

Oakland Township Fire Department

2023 Annual Report



Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	2
Mission Statement.....	3
Department Structure.....	4-5
Department Operations.....	6
Personnel.....	7-8
Call Volume.....	9
Types of Calls.....	10
Other Statistics.....	11-13
Sheriff's Department.....	14
Mutual Aid.....	15
Stations.....	16
Apparatus.....	17-20
Training.....	21-23
Public Education/Community Involvement.....	24
OTFD in Action.....	25-29
Firefighter Recruitment.....	30
Conclusion.....	31

Mission Statement

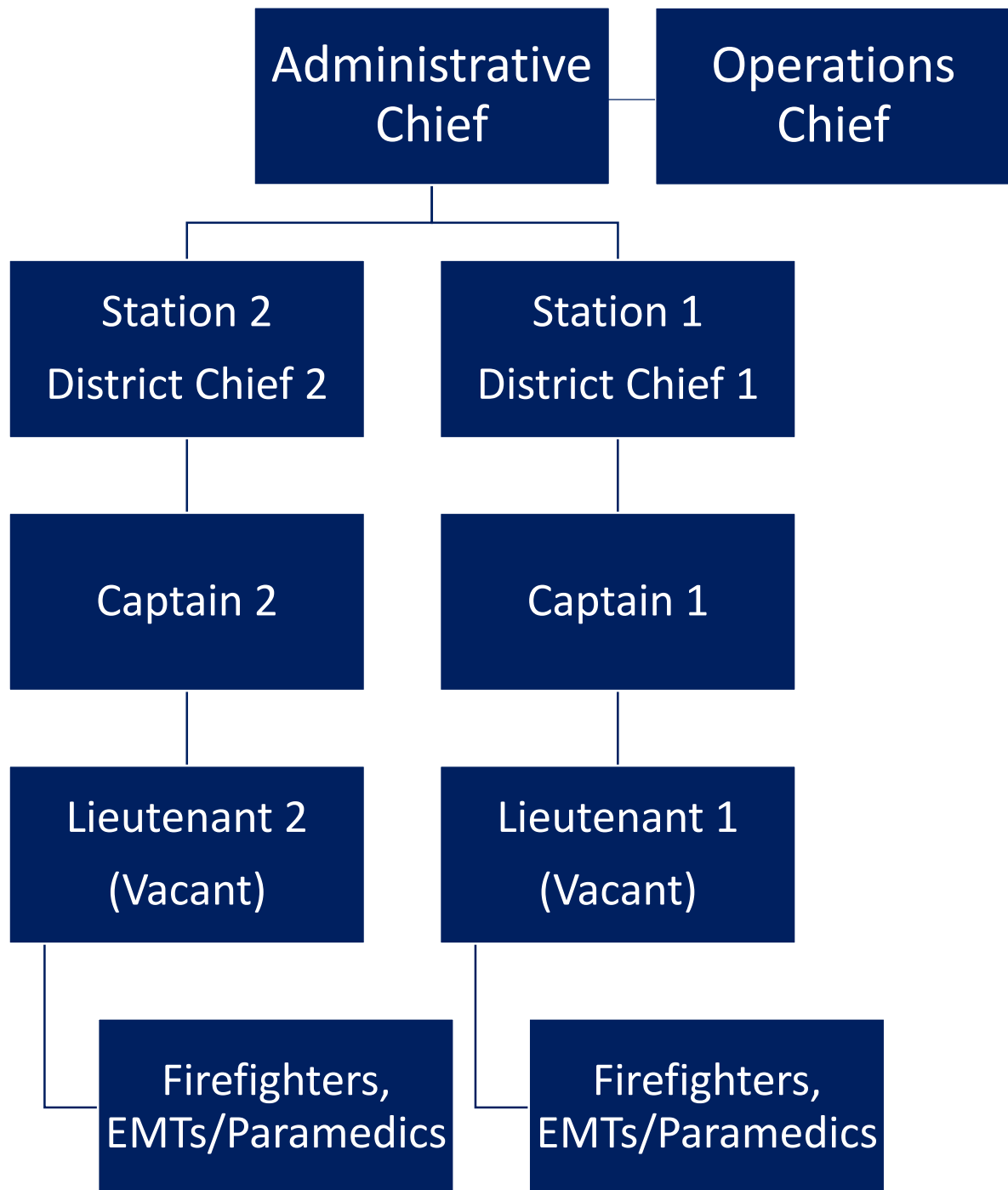
“The Mission of the Oakland Township Fire Department is to safely respond to fire and medical emergencies within the community, to help its citizens deal with those emergencies, and, with regard to the safety of its members, do all it can to limit loss of life, property, and the environment.”

Department Structure

The Oakland Township Fire Department is considered a combination department, with 9 full time duty Firefighter/Paramedics that are currently supplemented by paid-on-call (POC) and part-time (PT) personnel. Station 1 is typically staffed with 1 full-time and 1 PT/POC member, and Station 2 is staffed with 2 full-time personnel, and 1 PT/POC when available. Most days, OTFD is staffed with 4 personnel between both stations, and rely on POC personnel to respond from home/work/wherever to assist on calls.



Department Structure



Department Operations

- Emergency Medical Services (EMS) are a bulk of the calls for service for OTFD – Making up over half the calls for service.
- OTFD is an Advanced Life Support (ALS) agency that is licensed to perform skills such as intravenous access, medication administration, endotracheal intubation and ECG interpretation.
- EMS operations are overseen by the Oakland County Medical Control Authority who creates and implements protocols that OTFD must follow. These protocols include procedures for treatments, transportation guidelines, and response time standards.
- All OTFD personnel hold an EMT-Basic or EMT-Paramedic license through the State of Michigan and a number of continuing education courses occur throughout the year in-house.
- While EMS is important, OTFD responds to common emergencies such as fires, downed power lines, gas leaks, etc.
 - Some uncommon problems OTFD has responded to include: animal rescues (yes, cats in trees!), starting generators for those on home medical devices, shutting off water in an elderly person's house who encountered a plumbing issue. OTFD truly responds to just about *anything* our residents may need.

Personnel

Administration:

Paul Strelchuk – Operations Chief, EMT/Firefighter (1995)

Lou Danek – Administrative Chief, EMT/Firefighter (1995)

Officers:

Jon Diehr – Battalion Chief, Paramedic/Firefighter (1995)

Jim Tweedie – District Chief, EMT/Firefighter (1995)

Luis Gomez – District Chief, EMT/Firefighter (1998)

Derek Young – Captain, Paramedic/Firefighter (2001)

Andrew Linn– Captain, Paramedic/Firefighter (2005)

Support Staff:

Greg Ball – EMS Coordinator, Paramedic/Firefighter (2003)

Stacy Linn– CPR Instructor (2013)

Duty (Full-Time) Personnel:

Jon Diehr – Battalion Chief, Paramedic/Firefighter (1995)

Derek Young – Captain, Paramedic/Firefighter (2001)

Dave Ludington –Paramedic/Firefighter (2001)

Holly Huston – Paramedic/Firefighter (2000)

Scott Rosati – Paramedic/Firefighter (2004)

Andrew Linn – Captain, Paramedic/Firefighter (2005)

Ashley Skurda – Paramedic/Firefighter (2021)

Christina Young – Paramedic/Firefighter (2009)

Josh Kelly – Paramedic/Firefighter (2020)

Personnel

On-Call Personnel:

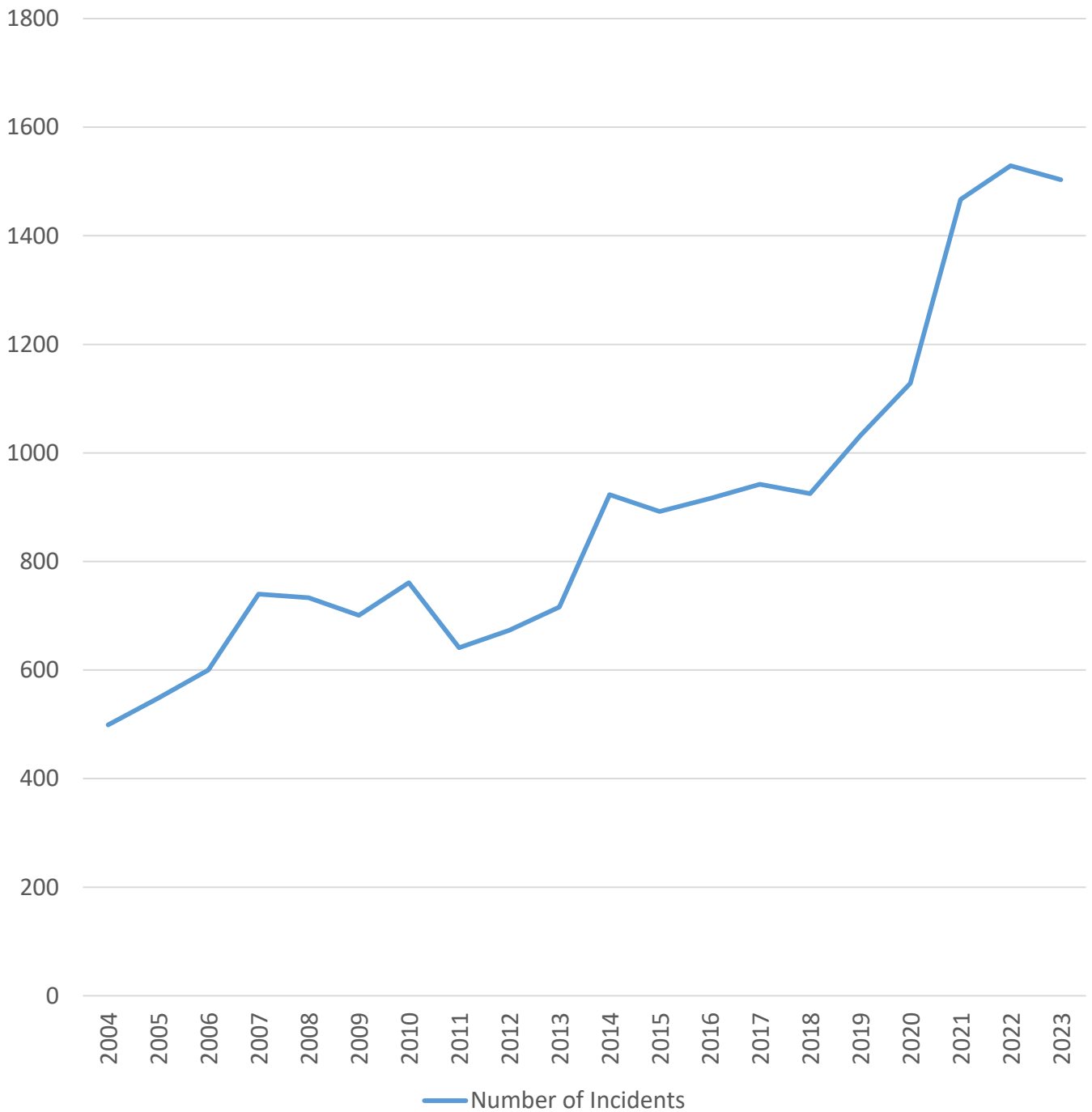
Tweedie, Jim – District Chief, EMT/Firefighter (1995)
Gomez, Luis – District Chief. EMT/Firefighter (1998)
Young, Christina – Paramedic/Firefighter (2009)
Zbytowski, Bob - EMT (2009)
Staley, Keith – EMT (2010)
Linn, Stacy - EMT (2013)
Lang, Matt – EMT/Firefighter (2016)
Sells, Mark – Firefighter/EMT (2018)
Plotzke, Thomas - Firefighter/EMT (2019)
Chavis, Dasan – Firefighter/EMT (2021)
Uhlenhake, Jason – EMT [in fire academy] (2023)
McCardell, Brad – EMT [in fire academy] (2023)
Ondersma, Kelly – Firefighter/Paramedic (2023)
Cole, Lindsey – Probationary [in fire academy] (2023)

Part-Time Personnel:

Schwalbe, Eric - Firefighter/EMT (2018)
Wojniak, Tyler – Firefighter/EMT (2021)

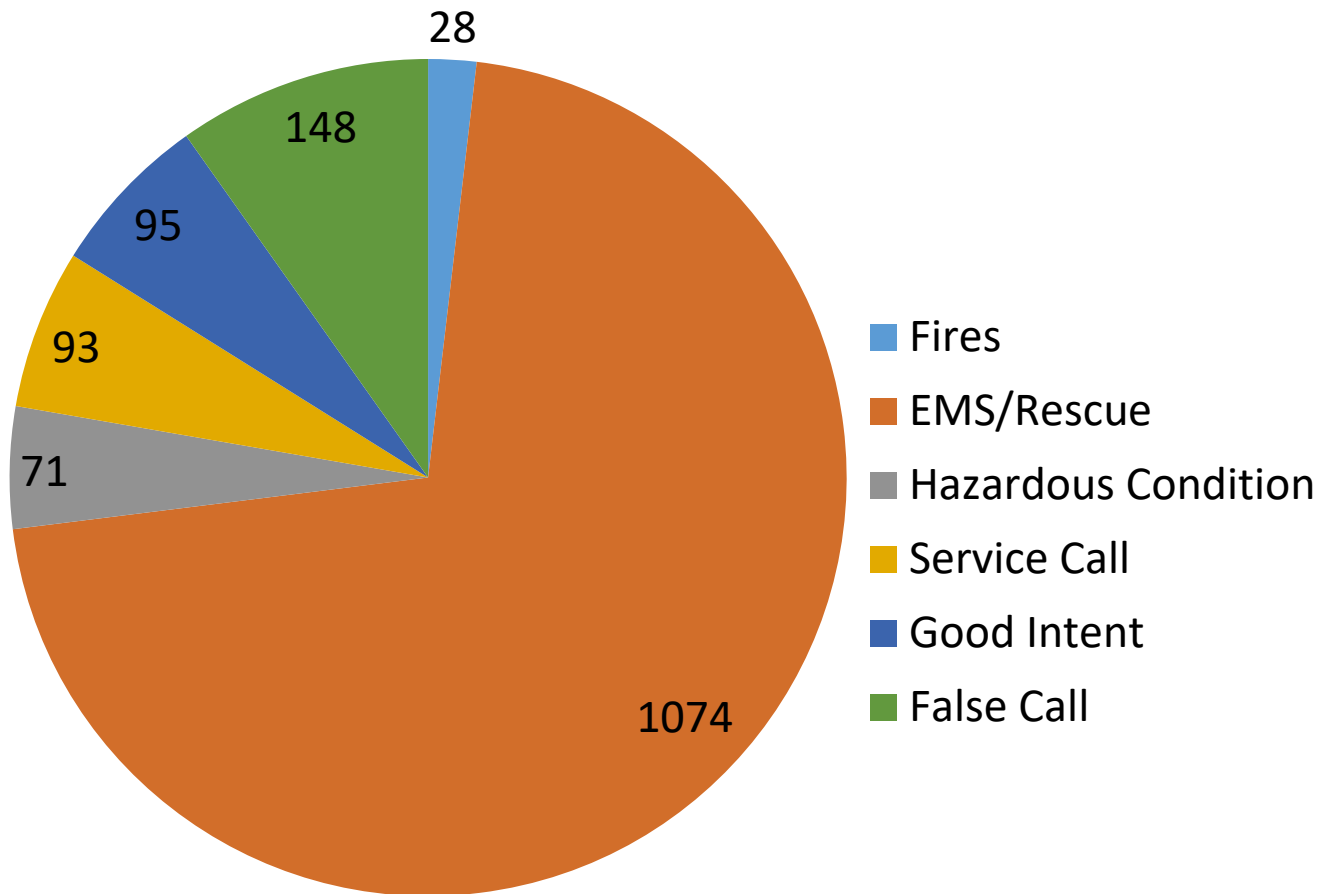
Call Volume

Number of Yearly Incidents 2004-2022



Types of Calls

Types of Calls 1/1/22- 12/31/22



Notes:

Hazardous Conditions: natural gas leaks, HAZMAT, severe weather damage, down power lines, and other similar conditions.

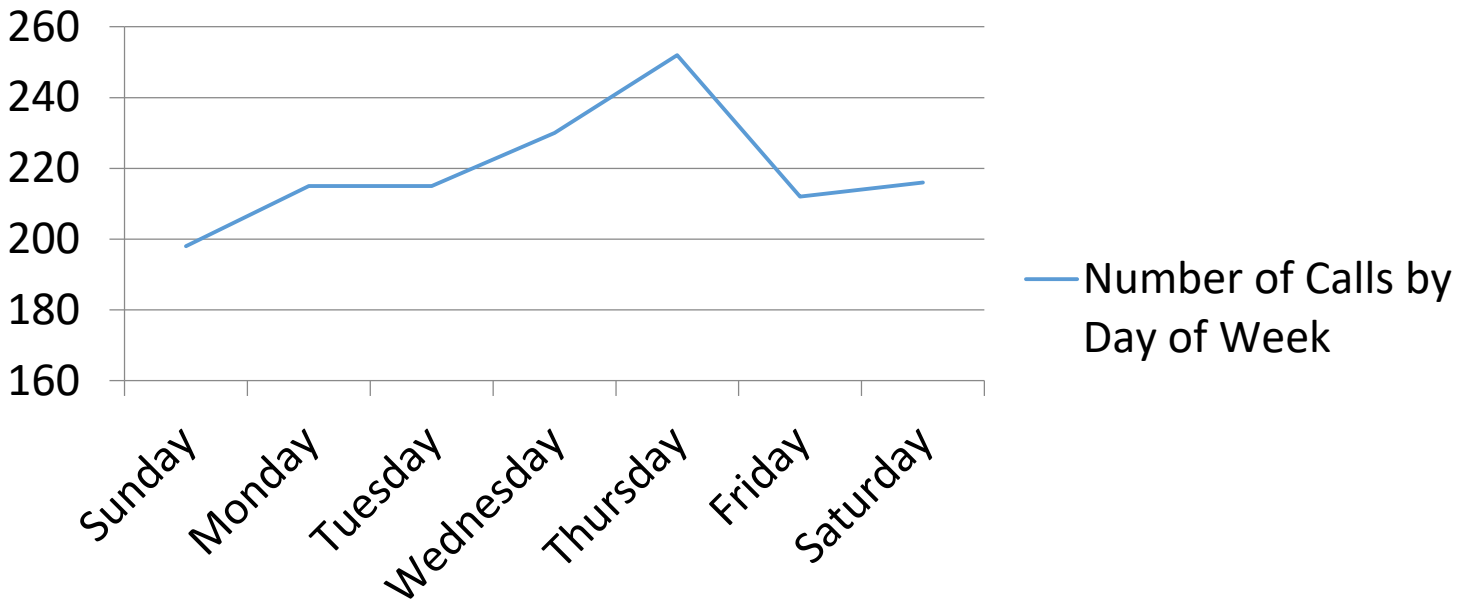
Service Call: non-emergency calls such as police assists, carbon monoxide investigations, and burning complaints.

Good Intent: non-emergency calls such as lift assists, tree removal and animal rescues.

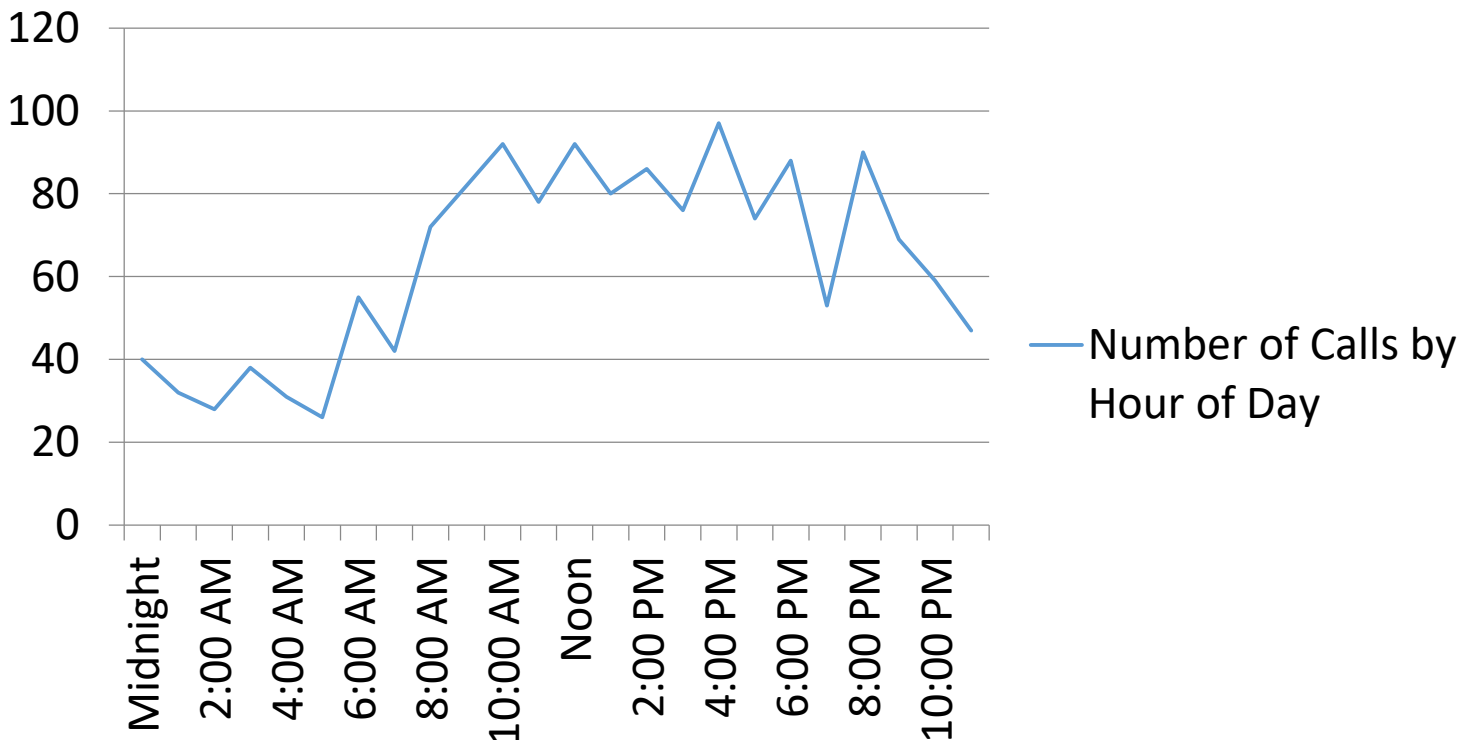
False Call: calls that were dispatched and cancelled en route (medical or fire alarms found to be false).

Other Statistics

Number of Calls by Day of Week 1/1/23 - 12/31/23

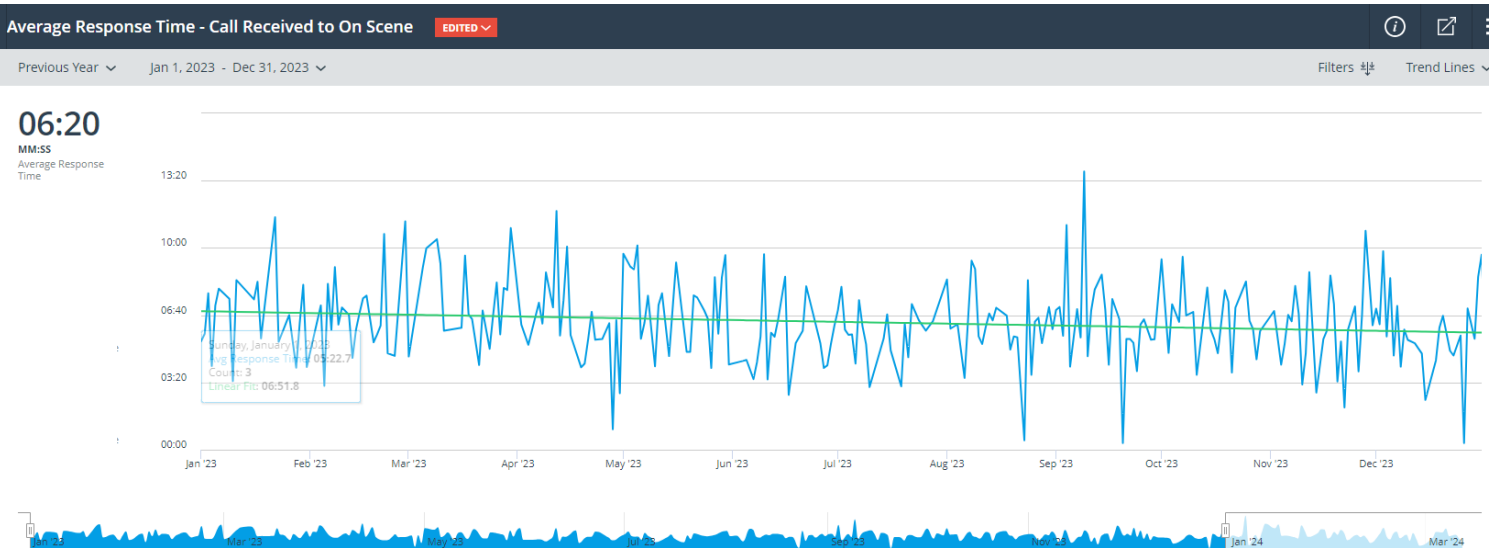


Number of Calls by Hour of Day 1/1/23 - 12/31/23



Other Statistics

The below graph represents response times to medical calls from time of dispatch, to arrival on scene. Average response time to an emergency patient last year was 6 minutes 20 seconds, which is well below the Oakland County Medical Control Authority's requirement for a response time of 9 minutes. Some of the outliers on the graph below may be responses to the far corners of the township, or may have been hindered by poor road conditions (potholes/snow/etc.)



Other Statistics

Many times, OTFD is dispatched to multiple runs at the same time. These are known as *concurrent incidents*, and can greatly challenge response by spreading resources thin. During concurrent incidents, OTFD relies on off-duty personnel and mutual aid partners to handle the subsequent emergencies.

During 2023, OTFD had instances of:

2 concurrent calls – 250 times

3 concurrent incidents – 47 times

4 concurrent incidents – 5 times

Total: **303** instances of concurrent incidents, or nearly **20%** of the time, OTFD had to handle multiple incidents at once.

Sheriff's Department

On every call, the Oakland County Sheriff's Office responds along with OTFD to ensure responder safety and assist in any way they can. Often times, OCSO Deputies assist in carrying medical bags, blocking traffic at fire/accident scenes, and overall lending a helping hand to support OTFD. OTFD would like to sincerely thank each and every Deputy from the Oakland Township Substation for being such a good partner in emergency response!



Another special thanks goes out to Byers Wrecker, who assists OTFD on all car accidents, and provides special response for unique vehicle situations such as semi-truck rollovers, or large fuel leaks.

Mutual Aid



Many times, OTFD relies on neighboring fire departments for mutual aid assistance. Mutual aid is received on nearly every fire, large accidents, or any time OTFD units are tied up on other calls. OTFD also responds to neighboring jurisdictions when they are in need of help as part of MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System) which ensures departments have enough resources to deal with more complex incidents. Thank you to all the neighboring departments for your help throughout the year!

Mutual Aid Statistics 2023

Mutual Aid Given: 52

Mutual Aid Received: 32



Stations



Fire Station #1 was built in 1995 and is located at 4393 Collins Road – near Township Hall and the Sheriff Substation

Fire Station #2 was built in 2002 and is located at 1888 Rochester Road – at the corner of Stoney Creek & Rochester roads



Apparatus

OTFD has 3 similar 2002 Marion Body Works fire engines that each carry 1250 gallons of water and are equipped with 2000 gallon per minute pumps. A variety of firefighting equipment is carried on each truck.



Tanker 2 is a 2002 Marion that carries 3000 gallons of water and is a vital truck in areas without hydrants. At a structure fire, tankers are requested from neighboring departments to ensure a steady flow of water to the fire engines.



Apparatus

Engine 2-1 is a 2021 Pierce Pumper/Tanker. It carries 2500 gallons of water, as well as an onboard foam system. With its large water capacity, Engine 2-1 is housed at Station 2 in the north end of the Township where hydrants are few and far between.



Apparatus

Brush 2 is a 2002 GMC firefighting truck used for off road use at grass fires.



OTFD has 2 2018 GMC utility trucks that are used for towing trailers, moving equipment, plowing snow (around the station and on the way to calls), as well as refueling trucks on the scene via fuel cells in the bed of the truck.



Apparatus

Alpha 1 & 2 (2018 & 2021) are nearly identical Advanced Life Support ambulances that carry all the necessary equipment to treat any medical emergency.



Bravo 1 and Bravo 2 are nearly identical 2013 Basic Life Support ambulances that also is equipped with Advanced Life Support supplies in the event it is needed and a Paramedic is available.



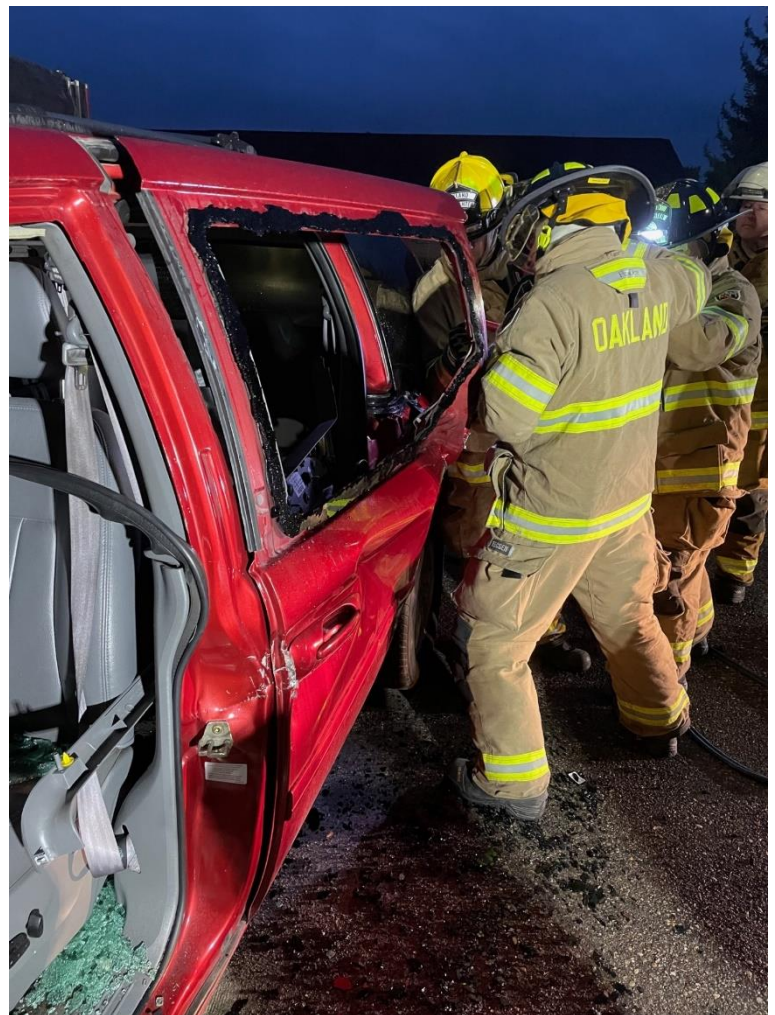
Training

Initial training for Firefighter/EMTs includes nearly 400 hours of class room and clinical time. Members then complete a probationary period that includes in-depth familiarization with vehicles and equipment.

All OTFD members are required to train on a bi-weekly basis on Wednesdays. Training topics include medical continuing education, extrication training, fire engine operation and a driving course affectionately nicknamed “The Rodeo”.



Crews practice extrication techniques on a car donated by Byers Wrecker. OTFD has both electric, and hydraulic tools to use for extrication.



Training



A great deal of time and effort goes into training on water supply operations. A majority of Oakland Township does not have hydrants, which means if a fire occurs in an area without hydrants, water must be shuttled in. OTFD utilizes water tankers to shuttle water to large yellow dump tanks so that an engine can draft the water and extinguish the fire. Mutual aid is vital to water shuttle operations, and it is not unusual to have 6+ tankers on a fire in order to keep a steady flow of water.



Training



Crews practice hose deployment/advancement (left). At a medical training (below) crews practice triage and treatment skills for a Mass Casualty Incident (MCI).



Public Education/Community Involvement

Public education is an important part of OTFD and our community. This includes visiting schools, churches, and other civic organizations. CPR classes are regularly offered by OTFD – check out www.oaklandtownship.org for details.



OTFD in Action



OTFD responds with Oakland County HAZMAT resources to reports of a large mercury spill at a residence. OTFD worked with HAZMAT teams and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for weeks to ensure the spill was mitigated and home returned to a safe condition.

OTFD in Action



OTFD responds to a variety of car accidents in unique circumstances.



OTFD in Action

When treating a patient involved in a serious vehicle accident, time is critical. Patient's must be stabilized, extricated, and transported to a trauma center within "The Golden Hour" to ensure a favorable outcome. OTFD utilized air ambulance transportation 3 times in 2023 to get severe trauma patients to the highest level of care more quickly than ground ambulance transportation.



OTFD in Action



OTFD assists with “Festival of the Hills” in Rochester Hills with its ATV and personnel (left). Blocking the road for a power line caught down in a tree – catching it on fire (below).



OTFD in Action



A line of water tankers assisting at a structure fire on Rush Road (above). OTFD relies on neighboring departments to deliver water to areas with no hydrants. OTFD responds to a mutual aid to Washington Township for a commercial structure fire (below).



Firefighter Recruitment

If you are 18 years of age or older, a High School Graduate or hold a GED, have a good driving record and no criminal history, and interested in helping protect our community, we maintain an "open" application process. Qualified persons residing with the Charter Township of Oakland or the border of surrounding cities or townships may apply. **Applications may be obtained at www.oaklandtownship.org** Criminal and Driving Record checks on applicants are conducted, followed by background reference checks. Those applicants successfully passing the record screening will be offered an opportunity to participate in a Standardized Physical Agility test, conducted on a scheduled basis, in cooperation with several area Fire Departments.

Upon successful completion of the Standardized Physical Agility test, applicants will be placed on an eligibility list to be given a Conditional Offer of Employment as additional members are needed.

Prior to final hiring, applicants must successfully pass a pre-employment Physical Exam, including Drug Screen, conducted at a medical facility of the Fire Department's choice.

We will provide all equipment and training to become Fire and EMS certified.

Thank You!

Thank you for taking the time to become more familiar with the Oakland Township Fire Department. OTFD is always encouraging citizens to become more involved with the fire department, and we welcome any questions, comments or concerns you may have. Call the station or stop by with any inquiries and we'd be happy to answer them for you!

