



# HOT TOPICS

Oshkosh Fire Department



## CHIEF'S CORNER



This month we hope you are “learning the sounds of fire safety.” Each year in October, Fire Prevention Week becomes a primary focus for our firefighters.

Our Detector Trek campaign is returning this year. It is our goal to prevent injuries, loss of property, and most importantly, loss of life from fires by installing smoke detectors in homes. Our firefighters will be out in neighborhoods with free detectors and batteries to install on the spot.

Little ghosts and goblins will soon be out trick or treating too. Please slow down and be alert. Costumes should be fire resistant too. Stay safe and well. Happy Halloween!



--Chief Mike Stanley

## HEATING SAFETY

by John Holland, Public Information

It's that time of year again when we fire up (every pun intended) our home heating systems. Is yours prepared to safely do so?

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) heating equipment is the leading cause of home fires in the U.S. Local fire departments responded to an average of 48,530 fires involving heating equipment each year in 2014-2018. These fires resulted in 500 deaths, 1,350 injuries, and over \$1 billion in damages.

So what can you do to ensure that your family doesn't become a part of these statistics?

First of all, have your heating system and chimney inspected and cleaned every year by a qualified professional. Besides making sure everything is safe and working properly it will cut down on that smell you get when you first turn on your heat. Every year we get a few calls about the smell of something burning when people first turn on their furnace.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## HEATING SAFETY *(Continued from page 1)*

- Maintain a 3-foot clearance between all heating equipment and anything that can burn—especially space heaters.
- Along with giving space heaters space, never plug them into extension cords or power strips. Only plug them directly into an outlet. Also, turn them off when you leave the room or go to bed.
- If you use a fireplace to heat your home only burn dry wood. Make sure there is a sturdy, heat tempered screen to prevent sparks from flying into the room and avoid burns. Dispose of ashes only after you have given them plenty of time to cool.
- Never use your oven to heat your home. Not only is it extremely inefficient in a large area, but it can lead to carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.
- Going along with that, make sure you have working CO detectors if you have any fuel burning appliances (anything fueled with gas or wood). Since CO is odorless and colorless, a working CO detector is the only way you'll know you have this deadly gas in your home.



Just like always, make sure you have working smoke detectors on every level of your home. Following the above tips will ensure that you and your family stay safe and warm this winter.



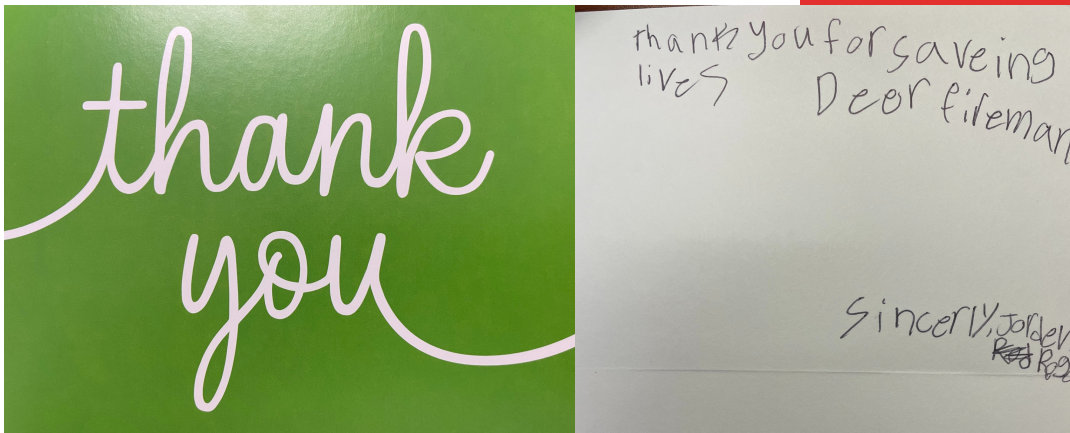


## WHAT'S NEW

The retired ambulance that we donated to the Rimac 21 Fire Department in Lima Peru has been placed in service. They were ecstatic to receive it and are very grateful to our department. They left our logo and the name Oshkosh on the ambulance to show their gratitude and recognition of OFD.



The firefighters from the department send their thanks and well wishes. As we continue to foster a relationship with their department, we hope to take them up on their invitation for a future visit.



We received a thank you note from a local student.

Lieutenants, newly promoted Captains and Battalion Chiefs attended a three day certification training on September 13, 14 and 15 at Station 15. NWTC instructor and retired Green Bay Metro Fire Department Captain Bob Conrad taught the course.

The goal of the training was to gain a better understanding of the Blue Card System and fire ground supervision. Students participated in multiple simulated events to practice skills needed to maintain situational awareness, accountability and overall fire ground command.

### Blue Card Certification



# EVERYONE GOES HOME

by Lieutenant Drew Jaeger

The goal of Life Safety Initiative #2 is accountability, that is to “Enhance the personal and organizational accountability for health and safety throughout the fire service.” It recognizes that all employees at all levels in the fire service play an important role in holding themselves and others accountable for safety. It is not just the job of the Safety Officer or the Safety Committee.

The fire service has had a history of treating bravery and devotion to duty as a job requirement; on occasion, this has led to bad decisions based on aggressive action as the only option rather than a risk based choice.

The case that the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation has selected to illustrate this concept is the 2007 Charleston Sofa Super Store fire that took the lives of 9 firefighters. The first link is to the report of the Charleston Fire Department, the second from the NIOSH report. A recent article I read by Dr. David Griffin, who is now a shift commander for Charleston Fire, explained how it feels to be the person at the pump panel who was unable to get water to his friends inside the fire that day.



## Firefighter Fatality Investigative Report:

<https://www.everyonegoeshome.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2015/02/CharlestonSC61807.pdf>

**NIOSH Report** <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200718.html>

We have done some things at the organizational level that demonstrates our commitment to these concepts such as making the health and safety committee meeting minutes a required training topic, hosting guest speakers, and revitalizing incident command and MABAS procedures. But the cornerstone of this initiative is for each of us to make a commitment to ourselves and our fellow firefighters. What does **your** personal accountability to health and safety mean to you? Policies, committees and case histories are great if you read them.

What promise have you made to yourself to keep yourself and our fellow firefighters safe?

- Is it always to check a certain piece of gear that you once found missing?
- Is it to actively participate in discussion and training with your company during drills?
- Maybe it is to pursue training beyond the required minimums.

*(Continued on page 5)*



# EVERYONE GOES HOME (Continued from page 4)

Consider some of these examples:

- When you conduct a fire inspection and find profoundly unsafe conditions, share them so that we all become aware of the situation; that is one type of accountability.
- When you tell a story about a call with the purpose of helping others not make the same mistake that you made. Perhaps you may have done something unsafe and either escaped with minor injuries or no injuries, but learned a valuable lesson.
- When you find something wrong with a policy, an apparatus or training, do you advocate for change?

Let's break this down a little bit. The **health accountability** piece asks that each of us does our best to maintain our fitness. You may be someone who enjoys working out on duty, or maybe your fitness routine is one that you pursue while away from the firehouse. Your fitness routine will likely look different depending on your age. But have you made the commitment to yourself, your family, and your fellow firefighters to pursue some type of fitness routine?

The **safety piece** can be reinforced by many actions. A great way to increase our experience is to discuss a recent fire and After Action Report. Do you share your observations and concerns with leadership in a constructive way, or maybe share your mistakes with junior personnel as mentoring advice? What do you pass down to your relief? Who is responsible for the rig check? Just the driver? Are you humble enough to practice skills that you might initially struggle with, such as rigging or pump operations? When I work out of house, I always check over the truck in greater detail. I owe it to myself and the crew to be prepared.

You don't have to be on the safety committee to care about safety. You just have to be committed to your craft and share the value that **Everyone Goes Home**.



# STRATEGIC PLANNING

by MJ VanGompel, Management Analyst

Congratulations to those who applied and have been selected to participate in the upcoming Oshkosh Fire Department Strategic Planning sessions which will be held on November 10, 11, and 12th at the Oshkosh Senior Center.

- Lt. Mike Bryan
- Lt. Jim Gentry
- Lt. Drew Jaeger
- EO Bret Krajnik
- EO Steven Kraus
- EO Mike Stephens
- EMS Coordinator Ryan Homman
- Fire Fighter/Paramedics
  - Kyle Christiansen
  - Paul Friday
  - Andrew Knoll
  - Kevin Putzer
  - Matt Sommerfeldt
  - Mike Wos

If for some reason the individuals above are not able to participate, the alternates Nick Ruzek and Adam Van Daalwyk have been selected to fill the vacancy. In addition, the Command Staff, chief officers and Medical Director will be in attendance.

The three all day sessions will be facilitated by the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE). The output of our meetings will be a dynamic guide that we will use to help us achieve our goal of this future vision. The bulk of the work will then begin.

Not only are we seeking feedback from our internal members, we are soliciting feedback from key stakeholders in the community. A 1-1/2 hour facilitated session will take place on Tuesday, November 9 for various community members. Invitations have been extended to:

- community groups that we collaborate with (i.e., ADRC);
- external partners that we serve such as the Village of Omro and Winneconne;
- other fire departments such as Fox Crossing;
- internal department partners;
- city leadership and DEI committee members;
- community leaders from UWO, the school district and local businesses.

OFD leadership is committed to transparent communication and regular updates regarding the strategic planning efforts.





# **Get Your COVID-19 Vaccine at the Oshkosh Farmers Market**

**SEPTEMBER 25  
OCTOBER 16, 23, 30**



**TIME COMMUNITY THEATER  
445 N. MAIN STREET**

**8AM - NOON  
NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED**

**Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines.  
(All vaccines subject to availability.)**

**Available to ANYONE 12 years and older.  
(Parent/guardian required if under 18.)**

**[www.wcvaccine.org](http://www.wcvaccine.org)  
920-232-3026**



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Winnebago County  
Health Department**

# KITCHEN TABLE TRAINING

by Fire Lieutenant Instructor Jason Shikoski

When you think about the most important person on the fire ground, who do you think of?

This question is really tough to answer because we all play a vital role in the successful termination of an emergency scene.

There are a few roles that may stand out in your mind. An argument may be made for the Incident Commander who is running the whole operation. Or, how about the first due company and their tactics (so goes the first line, so goes the fire), but RIC, EMS, Vent Teams etc. are critical too! So what is the correct answer? Are we forgetting anyone?



What if we had someone on scene that could answer the following questions on our arrival?

- Is the structure still occupied with any civilians?
- If someone is still inside? What room might they be in?
- Is the door to that room closed?
- What is the quickest way to the stairways?
- Do you know where the fire started or where you saw flames?
- Where is your electrical panel located?
- Are there any special hazards located in the structure?
- Does the structure have a basement?
- What is the construction type of the building?

Who might this important person be? **The Occupant/Home Owner/Maintenance Staff**

While the questions you could ask them could be endless, the point I'm trying to make is, if you arrive on scene and someone meets you at the road, use them to glean vital information about what is happening and where you might need to direct resources. Ten to fifteen seconds setting up at the beginning of an operation may prove to be vital to the outcome of the emergency. Don't forget to use the available resources at hand to quickly answer critical questions! Stay safe!



## SEPTEMBER 2021



737



101



176

## LET'S CONNECT

