

Oakland Township Fire Department

2020 Annual Report



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Mission Statement

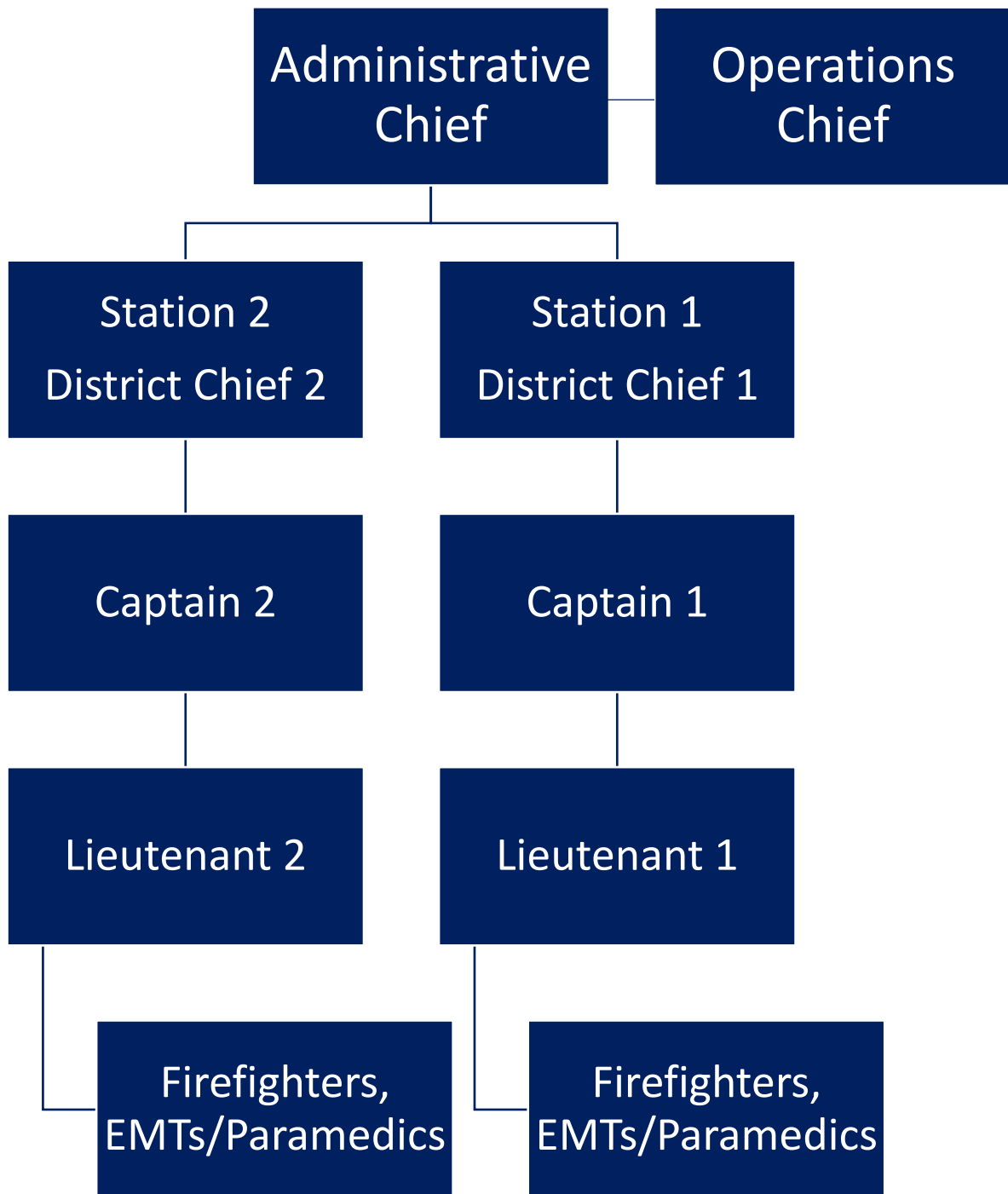
“The Mission of the Oakland Township Fire Department is to safely respond to fire and medical emergencies within the community, to help its citizens deal with those emergencies, and, with regard to the safety of its members, do all it can to limit loss of life, property, and the environment.”

Department Structure

The Oakland Township Fire Department is considered a combination department, with 8 full time duty Firefighter/Paramedics that are currently supplemented by paid-on-call (POC) and part-time (PT) personnel. Each of the 2 stations is manned 24/7 with 1 Firefighter/Paramedic and typically 1 POC or PT personnel that inspects/maintains equipment and vehicles, and of course, responds to emergencies when needed. OTFD still relies heavily on POC personnel to respond from home, work, school, or wherever they may be to help mitigate calls. POC personnel are on the decline not only in Oakland Township, but around the country – which has put a strain on the department at times due to lack of manpower. OTFD continues to address manpower issues and provide the best service to our residents.



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 – Fire Chief, EMT/Firefighter (1995)
Lou Danek – Administrative Chief, EMT/Firefighter (1995)
Chuck Beach – District Chief, EMT/Firefighter (1995)
Jon Diehr – District Chief, Paramedic/Firefighter (1995)

Line Officers:

Jim Tweedie – Captain, EMT/Firefighter (1995)
Luis Gomez – Captain, EMT/Firefighter (1998)
Derek Young – Lieutenant, Paramedic/Firefighter (2001)
Andrew Linn– Lieutenant, Paramedic/Firefighter (2005)

Support Staff:

Greg Ball – EMS Coordinator, Paramedic/Firefighter (2003)
Stacy Linn– CPR Instructor (2013)

Duty (Full-Time) Personnel:

Jon Diehr – District Chief, Paramedic/Firefighter (1995)
Derek Young – Lieutenant, Paramedic/Firefighter (2001)
Dave Ludington –Paramedic/Firefighter (2001)
Holly Huston – Paramedic/Firefighter (2000)
Scott Rosati – Paramedic/Firefighter (2004)
Andrew Linn – Lieutenant, Paramedic/Firefighter (2005)
Joshua Hazelton – Paramedic/Firefighter (2019)
Timothy Haynes – Paramedic/Firefighter (2020)

Personnel

On-Call Personnel:

Beach, Chuck - District Chief, EMT/Firefighter (1995)

Tweedie, Jim - Captain, EMT/Firefighter (1995)

Diehr, Sue - EMT (1995)

McClelland, Jim – EMT/Firefighter (1995)

Gomez, Luis – Captain. EMT/Firefighter (1998)

Bates, Kevin – EMT/Firefighter (1999)

Young, Christina – Paramedic/Firefighter (2009)

Zbytowski, Bob - EMT (2009)

Staley, Keith – EMT/Firefighter (2010)

Linn, Stacy - EMT (2013)

Baulch, Brian – EMT/Firefighter (2015)

Lang, Matt – EMT/Firefighter (2016)

Iafrate, Mike – Firefighter/EMT (2018)

Sells, Mark – Firefighter/EMT (2018)

Leinweber, Kelly – Firefighter/EMT (2019)

Plotzke, Thomas - Firefighter/EMT(2019)

Part-Time Personnel:

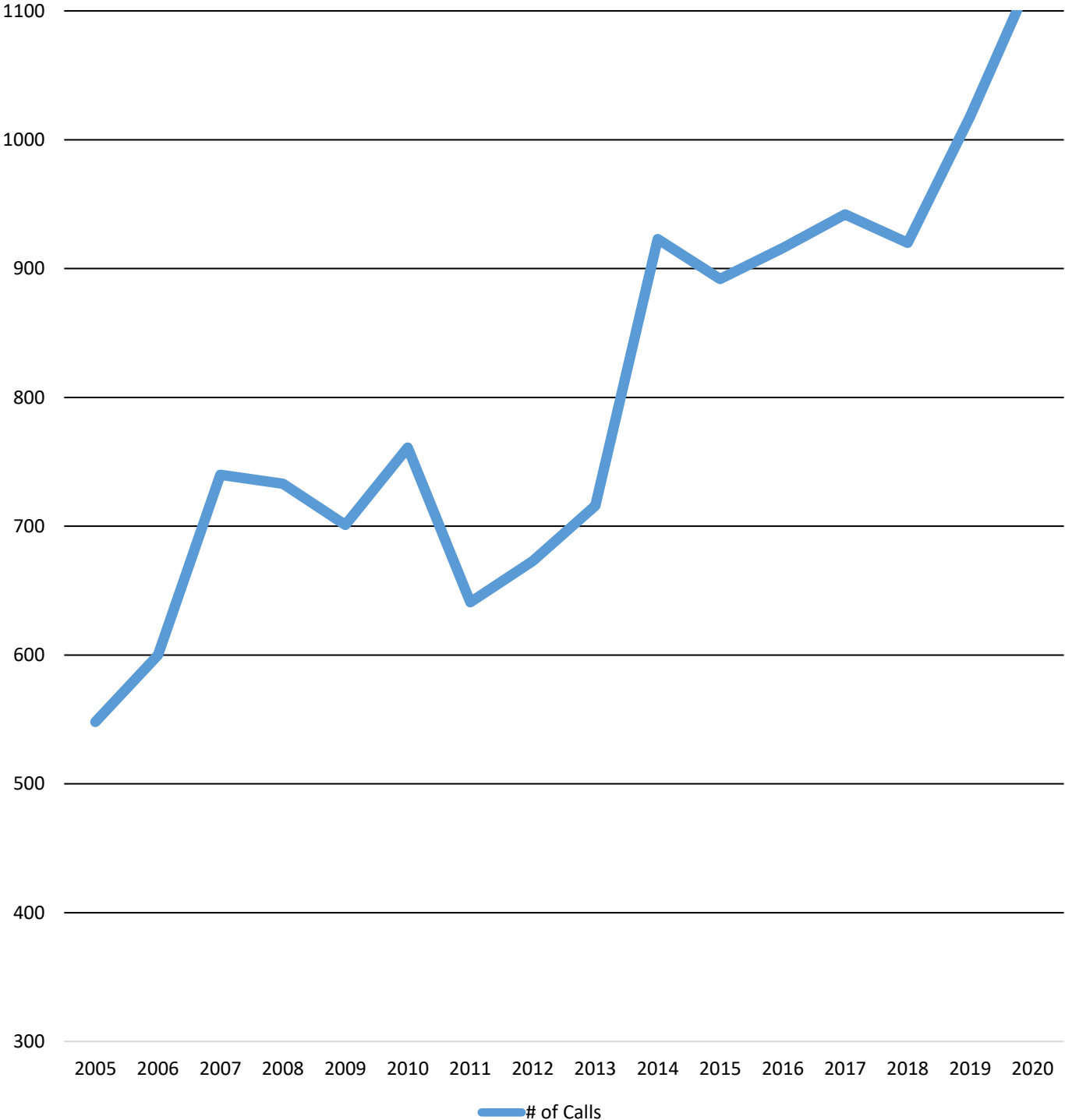
Strelchuk, Lindsay – EMT/Firefighter (2013)

Schwalbe, Eric - Firefighter/EMT (2018)

Wyatt, Randy - Firefighter/EMT (2018)

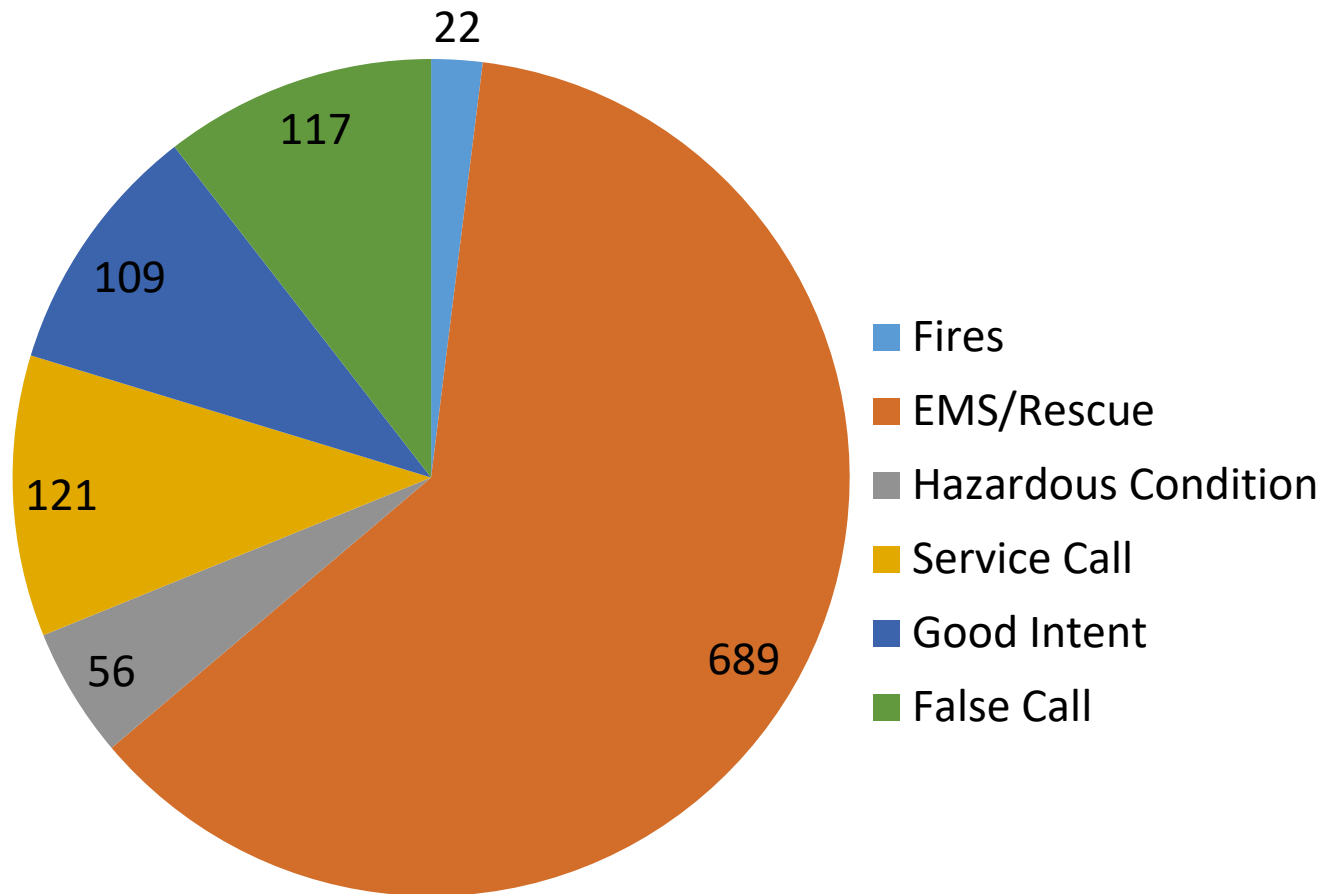
Call Volume

Yearly Call Volume January 1st, 2004-January 1st, 2021



Types of Calls

Types of Calls 1/1/20- 12/31/20



Notes:

Hazardous Conditions: natural gas leaks, fuel spills, severe weather standby and other similar conditions.

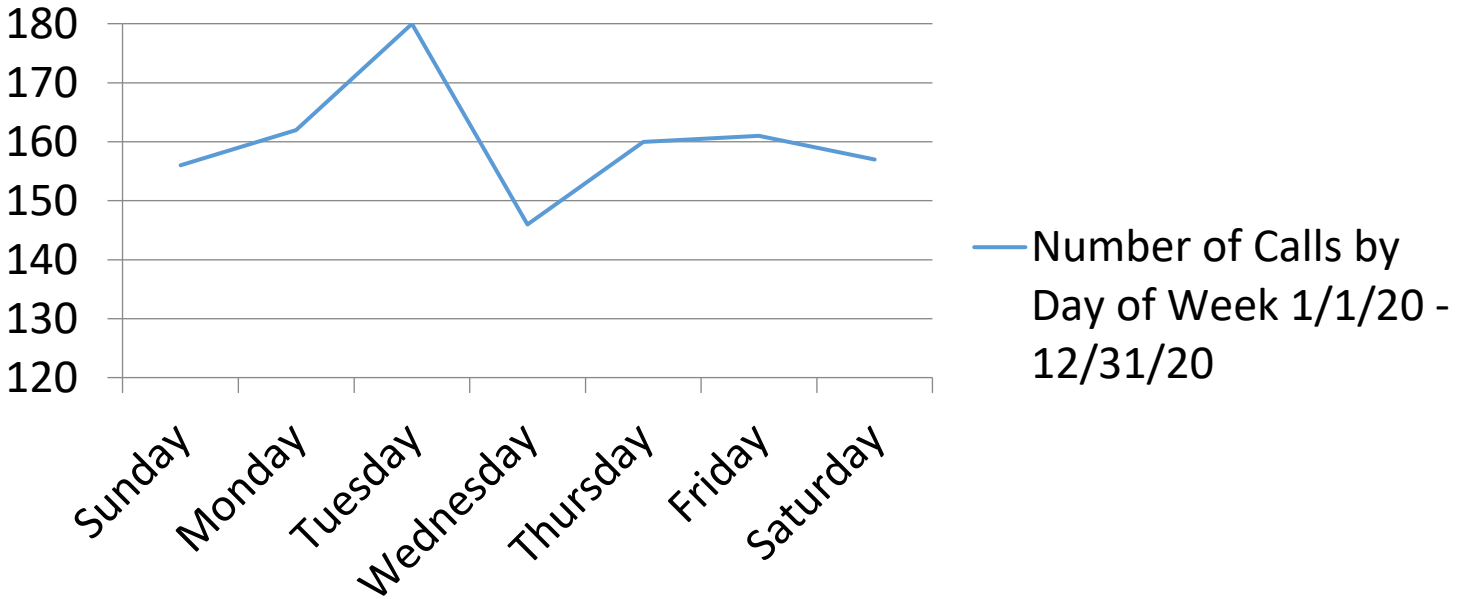
Service Call: non-emergency calls such as police assists, carbon monoxide investigations, and burning complaints.

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

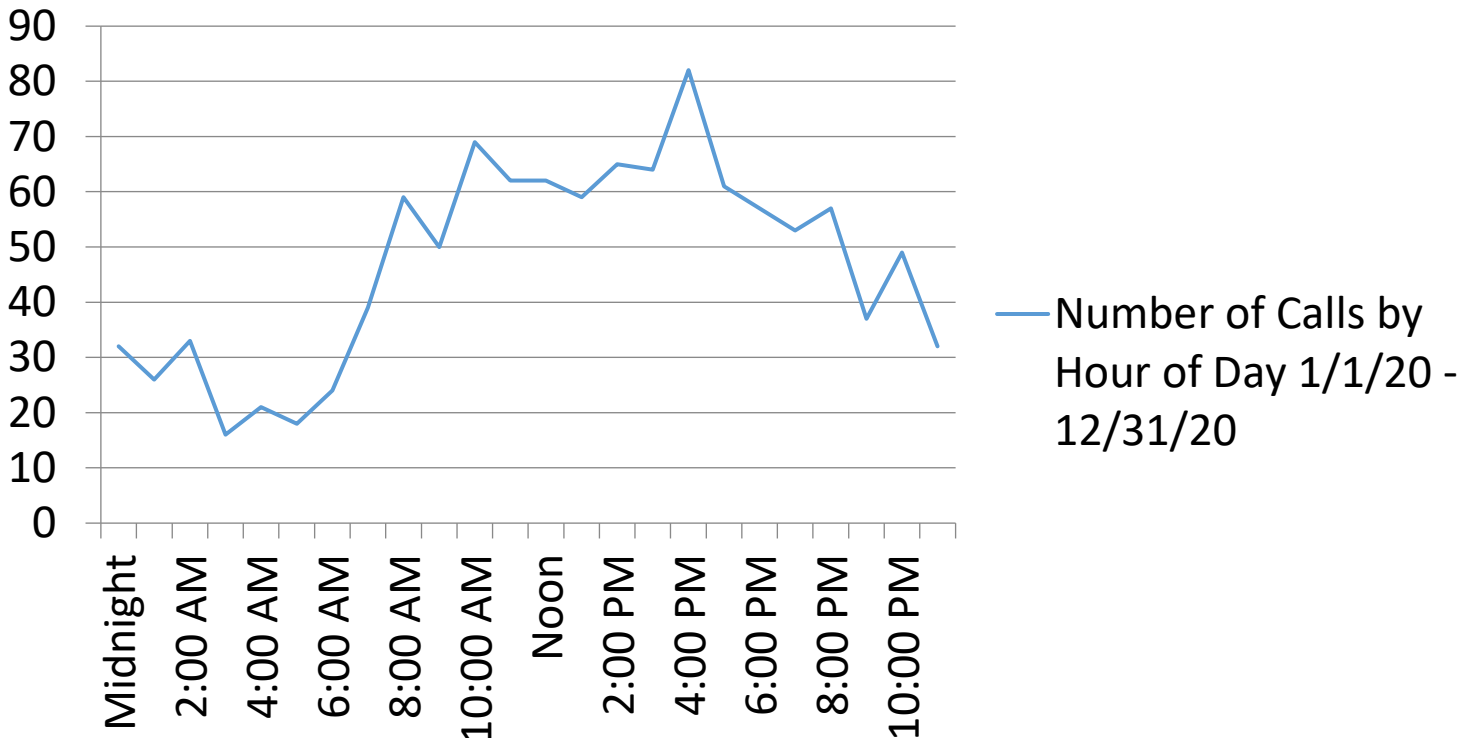
False Call: calls that were dispatched and cancelled en route (medical or fire alarms found to be false).

Other Statistics

Number of Calls by Day of Week 1/1/20 - 12/31/20



Number of Calls by Hour of Day 1/1/20 - 12/31/20



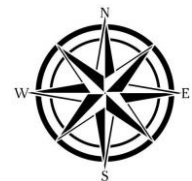
Other Statistics

Percentage Runs by Section Number – Oakland Township FD (01 Jan 2020-31 Dec 2020)

Includes: All Calls Within Oakland Township

Excludes: All Mutual Aid Requests

n = 1112



NOTE:
Map not to scale

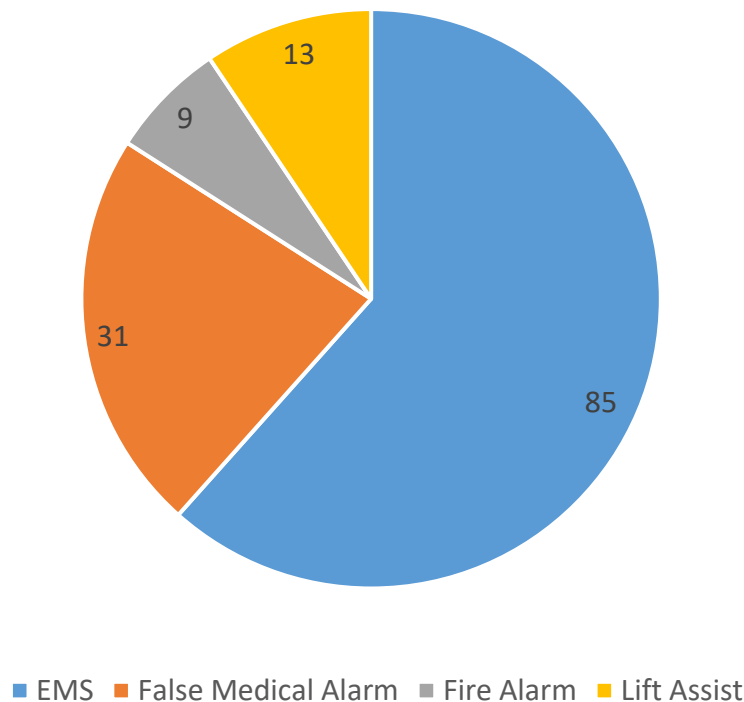
Fire Station (#)

Other Statistics

Blossom Ridge senior living/assisted living center has had a profound impact on OTFD and response. It has greatly increased incident numbers, and the percentage of runs in the SW corner of the township.

- OTFD responded to 138 calls for service within the Blossom Ridge complex.
 - More than accounts for the increase of calls from 2019 to 2020 – (1032 calls/1128 calls).
- This represented 12.52% of OTFD's entire call volume for 2020.
- Breakdown of types of incidents as seen below:

Incident Types Breakdown



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 2020

Mutual Aid Given: 65

Mutual Aid Received: 40



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 (and one 1997) 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 1 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

Grass 1 is a 2002 GMC firefighting truck used for off road use at grass fires.



Rescue 2 is a 1997 Freightliner that carries a wide variety of rescue equipment including power tools, "Jaws of Life", medical equipment and a light tower.

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 & 2014) are Advanced Life Support ambulances that carry all the necessary equipment to treat any medical emergency.



Bravo 1 (right) and Bravo 2 (nearly identical) are 2013 Basic Life Support Ambulances that also is equipped with Advanced Life Support supplies in the event it is needed.



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 ladder techniques (above) and forcible entry techniques (right)



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 (seen above) 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

With the pandemic, training occurred a bit differently in 2020. When we were able to meet in person, we tried to get creative, and have a little fun along the way. Crews use Jaws of Life in a game of “Jenga” (left) which required teamwork and precision. Crews were paired off – one person had a Lego set with no instructions, another person was in a different room with the instructions. Teams had to construct the Lego set using only voice communications via radios (right). The results were... Interesting to say the least, and was a great exercise in communications.



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 offered by OTFD, see the township website for details. Unfortunately, Public Education did not occur as usual in 2020, OTFD hopes to restart the program when it is safe to do so.



OTFD in Action



OTFD responds to a variety of emergencies. Whether a medical emergency, fire, car accident, or hazardous materials incident, OTFD has the ability to respond.



Crews responded to a structure fire on Rochester Road (left)

OTFD in Action

A big part of the fire service is helping each other out in times of need. Below, an OTFD ambulance and a Bloomfield Township engine sit in a Rochester Hills fire station for coverage while Rochester Hills fought a structure fire. The ambulance and engine crew ran several calls that night and despite having never met or worked together, the teamwork on the calls was seamless.



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 within the Charter Township of Oakland or the border of surrounding cities or townships may apply. **Applications may be obtained, Monday thru Friday from 8AM to 4:30 PM, at Township Hall located at 4393 Collins Rd. Applications filed are reviewed on an "as needed" basis.** 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!

