

THE FIRE LINE

SEMPER PIUS



Oswego Fire Protection District

June 1st, 2008

Volume 1, Issue 1



Chief Smith Leads Department Into New Era



Fire Chief Brad Smith

Fire Chief Brad Smith has been a member of the department for over thirty years. Chief Smith has seen many changes and for sixteen years he has been at the helm. Perhaps June 1st, 2008 is one of the most historical days in the history of the department.

The department under Fire Chief Smith's direction has moved forward. The Fire Department has changed from a combination contract department to a combination Full time department. To most citizens this seems trivial, but to the department and its members it is a huge step forward. To understand the gravity of this undertaking one must know the history of the department and how we arrived at our current status.

On July 17, 1895 the village purchased its first hose cart, and a fire company was formed in August. In 1897 a hose tower was added with a bell installed in 1898 to notify firefighters of a call. This bell is now located on display in front of Station #1 in downtown Oswego. In 1936, by voter referendum, the district was formed. The district covers more than 60 square miles in several municipalities and counties. Our population is more than 45,000 residents, with a steady increase every year. In 1986 the OFPD began providing its first Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulances with a full time contract staff of six licensed paramedics. Today the District operates four stations with a full time staff of 54 licensed and certified paramedic firefighters. This is supplemented by a paid on call staff of 20.
Chief Smith (Continued on Page 2)

In this issue:

Technical rescue team works toward validation	3
Fire Prevention Bureau expands	2
District moves forward with construction of new Station #1	2
District receives grant for new SCBA's	2

Special points of interest:

- Firefighters train at the Southern Kane County training facility
- Welcome aboard to Kathy Seffrood (administrative assistant)
- A new training division placed into service
- A new Battalion Chief vehicle placed into service

Calls for Service Increase in 2007



In 2007 calls for service numbered 3964 for the district. In 2006 calls numbered 3505 for an increase of 459 calls for response. Kendall County was recently named the fastest growing county was recently named the fastest growing county in the nation. With a very large portion of our district within Kendall County, we can expect the growth and amount of calls to continue to grow. The majority of the calls received came in on Thursdays, with Sunday bringing up the rear with the least amount of calls. Calls broken down by day of the week were as follows: Monday - 600, Tuesday - 588, Wednesday - 568, Thursday -603, Friday - 572, Saturday -536, and Sunday with 497. The District looks forward to rising to the challenge of the future with calls for service increasing all the time.



District Moves Forward with New Central Station # 1

Deputy Chief Rick Neitzer has been working along with Fire Chief Brad Smith to build the New Central Fire Station #1. The new main station will replace Fire Station # 1 located at 59 Main St. in downtown Oswego. The new station will be built on Wooley Road and will be built to replace the aging one on Main St. The fire district has continued growing and has outgrown the older station, which was not designed to house the amount of personnel we currently have working there. In addition, we need to centralize our operations as there are staff members working out of two different stations. The New Central Station will allow us to keep all the staff members together in a single location.

The downtown area has grown so much, that it can be hazardous for equipment and personnel to respond on calls. In addition, there is not enough room at the current facility to house the amount of apparatus and equipment we need. The new station will allow the safer movement of vehicles and personnel to and from the station. We look forward to moving into to the new station where we can better serve the community.

New Training officer vehicle placed in service

The fire district has always believed in having fully qualified and trained personnel to meet the challenges faced while responding to life threatening calls. A new addition to the training division was added recently to assist in this matter- It is a 2008 Ford Expedition. It is very similar to the new Battalion Chief vehicle pictured on page one. This vehicle was a necessary and vital component of the training divisions overall mission. It should be noted the vehicle will also be used in all aspects of call response when necessary.



Structure Fire on Winding Creek Rd. 2007



District Receives Grant For New Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)

The Oswego Fire Protection District recently received a grant for more than \$200,000 dollars to purchase new Scott self contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) equipment. The district had been using the outdated Surviveair equipment and had been plagued by equipment failures and the rising costs to repair the obsolete equipment. The district recently purchased all new equipment including SCBAs and rapid intervention team equipment. An extensive training schedule was instituted and the state-of-the-art equipment was placed into service in April, 2008. This equipment is vital to the day-to-day operations in the district as the SCBA is one of the main components of safety equipment for the firefighter. It serves as the firefighter's lifeline while working in adverse and deadly conditions.

Left, E-3 crew on rooftop of Structure fire on Chatham Place April 11, 2008

Right, live burn reflection from training house on November 12, 2005

Fire Prevention Bureau Expands

The Fire Prevention Bureau expands with the appointment of a full time Fire Marshal. Lt. Alec Keenum was named the Fire Marshal and placed in charge of the Fire Prevention Bureau in August of 2005. Since that time the Bureau has taken on many responsibilities and has kept up very well with the explosive growth in our district. The adoption of the 2003 International Fire Codes was a milestone for the District. This allowed the Fire Prevention Bureau to better serve the residents by making buildings safer in our community. In October of 2007 the Bureau expanded with the addition of Lt. John Cornish to assist with Bureau operations. The Bureau is also active in the community with public education and relation activities.

(Chief Smith Continued)

The full time paramedic staff had been contracted from Paramedic Services of Illinois, (PSI) since 1987. This means the full time firefighter paramedics actually worked for another company and were on contract to the District. PSI handled all aspects of the payroll, benefits, and paperwork. It served well for the District for many years as a one stop shopping location. It has allowed the District to operate with a volunteer organization (paid on call) and move forward bringing the department to its current status. The move from a contract department to a full time district is historical in its own right. Chief Smith has lead the District to a point at which the district will now take over all aspects of the full time personnel. This brings new and added responsibilities to the department including all aspects of human resources, including firefighter pensions, benefits and payroll. This allows the full time firefighters to be eligible for many benefits that were not available to them while working on the contract. In a nutshell, the District has taken over all aspects of its full time employees.



Technical Rescue Team (TRT) Working Toward Validation

The Oswego Fire Protection District has been working toward validation with the cart gold team. We currently have seventeen members on the TRT team. We expect eight members to validate with the state of Illinois in mid-June. This means that we are validated to respond on the state wide-response team for technical rescue emergencies. It is possible to deploy our members outside of the state with other states that have agreements with the state of Illinois.

Each member must complete eleven courses. These courses are rigorous in nature and it takes dedication on the part of the firefighter and the department to train and properly equip the firefighters. These are highly skilled technicians that deal with all aspects of technical rescues. This includes but is not limited to, rope operations, trench operations and confined space. These areas of expertise have different levels of training and requirements. We applaud those firefighters that are going above and beyond to train for those extreme emergencies that require special skills.



Medic 4 in 2007 Prairiefest Parade

2007 Firefighter of the Year

In December of 2007 Firefighter Bert Nease was named Firefighter of the Year. Bert has been a member of the Oswego Fire Protection District for over 39 years and has been a tremendous asset to the District. It is unknown how many man hours he has actually spent with the department but be sure that no matter how many hours it is, there is no amount of compensation that would show the appreciation for Bert. His dedication, loyalty, and willingness to be a integral part of the department is immeasurable. The Department would once again like to show our appreciation by saying thank you for your years of service and dedication. Congratulations on the award, and know this- you will always and forever be a part of the brotherhood!



Oswego Fire Protection District Mission Statement

The Oswego Fire Protection District has been established to provide the citizenry of the District with professional fire prevention, fire suppression, and emergency medical services. 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.

Swearing in Ceremony

Today is a day for the record books in Oswego. The new members of the District will be sworn in during a brief formal ceremony. This ceremony symbolizes the very essence of the change at hand. Whether you have worked in Oswego for 15 years or this is your first day, we will all be sworn in together. As we become sworn employees we start a new era within the department with history being made. We should all be very proud of our department, what we do, and what we will do in the future. Good Luck!

Oswego Board of Trustees Expands, Adding Two New Members

The Oswego Fire Protection District recently expanded in August of 2007 with the addition of two new Trustees- Paul Anderson and Rodger Long. This brings the board to a total of five members including the President, Jim Detzler, the Treasurer, Richard Kuhn, and the Secretary, Robert Tripp. The growth of the District and work load for the board has steadily increased in recent years. These additions will help spread the work load of the trustees. The Board of Trustees is a very important part of the overall fire department picture. Often times the public is unaware of the amount of work that goes into operating the board and working with the Fire Chief to accomplish the missions of the Oswego Fire Protection District. We recognize the dedication of the board members and say thank you. We also recognize the commitment by the new members and say welcome aboard.



Historical Oswego Fire Department Photo

Oswego Board of Trustees Creates Fire Commissioners Board of Trustees

In March of 2008 The Oswego Board of Trustees created a three person fire commissioner board. Kenneth Holmstrom, William Logel and Kenneh Duda were appointed to the board. The board was created to handle hiring practices, discipline and promotions for the district. The new board will undoubtedly be very busy in the next few years with hiring and promotions as the District continues to grow at break-neck paces.

Oswego Fire Protection District
P. O. Box 631
Oswego, Illinois, 60543

Tel: 630-554-2110
Fax: 630-554-8681
www.oswegofire.com



Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5

Learn Cpr call 630-801-5065

To Learn CPR please call 630-801-5065 or visit www.oswegofire.com

Full time Training Officer Established



**Structure fire from Chatham Place;
firefighter carrying out burning mattress**

The District moved forward in January of 2007 and appointed a full time Training Officer. The District has always had a training officer, however, the District has grown so much over the past decade that a full time training division could no longer be ignored. The District appointed Lt. Joe Johnson who has moved forward with the program. Lt. Johnson is responsible for all aspects of training, as there are many requirements that the firefighters must meet in order to stay active and proficient. The challenge of preparing course syllabus's, conducting training exercises, and maintaining records is daunting to say the least. The District has taken a very proactive stance with respect to training and The Training Division strives to maintain an above average level of proficiency among the firefighters.

There are many aspects to training that often go un noticed. For instance, the crews conduct quick drills every shift day. This sometimes involves minor discussions or hands on training on a certain topic. There are also training topics and exercises assigned every month. Sometimes this involves high-intensity live fire training at acquired structures or live fire burn towers. In addition to in-house training, the District often sends firefighters to outside training courses to train in an area of expertise such as confined space rescue, or smoke divers training . This includes local, statewide and sometimes national training facilities. The District takes training very seriously and strives to train and challenge every firefighter whether they are full time or paid on call.

Congratulations



To all who shall see these present- Greetings. Know ye that by reposing trust and confidence in the fidelity and abilities of all sworn members, these sworn members shall therefore and diligently discharge the duties of firefighter/paramedic or Battalion Chief by doing and performing all manner of things thereunto pertaining. These members are sworn to said rank on this 1st day of June, 2008.



Wooley, Gary	Martinez, Travis	Hill, Jason
Keenum, Alec	Hubrick, Dave	Schiradelly, Dan
Walters, Timothy	Stroub, Brian	Sipes, Jason
Floyd, Mark	Warren, Jeffrey	Pechinski, James
Cornish, John	Jordan, Dave	Roscoe, Jaime
Flanders, Joshua	Wing, Kent	Kawecki, Dbe
Dackley, Matthew	Kell, Chris	Vickery, Jon
Towery, Robert	Cinto, Chris	Walters, Joshua
McCoy, Anthony	Carpenter, Robert	Touchette, Thomas
Dabney, Michael	Barz, Craig	Pertosohn, Joshua
Cabe, Kelly	Roberts, Eric	Hillgoth, Shannon
Goodbred, Matthew	McElroy, Joshua	Haring, Thomas
Kearns, Kris	Lackey, Kris	Heiss, j
Silva, Alejandro	Sheley, Kyle	Flores, Roberto
McElroy, Joseph	Stott, Kevin	Moulesong, Mike
Johnson, Joseph	Lecuyer, Anthony	Delles, Matthew
Lawton, Greg	Evans, Craig	Rodriguez, Axel

Battalion Chief William Perkins

THE FIRE LINE

SEMPER PIUS

