

THE FIRE LINE

SEMPER PIUS

Oswego Fire Protection District

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Three Lieutenants Appointed to Battalion Chiefs

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Congratulations to B/C Josh Flanders, B/C Dan Schiradelly, and B/C Jeff Warren. In December of 2011 these three individuals were appointed to the rank of Battalion Chief. These appointments mark a milestone for OFPD as that role had previously been filled temporarily by Lieutenants acting up, and now we have a Battalion Chief on duty every day, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. In general, their role is to ensure the smooth running of the four fire companies and stations throughout the district, assuming overall command at emergency scenes and working through subordinate officers through coordination and direction to achieve the daily goals of the district while ensuring compliance with departmental policies and procedures. The Battalion Chiefs report directly to the Operations Chief – Assistant Chief Bill Perkins. The OFPD would like to officially congratulate the three new Battalion Chiefs and wish them luck with their new assignments. Good luck and keep our firefighters safe!



Newly Appointed Assistant Chief

Bill Perkins was appointed to the rank of Assistant Chief in August of 2010. He is currently assigned as the Chief of Operations in addition to many other day to day duties. Congratulations Chief Perkins.



The Oswego Volunteer Fire Protection District began as a village fire department after a fire that destroyed the Congregational Church in Oswego in 1893. On July 17, 1895 the village purchased a hose and hose cart, and by August 28 of the same year, a fire company was formed. A hose house was added to the town council house at 65 Washington Street in June of 1897. In 1898 a bell was placed in a tower atop the house to signal the fireman for a call. This bell stood in front of Station 1 on Main Street in downtown Oswego until the end of 2009 when Station 1 moved into a new facility on Woolley Road. It now is once again proudly displayed at its new home at 3511 Woolley Road. Following a devastating fire that destroyed several buildings at a local farm, area farmers decided something had to be done to protect their interests. In 1936, the Oswego Fire Protection District was formed by voter referendum, covering all of Oswego Township and part of Will County. The district now also covers the majority of Na-Au-Say Township and a portion of Bristol Township. Andrew Pierce, Glenn Leigh, James Steward and Wally Davis were appointed the first trustees. March 2011 marks the 75th anniversary of the birth of the Oswego Protection District.

Student Riders

The OFPD often has paramedic and EMT students that ride along with the medic units. In 2010 The OFPD assisted in the training of more than 20 different medical professionals. The students come in and ride along through a structured program with licensed and registered paramedics that have been identified as mentors.

Board of Trustees President Retires

Board President Jim Detzler retired from the fire department after 50 years of service. Jim started his career with the fire department as a volunteer in 1961 and became the chief in 1968. He retired from the chief's position in 1988 and became a trustee. He continued to serve the district and retired as the president of the board of trustees in January of 2011. On behalf of the citizens of our fire district, the OFPD thanks you for your outstanding service and wishes you the best. You will always have a home at Oswego Fire. Thank You and Good Luck!

Welcome Aboard!

The OFPD family would like to welcome new firefighter / paramedics David Martinez, Bradley Kurtyka and Scott Falconer. These firefighters were recently hired and have completed the orientation process of the fire department. These firefighters bring previous firefighting and paramedic experience to our district. Congrats on becoming an Oswego Firefighter/Paramedic! They will be helping to ensure a safe community to live and work in for all of us.

WELCOME!



2010 Public Education Stats

In 2010 the OFPD participated in more than 225 scheduled Public Education/Relation events with more than 15,700 documented people in our communities participating. We educated over 165 people in CPR in addition to more than 125 people in First Aid. We participated in more than 28 fire drills in our Educational facilities, conducted kitchen fire safety programs, and participated in career fairs. These are just a few of the highlights in 2010. Our goal is to educate the community about Fire and Life safety. Great job to the Firefighters for spreading the message.

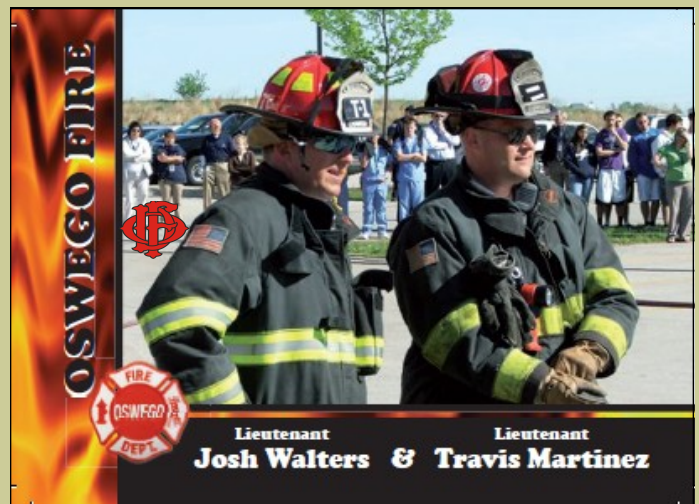
Fire District Ratifies Union Contract

A new chapter was written for the OFPD in August 2009 as the employees of the Oswego Fire Protection District overwhelmingly voted to organize and negotiate a fair and binding contract with the Fire District. In November of 2010 local 4773 approved the proposed contract and it was signed by the district in the same month. The new contract was effective on 11/24/10 and is for three years.



New Paid-On-Call Firefighters

As a combination fire department, Oswego Fire still relies on volunteer members of the community to assist on larger and more personnel-intensive emergency calls. March of 2011 saw 8 new volunteer and Paid-On-Call firefighters join the ranks of Oswego Fire.



New Training Officer Appointed

Congratulations to Lt. Josh Walters. Lt. Walters was appointed as the new OFPD training officer. He had been assigned to red shift station one as the truck officer. Lt. Walters has been a member of the department for over 13 years and was reassigned as the full time training officer in March of 2011. His duties will include ensuring that all members of the department are trained to the highest level of quality while maintaining safety. Good Luck and stay safe!

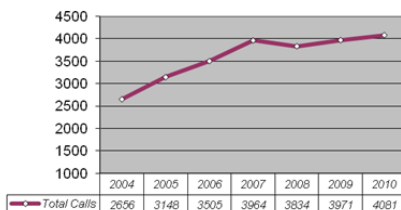
Toys For Tots Drive 2010

On December 17th, 2010 the OFPD hosted its annual Toys For Tots Breakfast. The OFPD in conjunction with Traugher Jr. High, Thompson Jr. High, Bednarcik Jr. High and Plank Jr. High conducted a toy drive to help ensure that every child had a toy during the holiday season. Together we collected 1,588 toys in a short period of time. This was the fourth year of the program which has proved to be successful. The children from the schools did a superb job of collecting the toys and a select few were given the chance to be elves for a day and have breakfast at the fire station. Job well done to the children, staff and firefighters that made this a successful year.



Toys For Tots Drive Trophy won by Plank Jr. High

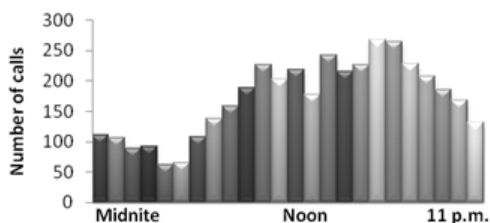
Trend of Call Volume



Welcome Newly Appointed Trustee

The OFPD would like to welcome our newest member to the department, Trustee Jason Bragg. Jason will be serving alongside veteran trustees Dick Kuhn, Bob Tripp, Rodger Long and Paul Anderson. Congratulations Mr. Bragg on your appointment and welcome aboard!

Calls by Time of Day - 2010



Firehouse Recipe

Slow Roasted Corned Beef and Cabbage

Ingredients

- 8-10lb of Flat Cut Corned Beef
- 5 lb bag of Red Potatoes
- 2 heads of Cabbage
- 2 bags of whole carrots (2 lbs)
- Horseradish of choice
- Rye bread

Directions

Wash all vegetables and rinse all meat before placing it in the roaster.

In a roaster, place meat with fat side up and add ½ cup of water for every pound of meat. Sprinkle seasoning packets over the top of the meat and set the temperature at 275 degrees. Place 5 lb bag of red potatoes over the meat and seal the top of the roaster as best you can with foil and the lid. After 5 hours, quarter the cabbage and peel the carrots, place in the roaster over the potatoes and replace the foil and lid. Continue to cook for 1 ½ - 2 hours more until cabbage is soft and meat is tender. The meat will be fork tender, no knife required. Serve with horseradish sauce and rye bread on the side. Serves 12 people

Foreign Fire Tax Board Reports

The Oswego Fire Foreign Fire Tax Board received its first installment of Foreign Fire Tax Insurance monies. The board meets several times a year to vote on how the money should be used. If you have any ideas of how the money should be spent, please contact a member of the board. The current members of the board are, B/C Flanders, FF/PM Sheley, FF/PM Gallup, FF/PM Goodbred, FF/PM LeCuyer and Fire Chief Brad Smith.

Apparatus News 2010

In 2010 the OFPD had several changes to apparatus in the fleet. Rescue-I was repainted, Medic-3 had a new motor installed, Tanker-I was repainted, an old medic unit was retrofitted and placed into service as a TRT vehicle, a new trailer was placed into service for the TRT team, and a new medic unit was placed into service as Medic-I. Ladder-I was also replaced with the new 2009 Pierce 100' platform, with the 1981 E-One ladder going into reserve.

New Firefighter Eligibility List Established

In December of 2010 the OFPD posted the new hiring list for eligible firefighters. Congratulations to those individuals who made the list.



Mission Statement



The Oswego Fire Protection District has been established to provide the citizenry of the district with professional fire prevention, fire suppressions, and emergency medical service. To this end, the District must constantly strive to attain, as well as maintain, the confidence and respect of the community which it serves. This can only be accomplished through the constant and earnest endeavors of all District employees to perform all duties and assignments in an efficient, honest and professional manner. It is equally important that all employees realize that, through exemplary conduct, we must continually strive to foster and enhance the realization that the Oswego Fire Protection District is an important requisite to the well being of the entire community.

Fire Prevention Reports

During 2010 the OFPD conducted more than 285 plan reviews. Together with the fire crews we conducted more than 760 safety inspections. There were 287 inspections classified as other. The FPB delivered 58 fine letters. The letters and fines are intended to compel compliance to the fire codes. The FPB continues to expand its role and recently started a building review program. The program allows firefighters to review specific data about a particular building without actually being at the building. The more information that is collected from doing the annual safety inspections the more data the firefighters have to help them do their jobs more efficiently but more importantly safely! We will continue to strive to provide the best services for our communities to keep them safe.

OFPD Honor Guard Activities

The OFPD Honor Guard continues to represent our department throughout the state. They have added a new member to the team— congratulations to Lt. Jaimme Roscoe as the newest member of the team. The Honor Guard volunteers their time to participate in events statewide— unfortunately 2010 brought seven firefighter line-of-duty deaths and the OFPD participated in all seven events. They also participated in numerous other events. The Honor Guard is available for your event. Please contact Firefighter/Paramedic Kris Kearns to see about the Honor Guard participating in your event. FF/PM Kearns is currently assigned to station 2 and can be reached at 630-801-5065 or our website, under special events.

Doc in A Box

2010 brought NFPA compliant physicals to the members of the OFPD. The physicals were conducted on site at fire station #1. The physician brought a fully operational exam room and office to the station in the form of a transitional Recreational Vehicle (RV). This allowed the physicals to be done while firefighters were on duty thereby saving money for the district taxpayers. NFPA compliant physicals are extremely important to the firefighter. They ensure FF's are capable of maintaining the highest levels of safety during hazardous and stressful situations.



Tidbits

- May 2010 the new Ladder Truck was placed into service
- Commissioner Ken Holmstrom resigned and John Hodgson was appointed in his place
- A new Telestaff Program was put in place to assist the department with resource staffing
- High School Senior Eddie Ledvina aka fast Eddie is riding along at station one. He is working under the ICE program at OHS. He is currently learning all aspects of being a firefighter/paramedic
- FF/PM Clancy put together Operation Prom in April 2010 at OEHS to promote a safe and sober Prom
- The Fire Prevention Bureau initiated a new pre-school program called the "Play Safe Be Safe" program

Call Volume by Day of the Week

