



THE FIRE LINE

SEMPER PIUS



Oswego Fire Protection District

June, 2013



Fire Chief Rick Neitzer Focuses on the Future

Chief Neitzer has had a busy year shaping the department to best fit the needs of the community for the future. There have been several updates in the chain of command structure within the district and the hiring of new personnel. Chief Neitzer expanded the paid-on-call (POC) program with the new addition of 19 members. Paid-on-call personnel are employees that come in off duty for general alarms and supplement the full time personnel for incidents within the community. They train weekly and can work in part time positions within the department. They typically have a career outside the fire department but have an overwhelming desire to serve the community. The department put on a Fire Academy for the paid-on-call members that did not have any experience or the proper certifications and did the training in house with our own instructors. They were trained to the Illinois standards of being a firefighter. Congrats on graduating the academy to Firefighters J. McCord, A. Williams, T. Roberts, J. Hogan, T. Klatt, M. Sinn, M. Tinker, G. Hermann, S. Sheldon, N. Petro, J. Warren, and A. Palomo. Chief Neitzer also gained a new Deputy Chief of Operations. D/C Mike Veseling is currently working hard to ensure that our firefighters and officers provide the best possible service to our community. He brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience. He is well respected in the firefighting community and is known throughout the country as an excellent instructor. Welcome Aboard and Semper Pius! Chief Neitzer also saw Battalion Chief Josh Flanders appointed to the Assistant Chief of Administration. A/C Flanders brings a special skill set to the position and will greatly enhance our abilities to respond and work efficiently at emergency scenes. Congratulations to A/C Flanders! The department also recently hired Firefighter/Paramedics Travis McKelvie, Robert Banek, Brian Gregory, and Sean McNichols. Travis was hired to replace retiring Firefighter/Paramedic Mike Dabney. Welcome aboard all! Effective April 24th, five Lieutenants were promoted to the rank of Captain. They are Captains Alec Keenum, Matt Yackley, John Cornish, Jason Hill and Travis Martinez. Currently, Captains Yackley, Cornish, and Hill are assigned as station Captains at stations one, two and three respectively. Captain Martinez is assigned as the department training officer and Captain Keenum is assigned as the Fire Marshal. Congratulations to these officers!!! Chief Neitzer continues to focus on the future and is shaping the department to fit the operational needs of our community!



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Special points of interest:

- District Took Delivery of New Engine
- Welcome aboard to New Firefighter Paramedics and Paid-On-Call Firefighters
- 2012 Public Education Statistics
- Multi-jurisdictional Grant Received
- Fresh recruits graduate from Fire Academy

Public Education / Relations Stats 2012

In 2012 the OFPD was very busy with respect to Public Education. The Prevention Bureau works diligently to keep accurate statistics in this area. Our members have documented over 23,000 contacts for 2012. This number is a conservative number and does not reflect all events that we participate in. Data for 2012 is as follows:

- 13 block parties 850 people
- 44 community Events 4,465 people
- 27 fire drills (contacts not counted)
- 28 Safety Talks 2,054 people
- 38 Station Tours 971 people
- 2 Extinguisher Classes 47 people
- 22 CPR courses 240 people
- 1 First Aid course 18 people
- 20 Other 1,986 people
- 25 car seat installs 98 people
- 1 career education 30 people
- Total number of events 221
- Total number of people 23,469

Great Job to all the firefighters that make a difference everyday, even when we are not fighting fires or running EMS calls!!!!!!



OFPD Initiates Awards Program (Firefighters & Officers Recognized)

In March, 2013 the OFPD implemented an awards program within our organization. The program was initiated to identify individuals, specific crews and teams of crews that credibly distinguished themselves as an individual or as a unit. Our Firefighter/ Paramedics routinely respond to and mitigate emergencies. However, in some cases there are instances in which they act meritoriously, heroically, or in a manner that goes above and beyond the normal duties (details of the types of awards and explanations can be located in the lobby of our central station in the shadow box seen below). On April 1, 2013 the department had its first awards ceremony and had several recipients for various awards. Awardees were as follows:

Unit Commendation: B/C J. Walters, Capt. Cornish, Lt. Cave, and Firefighters Carpenter, Cadena, Lawton, McCumber, E. Roberts, Kearns, Pokorney, Hartley, McCord, Palomo, and Sinn

Unit Commendation: Lt. T. Walters and Firefighters Alegria, Flores, McCumber, and Gregory

Unit Commendation: Lt. Roscoe and Firefighters Cinto, Heiss, E. Roberts, and McNichols
Exceptional Service Award: Capt. Cornish



Multi-jurisdictional Grant Received

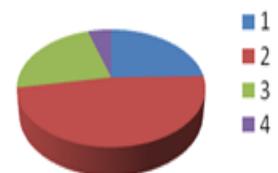
In 2012 the OFPD was part of a multi-jurisdictional grant application for communications equipment. As history continues to teach us, communication plays an extremely important role in critical incidents and helps to ensure a positive outcome. The OFPD received 87 portable radios, 87 pagers and 15 mobile vehicle radios. The pagers are a means of alerting the individual firefighter there is a call, its location, and the nature of the call. The mobile vehicle radios and handheld radios are used to transmit and receive messages between command, firefighters, and our dispatch center. It is a fact that excellent communication will ultimately save lives. We are pleased to announce we have all of the equipment and they are currently being used by our department.



Firefighter/Paramedic Mike Dabney Retires

Congratulations to FF/PM Mike Dabney on his retirement from the OFPD. Mike has had a long and distinguished career in public service. He retired from Aurora Police after 27+ years of service and started a second career in the fire service. Mike put in 10+ years in the fire service with 8.5 of those with the OFPD. Mike, we thank you for your dedication and service. You have been making a difference in peoples lives your entire career. WELL DONE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Calls by Station - 2012

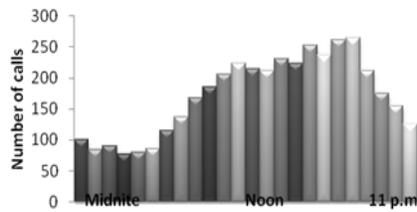


EMS Bureau Reorganization

In November the District rolled out a new format for the EMS Bureau. The 40-hour position is being covered by three firefighter/paramedics on a part time basis. They are Firefighter Paramedic's Josh McElroy, Matt Goodbred and Greg Lawton. Typically they work back in the EMS office on the day after their normal assigned shift day. They are responsible for: continuing education training; maintaining EMS records; tracking supplies; supply logs; responding to significant EMS incidents and assisting command officers/EMS personnel; quality control of EMS reports; and any other duty that is pertinent to the EMS division. This initiative was rolled out to improve the capabilities of the department and enhance our abilities to positively impact our communities.



Calls by Time of Day - 2012



Telestaff Up and Running

The Fire District has implemented a new computerized staffing system to streamline many aspects of the challenges that go with staffing. The Telestaff system has greatly increased the efficiency of staff scheduling and the crews are happy to have it up and running, allowing all personnel to benefit from its full potential. The system has met the expectations of the department and will continue to do so as we continually tweak it to meet our staffing needs.



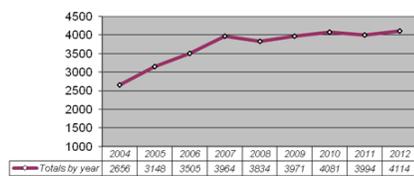
Training Division

Captain Martinez has been busy in the training division. The OFPD has most recently been involved in a cooperative effort with the Bristol Kendall Fire Protection District. BKFPD has been conducting live fire evolutions in an acquired structure and the OFPD has been sending crews to BKFPD to participate in the live fire evolutions. There is no greater training than the real thing, as this type of training is invaluable. Captain Martinez works diligently to bring the most up-to-date and progressive training to the OFPD, ensuring the highest state of readiness of the fire department personnel.

Operations Chief Corner

“...the credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood...” A little over 6 months ago I had the privilege of becoming a member of this organization and over this time I have seen and experienced a variety of good and accurate operations as well as a few errors. However, having said that, I am excited about the future...”because there is no effort without error or shortcoming.” In order to deliver the very best in Fire and EMS protection we must all push, challenge and encourage each other. We will make errors, and that is OK, because errors mean we are trying, that we are engaged and that we are committed to protecting the work of God Himself. I appreciate all of the efforts, hard work and dedication demonstrated by many of our members and I am proud of the work I have seen and the patience afforded during these days of change. As we move forward, we must remain flexible, passionate, optimistic and strong and remember that, “... at the worst, if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who knew neither victory nor defeat”. Thanks D/C “V”

Trend of Call Volume



Department Surface Ice Rescue

The OFPD, in partnership with Romeoville Fire Department and Emergency Response Diver Inc., put on a Surface Ice Rescue Course and trained over 60 firefighters this winter. This type of training is imperative so that we may provide the best services possible to our communities. Great job to all those members that participated and became certified in surface ice rescue!



New Engine, Vehicle Changes

In 2013 there were many changes with respect to vehicles at OFPD. A 2013 Ford expedition was purchased and placed into service as the Battalion Chief's vehicle. The former Battalion Chief's car was then renamed as the Deputy Chief of Operations vehicle. The vehicle formerly referred to as the Rescue received several upgrades and was renamed as Squad One. We also took delivery of a new E-One engine which will be placed into service at station two. The former E-2 will be replacing E-1, and E-1 will become a reserve engine. Pictured below is the new E-2.



OFPD "Fill The Boot"

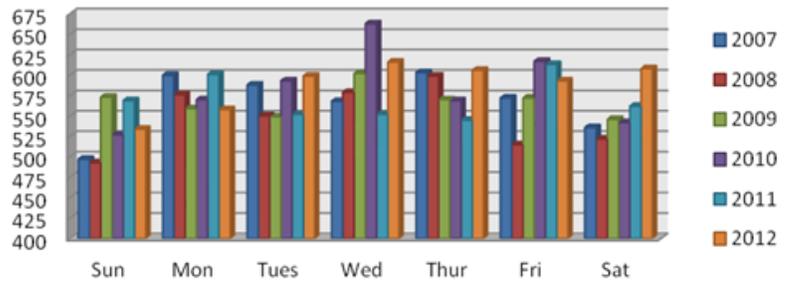
Capt. Martinez and the Oswego firefighters had an outstanding year raising money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. In 2012 the OFPD raised over \$17,000 for the organization and were recognized by the MDA for being in the top ten fire departments in Illinois for MDA collections. Well Done!



Stemi Awards

This year the Oswego Fire Protection District (Medics 2 & 3) has been placed on the Rush Copley Medical Center's STEMI (ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction) Wall of Fame. So far we have received the award in January, March, and twice in May. This award is given for a medic unit who activates a code STEMI in the field and assists RCMC in getting a patient from the door to the cath-lab in under an hour of onset of chest pain. At this time, Oswego Fire is a 4-time recipient, with RCMC only giving out 5 total — keep up the good work!

Call Volume by Day of the Week



Honor Guard

The Honor guard continues to represent the district and participates in many events throughout the district, county, and state. The members, lead by the Honor Guard Commander Kris Kearns, are Captains T. Martinez, Cornish, Yackley, Lt. Roscoe, FF/PM's McCumber, E. Roberts, Kell, D. Martinez, Petersohn and McCoy. These men volunteer to come in and work many community events, and do an outstanding job of representing our department. Great Job!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Oswego High School Student Cody White Completes ICE Program (Interrelated Cooperative Education Program)

The OFPD allows one student a year to come in and work at the fire department under the ICE program through our local high schools. The 2012-2013 school year brought us Cody White, a senior at OHS and he worked alongside firefighters and paramedics for 20 hours a week during the school year. This program is an excellent tool to jumpstart the career for an eager student that wants to be a firefighter. Cody did a great job and was a good fit with the crews. He will be missed. Good luck with your career Cody!!!!!!



Toys For Tots 2012

Over the years, the OFPD has really worked hard to ensure that every child in our area has a present during the Holiday season. December 2012 was no different. Firefighters and our four local Jr. high schools collected over 2,700 toys. The annual breakfast was a huge success for the students. Thanks to all the firefighters that make this a monstrous success for the kids!



Pipes and Drums Corps Established

In October of 2011 the OFPD Pipes and Drums Corps was established. Members of the OFPD volunteer their time to play the bagpipes and drums. We have 4 members that play the pipes and 4 members that play the drums. This group of dedicated professionals has been practicing for over a year together. The OFPD Pipes and Drums plan to make their big debut to the public on Prairiefest weekend, although they have had a couple of small ceremonies at the fire station where they performed. The group intends on playing at Fire District functions along with community functions. These firefighters believe in the core values of the department and continue to make personal sacrifices to represent the OFPD. We are "Very Proud!" of our Pipes and Drums members. The pipers are, Capt. Yackley, FF/PMs Cinto, E. Roberts and Josh Petersohn. The drummers are B/Cs Jeff Warren and Schiradelly, Lt. Cave and FF/PM Lackey.



Honorary Members
Andrew Hoinacki—Drum Instructor
Kate Longid—Pipes Instructor

Recent Flooding Commands Extraordinary Efforts by Fire Department Personnel

The OFPD was called to task on April 18th during flash flooding throughout our district. The district responded to over 36 calls for service on this date with numerous rescues being performed by OFPD personnel. One specific call was particularly noteworthy, wherein 27 firefighters were needed to rescue a man and woman who had become trapped in their ponds drain pipe. This life-or-death situation required the outstanding effort, coordination, and training of our members to perform extraordinary tasks to save the victims. The OFPD was successful. The woman in this case was seriously injured and recently released from the hospital and is planning on visiting the fire station to meet the firefighters that she credits as saving her and her husband's lives. This is indicative of what our members are all about. Subsequently, the department has awarded a Unit Commendation to the following members: D/C Veseling, A/C Flanders, B/C Schiradelly, Capt. Keenum, FF's Scheiber, McCord, Lawton, Petro, Delles, Barz, Jordan, Sheley, Hogan, Sheldon, Pokorney, Palomo, Hermann, Williams, Goodbred, T. Roberts, Harvey, Constantine, and Cadena. In addition, the Lifesaving Medal Award was awarded to B/C Schiradelly and FF/PM Jordan for their heroic efforts to save the lives of these two people. They displayed great courage and discipline while placing their own lives at risk. Congrats on a job WELL DONE!



OFPD Received a \$28,200 IPRF Grant to Purchase Air Scrubbers in Addition to Pipes and Drums Corps Equipment

The OFPD received a grant from the Illinois Public Risk Fund in the amount of \$28,200 which was used to supplement the purchase of AirVac air scrubbers for station two, as well as equipment and uniforms that were needed for the newly formed Pipes and Drums Corps.

The air scrubbers will help keep the firefighters safe from toxic exhaust fumes from the vehicles parked inside the apparatus bays at station two. This station was the last of the stations to receive this type of air cleaner. Firefighters work daily in and around the toxic exhaust from the diesel engines - and their sleeping quarters are located just one door away from the vehicles. That makes this addition a great enhancement to our abilities to keep our firefighters healthy.



OOPS!

In a past issue of *The Fire Line* a new hire was inadvertently left out. So to correct this heinous error, we would like to welcome aboard and apologize to FF/PM Chet Hartley. He has proven to be an asset to the department and the community!