



# HOT TOPICS



## CHIEF'S CORNER



Firefighters have a 9% greater chance of being diagnosed with cancer and a 14% greater chance of dying from cancer than the general U.S. population. This is because of the direct correlation between the exposures firefighters experience on the job.

Nationally, January has been designated as Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month. The Oshkosh Fire Department is very committed to reducing the risk of occupational cancer to its members. With the support of the community and the City of Oshkosh we have been able to implement many new programs, procedures, and equipment that help to decrease our exposure risks.

We have installed industrial washing machines at the stations, provided additional personal protective equipment, and conduct annual training on cancer prevention to name a few things. Our work is definitely not done though. As research becomes available, technologies improve, and opportunities arise, we will continue to implement changes that help reduce the threat of cancer to our firefighters.

Stay safe and well. Happy New Year!

--Chief Mike Stanley

## PLANNING FOR 2024

by John Holland, Public Information Officer

With a new year upon us and people thinking up New Year's resolutions, how about resolving to keep your family safer in the new year and beyond?

The time is now to come up with a home disaster plan. While that can certainly seem overwhelming, we'll try to break it down a little bit here.

First of all, you have to think of what types of disasters you might have to deal with. A few of them that you might have to be concerned about here in Oshkosh are: Fire, Floods, Tornadoes, Snowstorms, Power Outages, and Chemical Spills. Some of these will require you to evacuate and others will require you to shelter in place. So, obviously, communication with your family and loved ones is extremely important.

Some things you'll need to discuss with household include:

- How will we receive our emergency alerts?
- How will we contact each other?

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# PLANNING FOR 2024

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- What is our shelter-in-place plan?
- What is our evacuation plan/safe meeting place?
- Do we have an emergency preparedness kit? Does it need to be updated?

Along with the different types of disasters, you'll have to think of your family's specific needs.

- Are there any people with special needs?
- How about any necessary medications or medical equipment?
- What are the ages of the people in your family? Different ages will have different needs.
- Do you have any pets and have you arranged for their needs?

Now you're ready to make your plan. Make sure you include all of the above and ensure that everyone knows their roles and responsibilities. The website Ready.gov is a great resource for more information. In fact, they have a fillable form to make creating a plan quickly and easily at [www.ready.gov/plan-form](http://www.ready.gov/plan-form).

Making a family disaster plan is one of those things that people think they should do someday. That "someday" is today. Your family's safety depends on it.



The City of Oshkosh Fire Department is pleased to announce that our new 2023 Pierce Velocity pumper is now in service as Engine 18. Located at Bowen and Murdock, this truck serves the northeast side of the city with a crew of three. This acquisition will allow the Fire Department to remove a 1997 Pierce pumper from its active roster.

# NEW AROUND THE FIRE HOUSE

Congratulations to Captain Mike Krajnik, Lieutenant Joe Dutschek and Equipment Operator Josh Antes for their recent promotions!



## LIVING OUR VALUES

- Rick Guerra would like to recognize Blake Youwer for taking time to completely re-do our lounge multi-media and video training equipment. "He basically took everything apart, got rid of extra cords, hooked everything up properly to give us a better video and sound experience for our video conferencing system. It was a mess, and now looks and works great," said Rick.
- Bret Hamer would like to recognize Blake Youwer for his extraordinary measures in caring for a patient who needed to be cleaned up prior to her transport.
- Rick Natrop would like to recognize Kevin Putzer and Bret Hamer for going above and beyond in helping a car fire victim with her dog and diagnosing a cracked radiator; and applying putty. Rick said, "being the father of a young lady about the same age, I was touched by my crew's concern for her, and their compassion. I would be very touched if my daughter came home to tell me a fire crew did this for her."

## THANK YOU!

Thank you to the folks over at Manitowoc Ice for their donation of an ice machine. The machine was installed over at Station 15. We are grateful. This will be especially helpful during training drills.

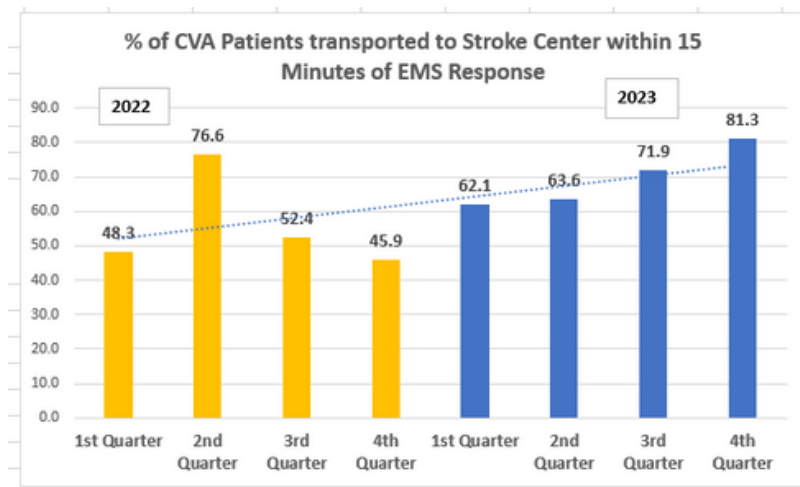


# KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR: STROKE

by Aaron Droessler, EMS Division Chief

Stroke is an often debilitating, and at times deadly, condition that occurs when normal blood flow to the brain is interrupted. It is a leading cause of long-term disability, and affects nearly 800,000 Americans annually. In 2023, Oshkosh Fire Department (OFD) responded to 201 stroke complaints.

Because of how strokes occur and progress, it is imperative to quickly identify stroke symptoms and get patients to definitive care as quickly as possible to minimize permanent damage. OFD strives to quickly identify signs of stroke and begin transport to definitive care. The receiving hospital is notified as soon as a possible stroke is identified so they can ready their resources for a quick intervention. OFD is proud to participate in the Coverdale Stroke Program, where we continually assess our stroke response effectiveness and submit the data to a national database to ensure we are meeting the needs of our citizens. We are proud to consistently meet or exceed national benchmarks on stroke treatment and response



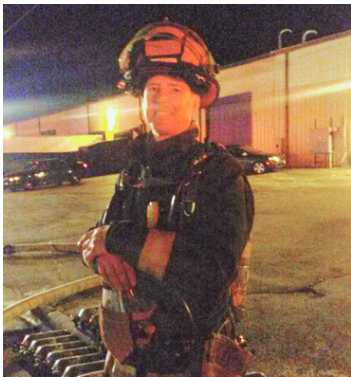
The chart above illustrates our continuous efforts to improve our performance by a consistent increase in the percentage of stroke calls where we begin transport to a stroke treatment center within 15 minutes of our response - a critical benchmark that ensures the patient gets every available minute in the care of the stroke center. Time is brain, and the sooner the stroke can be treated, the better the chance of recovery!



Thanks to Oshkosh Police Sargent Brett Robertson for this photo that he took of an accident that we worked at Omro Road and Highway 41.  
--December 27, 2023

# CAPTAIN SCOTT KRAUSE RETIRES

A wonderful sendoff happened at Station 15 on December 21. After 27 years of service, Captain Scott Krause made it official and hung up his helmet. Scott started with Oshkosh Fire Department (OFD) back in February of 1996. He became an equipment operator in 2011, a Lieutenant in 2019 and a Captain in 2022. Scott was respected by his peers and admired by everyone for his calm cool collected demeanor. A role model for all, he lived the OFD values. In 2022 Scott and his team of Josh Antes and Chris Heder were selected Employees of the Year for their exemplary work saving multiple lives during Battle on Bago.



Scott was appreciative of the party put together by his peers. He said, "I was overwhelmed by the visits, phone calls, texts and the kind words. What made me successful in my career here, was the teamwork and support from all of you, both past and present."

In the traditional OFD good bye e-mail, Scott wrote, "Throughout the day numerous people had such flattering things to say about me, but you see, its not that I can do what others can't, its that I was willing to do what others wouldn't. As I sit reflecting on the day, and a great career, I am struck by something that never occurred to me until today. My greatest career achievements were not awards, promotions, milestones or any of these things. It was the lifelong friendships that I have been so fortunate to gain from you all! That was so evident by the number of people that took time out of their lives to come see me and wish me well. Please, please be careful out there, look out for each other, build each other up, and thank you for the tremendous work that you do every day! Never do the least you can do."

Good bye Scott! You will be missed by all! Best wishes for a healthy and happy retirement!

# DECEMBER MONTHLY METRICS

by MJ VanGompel, Management Analyst

Emergency Medical Services



795

Motor Vehicle Crashes



33

Structure Fires



16

Falls



181

Inspections



118

Overdoses



8

LET'S CONNECT

