neenah High School.

Christian and Issac will be starting in their new roles Monday, August 12.

## Bingocize

Do you like to play Bingo? Need to add more movement to your life? Bingocize might be just the thing for you. Bingocize is a 10 week program that combines bingo with fun, inclusive exercise for everyone.



Beginning August 12, the Oshkosh Seniors Center will offer Bingocize on Monday and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. at the North Building; Kiwanis Hall. The class is FREE, but is limited to 20. Call 920-232-5300 to register!

For more info, watch this short video: <https://youtu.be/meCfC0CU4fg>

# JULY MONTHLY METRICS

by MJ VanGompel, Management Analyst

Emergency Medical Services



900

Motor Vehicle Crashes



42

Structure Fires



16

Falls



191

Fire Alarms



56

Inspections



497

LET'S CONNECT

