

City of Oconto Fire & Rescue Department 2022 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 2022 Annual Report for the Oconto Fire Rescue Department. This report provides an overview of the department's operations and achievements in 2022. The department's call volume has continued to grow over the course of the last six years, with a total of 1,396 calls responded to this past year. In spite of the challenges and changes that 2022 brought to our department, we continued to provide the highest quality of emergency and non-emergency life safety services.

In 2022, one of the biggest accomplishments that we achieved as a team was being able to offer the very first Certified Fire Fighter 1 course to our high school students that had an interest in firefighting. This goal initially started out by members talking in a department meeting on how we can remind high school students of a potential career opportunity in firefighting as they approached graduation. With support from NWTC, Green Bay, we were able to get a curriculum developed that would fit in a high school student's schedule. Next, we sat down with the Oconto High School to see what time throughout the day would work to allow the students the availability for two hours a day to study and practice firefighting skills. Oconto Fire Rescue Dept. then applied for and received a grant from the Department of Safety and Professional Services that would allow all the students to be outfitted in turnout gear for firefighting.

This course was scheduled for the first semester at Oconto High School. The first day of the 2022 school year started the first ever Certified Fire Fighter 1 class held. This class was also offered to other school districts for their high school students. This year we had nine students from Oconto High School and one student from Lena High School enroll in the course. These students that elected to take this course would start their day at 7:00am and would study firefighting for two hours, before returning to their normal academic courses.

This 116 hour course was complete at the end of the semester, just before Christmas break. The requirements to complete the course were the successful passing of a written and practical test. The practical was administered at NWTC-Green Bay Public Safety Center where students were evaluated on their skills at eight stations ranging from personal protection equipment/confined space, fire attack, roof ventilation, ground ladders, search and rescue, controlling utilities, ropes

and knots and hazmat situations. The test is demanding, as it measures the students firefighting skills.

The overall goal of this course was to get high school students interested in the fulfilling career of firefighting. We hope students would continue their education and pursue a career in the Emergency Service field, or a minimum they would stay involved with firefighting and become active members of their communities Fire Department. Over the years we are noticing there is a decline of individuals entering into this profession across the nation. It is the hopes of the Oconto Fire Rescue Department to change this trend and spark an interest into our young adults, sharing our passion with them in helping others.

It is with anticipation the Oconto Fire Rescue Dept., Oconto High School and NWTC to continue offering this course for years to come! We are honored to say that since our course last fall we have ignited interest in other fire departments/schools and they are now moving forward with offering a class like this in their areas. Together, we can all make a difference in ending the national decline in staffing shortages in the Emergency Services Field.

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 2022 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 2023!

Sincerely,

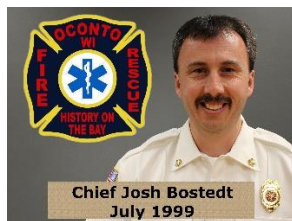
Josh Bostedt

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.

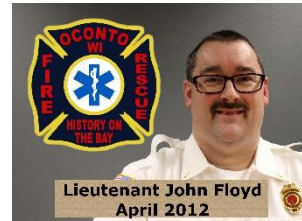
Active Staff:



Chief



Deputy Chief/EMS
Director



Lieutenant



Firefighter/AEMT



Firefighter/AEMT



Firefighter/AEMT



Firefighter/AEMT



Firefighter/EMT



Firefighter/AEMT



Firefighter/AEMT/Rehab



Firefighter/Crew Leader



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



Dan Cardinal
May 2019
Firefighter/EMT



Lara Nichols
August 2019
Firefighter/EMT



Amanda Schultz
August 2019
AEMT



Amanda Bornfleth
August 2019
AEMT



Stephanie Heyrman
January 2021
EMT



Mitchell Dakins
August 2015
Firefighter



Barry McClure
July 2021
Firefighter/EMT



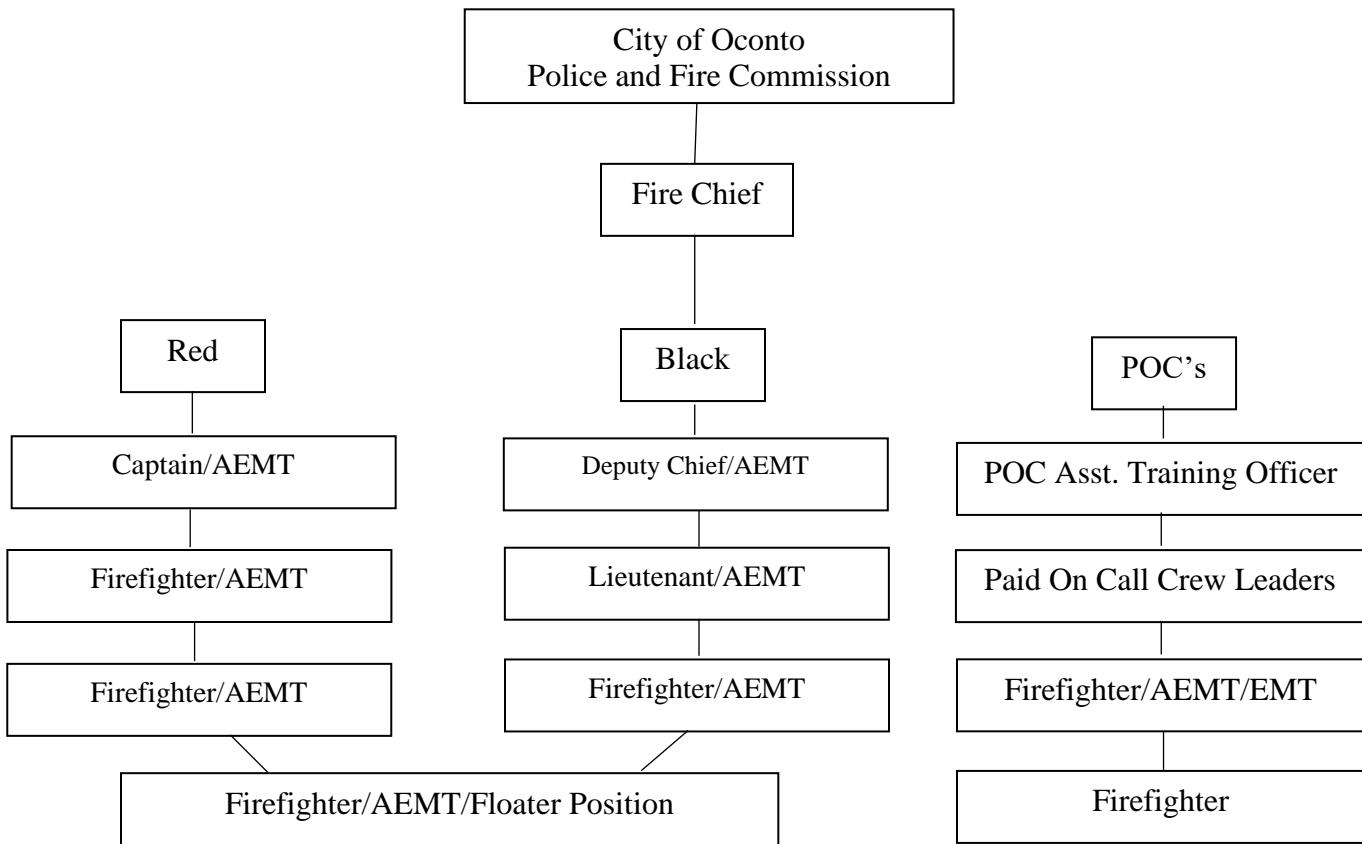
Logan Sherman
July 2022
Firefighter

2022 BOARD OF POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSIONERS

CLIFF MARTIN, COMMISSION PRESIDENT
SHERI GROLL, COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT
JOE WATT, COMMISSIONER
BOB LEBRECK, COMMISSIONER
RANDY VAN HULLE, 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 - personnel are qualified to initiate intravenous therapy and administer selected medications beyond the EMT 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 – 2022

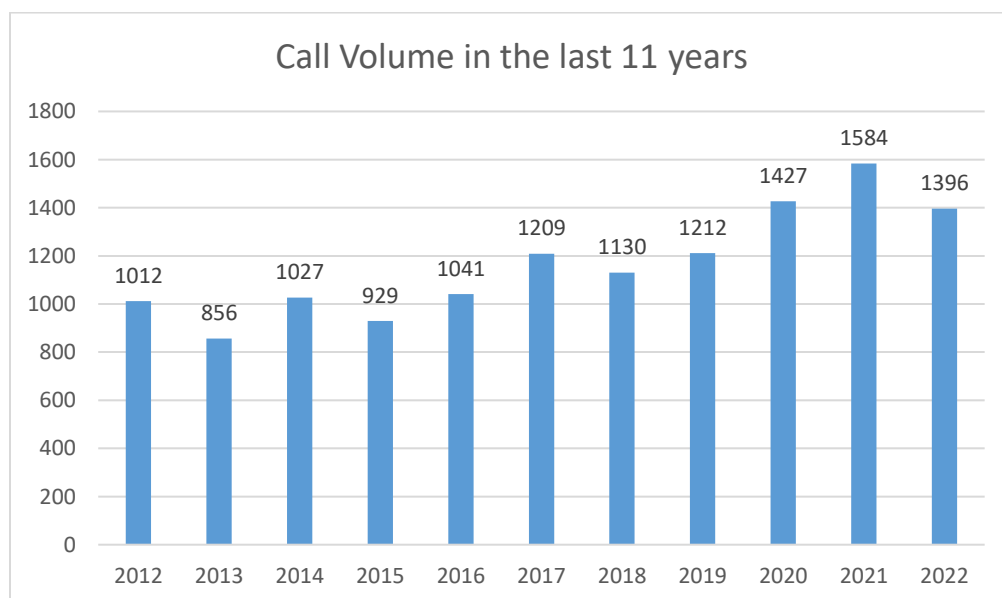
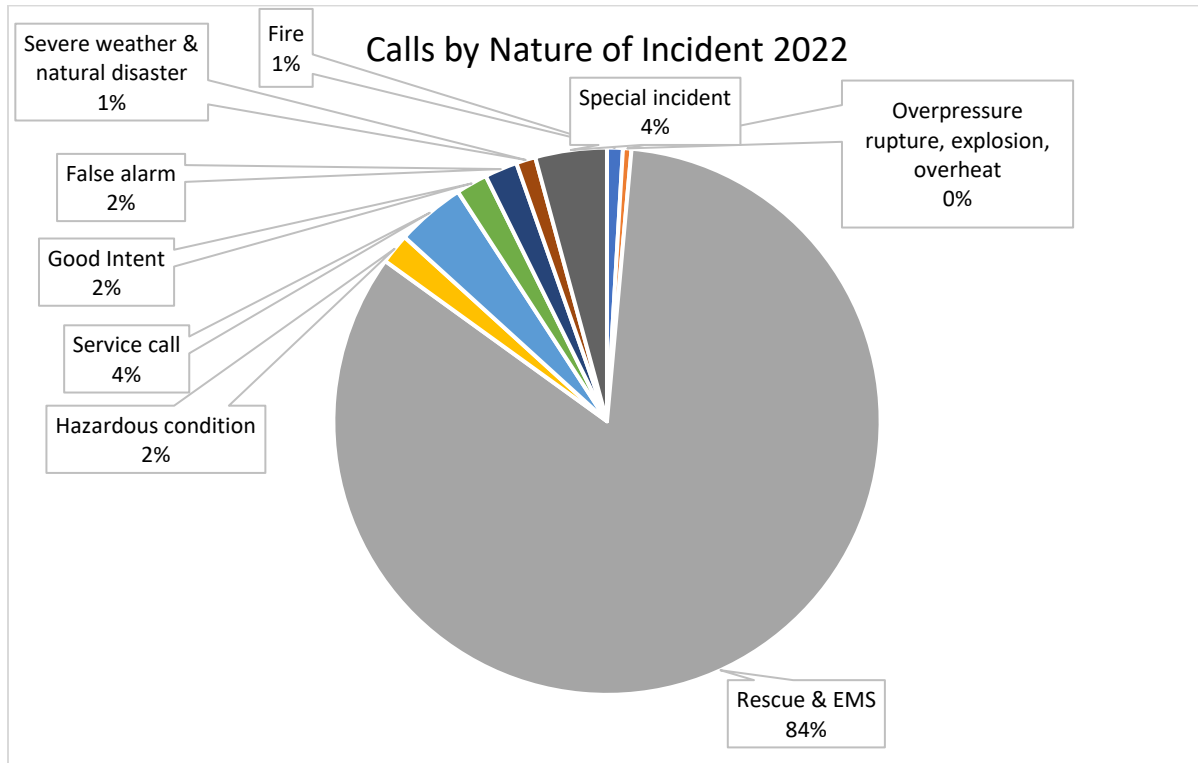
FIRES	
Building Fire	10
Passenger Vehicle Fire	1
Grass Fire	1
Dumpster or Other Trash Receptacle Fire	1
OVERPRESSURE RUPTURE, EXPLOSION, OVERHEAT (NO FIRE)	
Overpressure Rupture of Steam Boiler	1
Excessive heat, scorch burns with no ignition	6
RESCUE & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE INCIDENT	
Emergency Medical Service calls	1,126
Medical Assist, Assist EMS Crew	5
EMS Call, Excluding Vehicle Accident with Injury	17
Motor Vehicle Accident with Injuries	10
Motor Vehicle Accident with No Injuries	2
Search for Person in Water	1
Ice Rescue	3
Watercraft Rescue	2
HAZARDOUS CONDITION (NO FIRE)	
Gasoline or Other Flammable Liquid Spill	1
Gas leak (Natural Gas or LPG)	7
Carbon Monoxide Incident	4
Electrical Wiring/Equipment Problem, Other	1
Overheated Motor	3
Power Line Down	8
Arcing, Shorted Electrical Equipment	1
SERVICE CALL	
Lock-Out	3
Water or Steam Leak	1
Smoke or Odor Removal	1
Assist Police or Other Governmental Agency	6
Police Matter	1

Calls by Nature of Incident – 2022

Public Service	34
Unauthorized Burning	9
Cover Assignment, Standby, Moveup	2
GOOD INTENT CALL	
Dispatched & Cancelled in Route	16
No Incident Found on Arrival at Dispatch Address	4
Authorized Controlled Burning	2
Smoke Scare, Odor of Smoke	2
Hazardous Materials Release Investigation with No HazMat	2
FALSE ALARM & FALSE CALL	
Municipal Alarm System, Malicious False Alarm	1
Local Alarm System, Malicious False Alarm	4
Smoke Detector Activation due to Malfunction, No Smoke or Fire	4
Alarm System Sounded due to Malfunction	8
Carbon Monoxide Detector Activation due to Malfunction	1
Smoke Detector Activation, No Fire - Unintentional	5
Alarm System Activation, No Fire - Unintentional	4
WEATHER AND NATURAL DISASTER	
Windstorm, Tornado/Hurricane Assessment	2
Flood assessment	14
SPECIAL INCIDENT	
Public relations	27
Public Education	28
Citizen complaint	4

Total

1,396



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.



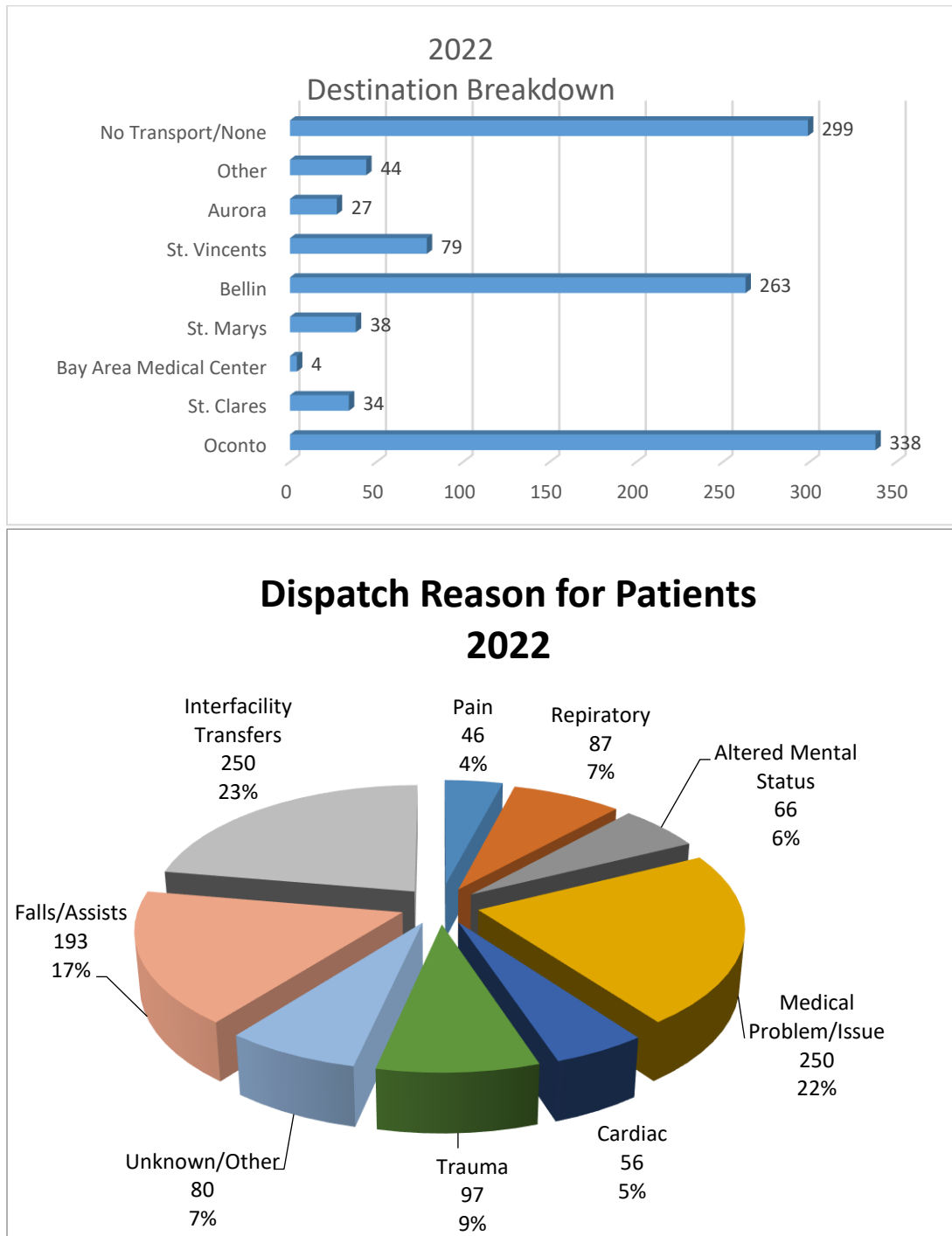
As part of the Oconto Fire-Rescue Department (OFRD), the City of Oconto Ambulance Service constantly seeks ways to improve the care it provides to the Oconto area. The EMS profession continues to evolve from its roots of a simple transportation service to a complete health and wellness prevention and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

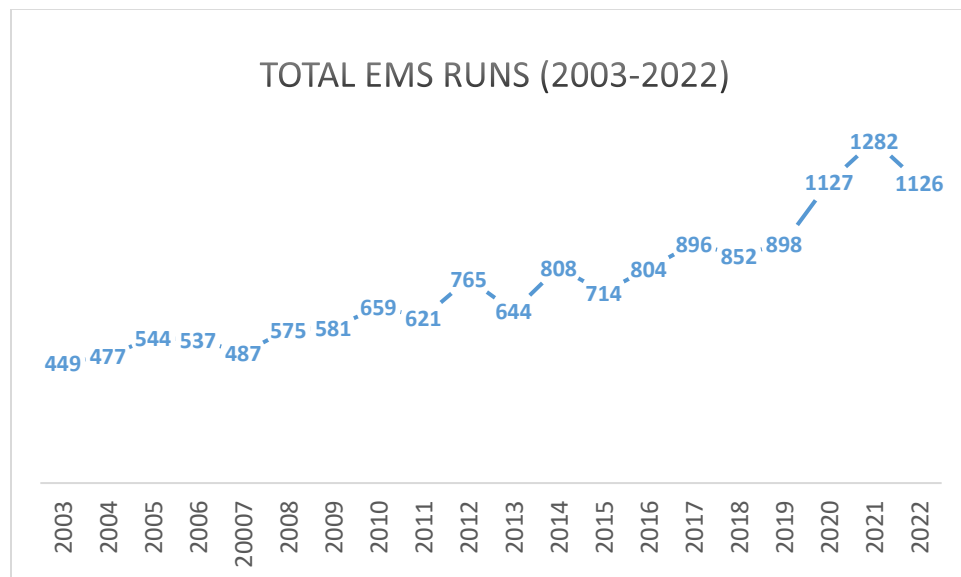
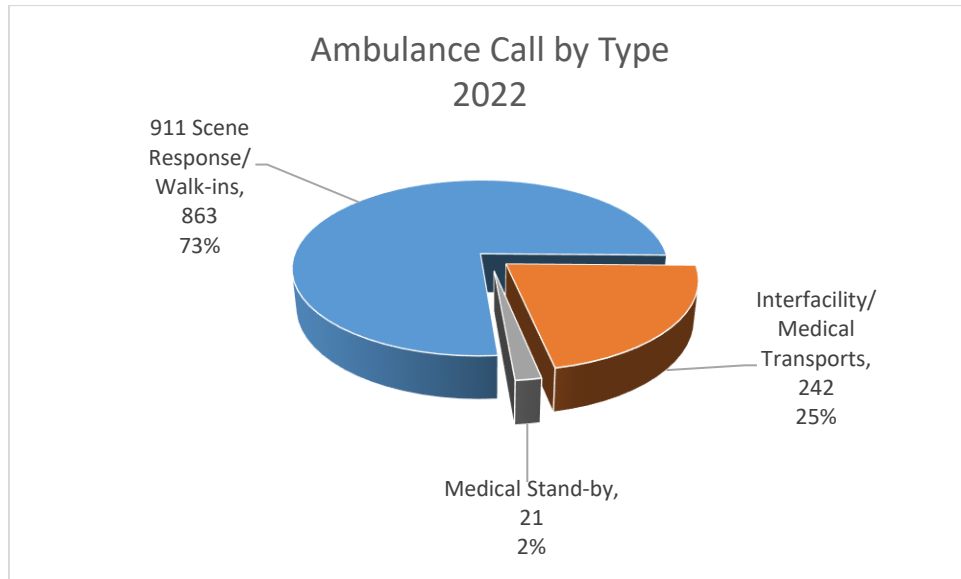
Future efforts continue to expand on service and total patient care in and out of the emergency setting:

- Oconto Fire Rescue not only has three members who are certified by the American Heart Association as BLS CPR Instructors but also have several members who are Stop the Bleed instructors that provide CPR/Stop the Bleed classes throughout the community.
- The department is very active in regional response planning to active intruders, disasters and pandemics. OFRD has been very active along with Oconto County's EMS Council and Oconto Emergency Management in putting together a county wide rescue task force team. Additional training/planning in these areas will continue well into 2023.

- 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 30 possible Pulseless Non-Breathing patients in 2022. Of those 30, 14 were deceased upon arrival, 2 had a return of spontaneous circulation (a pulse) prior to EMS arrival on scene, and 14 others received CPR and advanced resuscitation techniques and were transported to a hospital. Four of those patients had a return of spontaneous circulation (a pulse). The other eight were deceased despite all efforts of OFRD and hospital staff.





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.

This year the department was excited about being able to provide fire prevention programs, education, and training in person as they had in the past. Oconto Fire Rescue members provided several CPR and choking classes throughout the community and school district. Fire prevention was once again held in the fire prevention trailer for the older elementary grades. The younger grades were given tours of the ambulance, fire truck, assisted in spraying water to extinguish the burn house fire and asked questions about fire safety topics. This was a good thing that came out of changing the training during Covid, we realized the younger youth were able to retain more safety information when given the chance to tour the apparatus and spray water while learning. Along with the fire prevention education at the school, several children won in home smoke alarm inspections, a pizza, and a tour of the fire truck.

The department members' favorite seasons is Fire Prevention Season. This gives them the chance to help teach children how to prevent fires and what to do in case a fire happens. In return, the children teach their family members making the community a safer place for all its members. Oconto Fire Rescue Department's mission is to reduce risk by educating the public.



Grants

Oconto Fire Rescue Department applied for several grants in 2022. The department was fortunate enough to obtain funding from the DNR, Stephenson Bank, Oconto County Crime Prevention, HERC, and DSPS Grants. The total award funding for 2022 was \$152,649.14.

The Wisconsin DNR Grant was approved for two portable radios, 1" forestry hose line and a nozzle for the Engine 1012 in the amount of \$2,219.19.

Oconto County Crime Prevention grant was awarded in the amount of \$5,000.00 to purchase a laptop for the fire prevention and investigation documentation, fire investigation tools and contamination prevention materials.

Stephenson Bank grant was used to purchase a dog manikin in the amount of \$1,842.95. This dog manikin will be utilized to ensure Oconto Fire Rescue members know how to treat Falco or any pet in an emergency.

The HERC grant was applied for by Oconto Rescue and Gillette Ambulance to secure funds to purchase ballistic plates and helmets to complete the Oconto County Rescue Task Force full ballistic sets. The total award for this grant was \$23,000.00.

DSPS grant was awarded to Oconto Fire Rescue for \$17,982.00 to purchase turnout gear to support the first Oconto High School/Oconto Fire Rescue/NWTC Fire Fighter 1 class for high school students.

Wisconsin EMS Flex grant was approved for the total funding of \$125,605 to use towards several purchases. The first half of the Flex Funds were used to purchase a Lucas, (an automated CPR device) three sets of pediatric cot straps, and four portable radios.

Overall total awarded grant funds for Oconto Fire Rescue Department for 2020 through 2022, were \$332,461.09. Oconto Fire Rescue Department plans on applying for additional grants to assist in offsetting the cost of the future needed equipment.



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 an 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, Oconto Fire was able to purchase a hydrogen cyanide meter. This meter's primary purpose is to detect hydrogen cyanide (or HCN) at a fire scene. HCN is a very common byproduct of combustion at a fire. Common items that would give off HCN gases include wool, nylon, polymers, plastics, certain rubbers, and many more when burned. HCN is 35 times more toxic than carbon monoxide and can enter into the body via ingestion, absorption, and inhalation. The smell of HCN is often described as a "bitter almond" scent. With that being said, our firefighters don't ever want to become familiar with what that smells like. This new HCN meter will help to ensure our safety even after a fire is put out.

Oconto Fire personnel began carrying portable carbon monoxide gas detectors while on duty this year. This has become very common practice for fire departments throughout the country. While on duty, one of the firefighters clips a small CO gas detector to their radio that goes with them everywhere. This detector can alert the firefighters to the presence of CO if they are on doing anything from completing fire inspections to running an ambulance call. Many times we are called to a residence for someone not feeling well but they are unsure as to why. These portable CO meters can pick up any traces of CO in a residence and alert us as first responders as to the nature of an illness. This is a very useful tool for us to have and very positive when looking at safety.



Portable CO meter

HCN 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 30 events we were able to reach out to 3312 children and 1516 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 2023 will give us even more opportunity to educate our public with even more events that are coming up.

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. With each year our call volume steadily increasing, 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 wear and tear maintenance cost. In some instances the repairs are above what can be done in house and may need to be sent to a shop where they specialize in the equipment. When all possible we will make many of repairs to help reduce the added costs of keeping up with the equipment and apparatuses. Some of the repairs that we have done here is replacing the batteries, plumbing/rebuilding valves on our engines and electrical repairs, just to name a few but the list goes on from there.

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 – 1996 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. Like E1012 this truck also has RIT equipment on it as well.



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.

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 116 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
- 20hrs 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
- 19 members are Certified Incident Safety Officers
- 15 members State Certified Firefighter 2
- 17 members State Certified Driver/Operator - Pumper
- 13 members State Certified Driver/Operator – Aerial
- 10 members State Certified Fire Officer 1
- 13 members State Certified Emergency Service Instructor 1
- 6 members State Certified Fire Inspector
- 6 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)
- 17 members Certified through WI DNR's ATV Course
- 18 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 2023.



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.





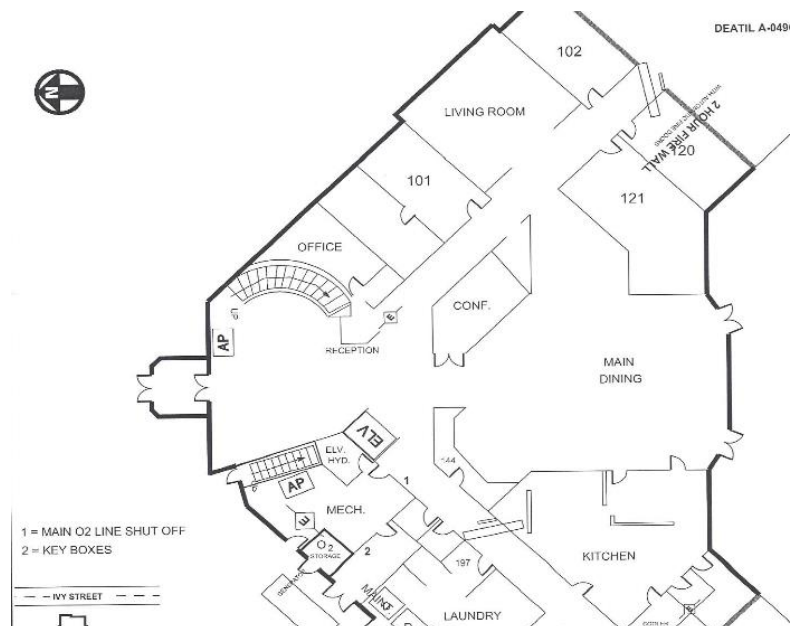
Pre Incident Planning

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>
<p>Needed Fire Flow: 25% 6419 GPM 50% 12837 GPM 75% 19256 GPM 100% 25678 GPM</p>	
Sprinkler: FDC Location NONE	Haz Materials NONE
Standpipe: FDC Location NONE	Best Access Main Entrance on East side of Building - Knox Box on left pillar by doors
Build. Ht. <u>18</u> Stories: <u>2</u> Bldg. Area: <u>77000</u> sq. ft.	
Roof Construction - Heavy Timber in common area / 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, as we bring a new set of eyes to look for safety concerns. We conducted **617** inspections of businesses.

Spillman Project

A project that began in 2021 was utilized in 2022 for the first time by a fire/EMS agency in Oconto County! We worked with our partners at Oconto County Sheriff's Office, Emergency Management, and Technology Services to be able to have our emergency call information at our fingertips via a computer. With this project, we are able to add information that we collect from our fire prevention inspections, pre-incident planning, and incident responses to better prepare ourselves for future responses. We look forward to continuing to lead the way for Oconto County fire and EMS agencies!



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.

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-4:00PM 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.