

To: Safety and Facilities Services Committee

From: Adam Grant, Commissioner,
Safety and Facilities Services Department

Report Number: SF-25-33

Date of Report: June 4, 2025

Date of Meeting: June 9, 2025

Subject: 2024 Fire Services Annual Report

Ward: All Wards

File: 03-05

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the appended 2024 Fire Services Annual Report.

Fire Services produces an annual report to inform Council and the public of the activities during the previous year and to publish statistics that relate to the status of fire services in Oshawa.

2.0 Recommendation

That the Safety and Facilities Services Committee recommend to City Council:

That Report SF-25-33 dated June 4, 2025, concerning Fire Services 2024 Annual Report, be received for information.

3.0 Input From Other Sources

- Fire Services

4.0 Analysis

4.1 Background

The Fire Services Annual Report 2024 provides an overview of the activities of Oshawa Fire Services during the year. It includes the gathering of statistics as a function that allows Fire Services to identify public safety needs, communicate with them to Council and the public, and then focus on fire resources to best address the needs. The database used for the collection of these statistics is also used as a benchmark for comparison purposes with

other fire industry statistics. This aids with the development of strategic goals and objectives as well as the establishment, or modification, of programs and practices to improve the level of service to the community and maintain the safety of our employees.

Fire Services collects and provides statistics on an ongoing basis to the Office of the Fire Marshal, City Council and other stakeholders. Statistics are reviewed on a regular basis to monitor the fire risk within the community, determine the effectiveness of strategies in mitigating the risk, and generate or modify appropriate programs. An annual report is prepared to inform Council and the public about Fire Services activities.

The 2024 Annual Report, Attachment 1, notes that emergency responses increased by 915 calls for a total of 7,512 responses in 2024. There was a decrease in major fire calls with a total of 7 major fires causing \$4,843,864 in damage and 6 fire related injuries in 2024. Total training hours increased by 8,658 hours and the total number of fire inspections increased by 1,227 in 2024. The Communications division logged an additional 15,445 phone calls and dispatched emergency calls increased by 6,346.

Oshawa Fire Services continues to:

- Utilize strategic optimization of the three lines of defence, which include:
 - Line one: Public fire safety education;
 - Line two: Fire safety standards and enforcement; and
 - Line three: Emergency response.
- Develop partnerships through shared service agreements with other municipalities where possible; and,
- Meet established goals and objectives and maintain compliance with the Fire Protection and Prevention Act.


Partnerships with local businesses and service clubs have also been established to enhance both training programs for staff and education programs to the public. The City's Emergency Management program continues to achieve compliance with the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act.

5.0 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications related to this Report.

6.0 Relationship to the Oshawa Strategic Plan

This report responds to the Oshawa Strategic Plan Priority Area “Care: Safe and Sustainable Environment” with the goal to collaborate and advocate for effective services, programs, and community safety and well-being support.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephen Barkwell".

Stephen Barkwell, Fire Chief,
Fire Services

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Adam Grant".

Adam Grant, Commissioner,
Safety and Facilities Services Department



OSHAWA FIRE SERVICES 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Photo by: Colin Williamson

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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The City of Oshawa is situated on lands within the traditional and treaty territory of the Michi Saagiig and Chippewa Anishinaabeg and the signatories of the Williams Treaties, which include the Mississaugas of Scugog Island, Curve Lake, Hiawatha and Alderville First Nations, and the Chippewas of Georgina Island, Rama and Beausoleil First Nations.

We are grateful for the Anishinaabeg who have cared for the land and waters within this territory since time immemorial.

We recognize that Oshawa is steeped in rich Indigenous history and is now present day home to many First Nations, Inuit and Métis people. We express gratitude for this diverse group of Indigenous Peoples who continue to care for the land and shape and strengthen our community.

As a municipality, we are committed to understanding the truth of our shared history, acknowledging our role in addressing the negative impacts that colonization continues to have on Indigenous Peoples, developing reciprocal relationships, and taking meaningful action toward reconciliation.

We are all Treaty people.

MESSAGE FROM HIS WORSHIP MAYOR DAN CARTER

On behalf of Council and our entire community, I want to extend our deepest gratitude to the dedicated members of Oshawa Fire Services. Their exceptional services, programs and hard work support the vision, mission and priority areas of the Oshawa Strategic Plan: Innovate. Belong. Care. Lead.

The commitment of Oshawa Fire Services to the safety and well-being of our residents and businesses does not go unnoticed. Whether responding to emergencies, educating the public, or supporting community initiatives, the Oshawa Fire Services team demonstrates courage, professionalism and compassion.

In times of crisis, they are the first to respond - often putting themselves at risk to protect others. Thank you to Oshawa Fire Services for continuing to ensure that the great City of Oshawa is a caring and safe community and a city of choice for residents and businesses.

This past year brought a significant achievement with the consolidation of our dispatch services alongside Ajax and Pickering. It was a true example of collaboration across our region. Congratulations to Fire Chief Barkwell for leading this successful transition. We're proud to see Oshawa Fire Services taking the lead in dispatching for the entire Durham Region.

Thank you for your service, your sacrifice, and your unwavering dedication. We are truly grateful.



Dan Carter
Mayor



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Your Worship Mayor Dan Carter and Members of Council,

On behalf of Oshawa Fire Services (O.F.S.) and the corporation of the City of Oshawa, I am pleased to present the 2024 Annual Report.

We saw many changes in 2024, one of the most significant being the consolidation of Fire Dispatch with the Town of Ajax's Fire Services having the City of Oshawa's Fire Services Communications Division dispatch and alert all Durham Region municipalities Fire Services. Last year's Mayor's budget also brought significant capital investments in Fire Hall renovations over the next few years, creating safer areas for firefighters to decontaminate themselves and their equipment as part of our ongoing Occupational Health and Safety Cancer Prevention Strategy.



In addition to the Fire Dispatch consolidation, the City Council approved the renovation of an accessible space to accommodate the growing needs of the Fire Services Communications Division. The modernized Communications Centre of Excellence meets all A.O.D.A. and redundancy requirements to move to the C.R.T.C. mandated NG911 network in 2025. Consolidation also brought 4 Dispatchers, increasing our total communications complement to 21 full-time staff.

In 2024, O.F.S. did achieve many initiatives linked to the Oshawa Strategic Plan with a focus on Care: Safe & Sustainable Environment and Lead: Governance & Service Excellence.

Examples include:

- Completed the consolidation of the Fire Dispatch
- Started construction on a new state-of-the-art Communications Centre of Excellence
- Achieved compliance with the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA) for 2024
- Implemented a new Business Continuity Program in Emergency Management, with the support and Guidance from Information Technology Services
- Completed the design for improved firefighter facilities at Fire Hall 3 to kick off a multi-year Fire Hall renovation project
- We completed our review of our Community Risk Assessment, which led to an update on our Community Risk Reduction Plan
- Water Tanker Shuttle Certification was achieved, which can lead to lower insurance rates for some of our rural property owners

It is an honour to be affiliated with such a fantastic team of professionals who are wholeheartedly dedicated to meeting the needs of this great community while upholding the service's mission, vision, and city core values.

Sincerely,

Stephen Barkwell, Fire Chief



**FIRE CHIEF
STEPHEN BARKWELL**

Stephen Barkwell was appointed to Fire Chief and Community Emergency Management Coordinator by Oshawa City Council in August 2023, overseeing all aspects of Oshawa Fire Services. With over 25 years of experience, Chief Barkwell held various roles within the department since 1999, including firefighter, Relief Dispatcher, Shift Training Instructor, Qualified Training Officer, Acting Captain, and Deputy Fire Chief. His qualifications include a Master's Certificate in Public Sector Management from Ontario Tech University and a Certificate in Project Management for Leaders from York University, with ongoing studies toward a Certificate in Fire Services Executive Management from Humber College.

Chief Barkwell's extensive background includes health and safety, financial stewardship, training, human rights, labour relations, and legislation. Engaged in professional associations, he serves on committees such as the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs Urban Advisory Committee, Health & Safety Committee and the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs Data Committee and the Science & Technology Committee.

Acknowledging the challenges of emergency responders, Chief Barkwell collaborates with the City's Innovation & Transformation Branch, Durham College, Ontario Tech University and Trent University on various TeachingCity Oshawa projects, focusing on research and technology development in areas like firefighter navigation, virtual training, and the physiological effects of firefighter tasks.



**DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF
TODD WOOD**

Deputy Chief Todd Wood was promoted from the Training Division in May 2017. Reporting directly to the Fire Chief, Deputy Chief Wood's portfolio includes the Risk Reduction, Mechanical and Communications divisions of Oshawa Fire Services.

Deputy Chief Wood began his career as a firefighter with Oshawa Fire Services in 1999 and was promoted through the ranks, previously holding Firefighter and Training Officer positions. Deputy Chief Wood is responsible for streamlining the support divisions and working collaboratively to participate through budget preparation, capital projects and planning. Currently, he is working through the NexGen/911 project, overseeing the relocation of the Communications Centre, installation of a new Computer Aided Dispatch software and updated telephony. Deputy Chief Wood also oversees the purchase of new fire apparatus and fleet vehicles, as well as updating radios, as we transition to the NexGen/911 platform.



**DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF
MICHAEL BARLOW**

Michael Barlow was appointed Deputy Fire Chief of Oshawa Fire Services on October 23, 2023. In this role, he leads the Suppression Division, overseeing the Operations side of the department and ensuring the effective delivery of frontline fire protection and emergency services across the city.

Deputy Chief Barlow has been a dedicated member of Oshawa Fire Services since 2007, advancing through the ranks to Acting Captain before stepping into his current leadership position. With extensive experience in fire suppression, emergency response coordination, and specialized rescue operations, he has been instrumental in enhancing the department's operational capacity and preparedness.

A respected leader, Deputy Chief Barlow was recognized as the Durham A.M. Kiwanis Firefighter of the Year in 2018 for his pivotal role in bringing the Canadian Fire Fit Championships to Oshawa. He has contributed his leadership to several departmental committees and has been an active member of the Peer Support Team since 2018, helping to promote mental health and resilience within the service. Deputy Chief Barlow continues to bring passion, expertise, and a commitment to excellence in serving the residents of Oshawa.



**DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF
KEN WHEATHAM**

Deputy Fire Chief Ken Whetham entered his role in 2020 with several years of leadership and management experience in both the public and private sectors. Deputy Chief Whetham started his career as a Police Officer and collectively has over 26 years of experience in Emergency Services. He began his profession with the Oshawa Fire Services in 2009 in the suppression division as a firefighter. Deputy Chief Whetham was a member of the Technical Rescue team and was a shift training instructor for rope rescue, confined space rescue, trench rescue and medical training. After a promotion to Training Officer in 2018 Deputy Chief Whetham developed, implemented and delivered training programs to suppression staff, developed video training, a recruit fitness program and implemented an elevator rescue program.

Deputy Chief Whetham's current responsibilities include Emergency Management, Training and Professional Development, Facilities and Operations Support. "I am very proud and privileged to support the Senior Management team's objectives and goals to provide exceptional service to the residents of Oshawa."

New Team Members:

Turner Evans – Firefighter
Jared George – Firefighter
Maeghan Jenkins – Dispatcher
Lauren Lloyd – Dispatcher (Temp)
Aleisha Marchant – Firefighter
Kelsey McCasey – Dispatcher (Temp)
Jordan Rittershaus – Firefighter
Harold Rottine – Mechanic
Karen Shearer – Dispatcher
Tyler Smith – Firefighter
Hollie Snell – Dispatcher (Temp)
Matthew Tokarz – Firefighter
Holly Tsatsanis – Dispatcher
Kyle Wicks – Firefighter
Laura Williamson – Dispatcher

Staff Promotions:

Brett Cooper – Suppression Captain
Aaron Shayda – Suppression Captain
Dan Suke – Training Captain

Staff Retirements / Resignation:

Brian Brough – Suppression Captain
Kevin Chiavatti – Firefighter
Jonathan England – Firefighter
Brett Fogal – Suppression Captain
Paul Konarowski – Suppression Captain
Sarah McNeil – FP Inspector
Adam Milnes – Firefighter

Firefighter of the Year:

Rylee McKinnon

Celebrating Staff Success:

Stephen Barkwell – 25 Years Long Service Medal
Chris Elmhurst – 25 Years Long Service Medal
Ralph Engel – 25 Years Long Service Medal
Adam Inkpen – 25 Years Long Service Medal
Jason Kay – 25 Years Long Service Medal
Mike Kedzierski – 25 Years Long Service Medal
Mike Kozak – 25 Years Long Service Medal
Robert Malarczuk – 25 Years Long Service Medal
John McCormick – 25 Years Long Service Medal
Steve McWilliam – 25 Years Long Service Medal
Jason Pow – 25 Years Long Service Medal
Jim Stoddart – 25 Years Long Service Medal
Todd Wood – 25 Years Long Service Medal

Oshawa Fire Services Mission

To promote and protect the health and well-being of the community through adaptable and progressive education, prevention and emergency services.

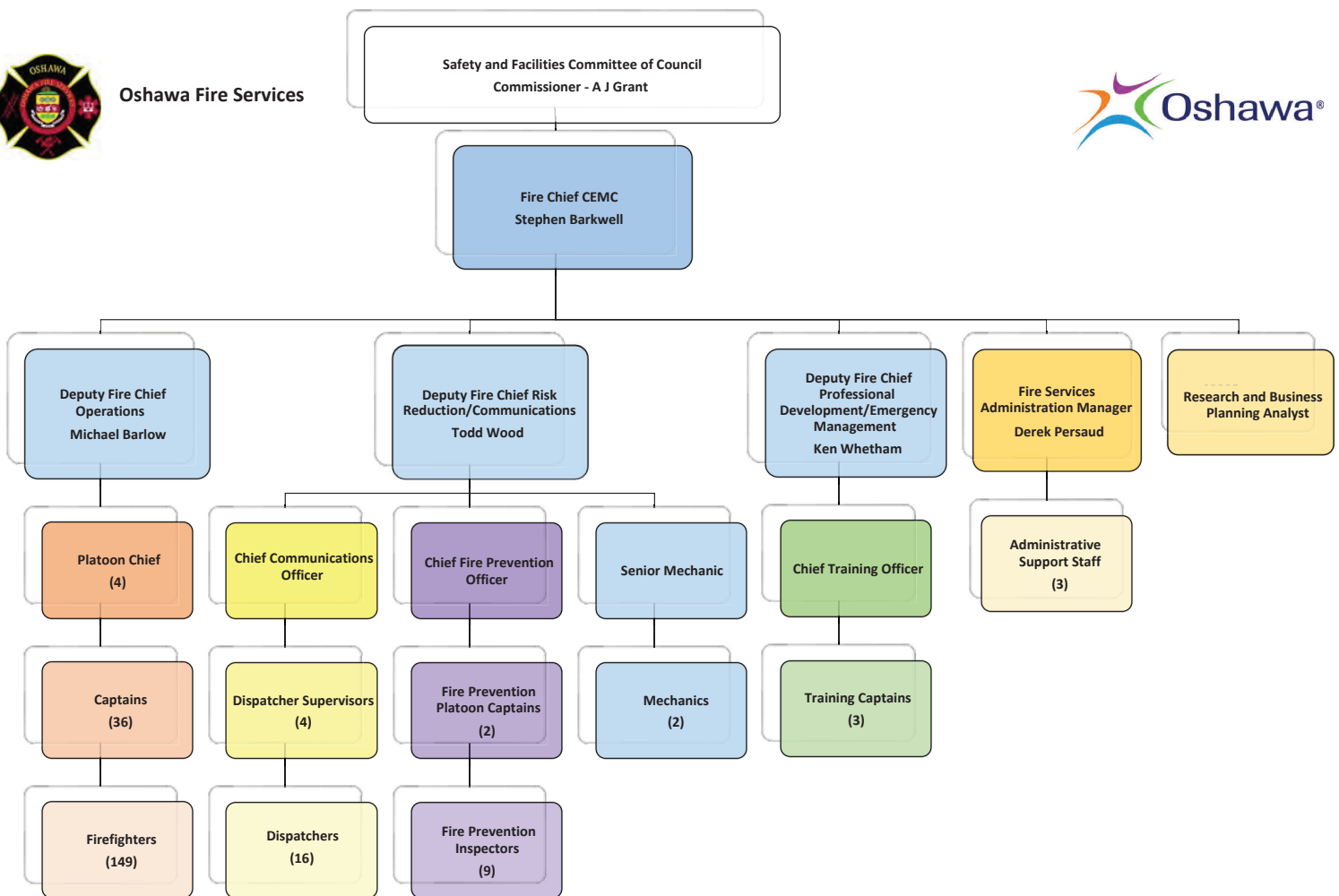
Oshawa Fire Services Vision

To continually pursue and advance a level of professional excellence recognized as the model for the fire service.

O.F.S. Organizational Chart



Oshawa Fire Services



At a Glance



238
O.F.S. Staff across
6 Divisions



196,450
Residents
Served



5,044
Fire Inspections &
Permits Completed



30,298
Training
Hours
Completed



55,564
Emergency Calls
Answered for the
Region of
Durham



25,059
Emergency Calls
Dispatched for
the Region of
Durham



Fire Loss from Structure Fires
\$8.7 Million Dollars



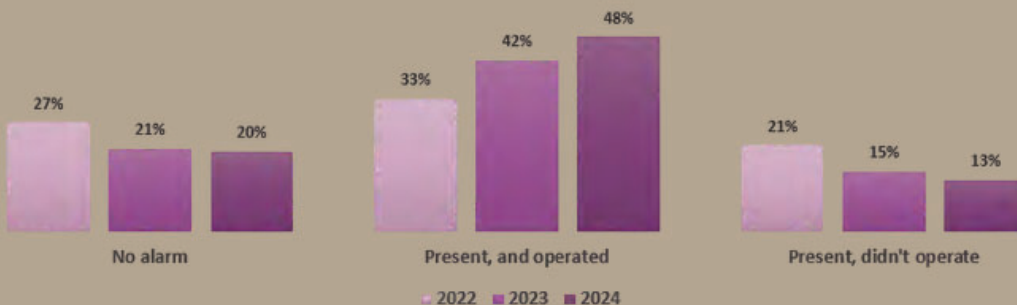
Percent Property Saved
99.97%

Alarmed for Life Program:



In 2024, the Alarmed for Life Program reached over **5,200** homes and installed over **750** alarms, continuing our commitment to fire safety through education and smoke alarm installations.

O.F.S. Smoke Alarms Functionality for Structure Fires from 2022 to 2024:



STATION 1

199 Adelaide Ave. West

Station 1 serves as the O.F.S. headquarters and was constructed in 1981. It occupies 24,000 square feet and primarily responds to the downtown core area of the City.

Station 1 houses two suppression crews that operate Pump 21 and Rescue 21, Platoon Chiefs operate Car 25, as well as Administration staff, the Fire Prevention Division, and the Communications Division.



STATION 2

1111 Simcoe St. South

Constructed in 1982, Station 2 occupies 9,750 square feet and primarily responds to the south end of the City, including Highway 401.

It houses two suppression crews that operate Pump 22 and Aerial 22.



STATION 3

50 Beatrice St. East

Constructed in 1976, Station 3 occupies 9,000 square feet and primarily responds to the central west area of the City.

It houses two suppression crews that operate Pump 23 and Aerial 23.



STATION 4

50 Harmony Rd. North

Constructed in 1982, Station 4 occupies 6,500 square feet and primarily responds to the central east area of the City. It houses one suppression crew operating Pump 24, along with two Fire Prevention Inspectors.



STATION 5

1550 Harmony Rd. North

Constructed in 2006, Station 5 occupies 17,900 square feet. It consists of the Training Division, the Mechanical Division, two Fire Prevention Inspectors, and one suppression crew. The suppression crew responds in either Pump 25, Rescue 25, or Tanker 25, and primarily serves the northeast area of the City.



STATION 6

2339 Simcoe St. North

Constructed in 2016, Station 6 occupies 10,675 square feet and houses two Fire Prevention Inspectors, along with one suppression crew. The suppression crew responds in Pump 26, primarily serving the northwest area of the City, including Highway 407.





The Oshawa Training Division strives to ensure emergency responder skill levels are developed and practiced at the highest standard to provide the best service to the Oshawa community. 2024 was another outstanding year for the Oshawa Training Division with a myriad of accomplishments. Seven new firefighters of Recruit class 98 completed eight weeks of recruit training prior to starting frontline service.

The Training Division facilitated a total of 30,298 hours of training across multiple disciplines, including 24,059 hours in Suppression, 712 in Fire Prevention, 5,021 in Technical Rescue, and 506 in Communications.

Some of the 2024 highlighted accomplishments include:

- IAFF survival training
- Nozzle forward training
- NFPA 1021 Fire Officer 1 certification
- NFPA 1006 Common Passenger Vehicle Training
- Tanker shuttle accreditation
- Development of a firefighter virtual training initiative in partnership with Durham College
- Tech Rescue learning week for rope and trench rescue disciplines
- Designed and built a standpipe prop to simulate high-rise building connections
- Live fire Shift Training Instructor program

New equipment was put into service including new Zoll automatic external defibrillators, CMC clutches and Aztecs for rope rescue and two self-contained breathing apparatus decontamination units.





Achievements

Inspections

The Fire Prevention Division was hard at work completing inspections on buildings of all occupancy types:

- Residential Inspections: 2,234
- Residential Rental By-law Inspections: 1,236
- Assembly Inspections: 307
- Complaint Inspections: 572
- Industrial Inspections: 81
- New Construction Inspections: 193
- Occupancy / L.C.B.O.: 12
- Business Licenses: 299
- Plans Review / Approval: 93
- Burn Permits: 17

Public Education

- Fire Prevention Week – Highlights – Oshawa Generals game, NEB's Fun World
- Durham College PSW Presentations
- CO Prevention Week
- Spring into Summer
- Kids Safety Village
- 12 Days of Holiday Safety
- It Happened on Your Street
- Coffee With the Crews
- Elementary School Fire Safety Presentations
- Secondary School Fire Safety Presentations
- Alarmed for Life
- Community Public Safety Engagement – Fire Safety in the Park
- Summer Park Program
- Summer Camp Safety Presentations
- Career Fairs
- Fire Extinguisher Training
- Seniors Presentations
- Targeted Smoke Alarm Giveaway
- International Student Workshops

Fire Safety presentations were delivered to 4,119 elementary school students and 55 public support workers

Citizen safety is the top priority to us. The Fire Prevention division analyzes the needs of the community to conduct building inspections, develop and maintain targeted education campaigns to ensure the community is well equipped with fire prevention tools and to reduce the risk of emergencies.

The Fire Prevention division is staffed by a highly trained, dedicated and competent team. It is comprised of nine Fire Prevention Inspectors, two Fire Prevention Captains, and one Chief Fire Prevention Officer.

Community Members and Partnerships

- Canadian Red Cross
- CAMH
- Community Safety Net
- CRCS DKI
- Durham College
- Durham Regional Police
- Enbridge
- McDonald's Restaurants
- Harvey's Restaurants
- OFMEM
- Walmart
- Oshawa Municipal Enforcement Services

Events we attended this year

- Canada Day at Lakeview Park
- Orientation at Durham College
- Oshawa Generals Game Fire Safety Info
- Santa Clause Parade
- Shape Oshawa at the Oshawa Centre
- Doors Open
- McHappy Day
- Fall Orientation – Trent University
- Employee Wellness Fairs
- Emergency Preparedness Week Open House

Community Events

Fire Safety in the Park – Once again this year, we endeavored to meet our community where they live. We hosted three Fire Safety in the park events where community members were invited to meet Fire Services staff, engage in conversation, receive fire safety information, and tour the fire truck. These events were well attended and beneficial to all who attended. We also attended a Health Fair at Hillsdale Estates and Terraces and the Safe Work and Wellness Event at city hall.

Meet our Junior Fire Chief. Gabriel Joseph from Sir Albert Love Catholic School poses with Fire Chief Stephen Barkwell.



SUPPRESSION DIVISION

The Suppression Division is the emergency response unit of Oshawa Fire Services, providing 24/7 protection to the community. Staffed by four platoons comprising four Platoon Chiefs, 36 Captains, and 149 firefighters across six fire stations, the division responds to a wide range of emergencies with professionalism and dedication.

Suppression crews are responsible for fire suppression, emergency medical response, vehicle extrication, hazardous materials incidents, and technical rescues including rope, confined space, trench, elevator and water rescues. Firefighters serve as the first line of defense, delivering critical life-saving services while working to stabilize incidents and minimize property loss.

In May 2024, Recruit Class 98 began training, welcoming seven new firefighters to the organization. These recruits underwent comprehensive training to prepare them for the diverse challenges of all hazard emergency response.

Beyond emergency response, the Suppression Division plays an essential role in community safety and education. Firefighters participate in public outreach initiatives such as station tours, school visits, fire drills, and the Alarmed for Life smoke alarm program. They also assist with building pre-planning, and support broader fire prevention efforts.

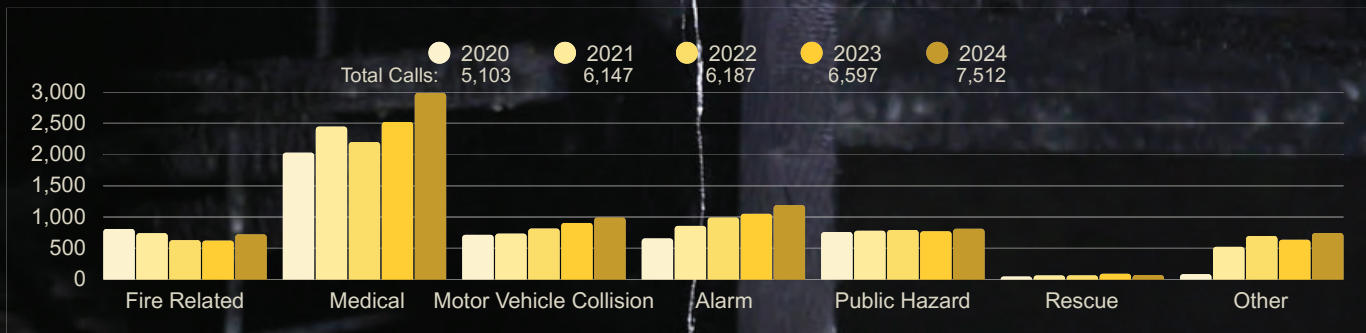
Operating under a structured command system with continuous training and professional development, the Suppression Division maintains a high level of readiness to respond to diverse emergencies. Their commitment to service, safety, and education ensures the continued protection and resilience of the Oshawa community.



Oshawa Fire Recruit Class 98 raised \$4,435 for The Refuge Youth Outreach Centre to help homeless youth



Oshawa Incident Response by Type:



Major Fires in 2024: with Estimated Loss over \$500,000

Incident Location	Property Type	Ward	Fire Station	Estimated Loss
Byng Avenue	Residential	Ward 3	Station 4	\$562,638
Groveland Avenue	Residential	Ward 5	Station 2	\$850,000
Howden Road East	Residential	Ward 4	Station 1	\$641,718
Simcoe Street South	Commercial	Ward 5	Station 2	\$1,500,000
Southport Drive	Residential	Ward 5	Station 2	\$500,000
Westmount Street	Residential	Ward 2	Station 3	\$789,508

Major Fire Locations:

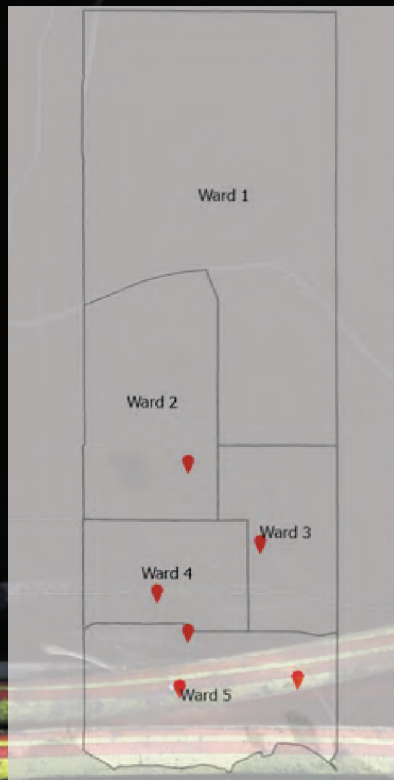


Photo by: Colin Williamson



As the unseen heroes of emergency response, Oshawa Fire 911 Dispatchers are the calm voice in moments of chaos — providing guidance, support, and quick responsive action that saves lives. Their 24/7 unwavering commitment, professionalism, and compassion make a profound difference in the safety of our citizens.

Recognizing Excellence in Oshawa Fire Communications

Oshawa Fire Services proudly highlights Kristen Whittall who was awarded the prestigious The Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) Canada Technologist Award, recognizing her exceptional technical expertise and commitment to advancing emergency communication technologies and supporting public safety communications.

As the Subject Matter Expert (SME) for the new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system supporting all Fire Services in the Region of Durham, Kristen plays a pivotal role in its development, testing, and configuration to ensure a seamless transition to our new CAD in 2025.

In addition to the APCO Canada Technologist Award, Kristen received the Fire Service Women Ontario (FSWO) Award 3 "E" — recognizing her dedication to Educating, Empowering, and Encouraging women in the fire service. Kristen's leadership, mentorship, and unwavering commitment to her team exemplify the values of Oshawa Fire Services.



Dispatching all of Durham Region

On May 6, 2024, Oshawa Fire Services assumed responsibility for Dispatch services across Durham Region when Ajax and Pickering fire departments agreed to consolidate their dispatch and alerting operations under Oshawa Fire Services.

As a result of this, Oshawa Fire now serves as the sole dispatch and alerting centre for Durham Region. As the largest Fire Communications Centre east of the GTA, we support all eight Fire Services in the Region which consists of Clarington, Oshawa, Whitby, Ajax, Pickering, Scugog, Uxbridge, and Brock.

This expansion welcomed Ajax’s experienced Dispatch staff, increasing Oshawa’s Communications team to a complement of twenty one personnel. In response to this growth and the expanded scope of service, Oshawa Fire Services will transition to a new Communications Centre of excellence in 2025.

This merger enhances coordination across the region, enabling improved response times during major incidents, natural disasters, and emergency situations requiring automatic aid and mutual aid responses. Centralized dispatch operations will streamline communications, ensuring faster and more efficient deployment of resources to those in need.



Pickering Fire Chief Steve Boyd, Oshawa Fire Chief Stephen Barkwell, and Ajax Fire Chief Aaron Burrige together at Oshawa Fire Station 1 - Headquarters.

Our 2024 Performance

55,564 Calls Logged in 2024

25,059 Calls Dispatched from Communications Division

Clarington	2,807
Oshawa	7,512
Whitby	7,376
Ajax	2,258
Pickering	3,770
Scugog	531
Uxbridge	431
Brock	374

Ajax and Pickering data cover the period from May 6 to Dec 31, 2024

MECHANICAL DIVISION

The Mechanical Division plays a significant role in Oshawa Fire Services. It procures, inspects, maintains, and repairs all fleet vehicles including fire trucks and support vehicles, as well as firefighting equipment such as thermal imaging cameras, self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), ladders and other small appliances and engines. All annual certifications were completed including all fire apparatus, pump testing, ladder testing and SCBA equipment.

In 2024, the division spent almost 4,400 hours maintaining all of the equipment within the Oshawa Fire Services to ensure they function properly to serve our community.

Oshawa Fire Services Mechanical Division also welcomed Harold Rottine who transitioned from our City fleet division in April.



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Provincial legislation requires municipalities to ensure operational readiness to respond to natural or human caused disasters and any crisis that could threaten public safety. Five pillars of Emergency Management include prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

In 2024 Oshawa focused on education and collaborating with agency partners to work together on coordinated planning response efforts. Staff training included an introduction to emergency management and preparedness, and Provincial certifications in Basic Emergency Management. Our Emergency Management team implemented an Enhanced Monitoring program for severe weather warnings and participated in Provincial Emergency working groups. Emergency preparedness messaging was promoted through the city website and social media platforms that included 72-hour emergency kits, heat hydration, seasonal readiness, preparedness in high-rise buildings and more. Our EM team participated in training with Oshawa Power, Hillsdale Terrace, Oshawa Airport, Hydro One, TC Energy, Emergency Social Services and Red Cross.

Our “Alarmed for Life” program and Fire Prevention Public Education division proactively delivers information on the importance of working smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors and fire escape plans to our community and schools. The Oshawa Emergency Management Program met compliance with Emergency Management Ontario under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act.





Oshawa Fire Services has continued to be a proud supporter of TeachingCity Oshawa, a collaborative partnership between the City of Oshawa and local post-secondary institutions. Utilizing local student talent and knowledge sharing, Oshawa Fire Services has been working with Durham College to contribute to advancing research and technology in firefighter training and firefighter performance and wellbeing.

Mixed Reality Firefighter Training

This multi-year groundbreaking project, led by Dr. Michael Williams-Bell at Durham College, introduces an innovative mixed reality training simulation to revolutionize firefighter training. Using immersive technology and wearable devices, this system recreates lifelike, uncontrolled environments (e.g., building collapses) to enhance skills, resiliency, and stress management. Supported by NSERC College and Community Social Innovation Fund (CCSIF) and Mitacs grants, this partnership with Oshawa Fire Services through TeachingCity Oshawa aims to save lives, reduce injuries, and optimize performance.

To learn more about the project, take a look at this documentary developed to showcase the technology and training opportunities.

Feel free to scan the QR code above to watch the video.

To learn more about TeachingCity Oshawa and its collaborative projects, visit www.teachingcityoshawa.ca.



Oshawa Fire Services and Durham College MRC Studio at Station 5

BENEVOLENT COMMITTEE



Our Community Impact

- 1 Community clean up
- 2 Annual Boot Toll raised \$15,700 towards the fight against muscular dystrophy
- 3 Simcoe Hall Settlement House donation \$5,000
- 4 Two food drives to support Simcoe Hall Settlement House that provided over 3,000 meals via GlobalMedic
- 5 Fill a fire truck at Christmas
- 6 Pet food donation to Humane Society
- 7 Toy donation to John Howard Society for Christmas
- 8 Support for Tim Hortons Camp Day helping raising funds
- 9 Tim Hortons Smile Cookie Campaign
- 10 Movember Campaign over \$600 raised

HONOUR GUARD



We honoured our brave Firefighters from across the Province at the Ontario Fallen Firefighters Memorial who served to keep our communities safe, they paid the ultimate sacrifice, including Oshawa's Platoon Chief Kenneth Lynch



Oshawa Firefighters were in Colorado Springs at the IAFF Fallen Firefighters Memorial recognizing fallen Platoon Chief Kenneth Lynch



Oshawa Fire Services at the 2024 Remembrance Day parade



Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives
Test Yours Today