



OAKCREEK
— WISCONSIN —



City of Oak Creek Fire Department

2020
Annual Report

Message from the Chief

On behalf of the men and women of the Oak Creek Fire Department, I am proud to present our 2020 annual report.

2020 was shaped by COVID-19; all aspects of department operations, from our emergency responses to our in-station daily activities, were all affected by this pandemic. The Oak Creek Fire Department addressed this challenge through the implementation of additional infection control measures to provide for the safety of our patients and emergency responders, the development of innovative methods for the distribution of prevention and education programming, and the modification of daily processes and procedures aimed at reducing the spread of COVID-19 in our fire stations. Although we are all hopeful that we will see significant advancement in the fight against COVID-19 during 2021, the department will continue to adjust as necessary to address the needs of the community during this public health emergency.

Despite the challenges presented by COVID-19, the department was still able to complete several important initiatives, including the development of a hiring process and the subsequent onboarding of two new Probationary Firefighters; three promotional processes resulting in the promotions of an Assistant Chief, Battalion Chief, and two Lieutenants; the improvement of the department's Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating to 2; and the maintenance of the department status as an accredited agency.

I offer my sincere thanks to the members of the Oak Creek Fire Department for their dedicated service in 2020. Despite the challenges faced, our members continued to advance the mission of the department. I am proud to represent this group of men and women.

Finally, I offer my appreciation to our Mayor, Police and Fire Commission, Common Council, City Administrator, and other city departments for their continued support. We are proud to serve the City of Oak Creek and look forward to continuing this service in 2021.



Our Mission

*PREVENT HARM
PROVIDE CARE
PROTECT EACH OTHER
TAKE RESPONSIBILITY*

City Officials

Elected Officials

Mayor _____ Daniel Bukiewicz
1st District Alderman _____ Steven Kurkowski
2nd District Alderman _____ Gregory Loreck
3rd District Alderman _____ Richard Duchniak
4th District Alderman _____ Michael Toman
5th District Alderman _____ Ken Gehl
6th District Alderman _____ Chris Guzikowski

Police & Fire Commission

Scott Koenig, President _____ Appointed 4/2013
Jeff Sageser, Secretary _____ Appointed 7/2014
Jesus Carrillo _____ Appointed 6/2017
Genene Hibbler _____ Appointed 1/2020
Alexa Alfaro _____ Appointed 8/2020
City Administrator _____ Andrew Vickers

The COVID-19 pandemic required the Oak Creek Fire Department to adjust all aspects of its operations. The adjustments were necessary to address the patient care needs for a new and emerging disease, and to help prevent and contain the spread of the disease.

Emergency Operations Program Changes

Equipment

The department instituted several changes to our emergency operations, and most prominently in our emergency medical services program. The key changes were in the area of personal protective equipment as the highly-contagious nature of COVID-19 required us to utilize increased protective measures such as masks and gowns. Additional measures incorporated into our emergency operations included the purchase of equipment necessary to disinfect and clean apparatus following patient care transports.

These changes to personal protective and disinfecting equipment came at a significant cost, as prices increased due to the instability of supply chains. The department worked to minimize the impacts of the costs through the purchase of reusable equipment and other conservation methods. Although supply chains have somewhat improved, the department anticipates continued availability and cost issues during 2021.

Milwaukee County COVID-19 Unit

During the early stages of the pandemic, the Oak Creek Fire Department participated in the Milwaukee County COVID-19 Unit response program. The goal of this program, through the deployment of alternate response vehicles and COVID-19 transport units, was to reduce the strain of the pandemic on the county EMS system; allowing for the appropriate treatment of COVID-19 patients while also maintaining available resources for other emergency medical needs in the community. The Oak Creek Fire Department participated in this program through the sharing of personnel and equipment. This program was discontinued in mid-2020 as EMS call volume stabilized.

Prevention and Education Program Changes

The public gathering restrictions caused by the pandemic, including the associated closures to businesses and schools, significantly impacted the department's fire prevention and education programs. To reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19, prevention inspections in residential care facilities were performed virtually. Other site inspections were performed following consultation with our Health Department in an effort to avoid areas experiencing significant outbreaks.

Although "in-person" public education programming was stopped, the department was able to provide some educational outreach through the use of videos and social media.

Daily Activity Changes

The way our personnel lived in our fire stations was also affected by the pandemic. Daily screenings, masks, social distancing, and frequent cleanings became the new normal as our crews worked diligently to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Collaboration with Public Health

Building on an already positive relationship, the Oak Creek Fire Department worked to support the efforts of public health during the pandemic. This collaborative relationship was made evident through the combined efforts of both departments in the Oak Creek Emergency Operations Center, the development of department COVID-19 processes and procedures, and the support of community programming such as flu and COVID-19 vaccination clinics. The department is excited with the prospects of future collaborations with public health.

Although some of the changes implemented during 2020 will become the new normal, the department is hopeful that 2021 presents us with the opportunity to safely move our programming back towards greater personal interaction within the community.

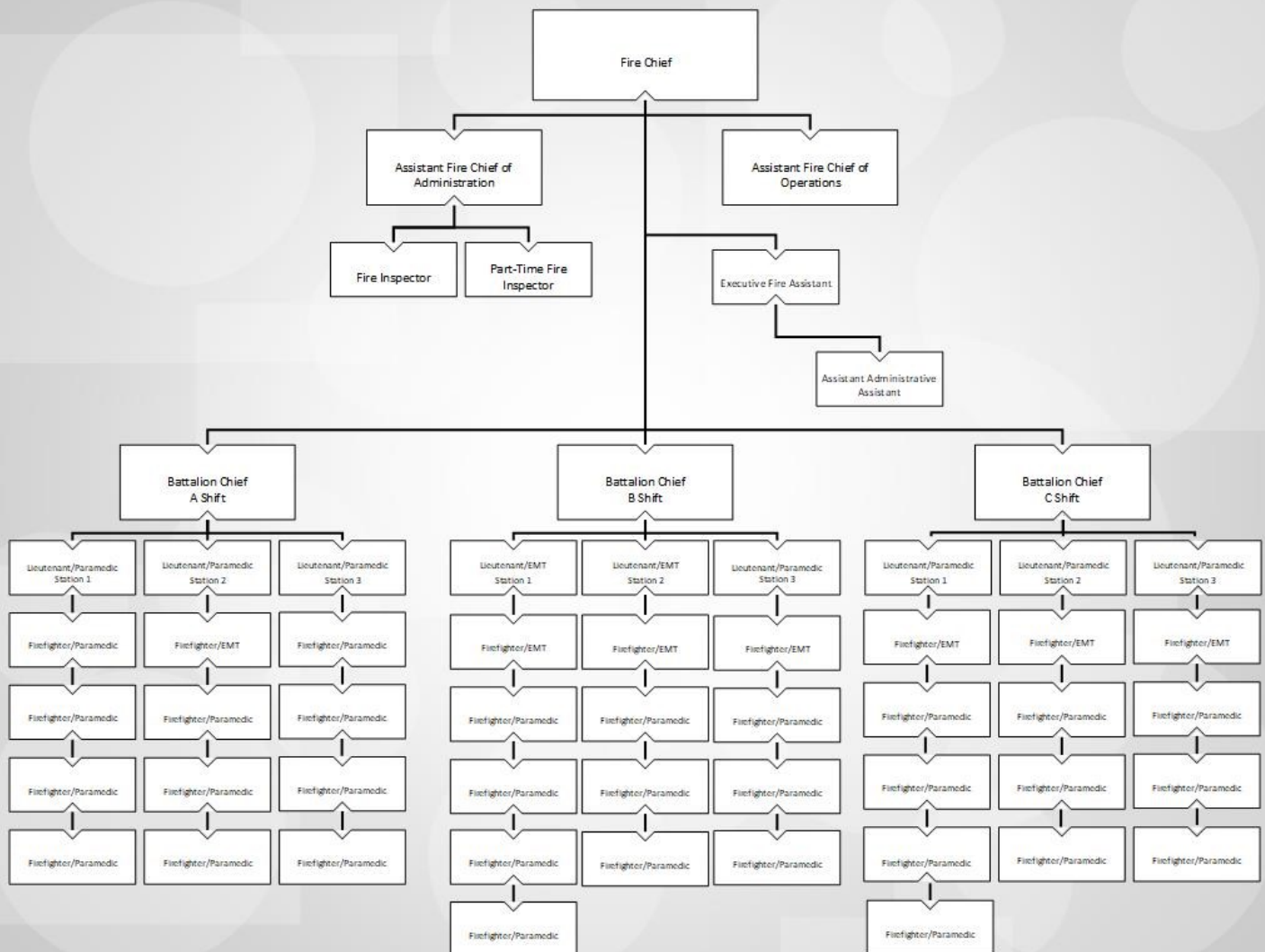


The Organization

The Oak Creek Fire Department is staffed by 56 employees (54 career and 2 civilian staff) who are dedicated to providing the highest level of service to the community.

Several administrative transitions took place in 2020 including the promotion of a new Assistant Chief of Operations and Training, the transfer of the existing Assistant Chief into a new role as Assistant Chief of Administration, and promotion of a new Battalion Chief of Operations. There was also the re-alignment of responsibilities for Command Staff personnel and department programs with an emphasis on strategic goals for each program group.

Below is the department organizational chart by position.



2020 RETIREMENTS

LAURA WING

POSITION: Firefighter/Paramedic

RETIREMENT DATE: 1.5.2020

Laura began her career with the department on August 23, 1999. She was the department's first female fire fighter and inspired many young women to follow a career in firefighting. During her service she trained to become a licensed paramedic and led the department's fire prevention programs. Laura was commended for her efforts in the dispatch center during the "Tax Days" fires in 2003 and for the Lake Forest Apartment complex fire in 2004. She was also previously recognized as Fire Fighter of the Year by the American Legion Post 434.



STEVEN WILDING

POSITION: Lieutenant/EMT

RETIREMENT DATE: 10.31.2020

Steve began his career as a paid-on-call fire fighter on April 14, 1986 and was later appointed to full-time fire fighter on February 6, 1989. Steve was promoted to Lieutenant on June 16, 2000 and was assigned to Acting Captain in 2006 to 2008. During his service he lead the department's vehicle maintenance program and served on the city's Cost Reduction Committee and city's Health Insurance Study Committee.

MICHAEL WARGOLET

POSITION: Firefighter/Paramedic

RETIREMENT DATE: 12.31.2020

Mike began his career on September 25, 1989. During his service, he trained to become a licensed paramedic and was a founding member and leader of the Tactical Emergency Medical Service (TEMS) program. Mike also filled the full-time role of Fire Inspector for the department for two years.



DAVID WRECKE

POSITION: Firefighter/EMT

RETIREMENT DATE: 12.31.2020

Dave began his career on August 23, 1999. During his service he trained to become a licensed paramedic. He served as a paramedic for the department for over 15 years. Dave was responsible for the inventory and ordering of station supplies.

The Organization

2020 PROMOTIONS

NEW POSITION: Assistant Fire Chief of Operations

PROMOTION DATE: 1.26.2020

THOMAS JONSON

Tom has been with the department for 25 years. He was promoted to the position of Lieutenant in 2002 and to Battalion Chief of Operations in 2010. Tom is responsible for the department's operational programs and training.



NEW POSITION: Battalion Chief of Operations

PROMOTION DATE: 7.15.2020

JEFFREY MALLAS

Jeff is a 17 year veteran of the Oak Creek Fire Department. He was promoted to the position of Lieutenant in 2015 and had served as an Acting Battalion Chief since 2017. Jeff's program responsibilities include fire suppression and training. Jeff is also in charge of protective equipment.

NEW POSITION: Lieutenant

PROMOTION DATE: 12.3.2020

JUSTIN NALE

Justin has been a department member for 12 years and had served as an Acting Lieutenant for the last 4 years. Justin has been a key contributor on numerous committees and projects and has served as a trainer and preceptor for many of our newly hired firefighters.



NEW POSITION: Lieutenant

PROMOTION DATE: 12.17.2020

AARON KRUKOWSKI

Aaron is a 5 year member of the department and has been very active in the department's public education and EMS training programs.

The Organization

2020 NEW MEMBERS

POSITION: Firefighter/Paramedic
HIRE DATE: 4.20.2020

MASON BARRIBEAU

Mason is from Oak Creek and while in high school, participated in the Oak Creek Fire Department Explorer Post. He has two years of experience working in emergency medical services, one of which as a Paramedic Crew Chief at Bell Ambulance in Milwaukee. One of the most rewarding parts of his job, he says, is helping people turn a bad day into a better one. In his free time, Mason enjoys being outside, running, and going to Brewers games.



JEREMY FONTANEZ

Jeremy was born and raised in Milwaukee, but recently moved to Franklin. Prior to working for the Oak Creek Fire Department, Jeremy worked for Curtis Ambulance in Milwaukee as a paramedic, and was also a part-time firefighter for the City of New Berlin. In his time off, Jeremy enjoys taking his dog Winston to dog parks, or pretty much any other activity that gets him outside.

PERSONNEL

During 2020, there were other personnel changes that occurred. We recognize those events below.

TRANSFERS	POSITION	DATE
MICHAEL HAVEY	ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF OF ADMINISTRATION	1.26.2020
RESIGNATIONS	POSITION	DATE
MATTHEW WARGOLET	FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC	5.21.2020
IN MEMORY OF	AFFILIATION	DATE
JAMES HASSE	RETIRED OAK CREEK FIREFIGHTER	8.9.2020
JAMES SCHULTZ	POLICE & FIRE COMMISSIONER	9.8.2020

Budget

2 0 2 0 B U D G E T

(Combined Fire, EMS & WE Energies Budgets)

Direct Employee Costs (Salaries, overtime, insurance).....	\$7,220,506
Indirect Employee Costs (Training, recruitment, uniforms, tuition)	\$70,760
Utilities (Electricity, natural gas, water/sewer)	\$116,713
Supplies (Office supplies, fire prevention, minor equipment, EMS supplies, fire equipment)	\$140,203
Maintenance (Office equipment, radio maintenance, grounds/building maintenance)	\$52,280
Vehicles (Maintenance, fuel, tires)	\$97,959

Goals & Objectives

Several key initiatives were accomplished during 2020. They include:

- The department was evaluated by the Insurance Services Office (ISO) and received a Public Protection Classification (PPC) rating of 2. This is an improvement over the department's last rating of 2/2Y which was obtained in 2015. Oak Creek's rating of 2 places it in the top 6% of the nearly 40,000 departments evaluated by ISO.
- The department successfully completed the necessary annual compliance reporting requirements to maintain its status as an accredited agency. During 2021, the department will begin formal preparations for its re-accreditation site visit in 2022.
- Conducted three promotional processes and one hiring process resulting in the promotions of 1 Assistant Chief, 1 Battalion Chief, 2 Lieutenants, and the hiring of 2 Firefighters.
- In conjunction with the Battalion Chief and Lieutenant promotional processes, the department participated in organizational leadership and culture workshops. The results from these workshops were, and will continue, to be used to guide professional development and organizational structure.
- The department completed the purchase, outfitting of apparatus, and introductory training for the new Holmatro extrication tools. Additionally, the department's deployment model for extrication assignments was reviewed with response changes implemented.
- Completed training of seven additional personnel as Aerial Pump Operators (APOs). The department now has 20 personnel achieving this designation. This training is required by the State of Wisconsin for all personnel operating aerial apparatus during emergency incidents.
- The department completed its transition to its new records management software. This final step has allowed for better organization and integration of department records, including maintenance, inspections and emergency response activities.

2020 Incidents

EMERGENCY RESPONSES

The Oak Creek Fire Department responded to 4,558 incidents in 2020.

5 Year Call History

Call By Type	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Fires	119	137	126	100	91
Rescue and EMS	3,092	3,097	3,535	3,675	3,672
Hazardous Condition	75	84	88	84	72
Service Call	148	189	199	305	172
Good Intent Call	152	188	205	209	234
False Alarms	288	343	302	363	308
Other	6	11	9	8	9
Annual Totals	3,845	3,880	4,049	4,464	4,558

Responses by station

STATION NO. 1
1,984



255 E. Centennial Drive

STATION NO. 2
905



3950 E. Oakwood Road

STATION NO. 3
1,582



7000 S. 6th Street

Department Programs

The Oak Creek Fire Department provides the following emergency services to the City of Oak Creek:

- Fire suppression: structural and mobile property
- Rescue: extrication, confined space awareness, technical rescue services and support
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS): care and transport both at the Advanced Life Support (ALS) and Basic Life Support (BLS) level
- Hazardous materials response: operations level services
- Specialized services: foam trailer, tactical emergency medical support (TEMS) team

In addition to the emergency services above, the department also provides a variety of programs aimed at preventing and/or reducing the impact of emergency events. These programs include:

- Building plan review and permitting
- Fire inspections
- Fire investigation (in collaboration with the Oak Creek Police Department)
- Fire extinguisher training
- Fire prevention education
- Community CPR/AED training
- Public access defibrillation program (PulsePoint application)
- Active shooter training (in collaboration with the Oak Creek Police Department)
- Other specialty programs based on request



Community Risk Reduction

Prevention

The Fire Prevention Program strives to achieve the department's mission through prevention and mitigation programs which include plan review and fire prevention inspections.

This program is overseen by Assistant Chief Michael Havey with support from our full-time Fire Inspector who handles the day-to-day fire inspections of all public buildings and places of employment within the city. Firefighter Brian Anderson has served as the Fire Inspector since March of 2019. The program was also supported during 2020 by our Executive Fire Assistant, Anna Waarvik and part-time Administrative Assistant, Sharon Reichel.

Early in 2020, Wisconsin Emergency Order #22 declared that fire prevention inspections were suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Although this order was extended through March 19th of 2021, the department was able, on a limited basis, to begin inspections in early summer of 2020. Through a collaboration with the Oak Creek Public Health Department, the Prevention Program was able to develop a plan that allowed our inspector to safely begin on-site fire inspections in the community. Several of our healthcare facilities had instituted COVID-19 policies that prohibited visitors. Our Prevention Program successfully balanced the need to provide for the health of the residents in facilities with the need to promote fire safety by developing a hybrid inspections process that allowed our inspector to remotely interact with facilities. Despite the challenges presented to us in 2020, our Prevention Program was able to provide inspection services to all businesses and facilities that typically require inspections.

In 2020, there were 1,555 properties requiring an annual inspection. 1,458 annual fire inspections for existing businesses and 73 occupancy inspections for new businesses were performed. The Fire Inspector also conducted 510 re-inspections. The department reviewed 84 permit requests mainly for sprinkler and fire alarm systems.



Community Risk Reduction

Public Education

The Oak Creek Fire Department's Public Education program serves the citizens through educational outreach initiatives that work to reduce risks in the community. Our outreach includes programs in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), automated external defibrillation (AED), first-aid and safety programs, Fire Prevention Week, fire and home safety education, and fire extinguisher training.

The Public Education Program is overseen by Assistant Chief Michael Havey with support from many of our department's members.

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic had required the postponement of the majority of in-person public education events in 2020. The Public Education Program adjusted to these restrictions through the development of virtual educational programs, including Fire Prevention Week safety videos developed by Lieutenants Jessie Teichmiller and Aaron Krukowski, and Firefighters Ian Perry, Dan Rezner, Scott Steinhaus, Matt Mondelli, and Sean Runge. A school district emergency care kit training video was also developed by our

Tactical Emergency Medical Services lead, Firefighter Stephen Nett. Additional outreach was distributed through our social media channels.

Our Public Education Program is looking forward to continuing the development of new educational distribution models for 2021, while also looking at plans for the return of in-person training opportunities.



Fire Investigation

The Oak Creek Fire Department maintains a Fire Investigation Unit (FIU) to investigate the cause, origin, and circumstances of fires within the community. The results of these investigations can assist in the development of educational and informational programs related to fire prevention.

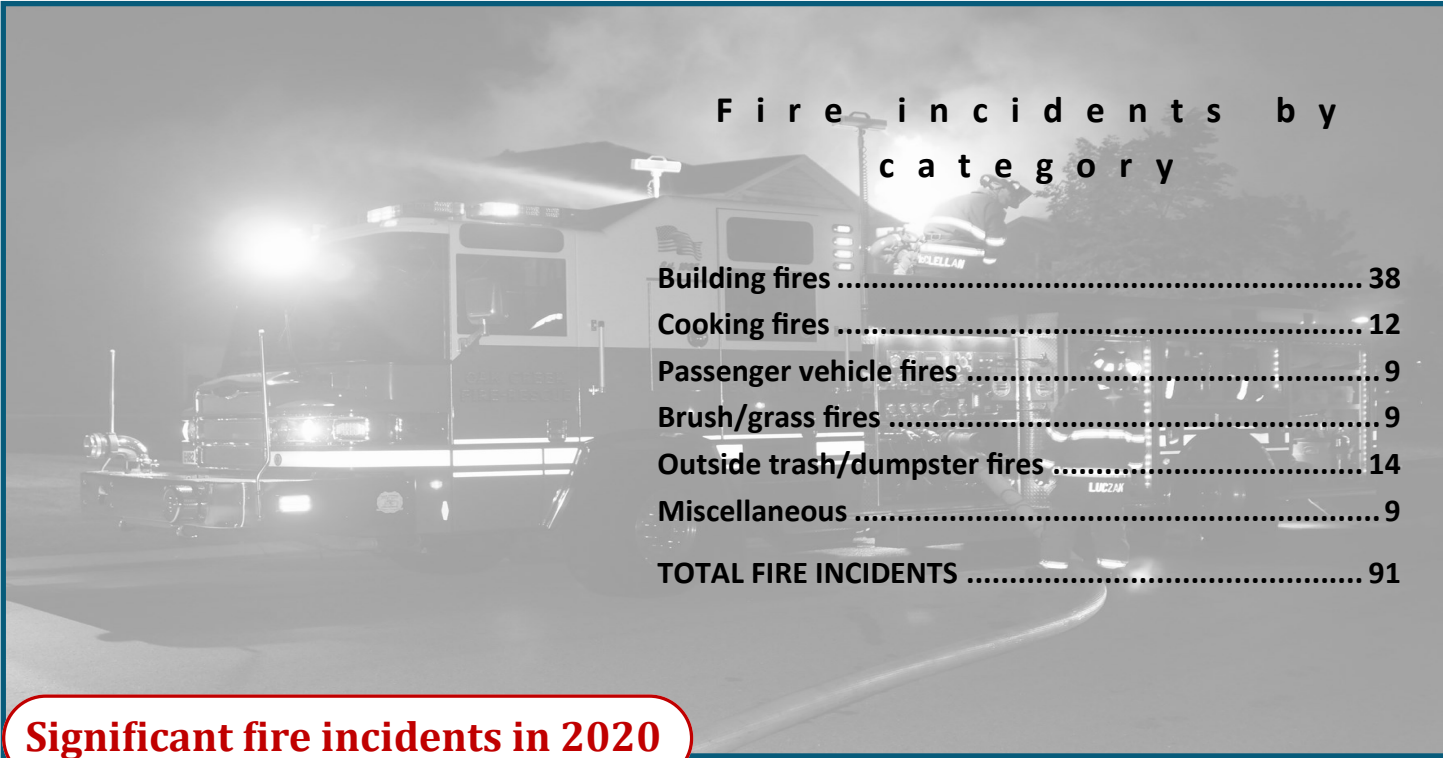
The FIU team consists of 6 department members: Assistant Chief of Administration Michael Havey, Lieutenants Peter Olson and Aaron Kolosovsky, and Firefighters John Leanna, Ryan Gordon, and Gary Hildebrandt. The investigation unit also works closely with members of the Oak Creek Police Department's Detective Bureau.

The Fire Investigation Unit investigated 5 fires in 2020; the cause of 4 of those fires was determined to be accidental in nature, with the cause of 1 fire remaining undetermined. The total property loss experienced for the 5 fires investigated was over \$650,000.

Fire Suppression

The Oak Creek Fire Department provides fire suppression services to the City of Oak Creek and, when requested, neighboring communities. The Fire Suppression program is led by Assistant Chief of Operations and Training Tom Jonson, with support from Battalion Chief Jeff Mallas. Additional program support is provided by Lieutenant Aaron Kolosovsky, who leads the SCBA maintenance program and Lieutenant Wes Schaefer, who is in charge of fire hose maintenance, testing, and inspection.

During 2020, the Oak Creek Fire Department responded to 91 fire-related incidents. Although these fires resulted in \$319,700 in property damage, the department is happy to report that no fire fatalities occurred during 2020.



Fire incidents by category

Building fires	38
Cooking fires	12
Passenger vehicle fires	9
Brush/grass fires	9
Outside trash/dumpster fires	14
Miscellaneous	9
TOTAL FIRE INCIDENTS	91

Significant fire incidents in 2020

- A fire at an industrial complex caused \$100,000 of damage to a maintenance building. No injuries occurred as a result of this fire.
- A kitchen fire in the residential unit of an apartment complex caused \$50,000 of damage to the building. The fire was controlled by the sprinkler system, with fire crews performing overhaul and ventilation. No injuries occurred as a result of this fire.
- A fire in the attic and living area of a single-family residence caused approximately \$38,000 of damage to the building. All occupants were able to safely exit the home, fire crews arrived and extinguished the fire. One fire fighter was injured during the incident.
- A fire in a residence attached to a motel was quickly contained by fire crews, resulting in minimal property damage to both buildings. Two occupants were evaluated for smoke inhalation.

Operations

Emergency Medical Services

The Oak Creek Fire Department provides advanced life support (ALS) and basic life support (BLS) patient care and transport services to the community. These services are provided through the deployment of ALS ambulances at each of the three fire stations, each staffed with two Firefighter/Paramedics. The program is led by Assistant Chief of Operations Thomas Jonson. Assistant Chief Jonson is supported by Battalion Chief Scott Kasten, Lieutenant Eric Herr and an EMS Supply Group consisting of Firefighters Amy Grzyb, Chris Mayer, Ryan Gordon, Aaron Ritchie and Victor Ordonez. The program receives medical control and direction on policies, procedures and operating guidelines from the Milwaukee County Office of Emergency Management.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTS

ALS	BLS	Other	Non-transport
1,317	1,173	84	1,023



LUCAS Device

The LUCAS Chest Compression System assists first responders by providing effective and uninterrupted chest compressions to sudden cardiac arrest patients. Automated CPR reduces the need for shifting CPR providers every two minutes, individual variations, and psychological factors associated with manual CPR. Rescuers are freed up to focus on other critical life-saving tasks which leads to an increased focus on cardiac arrest management.

The department's first LUCAS device was purchased in 2018 and was placed in the Battalion Chief car which is located in the center of the city at Station #1. Although centrally located, there is a longer response time for the Battalion Chief if the need for the device is outside of Station 1's territory. In early 2020, the department was able to purchase a second LUCAS device which was placed on the paramedic unit at Station 3.

In 2020, this device was used on 63 cardiac arrest patients.



Technical Rescue

Technical rescue incidents include emergencies such as structural collapses, vehicle accidents, high and low angle rope rescues, confined space, trench collapses, and water/dive rescues. These incidents generally occur infrequently, but present a significant risk to victims and responders. The members of the Oak Creek Fire Department are trained to provide initial operational support during tech rescue emergencies, and utilizes outside resources for incidents that exceed the capabilities of the department. These outside resources include the regional Heavy Urban Rescue Team (HURT) from the Milwaukee Fire Department, the Milwaukee Fire Department Dive Team, and the South Milwaukee Fire Department Rescue Boat.



The most common tech rescue response for the Oak Creek Fire Department is vehicle extrication emergencies. During 2020, the department responded to a total of 9 extrication assignments. The department also responded to 7 requests to remove a victim from a stalled elevator and 1 incident involving extrication from machinery.

Most notably during 2020, the department purchased and trained on the new Holmatro battery powered extrication tools. These tools replaced the department's older, hydraulic extrication equipment; improving the department's extrication capabilities through the increased mobility and rapid deployment associated with battery-powered tools.

Haz Mat

A hazardous materials (Haz-Mat) incident includes any event that results in the uncontrolled release of hazardous or toxic materials. In the City of Oak Creek, hazardous materials are stored and transported throughout the city on a daily basis. The majority of hazardous materials incidents result from motor vehicle crashes involving the release of substances such as gasoline, diesel and oil onto roadways or into waterways. The Oak Creek Fire Department is trained to mitigate a vast majority of these incidents. The regional Haz Mat team from the Milwaukee Fire Department is requested to assist with any incidents exceeding the capabilities of the Oak Creek Fire Department.

During 2020, the majority of hazardous materials incidents in the City of Oak Creek were due to motor vehicle crashes, carbon monoxide incidents, and natural gas leaks. The department did not experience any incidents requiring the deployment of the regional hazardous materials team.



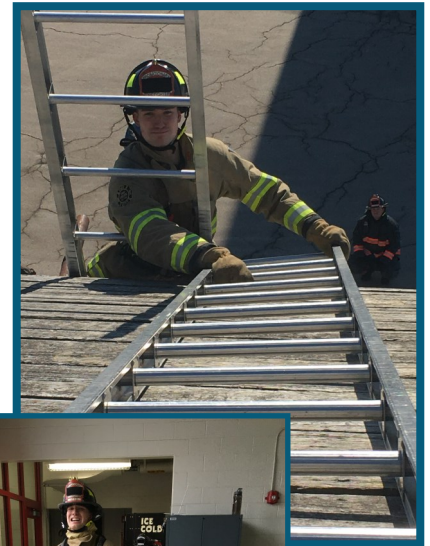
TRAINING HOURS

In 2020, the department logged 8,238 hours of training. This amount equates to 15 hours of training per month per department member.

The Oak Creek Fire Department Training Bureau is committed to providing our members with informative, educational, and appropriate training based on research and best practices. It is the Training Bureau's goal to build upon established standards, current operations, and department responses to all incidents. Our all hazards approach to training will challenge the performance of our department, while enhancing the service we provide to the city. These trainings will always be geared toward personal enhancement, along with satisfying national, state, and local requirements.

NEAR-MISS SATURDAY

Every Saturday, the department reviews a near-miss incident in an effort to improve the safety of our members.. OSHA defines a near-miss as an incident in which no property was damaged and no personal injury was sustained, but where, given a slight shift in time or position, damage or injury easily could have occurred.



2020 Monthly Training

JANUARY



- CPR renewal
- Accountability SOG
- First responder operations

FEBRUARY



- PPE Inspections
- Fit Testing
- Extrication SOG review

MARCH



- EMS Simulations
- Extrication
- SCBA
- EPCR tips and tricks

APRIL



- EMS Simulations
- Trauma survey
- Hand-held nebulizer treatment (COVID-19)
- COVID-19 operational response guidelines

MAY



- Near-miss Gasoline
- COVID-19 operational response guidelines

JUNE



- Holmatro equipment
- Extrication and struts assessment
- NFPA 1500 hazmat awareness
- EMS Simulations

2020 Monthly Training

JULY



- PPE/SCBA Donning
- NFPA 1410 Drill forward lay
- Pumping operations with Franklin Fire Dept.

AUGUST



- Tour Amazon facility
- Hand-line deployment
- EMS—Video laryngoscope, surgical airways and Impedence-threshold devices

SEPTEMBER



- High rise strategies & tactics
- Hose testing
- Train with MFD to review equipment and compatibility

OCTOBER



- EMS—OB emergencies
- Ground ladders—carries, throws and raises
- Hazmat fuel spills

NOVEMBER



- ACLS refresher
- RIT—response to the Mayday
- Calling the Mayday
- Hazmat—meters, what are our gas meters really telling us

DECEMBER



- Fire—FEPS and Columbus kits
- Firefighter and victim rescue, drags and carries
- EMS training catch-up



Oak Creek Fire Department
7000 6th Street
Oak Creek, WI 53154
(414) 570-5630
ocwi.org/fire

