



# Oshtemo Fire Department

## Operations & Programs

### 2014 In Review

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*“To honorably serve our residents, visitors and fellow firefighters by delivering services with respect, responsibility and pride.”*

## Greetings from the Chief



It is a personal honor to serve as Chief of the Oshtemo Charter Township Fire and Rescue Department and thus a pleasure to present this review to our elected officials, department members and most importantly our community. This department is delighted to serve our neighbors any hour of every day.

Unlike a typical annual report, the contents of this document are intended to brief the reader on this department's mission and activities. Our department is comprised of Oshtemo citizens who have made a monumental commitment to serve our community by giving of their precious time and talents. They have elected to take on a physical and mental challenge that many choose not to undertake.

Turnover of members and the resulting loss of seasoned individuals is a typical problem faced by paid on-call emergency response agencies nationwide. Because of our continued increase in calls for service, we have chosen to make a significant shift in our staffing model for 2015. By increasing our minimal staffing from one to two on-duty qualified personnel in two of our stations we have been able to lessen the frequency that we spontaneously dislodge our members from their families or full-time employment for events that typically require only a small cadre of trained firefighters. We will review the results of this pilot as we move through 2015 with the hope that this change will allow our members to retain their affiliation longer thus resulting in an even more tenured organization.

Oshtemo Fire is a highly active regional partner. As an example, we are intensely involved with the efforts to consolidate dispatching services, improving regional response through the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS), insuring that our community receives excellent emergency medical care (EMS) (see KVIAA agreement Pg. 28) and heavily participate in our countywide hazardous materials response team.

Improvements in 2014 include regional participation in a federal grant that provided replacement self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). See page 29.

Fire Service leaders periodically speak of a goal to put themselves out of business by totally eliminating fires. That is a noble dream shared by all fire chiefs but one that is not realistic. Lightning does strike, electrical systems fail, heating devices malfunction and sadly, arsonists still wander our neighborhoods. However, we do believe that our active fire prevention efforts in the form of public education (Pg. 15) and fire code enforcement (Pg. 14), truly help to prevent accidental events.

We are proud to be your fire department and we stand ready to serve you at any time. If you have any thoughts or ideas on how we can better serve you, please contact me at [mbarnes@oshtemo.org](mailto:mbarnes@oshtemo.org) or (269) 216-5226.

If you find the events and activities represented in this report to be of interest, I would encourage you to check out the qualification for membership found on page 8. If a less physical membership is of interest or you do not live in Oshtemo yet would like to be a contributing member of this emergency response agency, let us know. We have other support opportunities that may be of interest to you.

# Department Members

We have placed photos of our members in the front of this document in recognition of the Oshtemo residents who have courageously stepped up to lend their time and talents to support our community. Without them there would be no Oshtemo Fire and Rescue.



**Mark Barnes\***  
*Fire Chief*

**Rick Griffin\***  
*Deputy Chief*

**Jim Wiley\***  
*Assistant Chief*



## Oshtemo Fire Department 2014



**Chip Everett\***  
*Captain*

**Rick Everett**  
*Captain*

**Tom Fletcher**  
*Lieutenant*

**Mike Lorenz**  
*Lieutenant*

**Troy Lull\***  
*Lieutenant*

**Scott Paddock**  
*Lieutenant*

**Kevin Putman**  
*Lieutenant*



**Josh Brady**  
*Driver/Operator*

**Eric Burghardt**  
*Driver/Operator*

**Nathan Carley**  
*Driver/Operator*

**Donald Detrick**  
*Driver/Operator*

**Bobby Flahive**  
*Driver/Operator*

**Eric Haines**  
*Driver/Operator*

**Joseph Keck**  
*Driver/Operator*

**Tom Molenaar**  
*Driver/Operator*

**Nick Paddock**  
*Driver/Operator*

**Jed Wild**  
*Driver/Operator*

**Adam Bennett**  
*Firefighter*

**Kaleb Cole**  
*Firefighter*



**Jahred Ellis**  
*Firefighter*

**Mark Fletcher**  
*Firefighter*

**Grant Gelling\***  
*Firefighter*

**John Godush**  
*Firefighter*

**Christian Harris**  
*Firefighter*

**Steve Hippensteel**  
*Firefighter*

**Amanda Kurtz**  
*Firefighter*

**Taylor Langer**  
*Firefighter*

**Pete Nave**  
*Firefighter*

**Erik Olsen**  
*Firefighter*

**Michael Parker**  
*Firefighter*

**Cody Roberts**  
*Firefighter*



**Dave Thalmann**  
*Firefighter*

**Amanda Bean**  
*Resident Intern*

**Jared Rice**  
*Resident Intern*

## Fire Chiefs through the years

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Photo

Currently

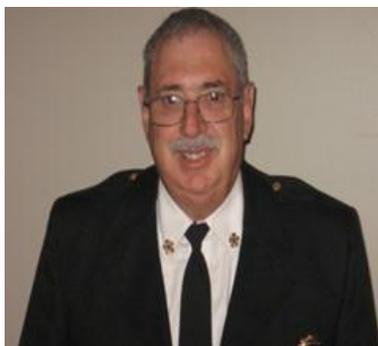
Unavailable



Loenard Brodhagen  
Fire Chief  
1955 – 1976



David Bushouse  
Fire Chief  
Jun 1976 – Jul 1987



Bruce Moore  
Fire Chief  
Dec 1987 – Mar 1989



Steve Nuyen  
Fire Chief  
Jun 1989 – Mar 1990



Tony Sanfilippo  
Fire Chief  
Apr 1990 – Jul 1997



Ken Howe  
Fire Chief  
Aug 1997 – Sep 2007

## Membership Makeup

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The Oshtemo Fire Department consists of 6 career members, 40 paid-on-call firefighters (POC) and three 3 resident intern firefighters.

All members are considered firefighters. Depending upon their specific rank and duty assignment, everyone is responsible to provide and sometimes command the duties of a fire and rescue incidents. Basic functions include providing emergency medical services (EMS), fire attack, ventilation, forcible entry, search, rescue and overhaul. Some members have additional specialty training and certifications in areas such as technical rescue and hazardous materials.

### **The Career Staff includes the following positions:**

Career personnel typically staff two of our three fire stations during the weekdays from 7:00 AM – 6:00 PM. However, if the emergency is large enough, they will respond from home on nights and weekends. Each position holds a specific administrative function creating a team of leaders to guide and support the department.

#### **Fire Chief**



The Fire Chief serves as the overall commander of the fire department. He is responsible for the day to day administration of the department through its chain of command. In addition, he sits on many boards across Kalamazoo County and some regionally. As an example, our current chief is elected President of the Kalamazoo County Fire Chief's Association and vice chair of the Kalamazoo County Hazardous Materials Team. Regionally, he is the vice chair of Michigan's 5<sup>th</sup> District Homeland Security Planning Board.

#### **Deputy Chief**



The Deputy Fire Chief is second in command and performs the duties of the Fire Chief in his absence. This position leads the operational side of the organization. The duties of the Deputy Chief include: drafting & recommending new Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG) to the Chief. He also reviews and updates existing SOGs.

The Deputy Chief serves on several Kalamazoo County committees including; Kalamazoo County Fire Chiefs Association (KCFCA) Training Committee, Health and Safety Committee, Disaster Committee, Kalamazoo County Medical Control (KCMS) EMS Advisory Board, KCMC Protocol Committee, Kalamazoo County Fire Academy Instructor and State of Michigan County Training Coordinator.

#### **Assistant Chief**



The Assistant Chief is third in command and manages our fire prevention and investigation tasks. In the absence of the Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief, he is expected to perform the duties of the Fire Chief. His specialty is to understand and enforce the fire prevention code adopted by Oshtemo Township. This position is a member of the Kalamazoo County Fire Investigation Response Team.

#### **Captain – Training & Safety**



The Training & Safety Captain is responsible for leading the training division and public education section. Additionally the following areas fall under his preview: software programs, radios, and minor IT issues. Outside of the normal leadership duties of a Captain, the Training & Safety Captain authors SOGs relating to operational items.

The Training & Safety Captain sits on the county training committee with the Deputy Chief. The county training committee develops training and operating SOGs which allows all fire departments in Kalamazoo County to adopt standardized practices. The current Captain serves on the County Hazardous Material team as a team coordinator. He is the department's representative on the Kalamazoo County Regional Training Board. Finally, he leads the department's training committee as they produce the annual training

schedule and set minimal training requirements for all members. He is the first member of any Kalamazoo County Fire Department to obtain a Blue Card incident command certification, which is a new national standard for commanding emergency scenes.

### **Firefighter – Fleet Maintenance**

The Fleet Maintenance Firefighter is responsible to manage the preventative maintenance and repair of all motorized vehicles as well as a myriad of other equipment such as saws, fans and hydraulic tools. He performs routine maintenance on all of this equipment and oversees the scheduling and completion of work performed by outside vendors.

### **Firefighter – Administrative Assistant**

The Firefighter/Administrative Assistant works as an aid to the Fire Chief for daily administrative functions. This position involves record keeping, coordinating the parking enforcement program, working on and finalizing projects, coordinating documents related to workers right to know, maintaining fire pre-plans and data input for our records management system.

### **The remainder of our staff consists of paid-on-call (POC) members.**

Our Paid-on-Call (POC) staff consists of 1 Captain, 4 Lieutenants, 8 Driver/Operators (DO) with the remaining members holding the rank of firefighter. The POC Captains, Lieutenants and DOs staff the fire stations when the full-time staff is off duty, which includes evenings, overnight, weekends and holidays.

### **Paid-On-Call Ranking System**

#### **Captain**

The Captain of the POC force supervises the assigned Lieutenants; works DO shifts, and provides a mentoring element to their team.

#### **Lieutenant**

The Lieutenants supervise assigned firefighters. They act as a mentor to guide the often younger members through various step in their career with Oshtemo to develop team building skills.

#### **Driver/Operator**

Driver/Operators work shifts, and mentor all of the firefighters and interns. D/O's also participate in instruction of department training and participate in county and regional special operation teams. They participate in public education events such as station tours, school education and public events.

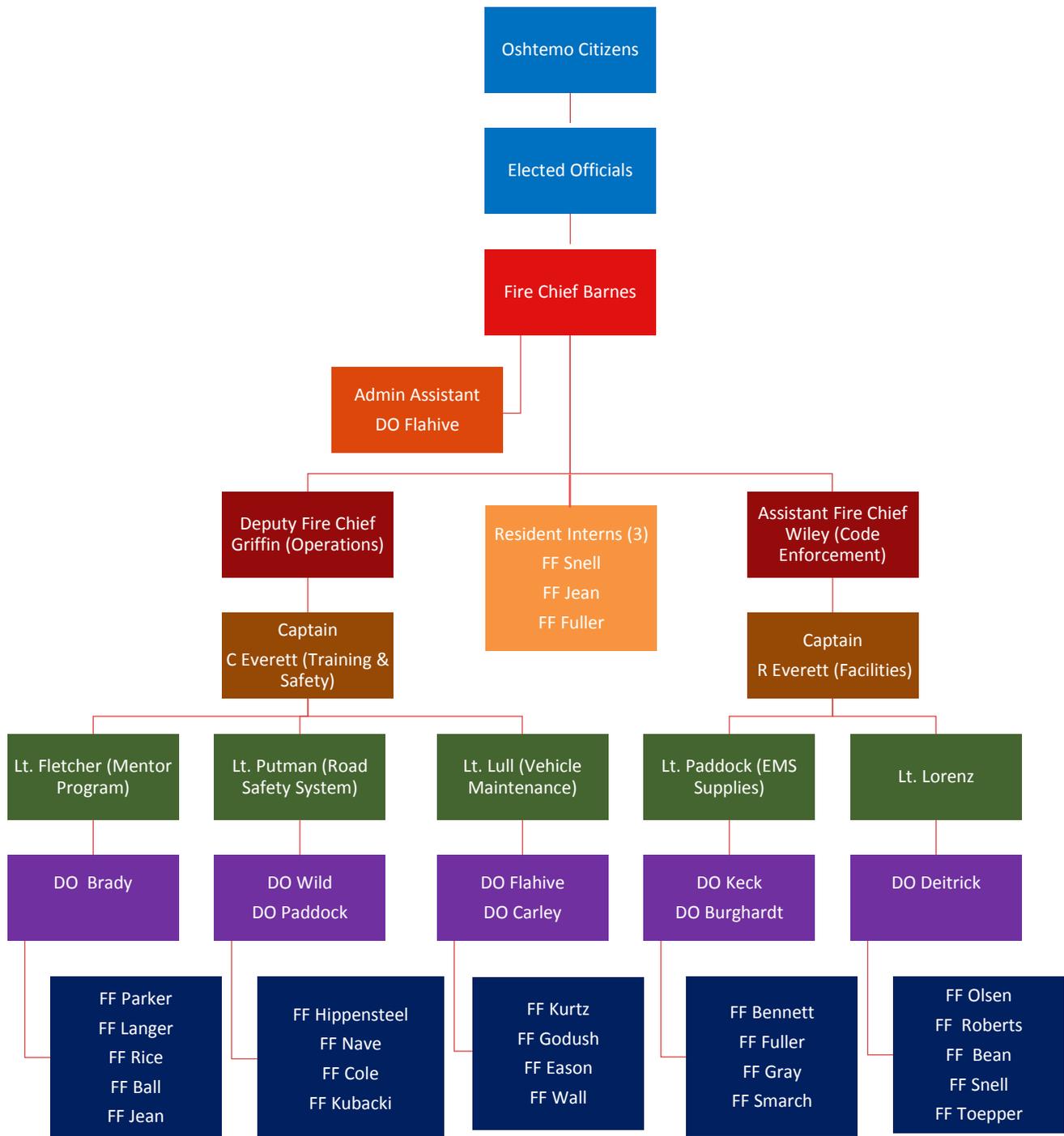
#### **Firefighter**

The POC Firefighters are the front line position working to maintain the physical appearance and operation of the apparatus, station and equipment.

These Firefighters participate in public education events such as station tours, school education and public events. This position is responsible to perform interior operations which include search, rescue ventilation, overhaul, hose line operations as well as initial incident command until they are replaced by a higher ranking member.



# Department Structure



## Qualifications to join OFD

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- Must be 18 years old
- Must live within one (1) mile of the Oshtemo Township boarder
- Must have Firefighter II Certification
- Must have Medical First Responder Certification (or higher)

## Requirements to maintain membership

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### Minimum Participation Levels:

Level 1 – During the first 12 months of all new Paid-On-Call members (initial training period), they are expected to meet *either* of the two participation measures on a monthly basis:

1. Percentage of responses: 10% per month
2. Hours worked (combination of volunteer and paid) 40 hours per month

Level 2 – After the initial training period and beyond, all POC personnel are expected to meet *either* of the two the following participation measures on a quarterly basis:

1. Percentage of responses: 10% per quarter
2. Hours Worked (combination of volunteer and paid) 120 hours per quarter

## Firefighter Health and Wellness Program

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By Deputy Chief Rick Griffin

In 2014, the department implemented a department wide health and wellness program which is projected to have a tremendous positive impact on the health and wellbeing of our members. The following are the key components of this program.



1. **Annual medical exams for fire department members are on an age based schedule:** National Fire Protections Association (NFPA) 1582 medical physicals will be completed based on the following schedule - < age 30 every five years, age 30 – 39 every 3 years, age 40-49 every two years and over age 50 every year.
2. **Annual physical fitness evaluations:** A physical fitness assessment will be administered annually by a certified fitness specialist. This will test our members flexibility, core strength, muscle endurance, grip strength and VO2 Max (maximum volume of oxygen consumption)
3. **Annual work performance evaluation (WPE) course:** A WPE course will replicate common tasks performed by fire department members on the fire ground. All members will perform the WPE annually.
4. **A specific and comprehensive firefighter fitness program:** Firefighters require a specific and comprehensive fitness program that will help them perform at a high level, avoid injuries and return home safely.
5. **Appoint a peer fitness trainer or contract with an outside fitness specialist:** A comprehensive fire department health and wellness program must include qualified fitness specialists to conduct fitness assessments for firefighters and to be available for exercise and nutrition consultation.
6. **Addressing firefighter survival stress management:** The variety of stressors that firefighters are exposed to can cause short and long term negative effects. In the short term, these stressors can

hinder cognitive function and physical performance. In the long term, they can hinder a firefighter's health and longevity. We need to prepare our members to deal with a variety of stressors.

7. **Emergency incident safety and firefighter rehab:** Clearly defining firefighter risk management procedures and providing adequate rehab for firefighters on scene.

## Resident Internship Program

Oshtemo Fire Department provides living quarters for three Resident Intern Firefighters. The Intern Firefighters gain valuable experience in all aspects of the fire department including administration, operations, fire prevention, vehicle maintenance and public education. This position is responsible to perform interior operations which include search, rescue, ventilation, overhaul, and hose line operations. Resident Intern Firefighters respond to all emergencies along with regular members.

### By Former Resident Internship Amanda Bean

The day's events are never known when I report in for my internship shift. Some days are fast paced, consisting of dispatch after dispatch. Others are committed to training, question asking, and bonding. The Intern program has provided me with an inside view of a paid on call Fire Department's operations. As an intern I have been able to run a high percentage of the calls while filling roles as an observer and a key player. Daily, I participate in station duties to include cleaning the station and truck checks. This may be the less exciting portion of my internship but it provides a very true reflection of what I can expect; responsibility. It takes everyone completing their assigned roles to successfully execute fire ground goals and maintain a safe work environment. Also, it's a fact of life. Fire fighters will have downtime and will have to scrub a toilet or two during their career.



Every morning I complete an inventory and functional test on our small vehicles. This has helped me build confidence in knowing that our rigs are operational and ready to go when tones drop. Personal fitness is another important way I prepare myself for a shift. The importance of physical health is known within the fire service. Many tasks associated with firefighting require good physical health. I am provided with the facilities and the time during my shift to workout. There are several individuals that make health a priority and serve as good fitness role models.

Each Oshtemo member contributes a different view point, experience, and expertise. As an intern I train with members from all levels of my command structure. Everyone from the Chiefs to the paid on call Firefighters are involved. For me, training never really stops at the station. Question asking and storytelling are mediums for daily training. I continue to learn from those around me. I have the pleasure of job shadowing some of our key members during the intern program. I follow our Assistant Chief during his building inspections and lend a hand to the head of our Preventative Maintenance program.

The fire service naturally has a lot of specialty areas due to our ever expanding role in the community. At Oshtemo we do so much more than just fight fires. We serve as public educators reaching out to nursing homes and elementary schools. We work as parking enforcement officers ensuring our fire lanes and handicap parking are accessible. We promote child safety by certifying as Child Passenger Safety Technicians and assisting families with car seat installations. We have members from specialty teams that provide technical rescue and hazmat skills sets for Michigan's 5<sup>th</sup> district. Our department offers a lot to our community and a lot to a new fire fighter.

The intern experience at Oshtemo Fire Department has opened my eyes to the ever expanding world of the fire service. In exchange for the work I do alongside the department I have my own dorm room at the station and I receive 12 credit hours towards my Fire Science Associates Degree. My involvement at the station has not only been good for my education, but also my individual growth. Being a part of a team

this diverse, and yet so closely dependent on one another, has taught me how important it is to get to know those around me. Everyone contributes something to the department. Trust is essential when working on a fire ground. I have learned to become comfortable seeking as well as giving support. I am thrilled to be involved with a group that can operate together, overcome hick ups, and make bad days a little better.

## Fire Corps

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**By Ken Dickie, Fire Corps Volunteer**

**GENERAL:** Fire Corps is an American volunteer program that connects community members with their local fire and rescue departments. This connection is designed to increase the capacity of local departments by having citizen volunteers involved in non-emergency tasks.



**OSHTEMO FIRE CORPS:** The Fire Corps program in Oshtemo Township was begun in December, 2011 with one volunteer photographer. From its inception to December 31, 2013 our volunteer photographer has responded to 261 calls that have involved motor vehicle traffic accidents, grass fires, structure fires, department training activities, and public relation events. On site, the photographer works with the incident commander to provide the department with photos that describe the scene or event. Specifically, for traffic accidents the intent is to provide, where possible, documentation of traffic control, extrication, damage detail, skid marks, vehicle identification, and passenger cabin condition. For fires, the photographer works with the incident commander and fire inspector to document the positioning of equipment, deployment of personnel, safety procedures, source of ignition, and identification of suspicious items. These photos can be used in reconstruction of the incident and for educational/training purposes.



As of this date, the Fire Corps program in Oshtemo still consists of only one volunteer. However, the Department continues to be involved in an active recruitment program to bring additional volunteers on-board. There is a desire to for the Department to become more proactive in its approach to fire safety and citizen awareness and additional well trained Fire Corps volunteers can make this possible.

**OSHTEMO FIRE CORPS IN THE FUTURE:** As the Oshtemo Fire Department looks to the future it sees a need to increase its presence as an educational entity for the residents of the Township. Working with Township businesses, schools, and individuals this can be done with citizen educators who are trained to design, promote, work with department staff and proactively deliver programs that will promote quality of life and prevent catastrophic incidents. Such programs might include, but not limited to child passenger safety; smoke detector/sprinkler installation and maintenance; on-the-job fire and work place safety; and in the home carbon monoxide safety, fireplace safety, holiday safety, etc.



**FROM A FIRE CORPS VOLUNTEER:** As the Fire Corps volunteer with the Oshtemo Fire and Rescue Department I want to share my feelings. As a result of two plus years helping the department as a photographer I have developed a deep respect and appreciation for the professionalism, skill, and compassion that everyone in the department exhibits, from the Chief through the interns. I have been made to feel a part of the team and that my contributions as a photographer are appreciated.

If you have an interest in making a contribution to your Township by involving yourself as an educator or photographer I would strongly encourage you to explore becoming a Fire Corps volunteer with the Oshtemo Fire and Rescue Department. It has been a wonderful experience for me!

## WMU Historical Documentation Efforts

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Western Michigan University's Office of Service-Learning was established in February 2010. Since inauguration, the office has worked to institutionalize service learning at WMU. In July 2012, the Office of Service-Learning moved under the direction of the Center for Academic Success Programs, which is focused on enhancing teaching and promoting student learning through collaborative, effective research-based programs.

Learning Services Projects – Prior to the spring semester of 2013, OFD met with Shawn Tenney, Director of Service-Learning at WMU and Richard Szwaja of the Lee Honors College to explore ways that OFD could utilize the Learning-Services Program. A pitch was made at the Lee Honors College for two projects; Smoke Detector Distribution/Fire Safety for low income manufactured home plat's in Oshtemo and obtained a documented History of the Oshtemo Fire Department.

During the spring semester six students began Smoke detector/Fire safety information distribution in Colonial Manor Manufactured Homes and Woodland Estates Phase I. These students not only passed out Fire Safety Literature on home heating safety and manufactured home safety, they checked the operation and age of the current smoke detectors present in the homes. If the homes did not have any smoke detectors then they gave detectors to them and installed them if needed. Together the six students volunteered 120 total hours

A second pitch was made to the Lee Honors College students at the beginning of the fall semester. Two students agreed to take on the History of the Oshtemo Fire and Rescue Department. These two students developed the concept and started the interview process of Oshtemo Firefighters and Officers with more than twenty years of service. They put in a total of 48 hours interviewing and videotaping those interviews. They also started compiling photos and documenting the history of the department. This project was picked up by 5 students during the first semester of the 2014 school year.



During the fall semester we again acquired students from the honors college to continue the history project. This time they interviewed additional members, met with Former Chief David Bushouse (Former Township Board member). They were able to get and scan copies of Chief Bushouse's private photo collection. One more semester of this project should complete the mission of the original class.

This fall we also had a student, Alexandra Royal, who is a senior at WMU and will be graduating next spring with a degree in Public Relations, focusing on international business and public outreach. Alexandra worked with the department to develop a Public relations package to help the fire department promote the Internship Program, Fire Corps, and to increase the community's general awareness of the services offered by Oshtemo Fire Department. She provided a written program and electronic forms for us to use to accomplish her plan.

We are grateful for the relationship we have developed with the WMU Learning Services Department and the Honors College. We will continue to find ways to utilize this valuable partnership.

## WMU Service Project

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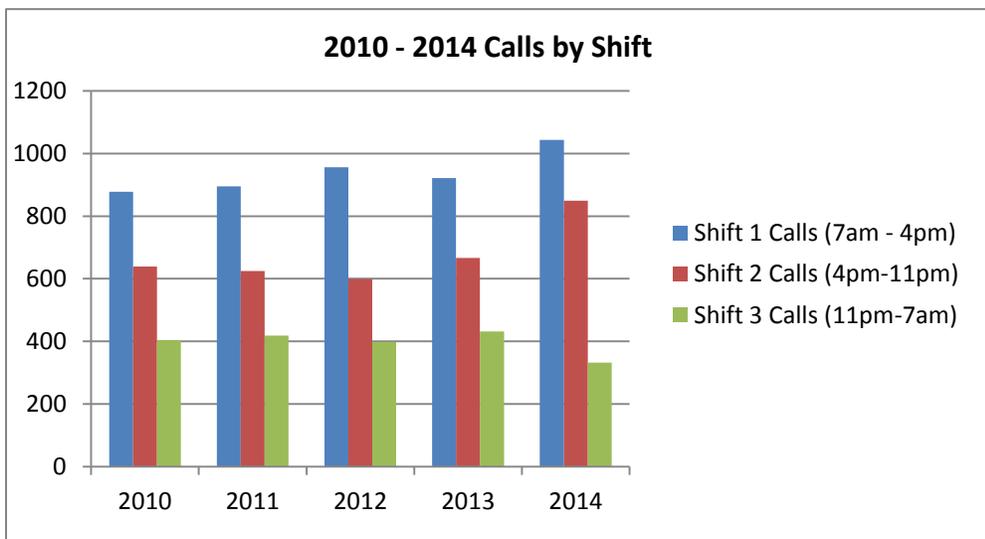
**By Cassie Mae Hess, WMU Student**

The five of us, Alex McDonald, Cassie Hess, Gareth Carter, Sara Forman, and Spencer Plattner are all Honors Students from Western Michigan University. Our time spent here at the Oshtemo Fire Department, over the course of this semester, has been as part of a service learning project. Our main goal is to create a more organized history of the Department. In doing this we have been holding interviews with various members, researching old newspaper articles and documents, as well as tracking down photos that have been passed down over the years. Through this process we have been scanning

these photos and articles in an effort to make them not only more accessible to all members, but also to make sure that they last much longer than the original versions will. We will conclude our part in the project by making an organized scrapbook separated by various topics such as Fire Trucks, Chiefs, and Stations.

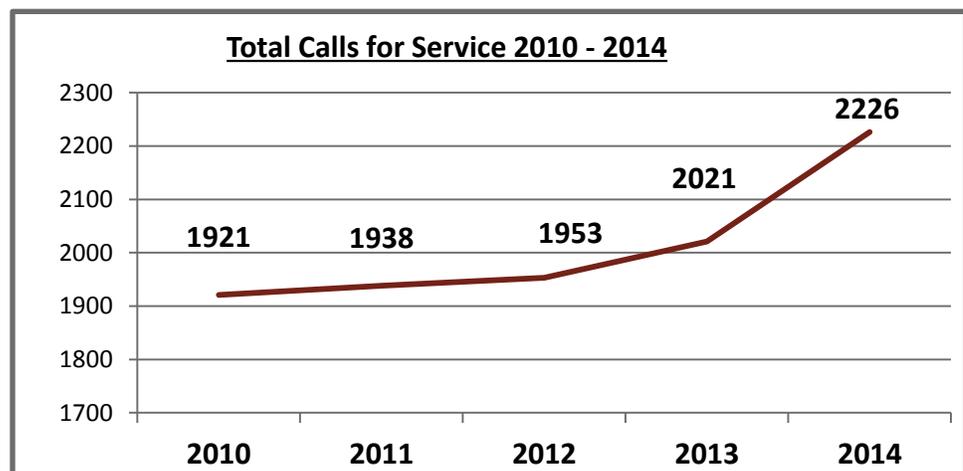
Our goal with this scrapbook in particular is to not only have a place where all of this information resides so that it can be easily found, but also so that we can present the progression of such aspects of the Department in a more complete fashion, hence the separated sections that allow us to focus solely on the history of one part at a time. It is our collective goal, and hope that our time spent at the Oshtemo Fire Department will have been effective, and lasting, and that if later service learning projects pick up where we leave off, that we will have given them a launching pad of information and ideas to work with as they take the project to more in-depth levels than we could accomplish in our time here.

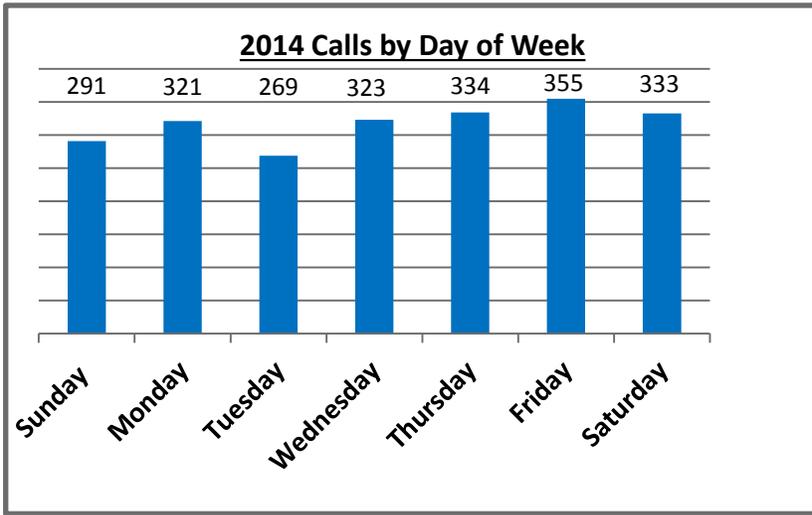
## Statistical Data



The Department operates with three daily shifts. These shifts provide 24/7 coverage utilizing Full-Time and Paid-On-Call staff. All members of the department are able to respond from home when needed.

OFD has experienced a steady increase in call volume, with the most drastic increase occurring after 2012. Statistics indicate that this trend will continue as Oshtemo Township continues to grow and develop.

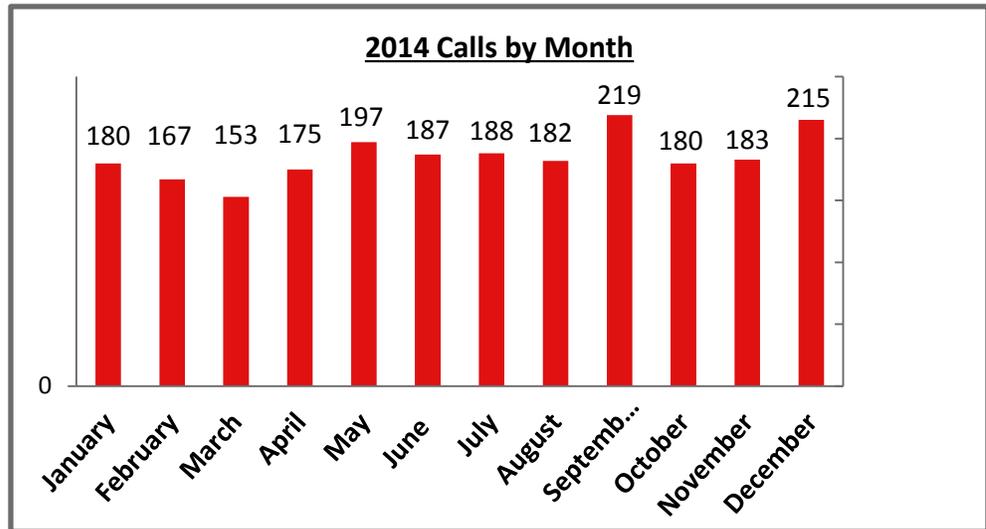




Oshtemo Township is a community that is growing rapidly.

Throughout 2014, the Oshtemo Fire Department responded to more calls for service than ever before. However, even with the large increase in call volume, demand for service remained relatively consistent by each day of the week.

OFD was also very consistent in calls for service each month, averaging 186.

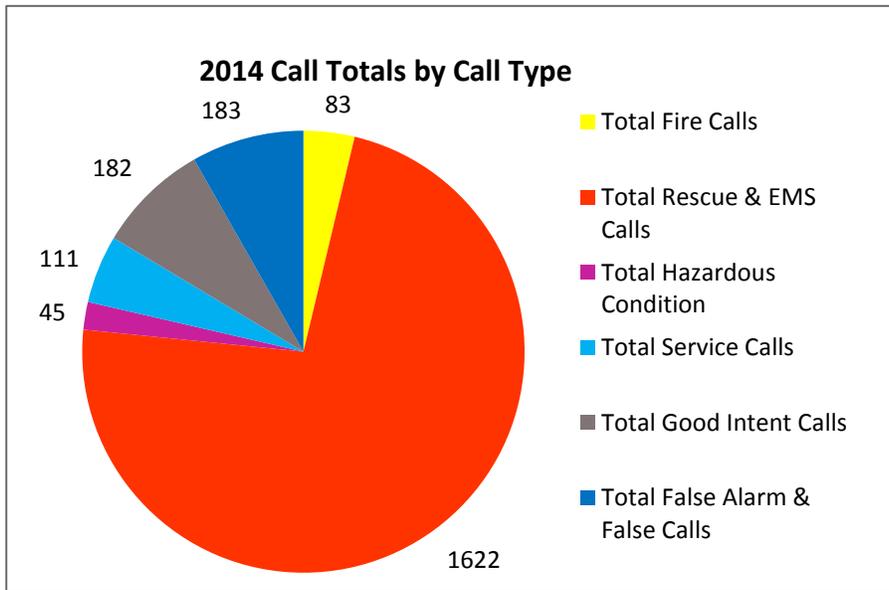


Date	Number of Calls
Friday, September 05, 2014	20
Friday, December 12, 2014	15
Sunday, September 07, 2014	14
Tuesday, September 09, 2014	14
Tuesday, July 01, 2014	14
Friday, August 01, 2014	13
Saturday, December 06, 2014	13
Thursday, August 14, 2014	12
Friday, January 03, 2014	12
Friday, January 10, 2014	12

Oshtemo Fire and Rescue is the busiest paid on-call department in Kalamazoo County.

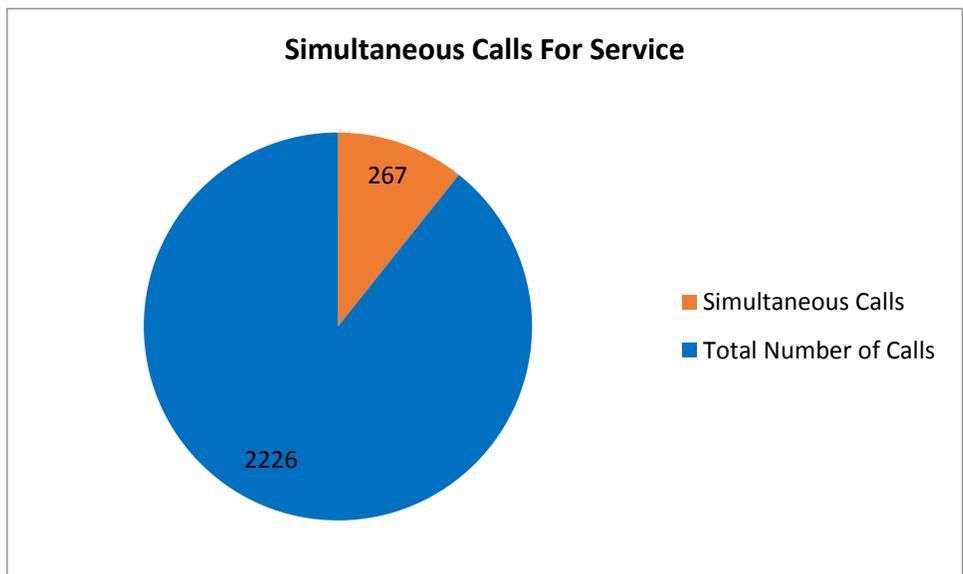
Previous charts have displayed the consistency of the demand for service whether it is by day or by month.

However, every once in a while, Oshtemo Township shows how much demand for service could change. We average just over 6 calls per day, but as shown in this chart, OFD has responded to as many as 20 on a single day.



OFD responds to a wide variety of calls for service, with endless possibilities. However, as shown in this chart, calls for medical emergencies and rescue are by far the large majority. The variety in responses requires that our member remain sharp with their skills and dedicated to training to ensure that they are prepared to respond, and professionally handle any call for service.

With the steady growth of Oshtemo Township, the call volume for OFD has gone up every year. Within that growth in call volume, simultaneous calls for service have increased. Simultaneous calls are separate calls that are happening at the same time, which requires both staffed fire stations to respond to each incident. Although OFD typically will respond to 2 overlapping calls, responding to 3 or more is not uncommon.



# Fire Prevention through Codes

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**By Assistant Chief Jim Wiley**

The Oshtemo Fire Department Fire Prevention Division continues to conduct Life Safety Inspections on all mercantile, office, multi-family, light industrial and public assembly occupancies. With the implementation of a new redesigned checklist for fire inspection iPad use, we have streamlined the inspection process to improve its efficiency and documentation. We were able to complete seven hundred fifty three inspections in 2014.

We are continuing our partnership with Kalamazoo Area Building Authority (KABA) to conduct inspections on new occupancy's in an effort to avert inconsistencies in the building process. This year has consumed a number of additional hours focusing on site plan reviews and meetings regarding site access and other Life Safety issues. The biggest project in 2014 was the completion of the new Costco facility. In addition, we have identified the need to re-evaluate the occupancy loads of all public assembly facilities throughout Oshtemo Township. We were also able to identify with the Planning and Zoning Department, and KABA, the need for the Fire Department to be added to the check list process that is passed to each department for final approvals of site and fire code requirements.

A live fire demonstration was once again provided at Oshtemo Fun Day. Using two identical replicas of a typical small living room, OFD crews dramatically demonstrated the difference in destruction when a fire occurs in a sprinkled verses non-sprinkled room (see page 15).

Through intergovernmental cooperation, Kalamazoo County Fire Departments continue to work together as a county wide fire investigation team. Under the direction of the Kalamazoo County Fire Chiefs organization, the Kalamazoo County Fire Investigation Team (FIRT) was formed. This team is a collaboration of all municipalities willing to participate by supplying personnel who will train and participate as a county wide Fire Investigation Team. Under the direction of six Senior Fire Investigators, (Team Leaders), assigned from different municipalities throughout the county, we have a total of seventeen investigators on this team.

The senior investigators will start the initial fire investigation within their assigned municipalities and determine if a small or large team approach is needed for investigation of the incident. Once determined, the senior investigator will make a request for additional personnel through the Kalamazoo County's dispatch center.

## **Annual Fire Inspector Trainings**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Number of Topics</b>	<b>Number of Oshtemo Participants</b>	<b>Number of Hours</b>
Fall Inspector Seminar	8	2	32
Winter Inspector Seminar	4	2	16
Fireworks Delegation Training	1	2	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>56</b>

# Fire Prevention through Public Education

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## By Captain Chip Everett, Training and Safety

The Oshtemo Township Fire Department (OFD) provides a wide arrangement of public education activities throughout the year. In 2014, over six hundred children and four hundred adults participated in OFD public education events.

Community events are events that occur in Oshtemo that are not specific fire safety public education events. The largest example is Oshtemo Fun Day. Other community events in 2014 include: an event sponsored by the Oshtemo Branch of the Kalamazoo Public Library, a community block party, Life EMS Camp 911, and a presentation made to a condo association. This also includes OFD's involvement in the annual Burn Camp held at Pretty Lake. Along with dozens of other local agencies, OFD provides transportation for the campers in the Fire Truck Parade. Oshtemo's Telesquirt 532 along with Mattawan's aerial was used to raise the American Flag at the opening day of camp.



Each year we typically provide a side-by-side live demonstration of the effectiveness of residential automatic fire suppression sprinkler system.

Two identical “cubes” are built with furnishing to resemble a typical small living room.

The cube on the left is not outfitted with a sprinkler system. The resulting fire is evident in the phot. The cube on the right is burned next and the sprinkler prevents the room from burning. From this angle you wouldn't recognize that a fire had occurred.

Another annual event is Camp 911 sponsored by Life EMS. This is a day camp for children between the ages of 11-13 held at our Station 5-2, located at 3500 S. 6<sup>th</sup> Street. During the day the children learn various aspects of home safety, medical first aid, fire safety, and bike safety. The children get to interact with fire, EMS, and law enforcement professionals throughout the day.



Public education events are also conducted for various groups as requested. These events mainly take place at Station 5-2, or we will travel to a local group meeting place, typically within Oshtemo, to conduct a presentation. Presentations are given to schools, churches, civic organizations as well as Boy and Girl Scout groups. In addition to these types of events we also assist businesses with fire extinguisher training. We attempt to accommodate drop-in visits from the public but a better way is to pre-arrange a tour of our stations by calling 269-375-0487.

Fire Extinguisher Training – Fire extinguisher training is conducted upon request. In 2014 extinguisher training was conducted for a local business. This training included a live fuel fire so employees could utilize a real extinguisher.

The breakdown of 2014’s public education sessions

Event	# of Events	# of OFD Personnel	Children	Adults	Total
Oshtemo Fun Day*	1	19	400	440	840
Other Community Events*	4	29	166	180	346
Public Education Out-of-Station	5	26	280	47	327
Public Education In-Station	11	52	221	90	311
Fire Extinguisher Training	1	4	0	25	25
Walk-in Station Tour (Unscheduled)	4	6	12	7	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>1133</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>1,868</b>
*attendance estimated					

## Car Seat Inspection

Oshtemo Station 5-2 hosts a car seat inspection program organized through Safe Kids Kalamazoo. Through this program members of the community can have their car seat inspected and installed by a certified technician. In 2014 OFD technicians inspected and installed 122 car seats during 49 different inspections.

OFD currently has two certified inspectors who conduct these inspections, which are scheduled by appointment. Please call 269-375-0487.

## Facebook Page

In December 2012 OFD launched its own unofficial Facebook page to help connect with the community we serve. The primary goal of this outreach is to show the community what we do on a day-to-day basis.

This page also serves as an additional platform to perform public education and outreach. Additionally this page is updated with significant weather issues and other events that are important for our community to be aware of.

Statistics for 2014:

- 1,247 – page followers
- 403 – new likes
- 24,753 – highest number of post views in a single day
- 4,400 – number of times a user specifically visited the OFD Facebook Page

## Apparatus Maintenance

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### **By Lieutenant Troy Lull, Vehicle & Equipment Maintenance**

The Fleet Maintenance Division of Oshtemo Township Fire Department continues to be very busy. With the amount of calls for service on the increase, the amount of maintenance has also increased. In 2014, there were 919 hours of maintenance logged. Those hours included both vehicle and equipment used by Oshtemo Fire. There was 158 hours attributed to regional training and professional development. This includes fire investigation and hazardous materials training. This position also logged in over 1,162 hours in general fire and clerical duties. Also included in these hours are public education, departmental training, and general station repairs to the building and equipment.

The Fleet Maintenance Division continues to provide in-house repairs. These repairs include wiring, lighting, mechanical and pump/piping repairs. When outside service is required, down time is reduced by working closely with vendors and repair facilities.

## Parking Enforcement Program

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### **By Driver/Operator Bob Flahive**

Oshtemo Township's Parking Enforcement Program is currently managed by the Oshtemo Township Fire Department. The parking enforcement program provides a trained firefighter to patrol for parking violations as well as respond to emergency calls for service. The program has been in effect since 1992. The parking enforcement program consists of six trained parking enforcement officers.

On October 25, 2011 the Oshtemo Township Board unanimously appointed the Fire Department Chief (Mark Barnes) to have management authority over the program.

The parking enforcement shifts are:

Monday – Friday: 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 am (midnight)

To become a parking enforcement officer, the firefighter must be a member of the department for at least one year, and then pass the training requirements.

Parking tickets are issued under the Oshtemo Township ordinance 151.000 Parking Violations Ord. No. 163 Adopted: March 11, 1980. Should a violator wish to contest the ticket, the ticket is sent to the 8<sup>th</sup> District Court for an informal hearing before a magistrate.

Should an emergency call for service be received while on patrol, the parking enforcement officer will respond to the call, sometimes arriving before fire apparatus. This gives our residents and visitors of Oshtemo an increased level of service. When the Oshtemo Fire Department receives a call to assist another department outside the jurisdiction of Oshtemo, the parking enforcement officer will remain in the township to continue to providing coverage for the township.

### Most Frequently Issued Citations

1. Handicapped parking [MCL 257.674(s)];
2. Failure to display handicap parking signage [MCL 257.672(12)];
3. Parking in a fire lane [MCL 257.674(aa)];
4. Parking within 15 feet of a fire hydrant [MCL 257.674(d)];
5. Blocking ingress from a marked emergency exit of a building [MCL 257.674(q)];
6. Parking on Township property after hours: Parking Violations Ordinance [No 163, Subsection 2B]

### Parking Enforcement Numbers at-a-glance

<i>Year</i>	<i>Tickets Written</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Total Mileage</i>	<i>Call Responses</i>	<i>Court Appearances</i>
2014	517	\$47,480.00	19,316.2	694	21
2013	652	\$43,380.00	17,487.0	494	17
2012	665	\$56,985.00	17,242.5	363	9
2011	270	\$21,640.00	7,531.0	180	1

## Training Division

### By Captain Chip Everett, Training & Safety

The Oshtemo Township Fire Department conducts an ongoing training program throughout each calendar year. This training is designed and scheduled by a committee of department personnel. These trainings are referred to as the “Regular Department Trainings” and occur on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month. There are two sessions offered each day which provides opportunities for every member to attend. The training division is also responsible for overseeing new-hire training which consists of a 6 month training program. In 2014, two members completed this process and earned full firefighter status. In addition to new hire training the training division provides training and oversight to members who wish to become certified Driver/Operators. In 2014 there was one member who completed this certification process. We expect to have at least two additional members complete this process in 2015.

Elective training opportunities are also offered throughout the year. These trainings are not on a regular schedule and include classes hosted at other departments, the annual Fire Department Instructors Conference, and small group trainings. An additional category is training conducted at the National Fire Academy in Maryland. In 2014 two members attended a total of three classes at the National Fire Academy.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Number of Topics</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>	<b>Number of Hours</b>
<b>Regular</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,661</b>	<b>2,000</b>
Elective	104	408	961
National Fire Academy	3	2	160
<b>Total</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>2,071</b>	<b>3,121</b>

***This table shows the total number of hours in each category.***

## Regular Departmental Training

The goals of the regular departmental training sessions are to ensure compliance with State standards as well as maintain proficiency in the services we provide to the community. State requirements are mainly focused on general employee safety. There are typically 22 training days per calendar year totaling 66 hours offered per firefighter.

At the end of 2014 the department had 31 members who served the entire calendar year. These 31 members had an average of 64.5 hours of training over the twelve months of 2014.

Similar topic categories covered in 2014 are grouped together:

Aerial Operations	Hazardous Materials	Search & Rescue	EMS – CPR & AED
Air Monitoring	Ladders	Thermal Imaging	EMS – Pediatrics
Fire Attack	OFD FDIC	Trench Rescue	EMS – Spinal Immobilization
Building Construction	OFD Road Rally	Tour of Facilities	
Consumers Energy Gas	Pump Operations	Vehicle Extrication	
Firefighter Saving Your Own	Rapid Intervention Crew	Wildland Fires	
Flashover Simulator	SCBA		
Forcible Entry	SCBA Air Consumption		

## Elective Training



Elective training comprised 104 different topics attended by 408 participants for a total of 961 hours. The largest piece of elective training was the annual Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC) held in April. An additional component is training completed within the department outside of the regular training schedule. This is often done in smaller groups or by members who get together on their own to perform specific skills maintenance. Below is a list of the largest blocks of elective training offered in 2014.

Small Group / Individual Training	252.50 Hours
FDIC	155.50 Hours
Kalamazoo County Fire Chiefs Sponsored Training	107.50 Hours
<b>Total</b>	<b>515.50 Hours</b>

## Blue Card Command Certificate Program



The Oshtemo Fire Department is currently in the process of training all certified Driver/Operators and Officers through the Blue Card Command Certificate Program. The Blue Card Command Certification Program is a 50 hour, state of the art training and certification system that teaches Company and Command Officers how to standardize local incident operations across their organization. The program uses a combination of online and in-class simulation training which results in an Incident Commander solution that finally addresses local Hazard Zone operations.

## Fire Stations

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The Oshtemo Fire Department operates three fire stations throughout the township. Their locations are depicted in the ISO map found on page 26. Stations 5-1 and 5-2 are staffed 24 hours a day 365 days a year. Fire Station 5-3 is a very small building which does not have facilities for personnel thus it is not staffed. However, the apparatus housed there are deployed by OFD members that respond to the station from their home.

Fire Station 5-1 located at 7275 West Main and is the main administrative fire station. The Fire Chief and three full-time staff work out of this station. Station 5-1 covers the North section of the township, responding first due to addresses North of L Ave.

It houses Engine 521, Engine 511, Tower 541, Rescue 551, Brush Truck 571, and Car 500. In addition, it responds to automatic/mutual aid requests from Alamo Township, Kalamazoo Township, and City of Kalamazoo.

### Oshtemo Fire Station 5-1



### Oshtemo Fire Station 5-2



Fire Station 5-2 located at 3500 South 6th Street and houses two full-time staff. This station covers the South section of the township, responding first due to addresses South of L Ave.

Station 5-2 houses TeleSquirt 532, Squad 582, Rescue 552, and Brush Truck 572. It also responds to automatic/mutual aid requests from Texas Township, and the City of Portage.

## Oshtemo Fire Station 5-3



Fire Station 5-3, located at 3270 North 3rd Street. Due to its limited size, is an unstaffed station.

It houses Engine 513 and Brush Truck 573.

## Oshtemo Fire Department Apparatus

### Fleet in 2014

The Oshtemo Township Fire Department currently has fourteen vehicles in its fleet. The fleet is made up of three engines, one telesquirt, one aerial platform, one rescue squad, three brush trucks, two quick response EMS vehicles, one utility pick-up truck, and a Chief's car. In addition to these vehicles the department also has a utility trailer for rapid deployment of our trench rescue equipment.



### STATION 5-1

#### E-511 – 2008 Pierce Velocity

E-511 is the second newest apparatus in the fleet put in service December 2009. This engine carries 750 gallons of water and pumps 1500 gallons per minute. This engine also has an internal 30 gallon Class A foam tank which directly injects foam into the pump. This engine responds first out to all fires and can be used as a secondary emergency medical response vehicle as it carries all the necessary EMS equipment and is licensed by the State.



E-521 carries 750 gallons of water and pumps 1250 gallons per minute. Attack lines consist of three 1 3/4" and two 2 1/2" pre-connected hose lines which can be pulled rapidly from the engine. This engine also carries a generator for lighting, positive pressure blower; hydraulic rescue tools (Jaws), ground ladders and assorted tools. This engine also carries necessary emergency medical equipment as an EMS response vehicle.

#### E-521 – 1999 Pierce Saber



## T-541 – 2010 Smeal 100' Aerial Platform

T-541 is the newest in the fleet, put in service August 2012. This truck was purchased as a demonstrator unit in the spring of 2012.

T-541 is equipped with a 100' aerial ladder with an enclosed platform on the end. The platform serves as a working area for firefighters to accomplish firefighting tasks or make rescues from elevated locations. It can also act as an anchoring point over trenches or vessels. The platform can also supply 1500 gallons per minute of water through the platform nozzle.



This truck replaced a 1982 Pierce Snorkel which had been in service for 29 years. The “old” 541 was an 85' articulating platform which served the Township extremely well for decades.

## STATION 5-2

### Telesquirt 532 – 2003 American LaFrance Eagle 75' Telesquirt



T-532 responds first out to all fires in the Township and can also respond as a secondary emergency medical response vehicle. It carries 500 gallons of water and pumps 1500 gallons per minute.

Its unique design provides a 75' elevated waterway providing both vertical and horizontal reach. It has an escape ladder built on top of the waterway but is not designed for extended use by personnel.

T-532 provides the same basic functions of an typical engine providing fire attack lines consist of two 1 ¾” and two 2 ½” pre-connected hose lines which can be rapidly deployed. It also carries 1,000' of 5” hose, 10 breathing air packs, and a portable generator for emergency lighting, power saws, positive pressure blower, ground ladders and various other electrical tools.

### Squad 582 – 2010 Pierce/International

This unit was purchased and placed in the spring of 2010. 582 carries technical rescue equipment including extrication equipment for motor vehicle crashes. This unit carries the support equipment needed for trench and rope rescue. For fire incidents 582 carries tarps, a shop vacuum, and a trash pump for salvage operations. 582 is also a licensed EMS vehicle by the State. 582 responds first out for motor vehicle crashes and technical rescues.



## STATION 5-3

### E-513 – 1994 Pierce Dash



E-513 is the oldest engine in our fleet but continues to serve us faithfully. It carries 1,000 gallons of water and pumps 1500 gallons per minute. It is equipped with attack lines consisting of three 1 ¾” and one 2 ½” pre-connected hose lines which can be deployed rapidly from the engine.

It also carries 1,000’ of 5” hose, a generator for emergency lighting, positive pressure blower, ground ladders, various prying tools, ventilation saw, and 10 breathing air packs. This truck

responds to all fires in the township. E-513 is equipped as an EMS vehicle licensed by the State.

When the engine at either of the other fire stations is taken out of service for maintenance, this engine is moved up to fill that temporary void.

## Partnerships

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### County

Hazardous Materials Team

Kalamazoo County Fire Chief’s Association Training Committee.

Fire Investigation Response Team (FIRT).

Fire Prevention – i.e. annual fire prevention week

Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS)

Regional Training Center (Nazareth Road).

Kalamazoo Valley Intergovernmental Ambulance Agreement

Kalamazoo County Emergency Management – Oshtemo’s Chief staffs the Fire Operations section in Emergency Operations Center for area wide events.

### Regional

5<sup>th</sup> District Technical Rescue Team

5<sup>th</sup> District Homeland Security Planning Board

## Insurance Services Office (ISO)

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The portion of a structure’s fire insurance premium is often determined by the ISO grade of your community. Because it virtually impacts every building owner and renter in Oshtemo, we have dedicated a significant segment of this report to explain this process.

### WHAT IS ISO?

The Insurance Services Office (ISO) collects and evaluates information from communities in the United States on their *structural fire suppression capabilities*. Using nationally recognized standards developed by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the American Water Works Association, ISO’s

Public Protection Classification (PPC) program evaluates communities according to a uniform set of criteria. The four criteria used in determining communities PPC are:

- **Receiving and Handling Fire Alarms**, includes telephone systems, telephone lines, staffing, and dispatching systems.
- **Fire Department** includes equipment, staffing, training, and geographic distribution of fire companies.
- **Water Supply** includes the condition and maintenance of hydrants, alternative water supply operations, and a careful evaluation of the amount of available water compared with the amount needed to suppress fires at a rate of up to 3,500 gallons per minute (gpm).
- **Needed Fire Flows**, which are representative building locations used to determine the theoretical amount of water necessary for fire suppression purposes.

The fire department’s grade entails only 50% of this evaluation. The remaining is split between the water system (Kalamazoo City Water Department), which is 40%, while the dispatch centers (Kalamazoo County Sheriff’s Department) encompass the remaining 10%.

## ISO GRADING SCALE

The final compilation of these three components results in an overall score, or Class, ranging from 1 to 10. A Class 1 rating represents an exemplary fire suppression program, while a Class 10 rating indicates that the area’s fire suppression program does not meet ISO’s minimum criteria. Figure 2 illustrates the credit points necessary for each classification.

Note: There are only 61 communities in the United States that have obtained a class 1 rating and none are in Michigan.

Class	Credit Points		
1	90.00	or	more
2	80.00	to	89.99
3	70.00	to	79.99
4	60.00	to	69.99
5	50.00	to	59.99
6	40.00	to	49.99
7	30.00	to	39.99
8	20.00	to	29.99
9	10.00	to	19.99
10	0	to	9.99

*Figure 2*

It is imperative for readers of this report to understand that ISO evaluates **ONLY** the community’s ability to suppress hostile fires involving structures. They give no credit or recognition of the other vital services this department provides such as emergency medical care, technical rescue, and hazardous materials mitigation, response to natural or manmade disasters or even smaller fires such as wildland or vehicles. Interestingly, the ISO system also fails to credit cost effective preventative efforts such as public fire prevention education and fire code enforcement.

## A COMPARISON OF OSHTEMO’S RATING IN 1999 AND 2012

### HOW DID OSHTEMO RATE IN 1999?

**With Fire Hydrants:** The first area is where water is immediately available from nearby fire hydrants. This is commonly referred to as being a “hydranted” area. A class 4 rating was awarded to properties in the community that meet the criteria listed below.

1. Are located within five (5) road miles of a fire station.  
*Note: Oshtemo has three fire stations.*
2. Have a needed fire flow of less than 3,500 gallons per minute (GPM).  
*Note: Most homes fall well within this requirement.*  
  
(Fire flow is a calculation of how much water in GPM will be needed if involved in fire.)
3. Are within 1,000 feet of a fire hydrant.

The rating prior to 1999 was a class 6 so this was a dramatic improvement for the Township’s residents.

**No Fire Hydrants:** A class 9 was placed on the rest of our community where water must be trucked to the scene via fire engines (tankers / tenders).

**HOW DOES OSHTEMO RATE IN 2012?**

ISO’s protocol is to evaluate each community every 10 years or when their staffing allows. Oshtemo’s most recent evaluation was in 2012. A summary of the evaluation shows some improvement to both the hydranted areas as well as the rural regions.

**SUMMARY OF 2012 OSHTEMO EVALUATION:**

**With Fire Hydrants:** In 1999 we had received a class 4 rating with a score of 60.86 squeaking us in by just .86 points. The new rating of 63.11 has hardened our position in the class 4 category. Although our improvement was not enough to push us into the next higher class, it represents a 30% improvement within class 4.

**No Fire Hydrants:** The 2012 evaluation has resulted in an improved public protection classification from a class 9 to a class 8B. Class 8B is a special classification that recognizes a superior level of fire protection in an otherwise Class 9 area. It is designed to represent a fire protection delivery system that is superior except for a lack of a water supply system (fire hydrants). Although not listed in ISOs grading scale (Figure 2), it lays between class 8 and 9. The actual scores received in 1999 and 2012 are shown in Table 1.

**Table 1 - Summary Comparison 1999 vs. 2012**

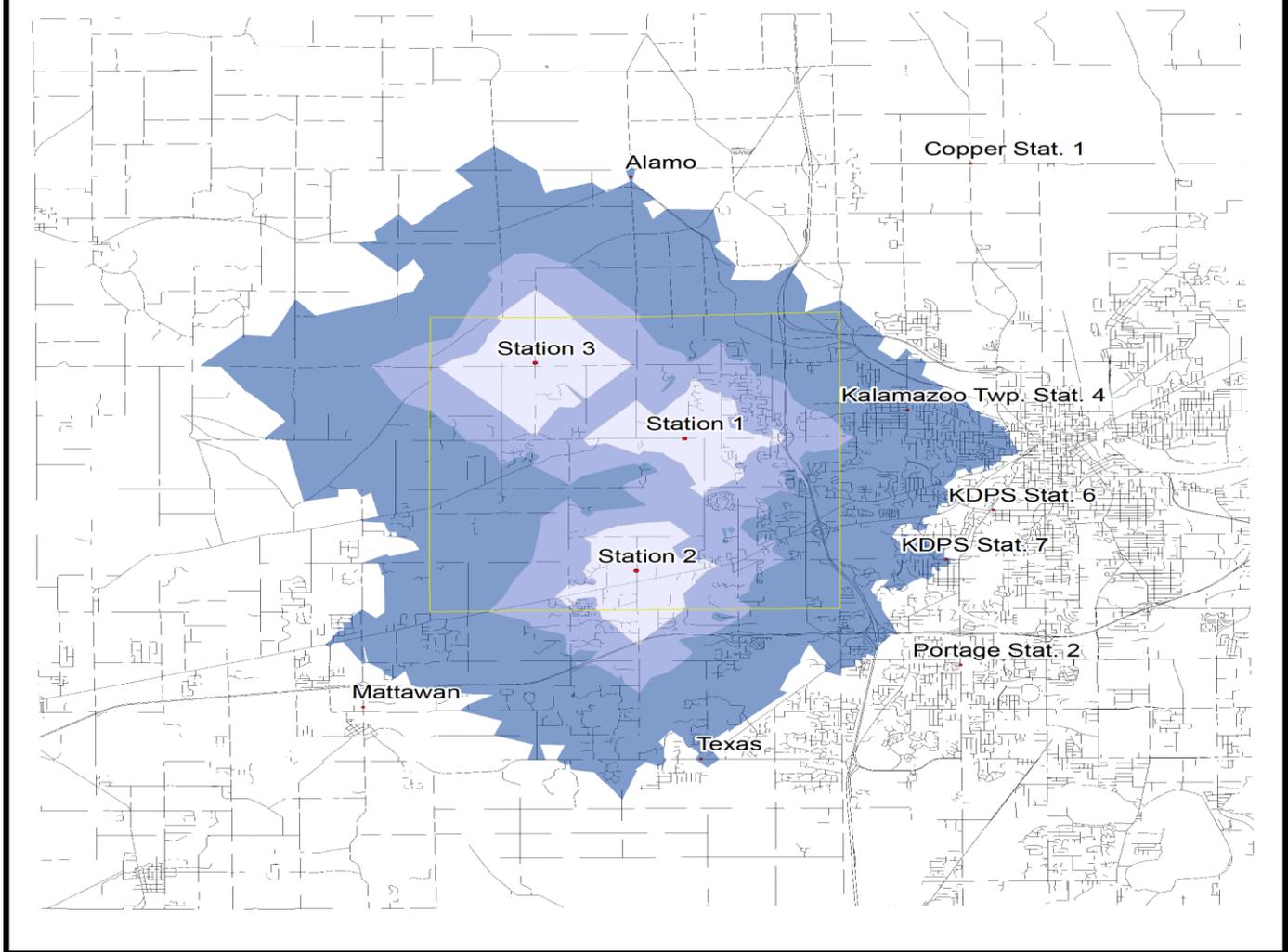
<u>Feature</u>	<u>Credit Earned</u> <u>1999</u>	<u>Credit Earned</u> <u>2012</u>	<u>Total</u>
Receiving & Handling Alarms	6.65	7.46	10
Fire Department	26.12	27.25	50
Water Supply	35.28	35.00	40
Divergence *	-7.19	-6.60	-
<b>Total Credit</b>	<b>60.86</b>	<b>63.11</b>	<b>100</b>

The highlighted “fire department” section is the only area that OFD can impact.

**\* Divergence:**

The Divergence factor mathematically reduces the total score based upon the relative difference between the fire department and water supply scores. In our case, the water supply score is better than the fire department, therefore the final score received a reduction of 6.60.

## ISO Distribution of Oshtemo Charter Township



This map exhibits the placement of our three fire stations and the road miles out from each of them. This is a critical component used in the ISO evaluation process. A metropolitan community would typically be encased in the medium or light blue areas. In order to qualify for either of our ISO grades, the property must be within 5 driving miles of a fire station

This graphically depicts the importance of all three buildings as they become a system of coverage for all of Oshtemo Township.

**Yellow Box** = Geographical borders of Oshtemo Township (36 Sq. Mi.).

Red Dot = Location of each Fires Station.

Light Blue shading = 1.5 driving miles away from each station.

Medium Blue shading = 2.5 driving miles away from each station.

Dark Blue shading = 5 driving miles away from each station.

## HOW OSHTEMO COMPARES TO THE REST OF MICHIGAN.

It is important to note that Oshtemo Township is performing at a relatively high degree of efficiency. Considering that our chosen staffing model is primarily based on the availability of paid on-call Oshtemo Township citizens, we are accomplishing our mission at a relatively low cost yet reaching a high degree of performance.

That performance is emphasized by the fact that we have significantly strengthened our public protection class 4 (PPC) rating for areas with fire hydrants. When compared to Michigan's 1,987 rated fire departments, Oshtemo Township has placed in a group that is in the top 6 percent of all rated departments. (See Figure #3 below)

Our improvement from a PPC class 9 to a PPC 8B for areas without fire hydrants is also a blessing to our residents and a credit to our Department. Figure 3 shows that the single largest PPC is class 9. Making this transitional leap places Oshtemo in a group at the 37th percentile which is significant for Oshtemo. Since Oshtemo does not have water tankers in its fleet, this involved a strong supportive effort by our neighboring jurisdictions of Texas, Alamo and Mattawan. A partnership that remains resilient today.

The Figure 3 below shows the number of Michigan fire departments within each classification.

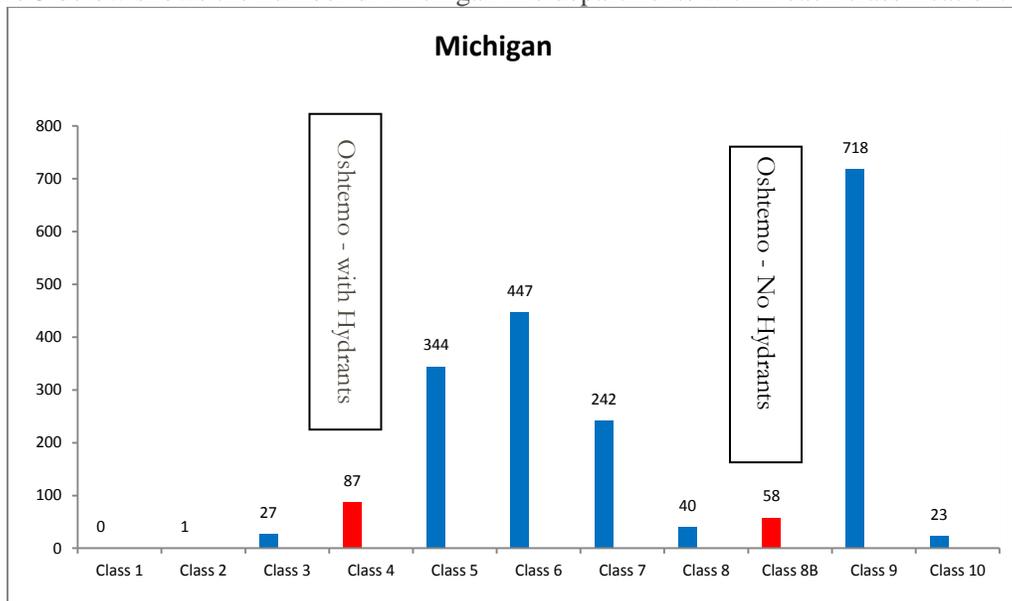


Figure 3

## CLOSING STATEMENTS

This evaluation is a testament to the immediate readiness of your Fire and Rescue Department for this moment in time. However, it is also a reflection of years of preparation by current and former elected officials, citizens who have become department members, and the unwavering support of a strong community base that appreciates the excellent quality of life found in Oshtemo Charter Township.

**ISO Public Protection Class 4 / 8B**  
**Serving you with**  
**Respect, Responsibility and Pride**

# Kalamazoo Valley Intergovernmental Ambulance Agreement

By Mark Barnes, Fire Chief

## Kalamazoo Valley Intergovernmental Ambulance Agreement (KVIAA)



Second only to the provision of safe drinking water, the establishment and delivery of public safety services are the most important function of local government. It is a primary factor when determining a community's quality of life.

Since August of 2003, the Cities of Kalamazoo and Parchment along with the Townships of Cooper and Oshtemo have insured that their residents, or anyone visiting their community and suddenly needing emergency medical services (EMS) receive the best service possible. The assurance of this critical service was made possible by a number of factors including a strong collaborative effort to design and administer an evaluation tool that identified a high quality advanced life support (ALS) ambulance provider. The resulting contract issues a very high set of performance standards and then issues penalties should those fail to be met.

Over a nine month period, leading emergency service staff members from each of the four communities worked to fine tune and then administer an evaluation tool in the form of a request for proposals (RFP). The resulting 43-page document laid out the RFP process, clearly stated the parameters and desires of KVIAA and identified the grading system.

The evaluators who graded the RFP responses consisted of seven (7) internal and three (3) external reviewers. All of the internal reviewers were paramedics who had not served on the RFP design team thus providing a clear separation between design and evaluation. The evaluation committee weighed all proposals in strict accordance with the evaluation criteria set forth in the RFP.

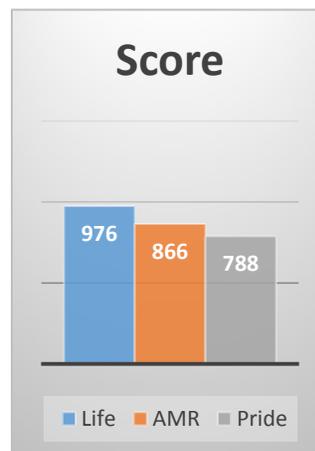
KVIAA received three lengthy responses to the RFP (alphabetically listed):

<u>Company</u>	<u># pages in response</u>
1. American Medical Response (AMR)	198
2. Life EMS Ambulance (Life)	744
3. Pride Care Ambulance (Pride)	240

The final scoring was relatively close with Life EMS Ambulance securing the top score of 976.

Life EMS was subsequently awarded a contract to receive all undesignated 911 calls for EMS within the participating communities for a period of four (4) years. The contract has the option of up to three, two-year extensions.

There has been interest from other local units of government to join KVIAA.



## Regional SCBA Grant

In 2013 the National Fire Protection Association updated the required standards for Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). The next year, a group of Kalamazoo County fire departments were awarded a regional grant to purchase new SCBA's that would meet the 2013 standards. The federal grant awarded provided 80% of the cost of the new units. Each department then paid their 20% match reflective of the equipment received by that community.



The local departments who participated in the regional grant include:

- Alamo Fire Department
- Oshtemo Fire Department
- Pavilion Fire Department
- Portage Fire Department
- South Kalamazoo County Fire Authority
- Texas Township

The Oshtemo Fire Department purchased 54 new SCBA's. The cost breakdown details are as follows:

\$4,985.48 per unit x 54 units

\$269,215.65 – Total Cost

\$53,843.13 – 20% share for Oshtemo Fire Department

\$215,372.52 – Total savings

The regional grant has allowed a large portion of fire departments within Kalamazoo County to upgrade technology and increase firefighter safety. The fire departments within this regional grant routinely work together on large incidents and fires. The SCBA grant committee did a tremendous job in researching the available products and then chose the best option to serve our firefighters.

It is important to realize that this regional grant has supported improved standardization throughout the participating fire departments. It allows department members to be familiar with not only their own SCBA equipment, but that of their neighbors as well. This will provide for effective operations when departments are working together.

We hope that you have found this document interesting and insightful into the organization, operations and services provided by Oshtemo Township's Fire and Rescue Department. Should have interest in serving in a dynamic and challenging organization, I would encourage you to contact us.

Web Page: <http://www.oshtemo.org/fire-department/>

Phone: (269) 375-0487.