



HOT TOPICS

Oshkosh Fire Department

CHIEF'S CORNER



The Oshkosh Fire Department (OFD) has many resources. Fire stations full of shiny red fire trucks. Those trucks carry hose, ladders, and the Jaws of Life. They amount to millions and millions of dollars' worth of value.

But there is one resource that the department values above all others. Its people.

Day after day our firefighters risk their lives to protect the community. They face the dangers of traffic whizzing by on the highway when they are cutting a victim from a mangled car. They enter into danger zones whether it is a building on fire, or a scene with an active shooter. Not only do they risk immediate danger but they also risk their long-term health and wellness. Firefighters are many times more likely to develop occupational cancers or develop Post Traumatic Stress Disorder than non-firefighters. The OFD makes the safety of our firefighters a priority. Every day, we strive to implement advancements to make our firefighters safer.

I am proud to announce that because of our department's commitment to safety we have received the 2021 Leadership Safety Award from the Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs Association. We are honored to receive this award but we do not view our work as finished. This award is a call to action to continue to tirelessly work to create a culture of safety now and in the future.

--Chief Mike Stanley

BATTALION CHIEF MARK BOETTCHER RETIRES

by MJ VanGompel, Management Analyst

Tone . Tone. Beep beep beep .

"Attention all stations! Attention all stations!. This is the Winnebago County Comm Center with the final tone out for Battalion Chief Mark Boettcher. After almost 36 years of dedicated service to the City of Oshkosh, Mark has held every rank between firefighter and battalion chief and was one of the very first cross staffed paramedics. Mark's institutional knowledge of the department, the city and firefighting will be greatly missed, but his reputation as a nice guy will be missed the most. On behalf of the Comm Center, the Oshkosh Fire Department and the citizens of the community, we THANK YOU for your service and wish you safe travels. Thanks again and congratulations on a wonderful and storied career. -- Winnebago Comm Center Standing by"

With that, Battalion Chief Mark Boettcher walked through the line of Command Staff and B Shift personnel at salute and walked out the door.

He will be greatly missed.

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BOETTCHER RETIRES Continued from page 1

On Thursday, June 24 Station 15 was abuzz with the laughter of old and new friends and the smell of sloppy joes, brownies and other sweet treats. Everyone was there to send Chief Boettcher on the road to retirement. Many shared stories of Chief Boettcher and some of his favorite sayings. Captain Scott Krause delivered a moving tribute.

Later that day, Lt. Craig Downs and team presented Chief Boettcher with a podium that will remain at Station 15. It was constructed from an old OFD ladder, a retired OFD helmet, and a 1920's OFD shield that used to say "pipeman." Lt. Downs said, "I have known Chief Boettcher close to 40 years and he has been my mentor and was instrumental in my becoming a firefighter." Craig completed the podium with assistance from his wife, his son and Retired Captain Rick Scherer.



You have been the benchmark set for all of us to try and achieve. The list of adjectives to describe you is endless, but here are just a few:

Consummate professional, dedicated, honest, humble, thoughtful, thorough, fair, understanding, stern when you need to be, always intending to do the right thing for the good of the customers we serve, and the men and women who serve with you. You did not demand respect, you earned that respect every day through your hard work, your unwavering character and professionalism. It is impossible to know how many lives you have impacted in a positive way throughout your career, likely thousands! From the people having their worst imaginable day made just a little bit better because of the interaction they had with you, to the hundreds of students and interns that were given a glimpse of what a real firefighter should be and were inspired by your guidance; you have touched thousands. And so now as you begin your journey into the next chapter of your life, remember the good times, try to forget the bad times, but above all, don't look back. We'll be ok, because after all, you taught every one of us what it means to be PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS. -- Captain Scott Krause



A mentor is not someone who walks ahead of us to show us how they did it. A mentor walks alongside us to show us what we can do. --Author Simon Sinek

WHAT'S NEW

Congratulation to Don Simonet. Don was promoted from Equipment Operator to Lieutenant.



ANTIQUE FIRE ENGINE

Battalion Chief Mike Rutter, Administrative Assistant Kim Wallmuller and Management Analyst MJ VanGompel took time out of their day to ride around the block on this antique fire engine. The owner was next door at the Wisconsin Car Show and stopped by to talk about his restoration project.

CUSTOMER FEEDBACK

One of the things that I quickly learned about working at the Fire Department is that food and thank you letters often show up unexpectedly.

Recently, 'HERO' subs showed up from a patient who collapsed at a local gym. Because of the efforts of paramedics Justin Feaker, Issac Nadler, Kurt Heid, Jordan Olson and Doug Waech, the patient was able to walk his daughter down the aisle. He wrote, "Please enjoy these heroes along with my heartfelt thanks for giving back to me the priceless gift of life. You are all heroes in my book."

 **SOLE BURNER**
Fighting cancer one mile at a time

Congratulations to Casey Wangard. Casey was promoted from Firefighter to Equipment Operator.



Register Now!

EAA AIRVENTURE

by Chuck Hable, EMS Battalion Chief

EAA's AirVenture is on our doorstep! After not having the convention in 2020 due to Covid, EAA is expecting a robust turnout for the event in 2021. As a department, we have been working regularly with EAA's administration to plan for this year.



Ticket sales for this year continue to be on pace with 2019, which was a record setting year. As a community, AirVenture contributes an incredible amount to our local economy. The economic impact for Oshkosh and the surrounding areas is estimated to be \$170 million. You know me as a numbers guy, so here are some interesting statistics:

- Attendance each year is estimated, and in 2019 it was about 642,000. That was an increase in almost 7% over the previous high;
- In excess of 10,000 aircraft attended the convention in its 7 day span;
- There are 12,300 campsites in Camp Scholler, with an estimated population of 40,000 to 50,000 people;
- There were 16,807 takeoffs and landings at Wittman in the 11 day period surrounding AirVenture 2019. That's an average of 127 takeoffs and landings per hour;
- There were 863 commercial exhibitors at the 2019 convention; and
- While we are expecting few international visitors in 2021, in 2019, 93 different nations were represented in Oshkosh.

EAA has been a great partner and has worked with our recommendations to better cover the convention.

- Starting this year, the engine and ambulance in Camp Scholler will start at each day's opening time, 8:00 a.m.
- EAA has placed a building for OFD staff near the Tower First Aid building. This will have similar amenities to the Camp Scholler building and will allow a place for staff to get out of the weather, enjoy some food in private and complete reports.
- Rotations of ARFF crews through the airport positions will only be covered this year by overtime personnel. This will allow on-duty personnel to be responsible only for calls in the city, and will increase the 'in-service' time of Engine 14. This also allows for the ARFF crew at Station 14 to be available to respond to an incident at the Pioneer Airport, if needed.
- The Nekimi First Responders will have an expanded role on the convention grounds this year. They will have three personnel staffing golf carts while we have ambulances on the grounds and will monitor EAA's radio channels and our channels. They will respond as EMRs to 911 calls on the grounds, and will function as mobile first aid units for very minor needs.

The fire department involvement in AirVenture would not be possible without our personnel. Thank you to everyone who has stepped up to work overtime shifts at the convention. We require more personnel this year than ever before, and almost all of the available slots were covered with our people answering our call for help. Our people will always be our greatest asset.

MEDICAL DIRECTOR MINUTE

by Dr. Kerry Ahrens



Let's do another case review.

You are called to the scene of a MVC in the town of Black Wolf. You find a woman in the driver's seat with her 10 day old carefully restrained in the back seat. She was rear ended by someone while she was at a stop sign. She is holding her head. There is minimal to no damage to her fender. You put her on the gurney and she is complaining of a severe headache. Your crew members evaluate her baby who appears pristine and uninjured. The father arrives and signs a release for the baby.

Your focus is on the driver. She still has a headache, seems to be in a great deal of pain; but is otherwise answering questions appropriately, can move all of her limbs, and was able to self-extricate without issue. Something does not seem right; she had a very minor fender-bender. You get her VS - HR 80, BP 180/75, RR 20, pulse ox 100% RA.

A: Are her vital signs normal?

B: You recognize this patient is exhibiting signs of a postpartum medical emergency. What is your first intervention?

C: After starting your IV, what medications would be recommended for treatment of this patient?

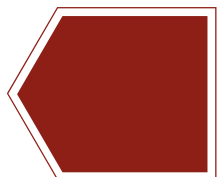
D: You start the first medication and note a repeat blood pressure is 160/79; you start the second recommended medication. You are an astute paramedic who understands that this woman would progress into full eclamptic seizures without your intervention. You have an uneventful 25 minute drive to the local hospital while you are administering her medications and deliver her into the care of the ED team without issue.

Learning Points:

Pre-eclampsia can happen to postpartum patients too up to 4 weeks after delivery and in up to 44% of all cases of eclampsia(1). Pre-eclampsia: the occurrence of hypertension and protein in the urine after delivery; this plus seizures = eclampsia. In one study, 55% of patients had no history of pre-eclampsia prior to delivery(1). The most common presenting symptom was headache, with initial blood pressures often > 140 systolic. Please note that in a pregnant or recently pregnant woman, always consider a blood pressure > 140 with a headache to be pre-eclampsia. The mainstays of treatment are first IV magnesium sulfate, then IV anti-hypertensive. In your case labetalol is all we have. I know this patient could have easily been a spontaneous subarachnoid hemorrhage (SAH) given these vital signs, however, I wanted to highlight the timing of this patient so close postpartum. That being said, if she had SAH, blood pressure management would have been also beneficial for her. Correct, for pre-eclampsia we do not have a protocol for this because it is so rare; but I know you all have amazing situational awareness skills and recognize that when we don't have a protocol for an evolving event you can always call for medical control.

Thank you again for your hard work!

Answers
A. Her blood pressure is too high and is concerning for you super astute paramedics for pre-eclampsia.
B. You recognize we do not have a specific protocol for pre-eclampsia and call for medical control.
C. Magnesium sulfate, IV 1g administer slowly (approx 1g/hour). If blood pressure is not responding then labetalol 20mg IV push over 5-10 minutes.



References

Yancey at al. Postpartum Preeclampsia: Emergency Department Presentation and Management. The Journal of Emergency Medicine. 2011. 40(4). 380-84.

EVERYONE GOES HOME

by Lieutenant Drew Jaeger

Life Safety Initiative 10 deals with grants, and the specific recommendation that grants to fire departments should be tied to initiatives that improve safety. Over the last 20 years, our department has aggressively pursued state, federal, local and industry grants to obtain equipment that improves the safety of our firefighters and citizens.

FEMA Grants have delivered more than \$828,000 in equipment to our department since 2003.

Several major components of our safety gear, including SCBA packs, air bottles, turnout gear, RIT packs, new mobile radios, Plymovent exhaust management system, and thermal imaging cameras were obtained through the use of these grants. New nozzles, foam educators, video conferencing system and forcible entry trainer also came from the grants. Successfully applying for these grants requires a substantial investment of effort and time by our management team. The list of eligible items can change from year to year. For example thermal imaging cameras that are integrated into the SCBA were deemed an ineligible item in 2020.

We obtained money from a Wisconsin DNR Fire Protection Grant to purchase our new skid rig for wildland and grass fires. Although we don't have much of a true wildland risk in our service area, the rig is great for accessing area trails, parks and railroad properties that would be impossible to access with larger vehicles and a nightmare to access solely on foot.

National businesses such as Firehouse Subs have provided money for personal floatation devices; Walmart supports us most every year with several thousand dollars in smoke and CO detectors. Locally, Capital Credit Union donated money that allowed us to purchase several sets of ballistic protection gear, and WPS provided funds to purchase CO detectors for our EMS bags and ventilation saws.

Although not part of one of these formal grants, we also have received thousands of dollars of donated funds from local families and civic organizations. The initial funding for our dive team was provided by a local family following a tragic snowmobile incident on Lake Winnebago.

Subsequently, the Auto Authority sponsored a fundraising initiative to update our dive equipment. The Altrusa Club of Oshkosh has provided the funding for our LUCAS automated CPR devices. and this year we received grant funding from the United Way to pay for CEO/Founder of Responder Strong, Rhonda Kelly, to teach us about peer support and mental health.

The combination of grant funding and a supportive community continue to allow our department to move forward with improving safety by replacing aging equipment and outdated technology. Grants have been written by various people at OFD depending on capacity. If you have a suggestion for a grant application, please contact Public Information Officer John Holland.

A huge thank you to those individuals, businesses and grantors for their generous support!



WI STATE FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION AWARDS

by Andy Radig, Oshkosh Media

On Saturday, June 26, Oshkosh Fire Chief Michael Stanley was presented with the 2021 Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs' Association (WSFCA) Chief of the Year Award. The award was presented at the annual Fire Chiefs Conference that was held at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. The award selection criteria emphasize leadership, innovation, professional development, integrity, service to the public and contributions to the fire service as a whole. Nominees for the award are reviewed by a selection panel comprised of Fire Chiefs from throughout the state.

Among those supporting Chief Stanley's nomination was Oshkosh City Manager Mark Rohloff. "Chief Stanley has met the challenges of the past year, and is poised to continue to deliver public safety services - as well as innovative programs - into the future," commented Rohloff. Chief Stanley was appreciative of the award, saying, "I am honored and humbled to receive this award. When I look at the caliber of the Fire Chiefs in the State of Wisconsin that lead their departments, there are so many that deserve the same recognition. Thank you to the Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs Association, the City of Oshkosh, and most importantly the members of the Oshkosh Fire Department. This award is recognition of the work our firefighters do every day to make a difference. I am truly blessed to be their Fire Chief and I have the best job in the world."

Chief Stanley's professional fire service career spans over 25 years. He received the Chief Fire Officer credential from the Center for Public Safety Excellence and has a Master's Degree in Education and Human Resources from Colorado State University. In addition to his professional credentials, he has achieved numerous professional accomplishments. Among them, he created a multi-partner Recruitment Task Force of community stakeholders to improve diversity and inclusion within the fire department. He also took steps to decrease the risk of cancer for firefighters and improve health and safety within the department.



The City of Oshkosh Fire Department also received the 2021 Safety Leadership Award. "Even though the COVID-19 Pandemic slowed our progress in 2020, the City of Oshkosh Fire Department was able to implement significant changes to our operations and procedures that improved the safety of our firefighters and the community. These changes are a demonstration of a whole scale cultural shift within the department that has brought the focus on safety into the forefront," wrote Assistant Chief Bending.

To accept the departmental award were (from right to left) Fire Chief, Mike Stanley, Assistant Chief John Ziemer, Management Analyst MJ VanGompel and Assistant Chief Brian Bending.



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LET'S CONNECT

