



# HOT TOPICS

## CHIEF'S CORNER



The City of Oshkosh has a goal in its strategic plan to provide a safe, secure, and healthy community. To achieve that goal, we established an objective of improving the community's ability to withstand and recover from disruptive events. These disruptive events may be a large-scale disaster like flooding that impacts entire

neighborhoods. Or, it may be a fire in someone's home that is a catastrophe for an individual or one family.

The Oshkosh Fire Department (OFD) also has the responsibility of providing emergency management for our city. We take this responsibility very seriously and are always seeking ways to improve our resilience, if and when these disruptive events occur. Currently, we are working on a project that includes all of our fellow departments in the city like the police department, public works, and the parks department. The project is to put Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP) in place. COOP plans are intended to allow organizations to continue mission essential functions and services to your community. Having these in place will help us be better prepared so that there are minimal interruptions during and after disasters.

At OFD, we also believe in a proactive approach when it comes to emergencies. Our goal is to reduce risk through prevention and education. To achieve this, and to provide more resources to our community we will be including emergency preparedness tips and recommendations for a selected topic each month in the water bills. This provides an opportunity for us to increase our reach and to provide more resources to those we serve. Watch for it in your mail. Have a happy and safe time enjoying the summer!

--Chief Mike Stanley

## WATER SAFETY

by John Holland, Public Education

We are so lucky to have so much water around us here in Oshkosh. Whether you are in a lake, pond, or backyard pool (yes, even kiddie pools) safety has to be your main focus. People can drown in less than two inches of water.

First of all, we have to define drowning. Did you know drowning isn't always fatal? Neither did I. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

- Drowning is the process of experiencing respiratory impairment from submersion or immersion in liquid.
- Fatal drowning happens when the drowning results in death.
- Nonfatal drowning happens when a person survives a drowning incident. Nonfatal drowning has a range of outcomes, from no injuries to very serious injuries such as brain damage or permanent disability.

Sadly, children are at the highest risk of drowning. This is mainly due to lack of proper supervision.

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## **WATER SAFETY** *Continued from Page 1*

Although the number of children drowning is down 5% since 2011, it is still the number one cause of injury related deaths for children ages one through four. In 2020 1,000 children fatally drowned and 3,000 suffered nonfatal drowning.



While children are at the highest risk, obviously, anyone can drown. Every year in the United States there are an estimated 4,000 fatal unintentional drownings (an average of 11 drowning deaths per day) and 8,000 nonfatal drownings (an average of 22 nonfatal drownings per day).

So, what can you do to avoid a drowning tragedy?

1. Never go in the water alone. If something unforeseen happens there is no one there to notice until it's too late. Obviously for kids this is even more important. There should always be an undistracted adult watching and younger children should remain within arm's length of an adult.
2. Learn to swim; make sure your kids know how to also.
3. Swim only in supervised areas and follow all the signs and warnings.
4. Don't dive in shallow water. If you're not sure how deep the water is, don't dive.
5. Don't float where you can't swim. Check every once in a while to see how deep the water is and watch out for drop offs.
6. Know your limits. Watch out for the "too's"... Too tired; too cold; too far from safety; too much sun.
7. Wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket when you're on a boat. This is especially important for children. Kids are taught, "Don't just pack it, wear your life jacket". Federal law requires all children under the age of 13 to wear a life jacket while under way in an open vessel on federally controlled waters (i.e., Lake Winnebago). Make sure that children are wearing child-sized life jackets.

If you see someone struggling in the water, get help or throw a rope or life ring buoy to them if one is available. Don't jump in yourself to try and save them. If no one else is around, who will save you if there is a problem?

While playing in the water or boating is fun and refreshing on a hot summer day, it can also be dangerous. So, make sure you are being safe.



# READ PLAYGROUND PROJECT UPDATE

"I can't believe we are this close" said Dr. Jennifer Skolaski, Project Leader for the Read Park Elementary playground project. "We have raised \$435,459, nearly 92% of our \$475,000 goal. Thank you to everyone who has been able to support the project. Our next step is coming up in August."

Please consider joining the **Women's Build!**

Sponsored by the Women's Fund of the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation, the build will happen on Tuesday, August 15 from 8:45 a.m. to noon at Read Elementary (1120 Algoma Blvd). We're using sweat equity to show the boys and girls of Read Elementary (and of course the entire community) what can be done by women, and well, that girls can do anything!

Some of the **volunteer projects** include:

- Painting the driveway to look like a candy land themed game (titled the Read way);
- Community garden and landscaping;
- Pop-its installed in fence;
- Spray painting bike racks;
- Inside school projects like untangling blinds (this takes teacher's a lot of time), painting, and welcome packets for students and staff; AND
- Other fun activities that will make the inside and outside of the school welcoming for all!

## **Agenda:**

8:45 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. Volunteer check in

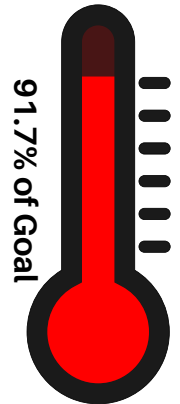
9:15 a.m. Brief welcome and group picture

9:30 a.m. to Noon Volunteers work on their projects

10:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. "Girls Can Do Anything" Stand. Purchase water, lemonade, and iced coffee from some of our favorite girls! All proceeds will go towards playground fundraising efforts. Cash or cash app will be accepted.

Our goal is to get at least 50 women to say "yes" to supporting this project. Please feel free to share this with other women. Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/s2sFaXWQJ1BvccQW7>

Save your spot! Sign up by **July 18**. Thanks for showing up for the kids who need us the most!



Please consider making a donation, if you have not already done so. You can contribute to this campaign by making a tax deductible donation to the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation (230 Ohio Street, Ste. 100, Oshkosh, WI, 54902), in the memo line please write "Read Elementary Playground Fund," or online at [https://www.oshkoshareacf.org/?post\\_type=fund&p=3242](https://www.oshkoshareacf.org/?post_type=fund&p=3242)

# HIGH SCHOOL EXPLORER PROGRAM A SUCCESS



The 2022-23 school year was the first year for the High School Explorer program for the Oshkosh Fire Department (OFD). After stalling out in 2020 due to COVID, the 2022-23 sign up initially had five students which then expanded to seven students from various local high schools including Oshkosh North, Oshkosh West, Omro, Winneconne and Kaukauna.



The program just recently wrapped up in mid July 2023. Students participated in a weekly three-hour meetings where they went on tours to see the aircraft apparatus at Station 14, rode on the Husky boat and geared up in bunker gear.

Firefighter/Paramedics Hunter Resop and Josh Antes took the lead in developing the curriculum based on their personal experience as a former Explorers. The two will be running a class again this fall.



Hunter said, " This year was a work in progress being the first year. We worked through a lot of things but overall it went well. We are excited to run the Explorer program again starting this fall."

Students said they "really enjoyed their time with the Oshkosh Fire Department." Two of the students that were not seniors said they would like to join the program again next year.

Initially Resop and Antes struggled to recruit people for the program, but because of word of mouth, more people wanted to join. "Recruiting is one of the hard parts that we struggled with last year. This fall we are going to be more aggressive and go into the schools and recruit students. We had students join part way through the program last year, which was great to see! We are hoping for 10 Explorers this fall. We are going to keep moving forward and make this the best program possible. "

If you know a high school student who may be interested in participating in the Explorer program, contact us at 920-236-5233 or [hresop@ci.oshkosh.wi.us](mailto:hresop@ci.oshkosh.wi.us).

# GRANT PROGRAM

The Oshkosh Fire Department, Firefighter ABC's, and the Fox Valley Technical College Foundation are partnering to create a grant program to help remove obstacles for underrepresented groups to pursue careers in firefighting and emergency medical services.

This collaboration was enabled by a generous donation from a private organization. The goal of this partnership is to help prepare qualified candidates to enter the field while increasing the diversity within the profession.

"Something that we are striving for is to have our department be reflective of our community members," says Michael Stanley, fire chief of Oshkosh Fire Department. "By being able to help supplement funding for tuition to women and other typically underrepresented groups we hope to help remove a potential obstacle that may limit someone's potential to pursue their dreams and goals of joining the fire department."

The National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) reported that in 2020 only 9% of firefighters in the United States were female. Nationally, the most common ethnicity for firefighters is white, accounting for 76.8%. Firefighter ABC's has been an industry leader in creating a focused effort to improve representation for all social segments and formed the Firefighter Diversity Recruitment Council which the Oshkosh Fire Department is a member of.

The Oshkosh Fire Department, Firefighter ABC's, and the Fox Valley Technical College Foundation are very pleased to partner on this and look forward to the success of the program.

For more information on this program please contact Fire Chief Mike Stanley at [mstanley@ci.oshkosh.wi.us](mailto:mstanley@ci.oshkosh.wi.us) or 920-236-5240. For those interested in applying for the grant please visit the Oshkosh Fire Department's website at [www.oshkoshfd.com](http://www.oshkoshfd.com).



Thank you to Lowe's for their recent donation of a storage unit! This is much needed and greatly appreciated!



# WEBSTER STANLEY TRAINING

Webster Stanley school was built in 1953. In June of 2023, it started coming down in preparation for a new school building. But before the bulldozers came in, the school became a training ground for the Oshkosh Fire Department. This critical hands on training allowed members to rescue some dummies, break down doors, and spray some water.

Pre-game huddle with Captain Stephens



Practicing forcible entry skills



Hi ho!, Hi ho! It's off to work we go!



Picking up the wet hose



Instructors Battalion Chief Drew Jaeger, Captain Jack Clark, and Captain Mike Stephens conducting an After Action Review.

# JUNE MONTHLY METRICS

by MJ VanGompel, Management Analyst

Emergency Medical  
Services



784

Motor Vehicle Accidents



28

Structure Fires



8

Falls



147

Inspections



172

Overdoses



13

LET'S CONNECT

