Thank you for your interest in the City of Oconto Fire & Rescue Department. We are fully committed in creating a safe and secure community.

Your interest and involvement is vital in helping to achieve this vision.
Our Mission

The City of Oconto Fire and Rescue Department is a public safety organization that provides fire, rescue, building inspections, and emergency services to its City, and Townships that it protects. We are committed to the preservation of life, property, and environment. Through education and public awareness programs, we enhance the quality of life for the Cities and Townships we proudly serve.

Chief’s Message

It has been another very successful year for the Oconto Fire and Rescue Department. We were able to continue to grow, secure new relationships with outside entities, and add many new and exciting programs for the citizens that we protect. On top of all of the exciting new additions to the department it was record year for call volume. The department responded to an all-time high for calls, surpassing the previous high of 1012, set in 2012.

It is my pleasure to present to you the annual report for 2014. This past year was an interesting year of challenges and transformations. First, I would like to thank my staff and volunteers for their hard work and accomplishments this past year. The effort put forth by our members was consistent with our mission statement and second to none. We faced many challenges in 2014 and we mitigated those challenges as a team by working together and relying on each other. I am extremely proud of our staff and volunteers for their sense of duty, integrity, and professionalism.

As an organization we pride ourselves on delivering first rate core services such as, Fire Prevention Education, Fire Protection/Suppression, Code Enforcement, and Emergency Medical Services. Moreover, we have made a concerted effort to get out into our community and get involved with events and special projects. This past year we have made strides to strengthen interdepartmental relations with other city departments building rapport and working together. Operationally we have made advancements in training, and streamlined our day to day duties to ensure efficiency. We are excited to be moving forward in a positive and unified direction. The attached report highlights our operation for the past year.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please do not hesitate to contact me anytime. Thank you.
PERSONNEL

The Oconto Fire & Rescue Department is a combination department consisting of one Chief, seven fulltime members, and seventeen paid-on-call employees. The advantages of an all career department include immediate response to emergencies and the ability to deliver other essential services to the community. In combination fire & rescue departments, a limited full-time staff is on duty around the clock. The staff quickly responds to emergencies and provides training, inspections, public education, maintenance and other community-related services between alarms. The paid-on-call members must achieve state firefighter certification, attend regularly scheduled training sessions, and are called out to emergencies.

Active Firefighters:

Chief

Captain

Lieutenant

EMS Training Officer

Fire Training Officer

FF/AEMT

FF/AEMT/Building Insp.

FF/AEMT/Building Insp.

Firefighter

FF/AEMT

Firefighter

FF/EMT
CONTO FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT
2014 ANNUAL REPORT

HONOR
DUTY
INTEGRITY
City of Oconto
Fire-Rescue Department

City of Oconto
Police and Fire Commission

Fire Chief

Red
Lieutenant/EMT-IV Tech
Firefighter/EMT-IV Tech
Firefighter/EMT-IV Tech

Black
Captain/EMT-IV Tech
Firefighter/EMT-IV Tech
Firefighter/EMT-IV Tech

POC’s
POC Asst. Training Officer
Firefighter/EMT-IV Tech
Firefighter

Firefighter/EMT-IV Tech/Floater Position

2 Firefighter/EMT-IV Technicians on-duty 24 hrs/7 days

Licensure as an EMT–IV; Intermediate Technician - personnel are qualified to initiate intravenous therapy and administer selected medications beyond the EMT-Basic level

Each full-time employee has assigned responsibilities, Fire Prev/Public Education, Training Officer, Vehicle Maintenance, Emergency Medical Services, etc

Floater position fills vacations/sick leave, etc. on either shift

17 Paid-on-call personnel

All personnel trained to Wisconsin State Certified Firefighter 1

Oconto Police and Fire Commission has Optional Powers

2014 Board of Police and Fire Commissioners
Jim Lacourciere, Commission President
Jeff Kreuger, Commissioner
Joe Watts, Commissioner
Pat Ragen, Commissioner
Sue Anderson, Commissioner
Calls by Nature of Incident – 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Calls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FIRES</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building fire</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooking Fire</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chimney or flue fire, confined to chimney or flue</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trash or rubbish fire, contained</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Passenger vehicle fire</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outside Equipment Fire</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brush/ Grass Fire</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>OVERPRESSURE RUPTURE, EXPLOSION, OVERHEAT</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Overpressure rupture, explosion, over heat other</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>RESCUE &amp; MEDICAL EMERGENCY SERVICE INCIDENT</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Emergency Medical Incidents</td>
<td>808</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Search for Missing person, Remove Victim from stalled elevator</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor vehicle accident with injuries</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor vehicle accident with no injuries</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Assist, Assist EMS crew, Stand-by, other</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HAZARDOUS CONDITION (NO FIRE)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hazardous condition, Other</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gasoline or other flammable liquid spill</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carbon monoxide incident</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical wiring/equipment problem, other</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arcing, shorted electrical equipment</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Power line down</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SERVICE CALL</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Person in Distress, Service call, Other</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assist police or other governmental agency</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public service</td>
<td>38</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unauthorized burning</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GOOD INTENT CALL</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Authorized controlled burning</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Good Intent, other</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dispatched and cancelled en route</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Incident found on arrival at dispatch address</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoke scare, odor of smoke</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazmat release investigation with no Hazmat</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FALSE ALARM &amp; FALSE CALL</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Malicious, mischievous false call, Other</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carbon Monoxide detector activation, no CO</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alarm/ Detector activation, no fire</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SPECIAL INCIDENT TYPE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Relations</td>
<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Education</td>
<td>36</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>1027</td>
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</table>
Calls By Nature of Incident 2014

- Fires, 28
- Rescue & Medical Emergency Service, 829
- Service Call, 57
- Hazardous condition (No Fire), 23
- Over Pressure, Explosion, Over Heat, 1
- Special Incident Type, 55
- False Alarm and False Call, 16
- Good intent, 18

Call Volume Last 4 Years

- 2011: 855
- 2012: 1012
- 2013: 856
- 2014: 1027
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

The EMS Operations Manager is responsible for maintaining and improving EMS readiness and performance. This is accomplished through the application of quality assurance techniques, delivering frequent training intervals, ensuring licensing and credentials, and maintaining emergency equipment and supplies. As the EMS liaison, he also maintains good working relationships with area hospitals, training centers and other EMS agencies.

EMS Operations Manager
Andrew Hoppe

As part of the Oconto Fire-Rescue Department, the City of Oconto Ambulance Service constantly seeks ways to improve the care it provides to the Oconto area. The EMS profession continues to evolve from its roots of a simple transportation service to a complete health and wellness prevention and treatment system. Recent advances for Oconto Ambulance include:

- Intraosseous (direct bone marrow) medication access for critical patients
- Intranasal medication mist into the patient’s nostrils as opposed to intravenous or intermuscular injection
- Selective spinal immobilization for the comfort of patients who are less likely to have traumatic injury to their spine
- 2 new ambulances were placed into service over the last 2 years
- A Bicycle Rodeo – the first of its kind for Oconto Fire
- 2 members are now certified American Heart Association CPR Instructors
- Increases in training requirements to ensure quality care

Future efforts continue to expand on total patient care in and out of the emergency setting:

- The department will be placing 3 Advanced Cardiac Life Support Monitors into service allowing them to acquire 12-lead EKGs and carbon dioxide sampling in what is known as capnography
- Improvements will be made in electronic patient care reporting hardware and software to streamline the documentation process and quality
- A continued partnership with Bellin Health Oconto Hospital in the Hook and Ladder program providing home visits to certain high risk patients to ensure they are recovering well and following all prescribed orders correctly
- A persistent emphasis on quality improvement while keeping up with an ever changing and evolving EMS profession
The department responded to 15 Pulseless Non-Breathing patients in 2014. Of those 15, 6 were deceased upon arrival, the other nine received CPR and advanced resuscitation techniques and were transported to a hospital. Three of these patients had a return of spontaneous circulation (a pulse). The other six deceased despite all efforts of the department and hospital staff.
19 patients were offered the free Falls Prevention Program sponsored by the Oconto Commission on Aging. The program involves a phone interview and home visit from a local registered nurse with specialized training in preventing injuries from falling. 14 of those 19 patients accepted the department’s referral and benefitted from this program.
FIRE PREVENTION & LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The goals of the Oconto Fire & Rescue Department's Fire Prevention & Life Safety Education Programs are to provide the citizens of Oconto and surrounding townships with protection against loss of life and property by fire through:

Fire Prevention Inspections & Code Enforcement

- Fire safety inspections of all commercial, multi-family residential, health care, church, and school buildings.
- Life safety inspections of state licensed care and daycare facilities.
- Review of building fire alarm, sprinkler, and life safety system plans for all new construction and renovations to ensure compliance with fire code requirements.
- Site plan review for fire department access and life safety issues.
- Acceptance testing of all new or modified fire alarm, and life safety systems.
- Maintenance of the Knox Box program, which controls emergency access to buildings and other secured areas for fire and rescue operations.
- Permitting and inspection of regulated activities defined in the fire code.
- Investigation of citizen complaints of potential fire code violations.
- Life safety patrols of large events held in assembly occupancies.

Our fire prevention program includes the annual inspections of all businesses in our response area twice a year. All fire departments in the state are required to conduct annual inspections of all businesses. By conducting these inspections, we are getting to know more about our neighbors. The Oconto Fire Rescue Department is also trying to help our businesses be more safety conscious. We are a new set of eyes. We conducted 754 inspections of businesses. While conducting the inspections a total of 397 code infractions were found. This number was up from previous years. There were only fifteen more infractions this year, than last. The most found infraction was fire extinguishers that needed to be serviced. The second most common infraction was unwanted brush or vegetation growing up around the building.

School Fire Prevention and Life Safety Education Program

This past year once again the department was involved in numerous activities in the schools and communities. We had the privilege of meeting and talking to about 2500 children and 600 adults. During these meetings we share the latest and most innovative techniques for not only surviving a fire, but also give them the knowledge and skill set to prevent those fires from ever happening.

The department also has the only juvenile fire setter program in the county. Allowing us to educate troubled youths, in hopes of them never wanting to start any fires. The department receives referrals through the county and schools.
FIRE & RESCUE TRAINING

Learning within the fire service is a career long commitment, and the training division supports this by administering continuing education to further the skills and abilities, as the role of the firefighter continues to evolve.

For Firefighters to start their career at the Oconto Fire and Rescue Department, they must successfully complete a total of 112Hrs of Firefighter training through the Northeast Wisconsin Technical College.

They must complete:

- 60hrs of Firefighter- Entry Level Part A & B
- 36hrs of Firefighter Level 1 Part C
- 16hrs of Hazardous Material Operations

Once they complete this training and are hired on at Oconto Fire and Rescue Department they must stay up-to-date with the ever evolving training techniques. To accomplish this, Oconto Fire and Rescue Personnel are expected too:

- Attend our in-house trainings that are twice a month, each training lasting three hours
- Perform the daily training. Each week is a specific topic
  - 26 weeks of a fire related topic
  - 26 weeks of a EMS related topic

Along with the in-house continuing education, personnel strive to make OFRD better and expand on their knowledge by pursuing other NWTC courses. Courses that our personnel have successfully completed and became State Certified in are:

- 23 members State Certified Firefighter 1
- 20 member are Certified Incident Safety Officers
- 15 members State Certified Firefighter 2
- 15 members State Certified Driver/Operator - Pumper
- 12 members State Certified Driver/Operator – Aerial
- 7 members State Certified Fire Officer 1
- 5 members State Certified Emergency Service Instructor 1
- 3 members State Certified Fire Inspector
- 1 member State Certified Emergency Service Instructor 2
- 1 Trained Fire Investigator
APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT

The goals of the apparatus & equipment program include managing all the aspects of the OFD building, vehicles, & equipment maintenance repair. This includes managing and scheduling all maintenance and repairs for both building and apparatus. This program also contributes to the development of OFD Standard Operating Guidelines for Emergency scene operations.

Ambulances
Unit I Chevy Duramax 2012, first out ambulance on all EMS calls.
Unit II Chevy Duramax 2013, second out ambulance on all EMS calls.
Unit III Ford 2003, Third out ambulance on all EMS calls when needed, used for transfers to Oconto Falls, Marinette, and Green Bay Hospitals.

Engine 1011 – 1996
Freightliner, 2000gpm/750 gal tank, seats five. This engine is our first out engine for all city fire responses.

Engine 1012 – 1998 Luverne, 1250gpm/1000gal tank, seats four. This engine is the first one out on all rural fires; it is also the third truck out on all city fires. It also has all of our extrication tools on it for Traffic incidents when needed.

Ladder 1011 – 1987 Ford 55’ telesquirt, 1000gpm/400gal tank, seats four. This ladder is the second truck out on all city fires. The truck is used to access roofs, and hard to reach places from the ground. It is also capable of applying large amounts of water to any major structure fire.
**Brush Engine 1011** – 1976 Dodge 4x4, 400gpm, 250 gal tank, seats two. This unit is used for any wild land fire that we may be dispatched to.

**Rescue 1011** – 1997 Chevy 3500 4x4. This unit is used to pull our boat; it also carries ice rescue equipment, PPV fans, and extra air bottles. We also have an extra set of jaws and air bags used to lift heavy objects on this unit.

**Car I** – 2006 Chevy Silverado 4x4. Utility vehicle used to attend seminars and at fire scenes to carry equipment back to the station for cleaning. The Chief also uses this vehicle to respond to incidents.

**Water Tender – 1011** – 1999 Freightliner, 2000 gallon tank. This unit is used to transport water to all of the areas where there are no hydrants.

**Boat I** – 2003 Zodiac 14’, 40hp mercury motor. This boat is used for all water rescues on the bay and river.

**Six Wheeler** – 2006 Polaris Ranger. This ATV is used to assist in ice rescues, hunting accidents, snowmobile rescues, and wild land fires.
**PRE-PLANNING**

A method that Oconto Fire & Rescue uses to conduct fire safety and prevention in the community is called pre-planning. Pre-Plans are documents put together by the fire department to understand critical points of a building, access points to the building, locations of hazardous materials, building construction type, water sources, and many other crucial items.

**Pre-planning businesses in the City of Oconto**

Pre-planning is conducted on local businesses within the city. Pre-plans are completed with the most up to date information that was gathered when visiting the business within the city. The information from the site visit is then transferred to a program at Oconto Fire and Rescue Department. Information is then placed on a satellite picture and/or floor plan of the business which can then be accessed quickly while in route to an emergency at the location. All completed pre-plans are located within the first responding units (Engines, Ambulance) at Oconto Fire and Rescue Department.

Normally, Pre-plans are not completed for personal residences. If you feel you have important information that Oconto Fire and Rescue Department may need during an emergency situation, please contact Oconto Fire and Rescue. We will follow up with you to determine if information of plans need to be obtained.
2014 OCONTO FIRE & RESCUE HIGHLIGHTS

➤ Experienced no fire fatalities in 2014

➤ The Oconto Fire & Rescue Department continued an agreement with the Oconto County Human Health & Service Division to be a partner in the installation of car seats here at the department for children of all ages.

➤ The department had four members complete State Certified Fire Officer I

➤ We held our first annual Bicycle rodeo for Oconto youth. The program taught Bicycle safety on a road course built by the firefighters. We were able to give away 50 bicycle helmets along with giving away four bicycles donated by local businesses and Oconto firefighters.

➤ Continued our partnership with the County in providing a fall referral program for anyone who has sustained injury from a fall.

➤ We were able to raise over $3,000 for MDA through our “Fill-The Boot Program” here in the City of Oconto.

➤ The department raised $500 for Special Olympics by holding a car wash and cook out here at the department.

➤ In partnership with Bellin Hospital the department created the “Hook N’ Ladder Program”. This program provides post hospital visits that help a patient adjust to live after the hospital. Firefighters also provide a home safety inspection during this visit. This program one of only a few in the State.

➤ Firefighters once again went out into the community and assisted children across busy intersections during Halloween. They also handed out fire prevention materials and candy to all the kids.

➤ The department continued its “Back To School Drive Safe Program” where fire apparatus is taken out to various locations throughout the school zones. The department attaches large visible signs to apparatus warning drivers that school is back in session please slow down.

➤ The department applied and received a grant to build a life jacket station that was placed out at Breakwater Park. The program is through the DNR and is called “Kids Don’t Float”. It provides loaner lifejackets for infants through adults if they don’t have one.

➤ Successful transitioned into building inspection duties for the city. Saving the City a substantial amount of money, along with providing a quality service.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I get a copy of a Fire or Medical Report?
Call the Fire Department at 920-834-7775, during our regular business hours of 7:00AM-5:00PM Monday thru Thursday, for proper procedure to obtain report.

What does the Fire Protection Fee mean on my water bill?
This fee has nothing to do with the fire department. This fee is what the utility department charges for maintaining the fire hydrants within the City. It is sometimes mistaken for an additional fee to pay for the fire department, this is not the case.

What is a “Knox Box” & where can I obtain one?
A Knox Box is a secured locked box that is placed on the front of a building/house and contains keys to the building or residence. The fire department keeps a key that opens the Knox Box locked and secured on their vehicles. This allows the fire department easy access to a home or business even when the building may be secured, i.e. after hours or when occupants have limited mobility. Information to purchase a “Knox Box” can be obtained by calling the Oconto Fire & Rescue Department at 920-834-7775.

If my Carbon Monoxide detector activates, what should I do?
Carbon Monoxide (ALSO KNOWN AS THE SILENT KILLER) is a colorless/odorless gas that is created by the incomplete combustion of carbon based fuels. It also connects to blood cells at a rate of 200 times faster than oxygen. It is recommended that you install a Carbon Monoxide detector on each level of your home and if a detector activates, call 911 and leave your home. The fire & rescue department will come to your home and check the level of Carbon Monoxide (if any).

Why do firefighters cut holes in the roof and break windows of a building on fire?
This is called “VENTILATION”. There are two basic reasons for ventilating a structure. The first is, removal of dangerous gases, heat, and dark smoke that accumulate in a burning building reducing the visibility and greatly impeding rescue and firefighting efforts. Second, ventilation allows firefighters to relieve the structure of superheated gases and smoke which spread fire and contribute to dangerous situations like flashover and backdraft explosions.

When I call for the Ambulance will I be able to pick my hospital destination?
Absolutely! The patient always dictates where they will be transported. The only time a patient would not decide where they wanted to be transported is if they are unable to communicate verbally. In this case the ambulance will then take them to the hospital that they feel can best handle their emergency.