

City of Oconto Fire & Rescue Department 2021 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 2021 Annual Report for the Oconto Fire Rescue Department. This report provides an overview of the department's operations and achievements in 2021. The department's call volume has continued to grow over the course of the last six years, with a total of 1,584 calls responded to this past year. In spite of the challenges and changes that 2021 brought to our department, we continued to provide the highest quality of emergency and non-emergency life safety services.

One of the most significant challenges we face as a department is having adequate staffing to accommodate our rising call volume. Typically, the Oconto Fire Rescue Department is staffed daily with two full-time personnel and the Fire Chief. When the duty crew is out on an emergency and another emergency is reported at the 911 Dispatch Center, this call needs to be covered by staff responding from home. When the off-duty staff are paged to the additional call, they respond to the station to meet with other responding crew members and get the appropriate apparatus to respond to this emergency. Depending on who is available at the time of the call, and where that staff member lives, the response time to the station could be five minutes or more. After the emergency vehicle is staffed and able to respond to the call, the location of the caller adds additional response time. In some types of emergencies, the addition of even these few minutes of response time can change the outcome of the call.

To help mitigate this challenge and improve our service to the community, we set the goal in 2020 to add to our career staffing. We were fortunate to achieve this goal, in part, in 2021, with the addition of one more full-time member. This brought our total career staff to nine members, including the Fire Chief, which is the highest number in the entire history of the Oconto Fire Rescue Department. These nine personnel are cross trained as Firefighters/Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians (A-EMT's). This added position created the opportunity to occasionally have three personnel on a shift, as well as the Fire Chief. On those occasions, if the duty crew responded to an emergency that didn't have a need for three personnel, one member would remain at the station completing the daily duties. If a second call came in while the first crew was out, this third member and the Fire Chief could respond immediately, without any delay waiting for members to respond from home. This immediate response with the added staff greatly reduces the time delay, increasing the odds of a positive outcome for the patient.

Unfortunately, with the continued nationwide COVID-19 pandemic and the need for employees to quarantine due to illness, we didn't have many opportunities to have three people on a shift. We also had additional staff unable to work due to injury, and our ninth member was needed to fill in these shift vacancies. Although we weren't able to operate as a three-member crew as much as we had hoped, this extra member was beneficial in balancing out the staffing shortages and allowing us to maintain the high level of care that we provide to the citizens we serve.

In addition to our career staff, Oconto Fire Rescue Department is also supported by 17 Paid On-Call (POC) personnel that respond to emergencies when they are available. Our steadily growing call volume has made the need for these POC's to respond more crucial than ever. Our POC's are a dedicated group of staff willing to do anything they can, when they are available to respond. Unfortunately, all of our POC's have responsibilities to their own careers, which often reduces their availability to respond to 911 emergencies. Considering the past trends of increasing call volume, the projection of continued escalations in years to come (see included graphs), and the challenges presented by staffing shortages, it is the goal of the Oconto Fire Rescue Department to further expand our career staff to satisfy the growing needs of this community.

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 and teamwork within the City of Oconto. We were grateful in 2021 to be able to conduct in-person training, while maintaining COVID-19 precautions. This was a welcomed opportunity as it is difficult to stay efficient in teamwork and hands-on skills through virtual training alone. Both virtual and in-person training are essential in allowing us to stay efficient, effective, and consistent with our Firefighting and EMS skills.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the community, the Police and Fire Commission, the City of Oconto Administrative Staff, the City Council members, and the Oconto Fire Department Booster Club for their continued support throughout the year. Our staff and their families here at Oconto Fire Rescue Department faced many new challenges in 2021 and overcame these challenges as a team by working together and relying on each other. I am extremely proud of our staff for their sense of honor, duty, integrity, and professionalism. Without them, the Oconto Fire Rescue Department would not be able to continue setting and meeting new goals to move us forward in a positive and unified direction. We look forward to continuing to improve our service to the citizens of Oconto in 2022!

Sincerely,

Josh Bostedt

Chief Josh Bostedt

PERSONNEL

The Oconto Fire & Rescue Department is a combination department consisting of one Chief, seven fulltime members, and seventeen 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 Josh Bostedt
July 1999

Chief



Deputy Chief Ryan Pecha
May 2004

Deputy Chief/EMS
Director



Captain Travis Cain
August 2011

Captain



Lieutenant Tabitha Vando Voort
December 2016

Lieutenant of
Administration/Fire Instructor



Lieutenant John Floyd
April 2012

Lieutenant of Operations



Cody Henry
August 2012

Firefighter/AEMT



Gavin Kuerschner
July 2020

Firefighter/AEMT



Jeremy Demerath
January 2011

Firefighter/AEMT



Steve McFadden
January 2018

Firefighter/AEMT



Bert Hollander
July 1978

Firefighter/AEMT/Rehab



Mitchell McFadden
April 2006

Firefighter/Crew Leader



Matt Hoffman
August 2011

FF/EMT/Crew Leader



Brandon Madson
August 2015

FF/EMT/Crew Leader



Aaron Johnson
August 2015

Firefighter/Crew Leader



Dustin Ridings
September 2016

FF/AEMT/Crew Leader



Shawn Demuth
December 2016

Firefighter/Crew Leader



Merle Petersen
November 2018

Firefighter



Rebecca LaBreck
June 2018

Firefighter/EMT



Dan Cardinal
May 2019

Firefighter/EMT



Lara Nichols
August 2019

Firefighter/EMT



Amanda Schultz
August 2019

AEMT



Amanda Bornfleth
August 2019

EMT



Stephanie Heyrman
January 2021

EMT



Mitchell Dakins
August 2015

Firefighter



Barry McClure
July 2021

Firefighter/EMT



Sash Hoagland
August 2019

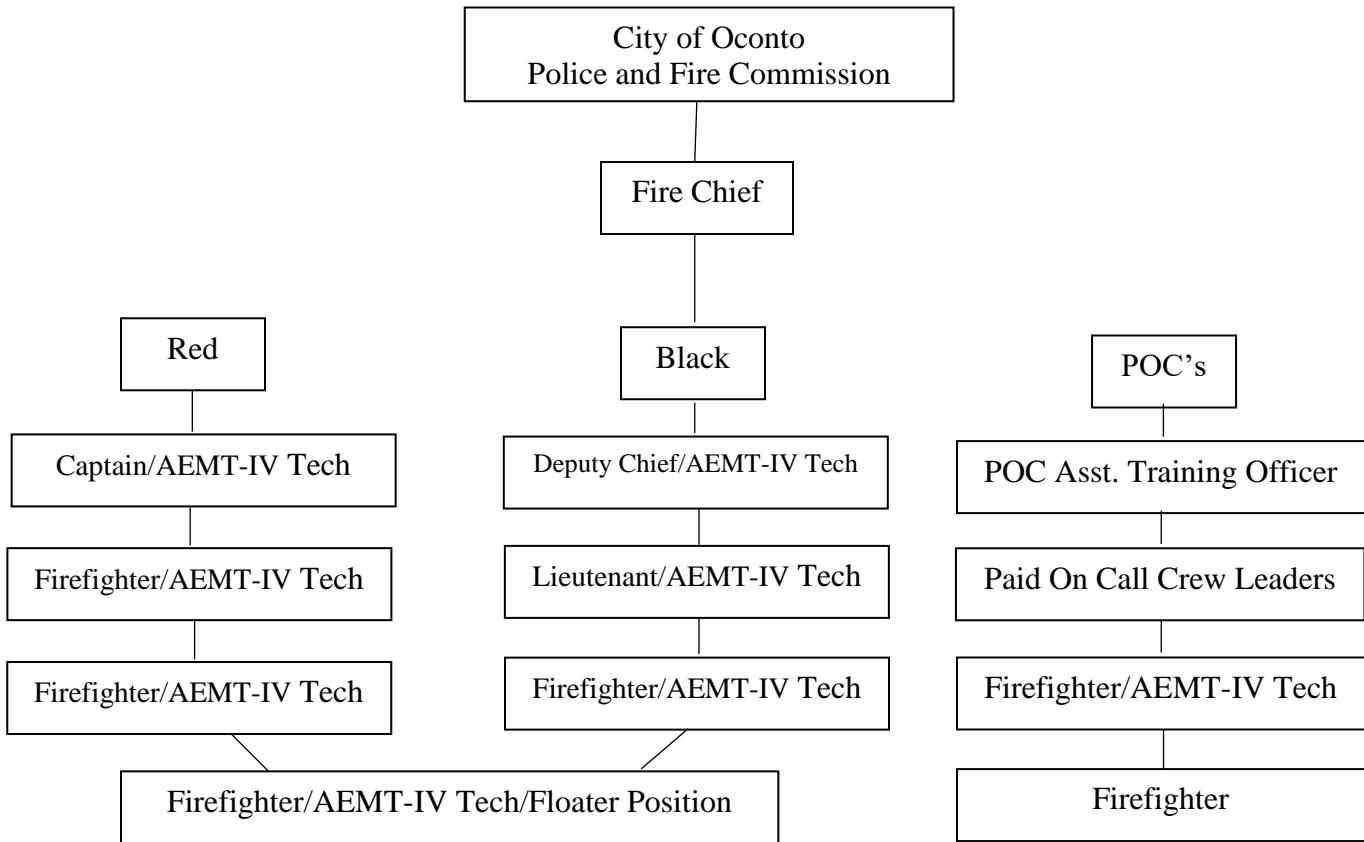
Firefighter/EMT

2021 BOARD OF POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSIONERS

CLIFF MARTIN, COMMISSION PRESIDENT
BILL CARRIVEAU, COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT
JOE WATT, COMMISSIONER
SHERI GROLL, COMMISSIONER
RANDY VANHULLE, 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
 17 Paid-on-call personnel
 Oconto Police and Fire Commission has Optional Powers



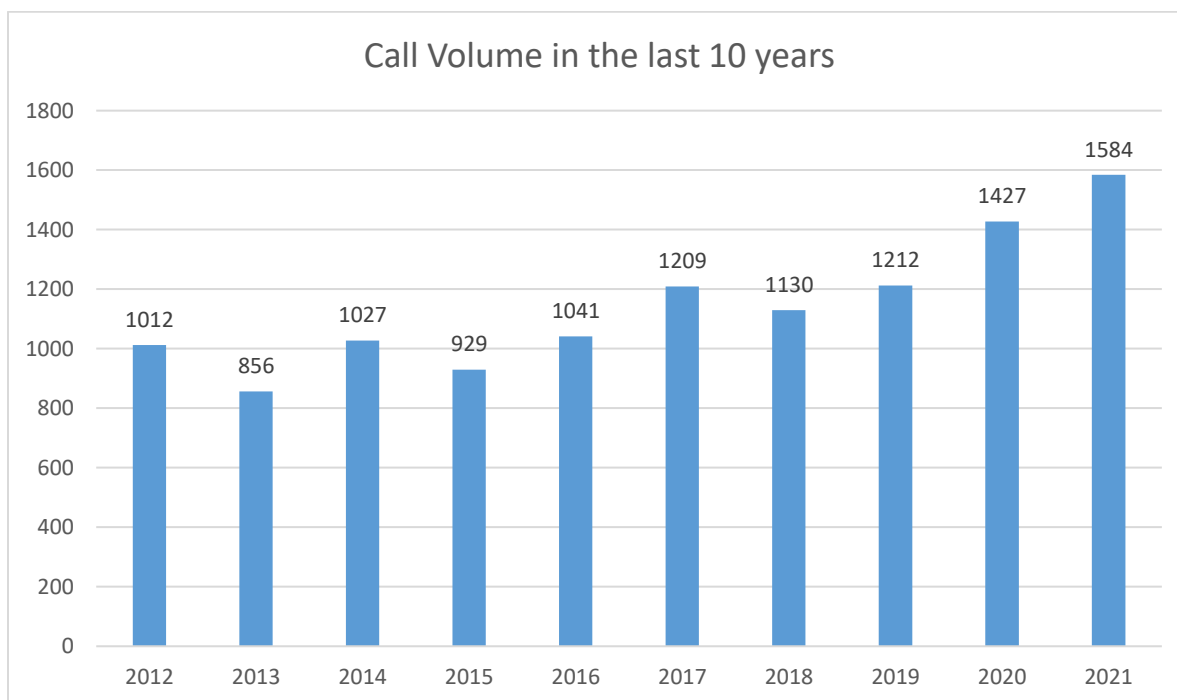
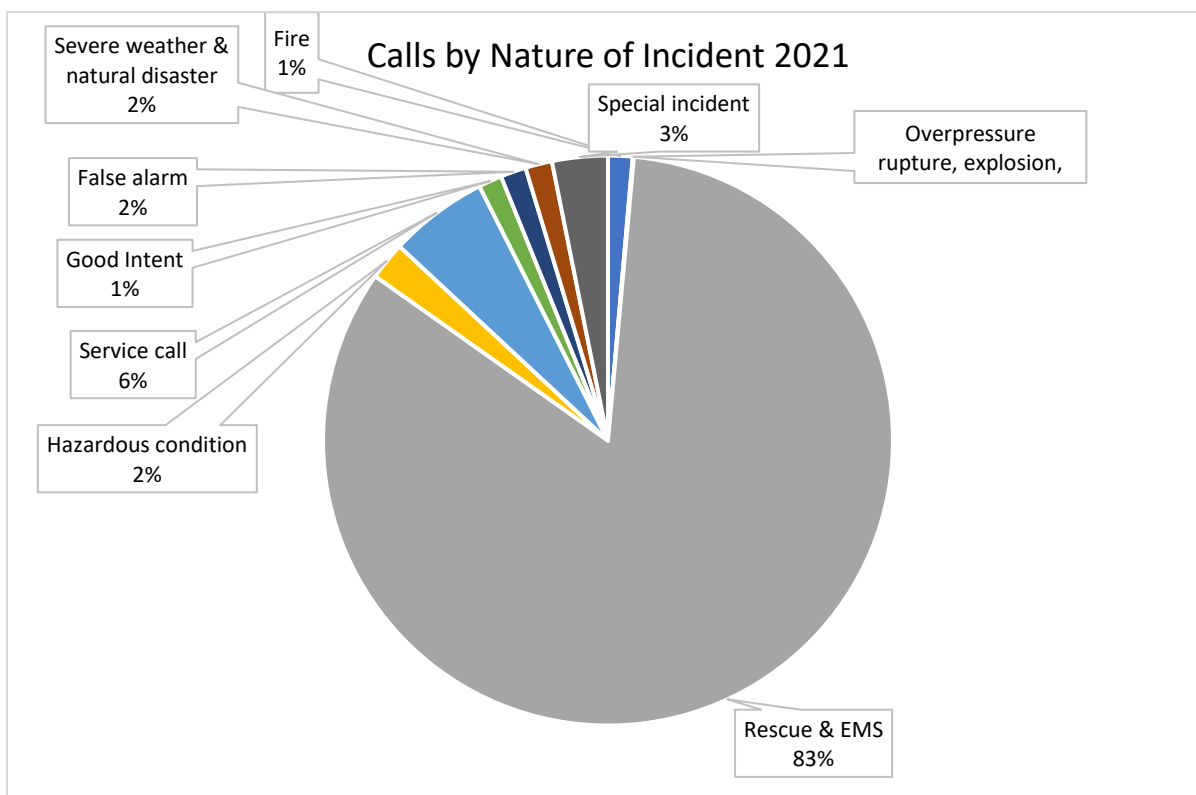
Calls by Nature of Incident – 2021

FIRES	
Building Fire	7
Cooking fire, confined to container	1
Chimney or flue fire, confined to chimney or flue	2
Commercial compactor fire, confined to rubbish	1
Trash or rubbish fire, contained	1
Passenger vehicle fire	5
Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire	2
Garbage dump or sanitary landfill fire	2
Outside equipment fire	1
OVERPRESSURE RUPTURE, EXPLOSION, OVERHEAT (NO FIRE)	
Excessive heat, scorch burns with no ignition	1
RESCUE & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE INCIDENT	
Emergency Medical Service calls	1282
Medical assist, assist EMS crew	14
EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	6
Motor vehicle accident with injuries	11
Motor vehicle accident with no injuries	3
Watercraft rescue	3
Rescue or EMS standby	1
HAZARDOUS CONDITION (NO FIRE)	
Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	11
Chemical spill or leak	1
Carbon monoxide incident	7
Electrical wiring/equipment problem, other	1
Overheated motor	2
Breakdown of light ballast	2
Power line down	6
Arcing, shorted electrical equipment	4
Vehicle accident, general cleanup	1

Calls by Nature of Incident – 2021

SERVICE CALL	
Lock-out	4
Water or steam leak	1
Smoke or odor removal	5
Assist Police or other governmental agency	8
Police matter	2
Public service	45
Unauthorized burning	13
Cover assignment, standby, moveup	9
GOOD INTENT CALL	
Dispatched & cancelled in route	10
No incident found on arrival at dispatch address	6
Authorized controlled burning	2
Smoke scare, odor of smoke	1
Steam, vapor, fog, or dust thought to be smoke	1
Hazardous Materials release investigation with no HazMat	2
FALSE ALARM & FALSE CALL	
Central station, malicious false alarm	1
Local alarm system, malicious false alarm	3
Smoke detector activation due to malfunction, no smoke or fire	6
Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	3
Carbon Monoxide detector activation due to malfunction	3
Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional	2
Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	4
False alarm or false call, other	1
WEATHER AND NATURAL DISASTER	
Wind storm, tornado/hurricane assessment	4
Flood assessment	17
Severe weather or natural disaster standby	2
SPECIAL INCIDENT	
Public relations	25
Public Education	23
Citizen complaint	3

Total 1,584



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.

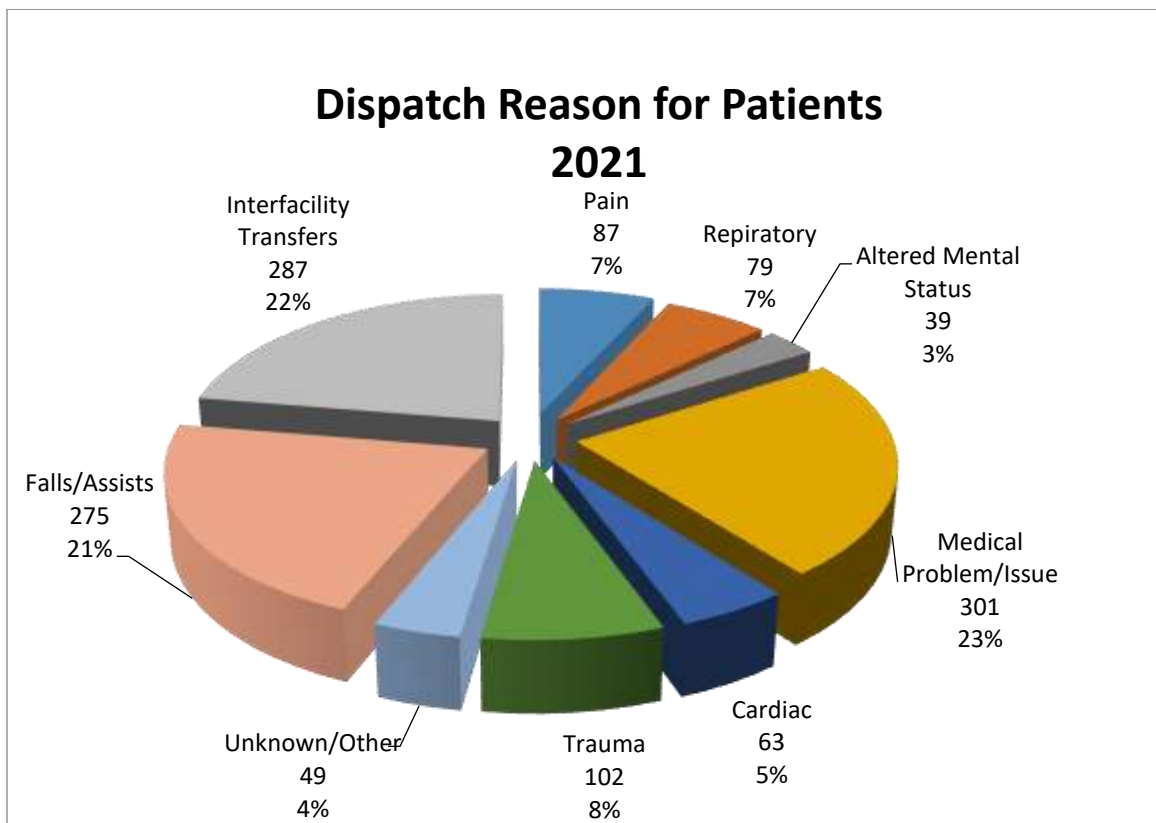
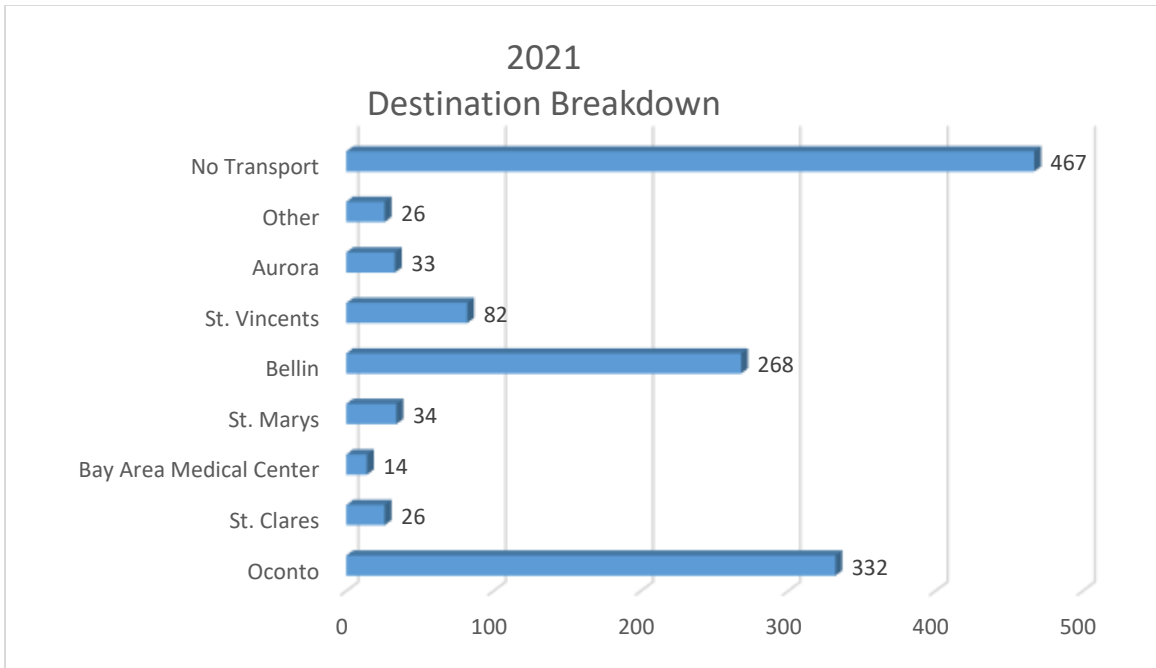


As part of the Oconto Fire-Rescue Department (OFRD), the City of Oconto Ambulance Service constantly seeks ways to improve the care it provides to the Oconto area. The EMS profession continues to evolve from its roots of a simple transportation service to a complete health and wellness prevention and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

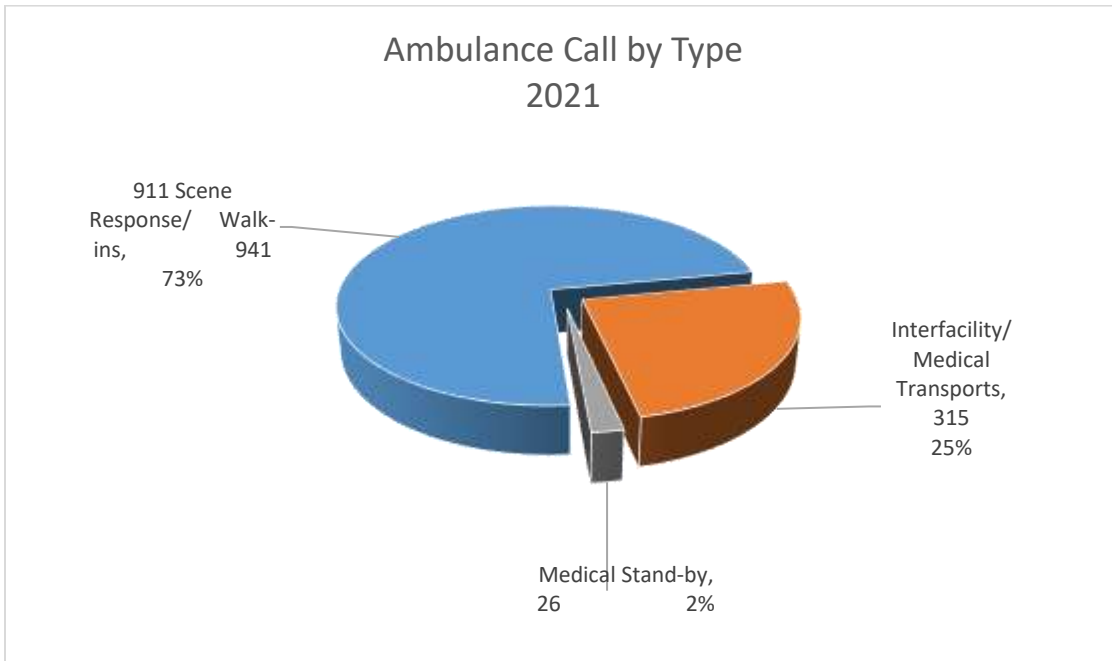
- All members that are cross trained in EMS successfully renewed their State of Wisconsin EMS License by completing the needed continuing education via in house training or attending classes/conferences outside of the department.
- Continue to develop/improve preplans for larger events (Miles for Madyson, 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.

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

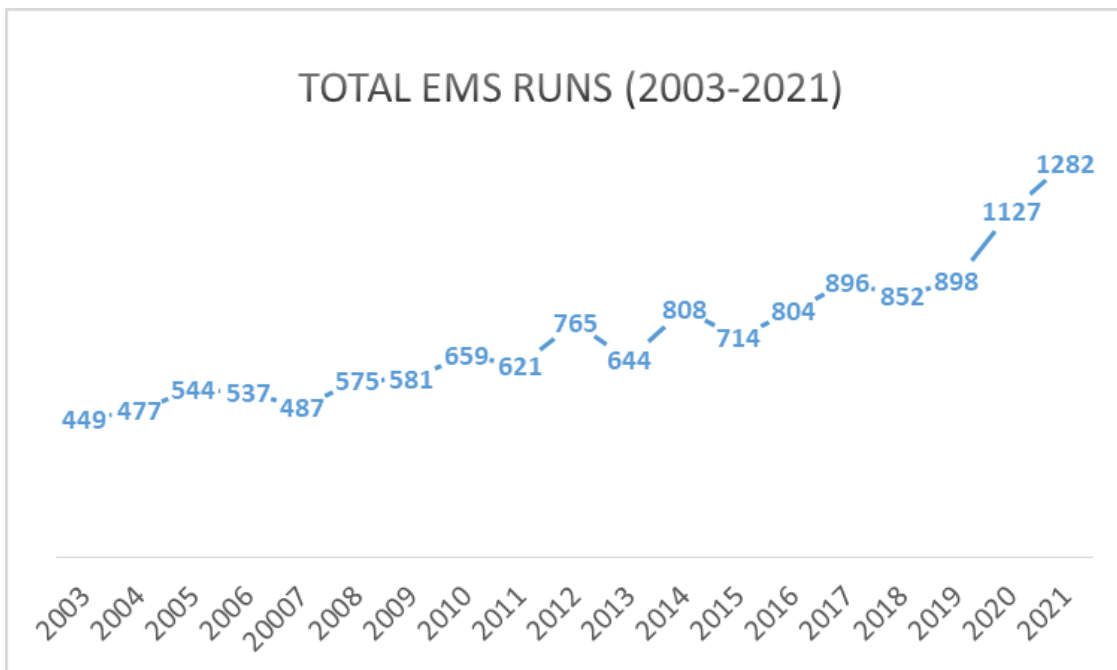
- The department is very active in regional response planning to active intruders, disasters and pandemics. Additional training/planning in these areas will continue well into 2022.
- Great working relationships with area agencies and hospitals continue to improve our ability to provide extraordinary 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 32 possible Pulseless Non-Breathing patients in 2021. Of those 32, 18 were deceased upon arrival, 2 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. Five of those patients had a return of spontaneous circulation (a pulse). The other seven deceased despite all efforts of OFRD and hospital staff.



- * 26 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. 14 of those patients accepted the department’s referral and benefitted from this program. Since the department began the program in 2012, over 212 people have been offered the program.





Fire Prevention and Life Safety Education Program

Oconto Fire Rescue focuses on community risk reduction through public fire and life safety education. All members work to proactively prevent or mitigate the impact of emergency incidents within the community. The department works with strategic partners, community groups, and state resources to reduce preventable injuries and property loss through education, enforcement, and engineering.

Just as everyone else has made adjustments, we have had to adapt our programs to meet the needs associated with the risk of COVID-19. Instead of canceling the in person fire prevention or making virtual training, a few changes were made to keep everyone safe and in person. Fire personnel moved the elementary fire prevention trainings outside. This training allowed all students to tour an ambulance and a fire engine, spray water with the fire hoses and hear the fire prevention information. Other fire prevention trainings and CPR classes throughout the community were either held outside or with smaller group numbers. Despite the changes, the department was still able to spread fire prevention education to keep the community engaged in our mission to reduce risks and educate the public.



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 a 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 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
- 18 members are Certified Incident Safety Officers
- 19 members State Certified Firefighter 2
- 15 members State Certified Driver/Operator - Pumper
- 15 members State Certified Driver/Operator – Aerial
- 12 members State Certified Fire Officer 1
- 11 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)
- 16 members Certified through WI DNR’s ATV Course
- 26 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 2022.



Grants

Oconto Fire Rescue Department applied for several grants in 2021. The department was fortunate enough to obtain funding from four out of the twelve grants that were submitted.

A FEMA Firefighter Assistance COVID-19 Grant was offered 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 Wisconsin DNR Grant was approved for two portable radios and a foam nozzle for the Brush Truck in the amount of \$3,948.93.

Covantage Cares grant was awarded in the amount of \$2,302.00 to purchase three choking manikins to utilize during community CPR classes.

A League of Municipalities of Wisconsin grant was used to purchase traffic safety vests, traffic wands, and a standing desk, for a total cost of \$2,500.00.

Submitted grants that were not approved were the FEMA Safer Grant for additional staff members, FEMA Firefighter Assistance grant for a power cot, Lucas and battery operated extrication tools, FEMA Safety Grant for carbon monoxide alarms to put in the homes of community members, FEMA Round Two Covid Funds for a power cot, Lucas device, and additional protective equipment. Georgia Pacific Grant and WPS Grant for three Multi Rae Gas meters. Gary Sinise and The Leary Grants were submitted for seven laptops to place in rescue vehicles for the use with the department’s new Spillman program.

Overall total awarded grant funds for Oconto Fire Department for 2020 and 2021, were \$179,811.90. Oconto Fire Rescue Department plans on applying for additional grants to assist in offsetting the cost of the future needed equipment.

Choking Manikin



Covid Personal Protective Equipment



Portable Radio



Air Quality Management



Firefighters are exposed to several toxic gases at a fire incident because of building materials, furniture, and other contents in homes being made of synthetic materials. It is crucial that our personnel keep themselves safe in a fire by wearing the proper fire 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 contains several life safety components to protect firefighters when they are responding to 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 a firefighter turns 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 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. The air bottle contains safe breathing air for a firefighter to work in such harsh environments safely. It is essential that we have a supplied source of air in a fire to keep from breathing in the deadly toxins.

Along with ensuring the air that we breathe is safe, monitoring of toxic gases is imperative at any fire scene. This year, we were able to purchase two new gas meters. The first meter is a 4-gas meter that detects oxygen, carbon monoxide, hydrogen sulfide and LEL. 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. This 4-gas meter is a vital tool to use on the fire ground for detecting any harmful changes in the air around us. The second meter that was purchased this year was a combustible gas detector, or what we like to call the “Sniffer”. This meter is used to detect any gases that would be considered combustible, such as propane, or natural gas. The Sniffer has a bendable goose neck that allows us to contort the sensor for gas detection. This meter works very well to pinpoint a potential leak on any gas piping.

Oconto Fire was also fortunate enough to purchase 5 SCBA face masks that have integrated TICs or thermal imaging cameras in them. These face pieces are the masks that a firefighter wears that connect to the regulator of the supplied air from the SCBA. With the addition of the built in TIC in these new face masks, we can tell where there are “hot spots” in a fire when visibility is low. The TIC reads heat signatures and can tell how warm an area is in degrees Fahrenheit. Most of our fire apparatus carry a handheld TIC, but with the built in TIC on our new face pieces, that frees up a hand and allows us to grab additional equipment.



Combustible gas detector or “Sniffer”



4 Gas Meter



Public Education and Special Projects

A major part of our job is to prevent the emergencies from happening. This is where we can really shine. Throughout the year we are able to participate in many events. Doing so allows us to communicate with the public and educate them prevention of any type of emergencies. As we are always taught, Predictable is Preventable. Teaching the public this allows them to look at situations in a different way. If they can potentially see a problem coming from it, then they can look for better ways of doing it to prevent it from happening.

Last year we were limited to the events we could participate in due to many activities being shut down because of the pandemic. This year many restrictions have been lifted which allowed us to attend more events. With a total of 27 events we were able to reach out to 1167 children and 605 adults. This was a significant improvement from last year.

We have received grants for smoke detectors to place in our residence homes. This has allowed us to make our residence homes safer and give us another opportunity to educate them in fire safety. While installing these detectors we are able to perform voluntary fire inspections and give advice on how they can improve the safety of their homes. Hopefully 2022 will give us even more opportunity to educate our public with even more events that are coming up.

Another part of our job is to keep our equipment and apparatus in top working order so it can be used at any moment's notice. Throughout the year we have taken on some large projects such as installing backup cameras on the vehicles and upgrading the emergency lighting in the command truck and rescue truck to improve the safety of our staff. We have also taken on many diagnostics and repairs on many of the trucks. Some of these projects have been too much for any one individual to do in a timely manner and have had crews put together including some of the POCs.

Going forward, I am excited to continue with educating the community on preventing fires and other such emergencies and I enjoy working on the vehicles to keep them operating safe and smooth. With the help of everyone here at Oconto Fire and Rescue, I know 2022 will be another safe and successful year and many more to come.

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. 2021 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 one call to be happening at the same time so the vehicle dependability is even more important.

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, A1013 is our newest ambulance, but third in the fleet.
- We have 2 Rescue trucks, one is R1011 and the other is R1012.

We at Oconto Fire Rescue Department take great honor and pride in the appearance and operations of all our equipment and apparatus. Safety is the number one priority with anything we do, we want to ensure that our personnel and patients arrive safely to their destination when they are traveling the roadways. Our apparatus go through yearly inspection, some of the inspections they go through are D.O.T. Chassis Inspection, Fire Pump Testing, Ground and Aerial Ladder Testing, and our Jaws Extrication tools are inspected and serviced yearly just to name a few. With these inspections there comes a cost for repairs, these repairs are above and beyond the normal ware and tare maintenance cost.

Below is a list of the significant repairs we had acquired through 2021

- Ladder 1011 brake repair - \$1,278.00
- Engine 1012 pump repair - \$16,874.00
- Amb 1011 replace touch screen in patient compartment - \$2,269.00
- Amb 1011 replace brake master cylinder, eight glow plugs, clutch fan assembly, and auxiliary coolant heater – 2,950.00
- Amb 1011 replace rear suspension – suspension was warrantied, but labor cost was \$860.00

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.

Digital Combustion

Digital Combustion is digital training tool. Fire, EMS, and hazmat scenarios are developed using photos of businesses, residential homes, and vehicles. Members of Oconto Fire & Rescue, will work through scenarios from dispatched, first in reports, deciding methods of attack and resources needed.





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

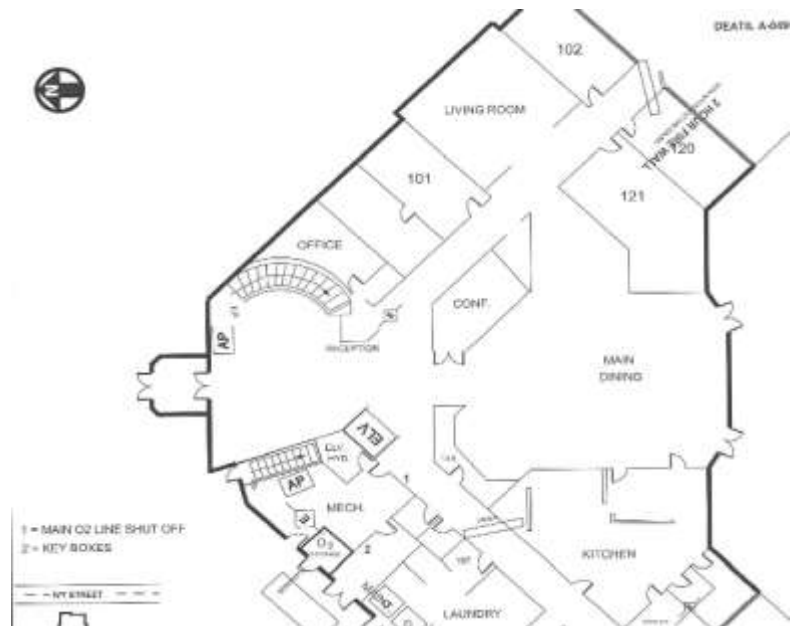
Pre-planning is conducted on local businesses within the city. Pre-plans are completed with the most up to date information that was gathered when visiting the business. The information from the site visit is then transferred to a computer program at Oconto Fire Rescue. Information is then placed on 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 & Doran Street</u>

Needed Fire Flow: 25% 6419 GPM 50% 12837 GPM 75% 19256 GPM 100% 25674 GPM	
Sprinkler: FDC Location NONE	Haz Materials NONE
Staircase: FDC Location NONE	Best Access Main Entrance on East side of Building - Knox Box on left pillar by doors
Build. Ht. x Stories: 2	Build. Area: 77032 sqft

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 **639** inspections of businesses.



NFIRS Reports

The National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) is a voluntary reporting standard that fire departments use to uniformly report on the full range of their activities, from fire to emergency medical services to severe weather and natural disasters.

Fire departments can use NFIRS to track and manage apparatus, personnel, and casualty information, document the full range of department activity, and justify budgets with summary and statistical data. The modular design of NFIRS makes the system easy to use because it captures only the data required to describe an incident. After responding to an incident, a fire department completes the appropriate NFIRS modules. Each module collects a common set of information that describes the nature of the call, the actions firefighters took in response to the call, and the end results, including firefighter and civilian casualties and a property loss estimate. Oconto Fire Rescue submits all its incident data to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) web portal for NFIRS. The agency gathers data from all its participating departments and reports the compiled data to the United States Fire Administration (USFA). All NFIRS reports are quality checked for data accuracy and completeness before recorded and submitted.

Information Technology

Information technology is increasingly being utilized by emergency services. Advances in mobile data communications and handheld electronic devices make it easier for vital information to be portable and readily available. In the past, information was kept in paper form in large binders in emergency apparatus. Today, those binders are increasingly being replaced by portable devices such as the Apple Ipad or laptop computers. A tremendous amount of data is readily available and easier to manage than bulky binders. OFRD is continuing to incorporate these devices into our apparatus. For example, in the event of patient extrication from an automobile crash, every vehicle differs from others in where and how to cut the vehicle to safely extricate a patient. The increase of hybrid and electric vehicles on the highway presents different challenges than a combustion engine powered vehicle. A digital version of a quick-reference lookup for each vehicle is stored on an Ipad and easy to find when seconds count in an emergency. Pre-plans for fires in businesses are easy to store digitally easier to reference than paper copies.

2021 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 COVID and shut downs there were no car seat installs in 2021. In 2022, two full time members will be taking the car seat installation course to assist in the continuation of this program.
- 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 \$468.91 for MDA during our 2021 “Fill-The Boot Program” here in the City of Oconto. This year was a little different due to COVID-19 and the department had a stationary boot collection box at the Oconto Fly In. Our grand total for 14 years is \$40,429.93.
- 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.
- Successful NFPA 1403 house burn conducted on Spies Road with Oconto Fire, Little River Fire, Oconto Falls Fire, and Pensaukee Fire Departments.
- Research is being conducted to create a new high school based Firefighter Certification 1 Course. This would allow Oconto Fire Rescue Department to work side by side with Oconto High School and Northeast Wisconsin Technical College to create a one of a kind Fire Education class in high school.
- Oconto Fire Department is diligently working with Oconto County Sheriff’s Department on gaining access to the Spillman program for fire and ems purposes. This project will require Oconto Fire Rescue Department to purchase computers for all apparatus and in return the department will have access to real time information as an emergency evolves.
- For 2021, an estimated \$1.1 million dollars of property and contents was lost in our response area due to fires. We were able to save over \$13 million dollars of property and contents. This saved value is higher this year because of a fire at Cruiser’s Yachts. Due to a well-placed sprinkler head, the quick actions from employees on scene and a fast Fire Department response, the loss in that fire was minimal compared to the value of the building and multiple yachts in production.

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.