



# HOT TOPICS

Oshkosh Fire Department

## CHIEF'S CORNER



During the upcoming holidays many of us will be visiting the homes of aging friends and family. Our being there provides an opportunity to prevent falls in the home. Take a few moments to look around for throw rugs or other trip hazards. Are there grab bars in the bath tub, near the toilet, or next to the bed?

When is the last time Mom or Dad talked to their doctor about how prescriptions may be interacting? Maybe suggest that they participate in fall prevention programs at the Oshkosh Senior Center, or some other type of activity that will help develop their core strength and increase mobility.

No one wants to have the holidays ruined because of a loved one suffering from a fall. A turkey dinner can't be enjoyed when they are in a hospital with a broken hip. Be thankful for our aging loved ones and give them a caring gift of helping them find ways to prevent falls.

The only thing that should be falling in November are leaves, not loved ones.

Stay safe and well. Happy Thanksgiving!

--Chief Mike Stanley

## FOOD & TOY DRIVE

by Eric Shea, EMS Coordinator

The holidays are just around the corner. It's time for the 24th Annual Oshkosh Fire Department Local 316 Food and Toy Drive. We will be collecting donations door to door throughout the city.

Last year was a record year, as we collected just under \$5,000 in cash and we were able to double the scholarship offered to area students. We also collected over 1,100 pounds of food and over 4,700 toys, for a monetary value of about \$23,500! These donations helped hundreds of area families and thousands of children through the Salvation Army. Thank you Oshkosh!!

We are now accepting non-perishable food items, new/unwrapped gifts, wrapping paper/tape, and cash donations. All donations will be given to the Salvation Army and distributed through their program.

Monetary donations may also be given to the Oshkosh Firefighters Charitable Trust to be used for the Gary Kassube Scholarship Fund for two graduating Oshkosh seniors enrolled in a police or fire science program. (Continued on page 2)

# FOOD & TOY DRIVE

(Continued from page 1)

Money may be donated through this [PayPal link](#):

The dates are set for this year's drive. We will again be soliciting help from the Oshkosh North Communities Program to promote the drive, Oshkosh Fire & Rescue Equipment will provide the antique engine, and the Salvation Army will be along for all the routes. All routes will begin between 5:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. This year's dates are



To see the routes, and read about further updates, please follow us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram @OshkoshFoodToy. We look forward to seeing you on the routes for what promises to be another great year of helping our community!



## IMPACTING OUR COMMUNITY

October was a successful month for the OFD. We visited 15 schools, 8 pre-schools, and talked to over 2,000 students about making a plan to escape. We also attended 7 special events including Lowe's Fire Safety Day. In addition to that, we visited 304 homes, installed 65 smoke detectors, and replaced or installed batteries at 24 homes. Roughly 1% of the homes we checked did not have any smoke detectors at all in the entire house. Only 11% of the home this year had the proper number of working detectors.



A special thank you to Lowe's for helping us with smoke detectors!

# WELCOME NEW HIRES

The Oshkosh Fire Department is excited to announce that the following individuals started employment with us in November:



From left to right: Jacob Myers, Jeremy DuCharme, Ben Patterson, Ben Cook, Megan Klansky, and Miranda Galligan.

**Jacob Myers** graduated from Fox Valley Technical College with a Fire Science degree and most recently served as a Paramedic Supervisor with Gold Cross Ambulance Service.

**Jeremy DuCharme** graduated from UW-Whitewater with a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and Criminal Justice and attended Waukesha County Technical College where he received his Fire and Paramedic certifications. He started his fire career with the Western Lakes Fire District and most recently served as a Firefighter/Paramedic on the Beaver Dam Fire Department.

**Ben Patterson** started his fire career with the Henry County Fire Department in McDonough Georgia before relocating to Wisconsin in 2020. Most recently he served as a Firefighter/Paramedic for the City of Waukesha Fire Department.

**Ben Cook** graduated from Fox Valley Technical College with a Fire Science degree with a major in Fire Protection. He worked in the emergency department and volunteered with the Van Dyne Fire Department while also working as a paramedic for Gold Cross

**Megan Klansky** graduated from Lakeshore Technical College with a degree in Fire Science. She worked as a paramedic for County Rescue Services and was a Firefighter/Paramedic with the DePere Fire Department and Two Rivers Fire Department.

**Miranda Galligan** graduated from Fox Valley Technical College with a degree in Fire Science. Miranda recently served as a volunteer EMT/Firefighter with the Campbellsport Fire Department.



## WHAT'S NEW

The Oshkosh Fire Department (OFD) partners with many agencies in our community. One of our partners is Solutions Recovery, Inc. Their mission is to support and empower those impacted by alcohol and drug addiction.

Paramedics Matthew Radig, Zach Meyer and Chad Witmer, made a successful referral to their Peer Response Team. A recovery coach spent a number of hours with the individual. The following week he attended an event with others in recovery, toured Sober Living and then went on to discuss options for recovery.

The paramedics actions embody the values of the OFD. Their respect for the individual, empathy for his situation, and teamwork helped this individual in a time of need. That is the definition of public service.



Oshkosh Fire Department was awarded a \$27,337 grant for new lifesaving equipment from Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation! We are extremely grateful to the Foundation for identifying the critical need within our department and providing the resources necessary to purchase six sets of drysuits with gloves, hats and undergarments for our dive team. As a result of generous donors and support from our local Firehouse Subs restaurant and Foundation, Oshkosh is now safer for citizens and visitors.



Congratulations to Battalion Chief Drew Jaeger for recently completing the National Fire Academy Health and Safety Officer Program Manager Course at FVTC on October 15th and 16th.

Drew said that it was an interesting course and he learned a lot. Overall it was a great experience. "We do many things better than most in terms of NFPA safety standard compliance. There are a few areas that we need to polish up a bit to continue to prioritize our health and safety."

### LET'S CONNECT

