

City of Oconto Fire & Rescue Department 2020 Annual Report



Proudly Serving the Communities We Protect
Since 1910

Our Mission

The City of Oconto Fire and Rescue Department is a public safety organization that provides fire, rescue, building inspections, and emergency services to its City, and Townships that it protects. We are committed to the preservation of life, property, and environment. Through education and public awareness programs, we enhance the quality of life for the Cities and Townships we proudly serve.



Chief's Message



On behalf of the members of the Oconto Fire Rescue Department, it is with a great sense of pride and accomplishment that I present to you the 2020 Annual Report for the Oconto Fire Rescue Department. The report provides an overview of the Department's accomplishments in 2020. The department responded to a total of 1,427 calls this year, the department's call volume has continued to grow over the course of the last six years.

During 2020, the Oconto Fire and Rescue Department was faced with new challenges and changes over the year. Even with these challenges and changes, we continued to provide the highest quality of emergency and non-emergency life safety services. We started out 2020 slightly different from any other year as the City of Oconto was faced with significant flooding. With the rise in the water elevation, there continued to be flooding from day to day throughout roughly the first three to four months of the year and dependent of the weather conditions throughout the remainder of the year. This day to day flooding took us right into the Nation Wide Pandemic of COVID-19. The staff here at Oconto Fire Rescue Department had to make considerable adjustments from our normal everyday occurrences for the Health, Well-being, and Safety of everyone we serve. Over the past year, our community involvement was limited due to practicing the social distancing guidelines. This was the first year in history that in October we were not able to attend the local schools for Fire Prevention Week. Oconto Fire Rescue Dept. improvised and made the first ever Fire Prevention Safety video that was sent out to the local schools which then was able to be sent out to all students via email from school. In the month of May and June we also had two personnel retire. Now in the midst of a Nation Wide Pandemic we had the opportunity to hire two new staff members. These staff members didn't hesitate, they jumped right in and continue to gain valuable and irreplaceable hands-on experiences. Throughout the year, our call volume continued to increase from past years and kept our staff very busy with day-to-day operations.

I would like to thank the Community, the City of Oconto Administrative Staff, the City Council members, the Police and Fire Commission, and the Oconto Fire Department Booster Club for their continued support throughout the year. Our staff and their families here at Oconto Fire Rescue Dept. continue to face many new challenges in 2020; we mitigated these challenges as a

team by working together and relying on each other. I am extremely proud of our staff for their sense of duty, integrity, and professionalism.

As an organization we pride ourselves on delivering first rate core services such as Fire Prevention Education, Fire Protection/Suppression, Code Enforcement, and Emergency Medical Services. This past year we also continued to make strides towards strengthening interdepartmental relations with other city departments, and working together. We had to make adjustments in our training presentation due to COVID-19, for ten months we had to perform virtual training in an attempt to stay efficient, effective, and consistent with our Firefighting and EMS skills. The staff at Oconto Fire Rescue Department continues to set new goals that will move us forward in a positive and unified direction. The attached report highlights our operation for the past year.

Sincerely,

Josh Bostedt

Chief Josh Bostedt

PERSONNEL

The Oconto Fire & Rescue Department is a combination department consisting of one Chief, seven fulltime members, and fifteen paid-on-call employees. The advantages of an all career department include immediate response to emergencies and the ability to deliver other essential services to the community. In combination fire & rescue departments, a limited full-time staff is on duty around the clock. The staff quickly responds to emergencies and provides training, inspections, public education, maintenance and other community-related services between alarms. The paid-on-call members must achieve state firefighter certification, attend regularly scheduled training sessions, and are called out to emergencies.

Active Firefighters:



Chief



Dep Chief/EMS Director



Captain



Lieutenant/Fire Instructor



Firefighter/AEMT



Firefighter/AEMT



Firefighter/EMT



Firefighter/EMT



Firefighter/AEMT/Rehab



Firefighter



FF/EMT/Fire Instructor



Firefighter/EMT



Aaron Johnson
August 2015

Firefighter



Dustin Ridings
September 2016

Firefighter/AEMT



Shawn Demuth
December 2016

Firefighter



Steve McFadden
January 2018

Firefighter/EMT



Merle Petersen
November 2018

Firefighter



Rebecca LeBreck
June 2018

Firefighter/EMT



Dan Cardinal
May 2019

Firefighter



Sash Hoagland
August 2019

Firefighter/EMT



Lara Nichols
August 2019

Firefighter/EMT



Amanda Schultz
August 2019

AEMT



Amanda Bornfleth
August 2019

Firefighter/EMT



Kassie Dufek
March 2020

Administrative Assistant

HONORING OUR RETIREES

By June 2020, we lost four staff members due to retirements. Their vacancies left a void in their individual areas of responsibilities, but we are confident to say we have filled these vacancies through promotional process that made this transition slightly easier. It is our hopes that Chief John W. Reed, Deputy Chief Craig A. Henry, Safety Officer Bob Bake and Administrative Staff member Deb Brennan enjoy their retirement. Thank you for all your years of service and dedication to the Oconto Fire Rescue Department and the City of Oconto.

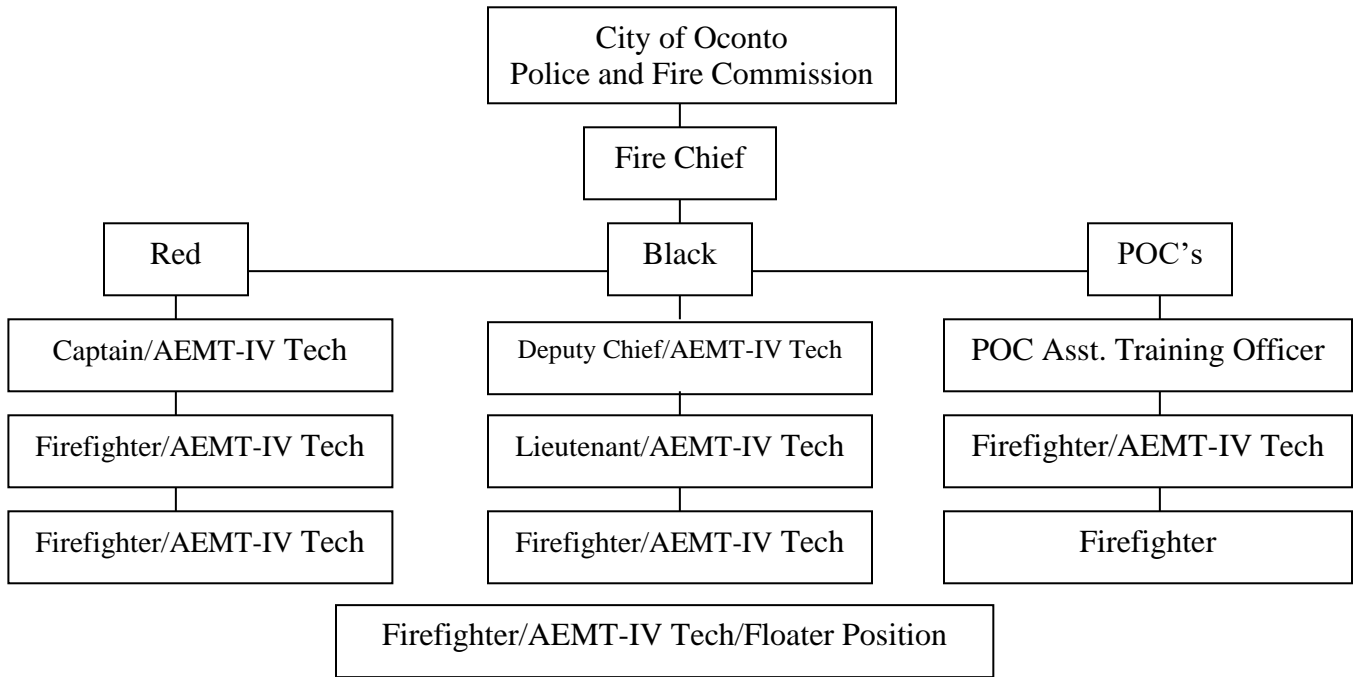


2020 BOARD OF POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSIONERS

- Russ Young, Commission President
- Cliff Martin, Commission Vice President
- Joe Watt, Commissioner
- Sheri Groll, Commissioner
- Bill Carriveau, Commissioner



**City of Oconto
Fire-Rescue Department**



2 Firefighter/AEMT-IV Technicians on-duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Licensure as an AEMT-IV; Intermediate Technician - personnel are qualified to initiate intravenous therapy and administer selected medications beyond the EMT-Basic level

Each full-time employee has assigned responsibilities, Fire Prevention/Public Education, Training Officer, Vehicle Maintenance, Emergency Medical Services, etc.

Floater position fills vacations/sick leave, etc. on either shift

15 Paid-on-call personnel

Oconto Police and Fire Commission has Optional Powers



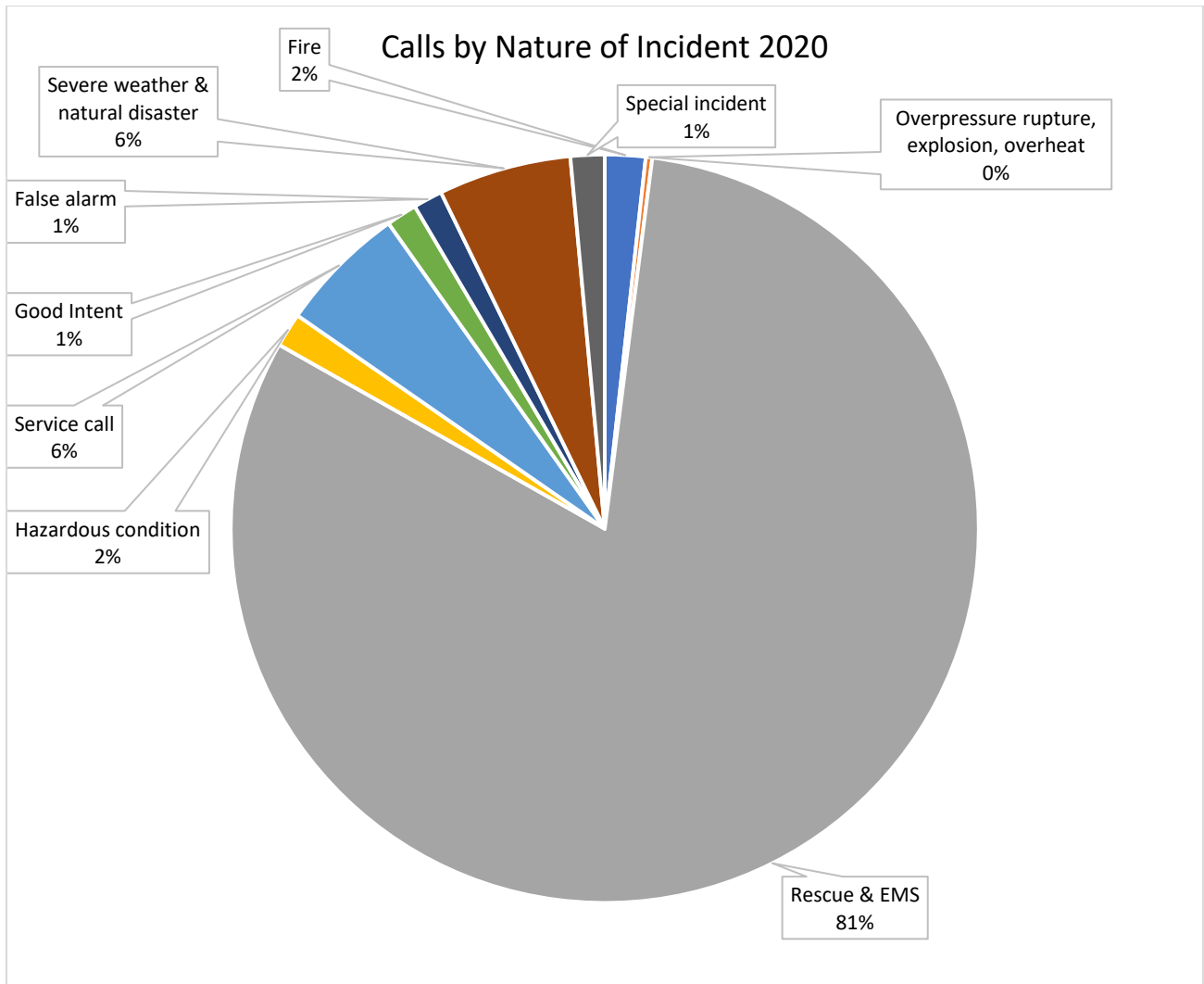
Calls by Nature of Incident – 2020

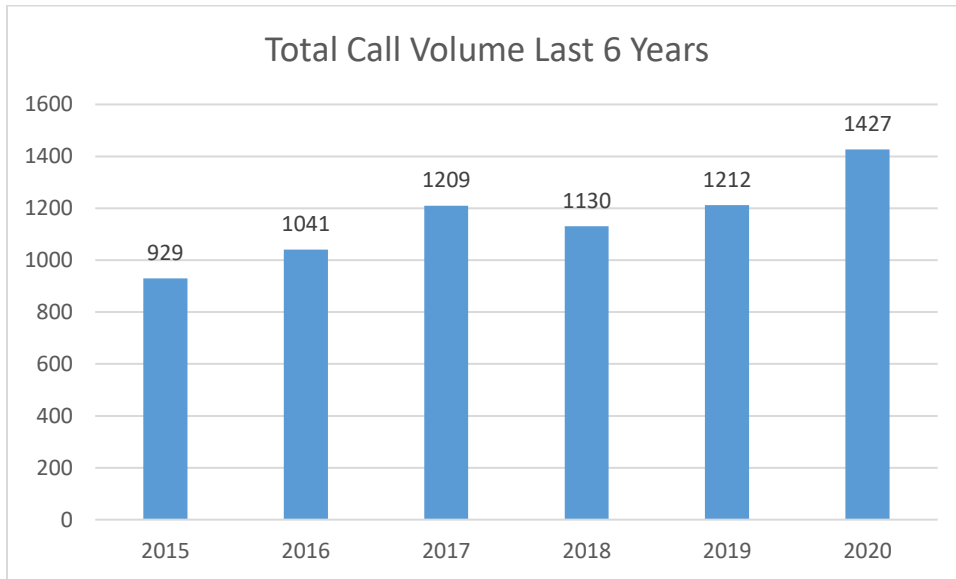
FIRES	
Building Fire	10
Cooking fire, confined to container	1
Trash or rubbish fire, contained	1
Passenger vehicle fire	3
Off-road vehicle or heavy equipment fire	1
Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire	3
Outside rubbish, trash or waste fire	1
Dumpster or other outside trash receptacle fire	3
Outside equipment fire	1
Cultivated grain or crop fire	1
OVERPRESSURE RUPTURE, EXPLOSION, OVERHEAT (NO FIRE)	
Air or gas rupture of pressure or process vessel	1
Excessive heat, scorch burns with no ignition	3
RESCUE & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE INCIDENT	
Medical assist, assist EMS crew	7
EMS call, excluding vehicle accident	12
Motor vehicle accident with injuries	9
Motor vehicle accident with no injuries	2
Watercraft Rescue	1
Emergency Medical Incidents	1127
HAZARDOUS CONDITION (NO FIRE)	
Gasoline or other flammable liquid spill	1
Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	6
Chemical hazard (no spill or leak)	1
Carbon monoxide incident	3
Heat from short circuit (wiring), defective/worn	1
Breakdown of light ballast	1
Power line down	4
Vehicle accident, general cleanup	4
SERVICE CALL	
Lock-out	1
Smoke or odor removal	1
Assist police or other governmental agency	4
Police matter	2
Public service	64
Unauthorized burning	6
Cover assignment, standby, move up	1
GOOD INTENT CALL	
Dispatched & cancelled in route	4
No incident found on arrival at dispatch address	5
Authorized controlled burning	5
Smoke scare, odor of smoke	1
Hazmat release investigation with no hazmat	4
FALSE ALARM & FALSE CALL	
Local alarm system, malicious false alarm	2
Smoke detector activation due to malfunction	3
Heat detector activation due to malfunction	1

Carbon Monoxide detector activation due to malfunction	5
Smoke detector activation, no fire – unintentional	3
Alarm system activation, no fire – unintentional	3
Carbon monoxide detector activation, no carbon monoxide	1
SEVERE WEATHER & NATURAL DISASTER	
Flood assessment	82
SPECIAL INCIDENT	
Public relations	16
Public education	2
Citizen complaint	3

Total

1,427





EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES



The EMS Director is responsible for maintaining and improving EMS readiness and performance. This is accomplished through the application of quality assurance techniques, delivering frequent training intervals, ensuring licensing and credentials, and maintaining emergency equipment and supplies. As the EMS liaison, he also maintains good working relationships with area hospitals, training centers and other EMS agencies and attends external meetings regularly.



As part of the Oconto Fire-Rescue Department (OFRD), the City of Oconto Ambulance Service constantly seeks ways to improve the care it provides to the Oconto area. The EMS profession continues to evolve from its roots of a simple transportation service to a complete health and wellness prevention and treatment system. Recent advances for Oconto Ambulance include:

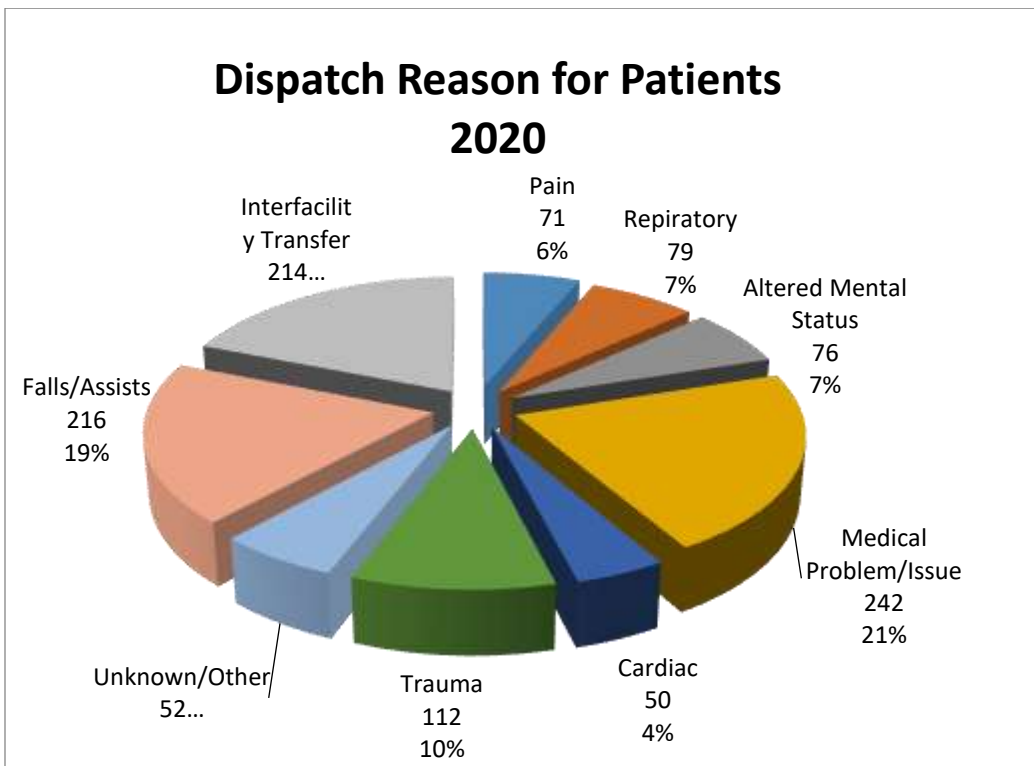
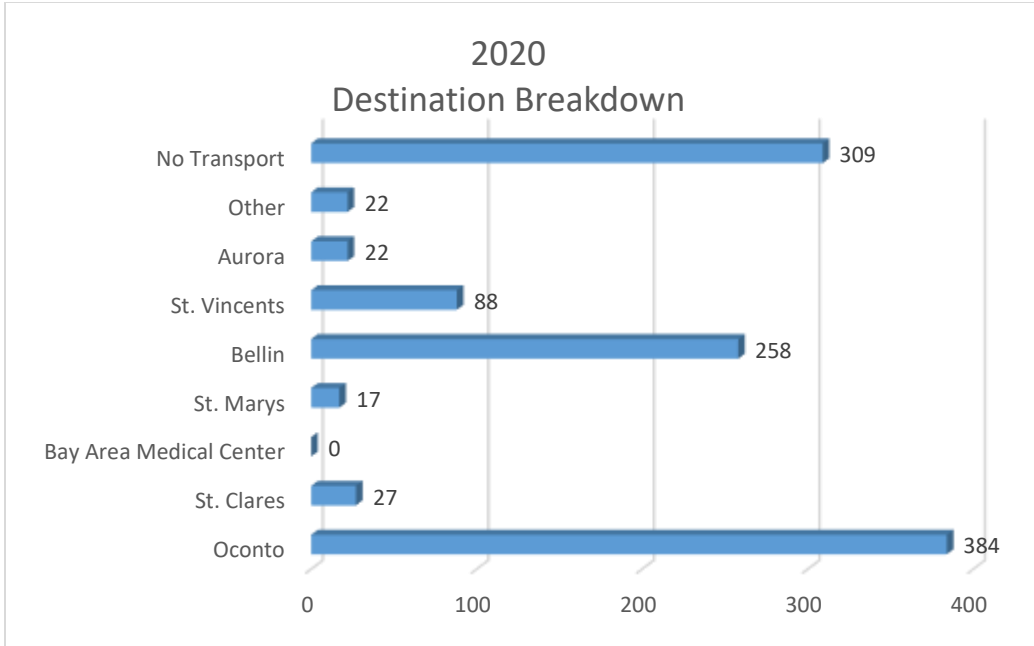
- All members that are cross trained in EMS successfully renewed their State of Wisconsin EMS License by completing the needed continuing education via in house training or attending classes/conferences outside of the department.
- Continue to develop/improve preplans for larger events (Miles for Madysen, Lincoln James Breath of Color Run, Copperfest, Airport Fly-in, etc.) that may take place in OFRD’s response area. OFRD attends and/or provides EMS and fire protection for

numerous events throughout the year. By developing preplans not only does OFRD personnel know how to respond to an incident but also shares that information with all other agencies that may be also responding.

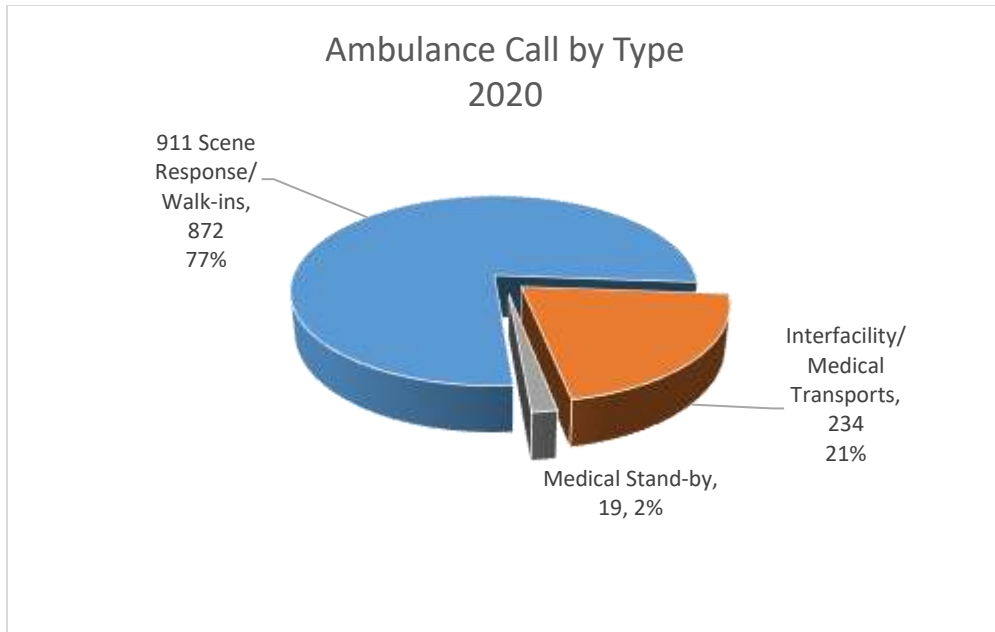
- Received 2 Lucas Chest Compression Devices through a COVID-19 Grant. These devices not only minimize interruptions in compressions increasing patient's survival rate but limits responder exposure to possible infectious diseases.
- Received a new Stryker Power cot with the purchase of our new ambulance. The cot is battery powered and can safely raise and lower a patient (up to 700lbs) with the push of a button. With the cot doing the lifting it will greatly reduce the chances of potential back injuries of staff.
- RTAC (Regional Trauma Advisory Council) and the Oconto Bond Foundation donated money to the Oconto County EMS Council to obtain several Rescue Task Force Tactical Vests, some outfitted with ballistic plates that are rated for rifle rounds along with helmets. They will be then distributed throughout agencies with in the county. So they can be used when responding to any active intruder type calls.

Future efforts continue to expand on service and total patient care in and out of the emergency setting:

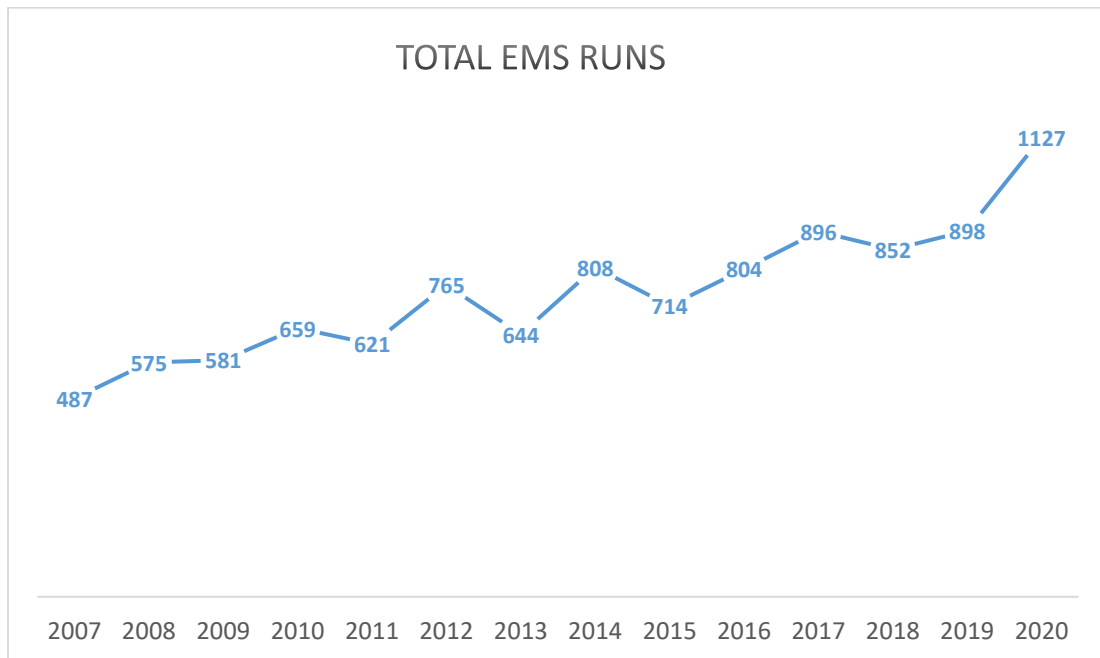
- The department is very active in regional response planning to active intruders, disasters and pandemics. Additional training/planning in these areas will continue well into 2021.
- Great working relationships with area agencies and hospitals continue to improve our ability to provide extraordinary care. We continue to improve our working relationship with Bellin Health Oconto Hospital and HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital through different training and meetings.



✿ The department responded to 25 possible Pulseless Non-Breathing patients in 2020. Of those 25, 10 were deceased upon arrival, 3 had a return of spontaneous circulation (a pulse) prior to EMS arrival on scene, and 12 others received CPR and advanced resuscitation techniques and were transported to a hospital. Two of those patients had a return of spontaneous circulation (a pulse). The other ten deceased despite all efforts of OFRD and hospital staff.



- ✦ 15 patients were offered the free “Fall Prevention Program” sponsored by the Oconto Commission on Aging. The program involves a free phone interview followed by a home visit from a local registered nurse with specialized training in preventing injuries from falling. 7 of those patients accepted the department’s referral and benefitted from this program. Since the department began the program in 2012, over 186 people have been offered the program.





School Fire Prevention and Life Safety Education Program

This past year due to COVID-19 restrictions, the department was involved in only eight in person activities within the schools and community. We still had the privilege of meeting and talking to several children and adults. During these meetings we share the latest and most innovative techniques for not only surviving a fire, but also give them the knowledge and skill set to prevent those fires from ever happening. In lieu of not being able to go into the schools for Fire Prevention Week, Oconto Fire Rescue Department delivered the fire safety booklets to the school. The school distributed the age appropriate material to the teachers to give to the children. Oconto Fire Rescue Department also made a safety prevention video that was emailed to all students within the district and placed on YouTube.

In 2018, the Oconto Fire Rescue Department and Oconto Police Department teamed up with RTAC to teach train the trainer classes for Stop the Bleed. After the trainer classes, the Departments started to educate the residents in How to Stop the Bleed, CPR, and how to interact with a police officer. These programs inform the public, the importance of what to do in the event he or she comes across someone who is injured and bleeding. In order for someone to survive, bleeding must be controlled. The stop the bleed teaches how to do just that with the use of direct pressure, packing the wound, or even the use of a tourniquet. The CPR portion teaches how to do CPR. This is not a certification class but a general knowledge. Lastly, Oconto Police talk about interacting with the police whether it's a complaint or traffic stop. This information is for the officer's safety along with the public's safety. In 2020, Oconto Fire Rescue department did not host any of these training classes to the public due to the COVID-19 restriction. We look forward to going back to in person training in 2021.

The department had the only juvenile fire setter program in the county. However, with the retirement of Deputy Chief Craig Henry, we currently no longer offer that program. This program allows us to educate troubled youths, in hopes of preventing them from wanting to start fires. The department receives referrals through the county and schools. Oconto is currently researching upcoming, Youth Fire Setting classes to send two full time members to in order to restart this program in 2021.

Fire Training

Learning within the fire service is a career long commitment, and the training division supports this by administering continuing education to further the skills and abilities, as the role of the firefighter continues to evolve.

For Firefighters to start their career at the Oconto Fire and Rescue Department, they must successfully complete a total of 112 Hours of Firefighter training through the Northeast Wisconsin Technical College.

They must complete:

- 60hrs of Firefighter- Entry Level Part A & B
- 36hrs of Firefighter Level 1 Part C
- 16hrs of Hazardous Material Operations

Once they complete this training and are hired on at Oconto Fire and Rescue Department, they must stay up-to-date with the ever evolving training techniques. To accomplish this, Oconto Fire and Rescue Personnel are expected too:

- Attend our in-house trainings that are twice a month, each training lasting three hours
- Perform the daily training, each week is a specific topic
 - 26 weeks of a fire related topic
 - 26 weeks of a EMS related topic

Along with the in-house continuing education, our team together strives to make OFRD better and expand on our knowledge by pursuing other NWTC courses. The courses listed below show the number of personnel that have successfully completed and became State Certified in these areas over the years:

- 22 members State Certified Firefighter 1
- 16 members are Certified Incident Safety Officers
- 18 members State Certified Firefighter 2
- 15 members State Certified Driver/Operator - Pumper
- 15 members State Certified Driver/Operator – Aerial
- 8 members State Certified Fire Officer 1
- 8 members State Certified Emergency Service Instructor 1
- 6 members State Certified Fire Inspector
- 1 member State Certified Emergency Service Instructor 2
- 1 member State Certified Emergency Service Instructor 3
- 2 IAAI F.I.T. Certified Fire Investigators
(International Association Arson Investigators, Fire Investigation Technician)
- 15 members Certified through WI DNR's ATV Course
- 22 members Certified in Time Incident Management Emergencies (TIME)

Oconto Fire Rescue Department personnel continued their education throughout the year and will continue additional trainings in 2021.

Grants

This year Oconto Fire Rescue Department obtained three new pieces of medical equipment through federal grants as well as fire equipment through the WI DNR grant. Oconto was approved for the FEMA Firefighter Assistance Grant for \$89,908.34 to purchase three new Zoll X Series Defibrillator/Monitors. Associated with any FEMA grant is a 5% cost sharing portion that the department was responsible for, that amount was \$4,495.42. Stephenson National Bank assisted with the cost share portion by granting the department \$1,000. A FEMA Firefighter Assistance COVID-19 Grant was offered this year to help recover the cost of personal protective equipment such as masks, gloves, gowns, and disinfectant solutions. Through this grant Oconto

was approved for \$7,268.40 to purchase the above listed safety equipment. The City of Oconto itself received additional funds to help offset the cost of new safety measures to lessen person to person contact through the Care’s Act Program. Oconto Ambulance was able to secure two Lucas Automated CPR Devices with the Care’s Act Funds for the amount of \$36,935.90.

The Wisconsin DNR Grant was approved for two portable radios and a foam nozzle for the Brush Truck in the amount of \$3,948.93. The WI DNR Grant has a 50% cost share program, which makes the department responsible for paying \$3,948.93 for the equipment.

Overall total awarded grant funds for Oconto Fire Department for 2020, was \$139,061.57 with a cost share amount of \$8,807.77. Oconto Fire Rescue Department plans on applying for additional grants to assist in offsetting the cost of the future needed equipment.

Zoll X Series D-Fib



Lucas Automated CPR Device



Portable Radio



Air Quality Management



Firefighters are exposed to several toxic gases in a fire as a result of building materials, furniture, and other contents in homes being made of synthetic materials. It is important our personnel keep themselves safe in a fire by wearing the proper gear or PPE (personal protective equipment) along with our self-contained breathing apparatus or SCBA.

The SCBA helps to keep a firefighter safe by giving them clean air to breathe instead of inhaling all the toxic gases produced by a fire. The SCBA has several life safety components that assist us in the event of a fire. The first component is our integrated PASS device or Personal Alert Safety System. The PASS is a motion sensor alarm that comes on when you turn on the SCBA, and if a firefighter does not move while wearing the SCBA for 15 seconds, the alarm will sound. This alarm then alerts us that a fellow firefighter has become motionless and can help to lead us to them if they are truly in danger or unresponsive. Another component of the SCBA is the HUD or Heads-Up Display which includes lights integrated into the air hose that leads to the face piece displaying how much air is left in the SCBA air bottle. Lastly, the biggest safety component of a SCBA is the air bottle itself. This year we received all new air bottles to put into our SCBAs. Over a certain period of time air bottles need to be taken out of service and replaced with new ones to ensure proper functionality.

Along with ensuring the air that we breathe is safe, monitoring of toxic gases is imperative at any fire scene. We are in the process of purchasing additional gas detection meters to keep on

our three main first-out rigs for fire incidents. Typically, a fire engine will carry what is called a four-gas meter, which reads for oxygen, hydrogen sulfide, carbon monoxide, and LEL (lower explosive limit). The LEL is the lowest concentration of a combustible gas that will burn in air and is measured as a percentage. Hydrogen sulfide is a common gas that can be found at a fire scene as a product of combustion. Carbon monoxide can be given off by several appliances in a residence including the furnace, stove, and water heater. Our meters read carbon monoxide in parts per million, or PPM, so if we are picking up 35 PPM of CO at a house where the CO alarm was going off, that would make 35 out of 1,000,000 particles in the air carbon monoxide. Carbon Monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas, so keeping your CO alarms up to date is very important. Without detection equipment, CO is nearly impossible to discover, and patients may not be aware that they potentially have CO poisoning if their detectors are not up to date.

This year we purchased three CO detectors that are strapped to our ambulance cots. When these are brought into a residence, they can help protect our responders and the occupants by detecting levels of CO. The symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include weakness, dizziness, headache, upset stomach, vomiting, and confusion. If someone calls for an ambulance with these symptoms, they may not know that they have been exposed to carbon monoxide if their detectors are not working properly, but our CO cot monitors will be able to detect the CO, and we can remove the patient from that environment to a safe area.



Public Education

Some may believe that firefighters sit around waiting for the opportunity to run into a burning building. On the contrary, we would rather help prevent fires than to put them out. This is where our public education comes in.

Throughout the year we help out with as many events in the community as we can. This is where we can talk to individuals one on one about making their homes safer for them and their families. We encourage all to take a more active role in safety in all their day to day activities. Unfortunately, due to most events being shut down this year because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, we were only able to participate in a fraction of events compared to most years.

The year started off with the Candle Light Walk in February 2020. Then the pandemic hit. As we got further into the year and some of the mandated restrictions were lifted, we were able to participate in some events. During August, we were able to help out with Miles for Madysen and the Lincoln James Breath of Life Color Run. In September, we were fortunate enough to kick off the school year as we were at the cross walks by the elementary school. Later in the month we had the annual Fly In and Harvest Festival. October came and brought all the funny and scary creatures running our streets on Halloween night. The fire department assisted the police department in passing out hot dogs, hot cocoa, and candy.

Another way we are able to help families in our community is through voluntary home fire inspections. Here we are able to help point out potential hazards in the home environment and discuss how we can improve on the safety of their homes.

For the year of 2020, the American Red Cross donated 60 smoke detectors to Oconto Fire and Rescue. In the interest of safety for our residents, Oconto Fire and Rescue installed these smoke detectors in homes throughout our community. As we installed these detectors, we were able to have positive interactions with many families as we were able to discuss fire safety.

In the year 2021, we hope to get back to some normalcy and attend many more events like we always have in the past. We are also hoping to get more smoke detectors that we can install in the homes of our neighborhoods.

Apparatus and Equipment



The goals of the apparatus & equipment program include managing all the aspects of our building, vehicles, & equipment. Managing this includes maintenance, repair and implementation of new equipment. This includes managing and scheduling all maintenance and repairs for both building and apparatus. The program also contributes to the development of OFRD Standard Operating Guidelines for emergency scene operations. 2020 has been a busy year not only with the COVID-19 pressures but our overall call volume has increased incredibly. It is not uncommon for more than 1 call to be happening at the same time so the vehicle dependability is even more important. State yearly test are required each year on the engine pumps, ladders, jaws and all the hose in the station must be pressure tested. Scheduling is a challenging task with the increased call volumes.

All of our units are labeled with a name and number to help dispatch identify us when we are on scene. On occasion we do have multiple incidents happening at the same time so it is vital to our crew and dispatch to be able to properly identify which units are where. The first 2 numbers (10) means Oconto, 3rd number (1) means station 1 and the last number is the unit number.

For example, A1011 is our first out Ambulance. We have 2 Rescue trucks, one is R1011 and the other is R1012.

Ambulances

Ambulance 1011-Chevy Duramax 2012, 1st out and transfer unit

Ambulance 1012-Chevy Duramax 2013, second out ambulance on all EMS calls.

Ambulance 1013-Ford F450 2020, the newest unit and newest look. Oconto Rescues 1st 4x4, it is used currently as the last out unit or used during poor weather conditions to preserve the life of the unit.

A1013



A1011



A1012



Fire Apparatus

Engine 1011 – 1998 Luverne, 1250gpm/1000gal tank, seats four. This engine is the first truck out on all fires. It responds to both city and township fires and is also used in mutual aid calls outside our coverage areas.





Engine 1012 – 2002 KME Rescue Pumper, 1500gpm/750 gal tank, seats 4 personnel. This engine is our rescue operations engine. This truck has our jaws equipment and scene safety equipment for managing traffic accidents. This truck also has RIT equipment for recovering down firefighters in a MAYDAY situation.



Ladder 1011 – 1995 E-One 95’ platform truck, 1500gpm/400gal tank, seats four. This truck responds to all city fires and to fires outside the city if the situation allows for it safely. The truck is used to access roofs and hard to reach places from the ground. The aerial is equipped with a platform which can be used in roof or window rescue operations. It is also capable of applying large amounts of water to any major structure fire.



Water Tender 1011 – 1999 Freightliner, 2000 gallon tank. This unit is used to transport water to all of the areas where there are no hydrants. The truck is filled with the nearest hydrant or is filled by the portable pump from a water source such as a pond or a river.



Rescue 1011 – 1997 Chevy 3500 4x4. This unit is loaded for rescue. We have it equipped with all of our rescue tools for vehicle rescues. The tools range from wet suits and ropes for cold water rescue to Jaws equipment for vehicle rescues. We use this truck for scene lighting for any scene we may need the extra light as well.



Command 1011 – 2008 Chevy Silverado 4x4. This truck is multi-purpose. It is used to attend seminars and at fire scenes we will load it with equipment to bring back to the station for cleaning. The Chief also uses this vehicle to respond to incidents and it is set up for a command center.

Special Operations Equipment



Rescue 1012 – 2002 Humvee was donated by the Oconto County Sheriff Department and refaced to add to our special incident response. This vehicle is offered and could be used throughout the county for all types of incidents. It is a brush fire apparatus and special rescue vehicle in summer months, ice and water rescue response vehicle in winter and cold months and is set up to be a quick change vehicle to accommodate any other type of response it may need to go to. MCI. (Mass Casualty Incidents), Incident Command, Special Rescue and Search and Rescue to name a few.

Boat I – 2003 Zodiac 14’, 40hp mercury motor. This boat is used for all water rescues on the bay and river.



Six Wheeler – 2006 Polaris Ranger. This UTV is used to assist in ice rescues, hunting accidents, snowmobile rescues, and wild land fires. The UTV has a skid unit with 50 gals of water and a pump along with a long board and stokes basket for patient rescue. The 6 wheel design will handle some of the roughest terrain in our area and is able to tackle the snow conditions common with Wisconsin weather.

Radio Equipment

The life safety of both firefighters and citizens depends on reliable, functional communication tools that work in the harshest and most hostile of environments. Firefighters operate in extreme environments that are markedly different from those of any other radio users. Firefighters operate lying on the floor, in zero visibility, high heat, high moisture, and while wearing self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) face pieces that distort the voice. They are challenged further by bulky safety equipment, particularly gloves, which eliminate the manual dexterity required to operate portable radio controls. Firefighters operate inside structures of varying sizes and construction types. The size and construction type of the building have a direct impact on the ability of a radio wave to penetrate the structure. All of these factors must be considered in order to communicate in a safe and effective manner on the fire ground. Radio system manufacturers have designed and developed radio systems that meet the needs of the majority of users in the marketplace. The fire service is a small part of the public safety communications market and an even smaller part of the overall communications market.



The fire service operates in a staged state with resources located in fire stations. Calls are dispatched to specific units based on their location in relation to the incident. When more than one unit responds to an incident, an on scene Command structure is established to coordinate fire attack, provide safety and accountability, and manage resources. The units assigned to these incidents work for the local Incident Commander (IC), who is the focal point of communications on the fire ground. Radio communications on all incidents, be it medical or fire, are of utmost importance and are what make for a smooth working incident.



Pre Incident Planning

A method that Oconto Fire & Rescue uses to conduct fire safety and prevention in the community is called pre-planning. Pre-Plans are documents put together by the fire department to understand critical points of a building, access points to the building, location of hazardous materials, building construction type, water sources, and many other crucial items.

Pre-planning businesses in the City of Oconto

Pre-planning is conducted on local businesses within the city. Pre-plans are completed with the most up to date information that was gathered when visiting the business. The information from the site visit is then transferred to a computer program at Oconto Fire Rescue. Information is then placed on a satellite picture of the business which can then be accessed quickly while on the way to an emergency or incident at the given location. All completed pre-plans are located within the first responding units (Engines and Ambulances) at Oconto Fire Rescue Department.

Pre-Fire Survey

Emergency Contact Information	1. Occ. Name: <u>Oconto Elementary School</u>
	2. Address: <u>810 Scherer Ave</u>
	3. Occ. Type: <u>Educational</u>
	4. Cross St: <u>7th Street & Dodge Street</u>



Necessary Fire Flow 25% 6419 GPM 50% 12837 GPM 75% 19256 GPM 100% 25674 GPM	
Sprinkler: FDC Location None	Haz. Materials None
Stairwells: FDC Location None	Best Access Main Entrance on East side of Building - Knox Box on left pillar by doors
Boq. Ht. x Stories: z	Blkg Area - 77002 total sq. ft.

Roof Construction - Heavy Timber in common areas / Unprotected Steel the rest of Building



Typically, pre-plans are not completed for personal residences. If you feel you have important information that Oconto Fire Rescue may need during an emergency situation, please contact Oconto Fire Rescue. We will follow up with you to determine if information of plans need to be obtained.

Fire Prevention Inspections & Code Enforcement

The goals of the Oconto Fire & Rescue Department’s Fire Prevention & Life Safety Education Programs are to provide the citizens of Oconto and surrounding townships with protection against loss of life and property by fire through:

- Fire safety inspections of all commercial, multi-family residential, health care, church, and school buildings.
- Life safety inspections of state licensed care and daycare facilities.
- Review of building fire alarm, sprinkler, and life safety system plans for all new construction and renovations to ensure compliance with fire code requirements.
- Site plan review for fire department access and life safety issues.
- Acceptance testing of all new or modified fire alarm, and life safety systems.
- Maintenance of the Knox Box program, which controls emergency access to buildings and other secured areas for fire and rescue operations.
- Permitting and inspection of regulated activities defined in the fire code.
- Investigation of citizen complaints of potential fire code violations.
- Life safety patrols of large events held in assembly occupancies

Our fire prevention program includes the semi-annual inspections of all businesses in our response area. All fire departments in the state are required to conduct semi-annual inspections

of all businesses. By conducting these inspections, we are getting to know more about our neighbors. The Oconto Fire Rescue Department is also trying to help our businesses be more safety conscious. We are a new set of eyes. We conducted 450 inspections of businesses.

2020 OCONTO FIRE & RESCUE HIGHLIGHTS

- The Oconto Fire & Rescue Department continued an agreement with the Oconto County Human Health & Service Division to be a partner in the installation of car seats here at the department for children of all ages. Due to the retirement of Deputy Chief Henry, in 2021 two full time members will be taking the car seat installation course to continue this program.
- We were unable to hold our annual Bicycle rodeo for Oconto youth this year due to the COVID-19 restrictions.
- Continued our partnership with the County in providing a fall referral program for anyone who has sustained injury from a fall.
- We were able to raise \$1,917.84 for MDA during our 2020 “Fill-The Boot Program” here in the City of Oconto. This year was a little different due to COVID-19 and the department had an online drive and a stationary boot at Thompson’s County Market and Wagner Shell. Our grand total for 13 years is \$39,961.02
- Firefighters made Halloween a little different this year and stayed in to assist the Police with handing out hot dogs, apple cider and of course candy.
- The department continued its “Back to School Drive Safe Program” where fire apparatus was taken out to various locations throughout the school zones.
- The building inspecting department was reassessed by the (ISO) Insurance Service Office. We were able to lower our rating to a 4 which is substantially lower than in the past. This helps improve insurance ratings through mitigating loss of property damage.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I get a copy of a Fire or Medical Report?

Call the Fire Department at 920-834-7775, during our regular business hours of 7:00AM-5:00PM Monday through Thursday, for proper procedure to obtain report.

What does the Fire Protection Fee mean on my water bill?

This fee has nothing to do with the fire department. This fee is what the utility department charges for maintaining the fire hydrants within the City. It is sometimes mistaken for an additional fee to pay for the fire department. This is not the case.

What is a “Knox Box” & where can I obtain one?

A Knox Box is a secured locked box that is placed on the front of a building/house and contains keys to the building or residence. The fire department keeps a key that opens the Knox Box locked and secured on their vehicles. This allows the fire department easy access to a home or business even when the building may be secured, i.e. after hours or when occupants have limited mobility. Information to purchase a “Knox Box” can be obtained by calling the Oconto Fire & Rescue Department at 920-834-7775.

If my Carbon Monoxide detector activates, what should I do?

Carbon Monoxide (ALSO KNOWN AS THE SILENT KILLER) is a colorless/odorless gas that is created by the incomplete combustion of carbon based fuels. It also connects to blood cells at a rate of 200 times faster than oxygen. It is recommended that you install a Carbon Monoxide detector on each level of your home and if a detector activates, call 911 and leave your home. The fire & rescue department will come to your home and check the level of Carbon Monoxide (if any).

Why do firefighters cut holes in the roof and break windows of a building on fire?

This is called “VENTILATION”. There are two basic reasons for ventilating a structure. The first is, removal of dangerous gases, heat, and dark smoke that accumulate in a burning building reducing the visibility and greatly impeding rescue and firefighting efforts. Second, ventilation allows firefighters to relieve the structure of superheated gases and smoke which spread fire and contribute to dangerous situations like flashover and backdraft explosions.

When I call for the Ambulance will I be able to pick my hospital destination?

Absolutely! The patient always dictates where they will be transported. The only time a patient would not decide where they wanted to be transported is if they are unable to communicate verbally. In this case the ambulance will then take them to the hospital that they feel can best handle their emergency.