



OSWEGO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



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John Cornish, Fire Chief • Dick Kuhn, President • Bob Tripp, Secretary
Ken Holmstrom, Treasurer • Rodger Long, Trustee • Jason Bragg, Trustee

Press Release

For Immediate Release
June 3, 2021

Oswego Fire Protection District *New Fire Chief to be sworn in*

(Oswego, IL) The Oswego Fire Protection District is proud to announce a new Fire Chief has been named to replace Fire Chief Michael Veseling. Longtime member John Cornish will be sworn in as the new Fire Chief on June 14th, 2021 at 6:45 pm.

The District had been operating with Deputy Chief Josh Flanders as the acting Chief since the vacancy occurred. We knew the next Chief would come from within the Department because we have two excellent candidates that are extremely qualified. Both have a love of the fire service, our department and the community. This decision was extremely difficult to make because they both would be very successful. The Trustees worked with internal candidates Deputy Chief Josh Flanders and Assistant Chief John Cornish during the process and ultimately voted to appoint Assistant Chief John Cornish to the position of Fire Chief on Tuesday night June 1st, 2021. I cannot express enough how challenging this decision was for the board to make!

The new Chief has been a member of the Department since 2002 and worked his way through the ranks and was promoted to Assistant Chief in 2016. When John started here the department was primarily volunteer with Volunteer Chief Brad Smith at the helm. During his time here he has seen the department grow into the large fulltime professional organization it is today. John started as a full-time firefighter paramedic and worked in many areas of department over the years. He has continually sought out educational and training opportunities during his career as he advanced through the ranks. Prior to being promoted to Assistant Chief, John has held positions in Operations, the Fire Prevention Bureau and Support Services.

John holds a bachelor’s degree in human resources from Lindenwood University and a master’s degree in Emergency Management from Columbia Southern University. He is a licensed Paramedic and has attained many state certifications in firefighting related fields. He is a Marine Corps veteran of the Persian Gulf War and also a veteran of the United States Coast Guard where he served at a search and rescue station on Lake Michigan. We are excited for the future of the District. We are confident that the newly appointed Chief will work well with his team to lead the department forward.

Dick Kuhn, President, Board of Trustees

The Oswego Fire Protection District was formed by voter referendum in March of 1936, covers over 60 square miles in the northeast portion of Kendall County and about 1.5 square miles of northwest unincorporated Will County.

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