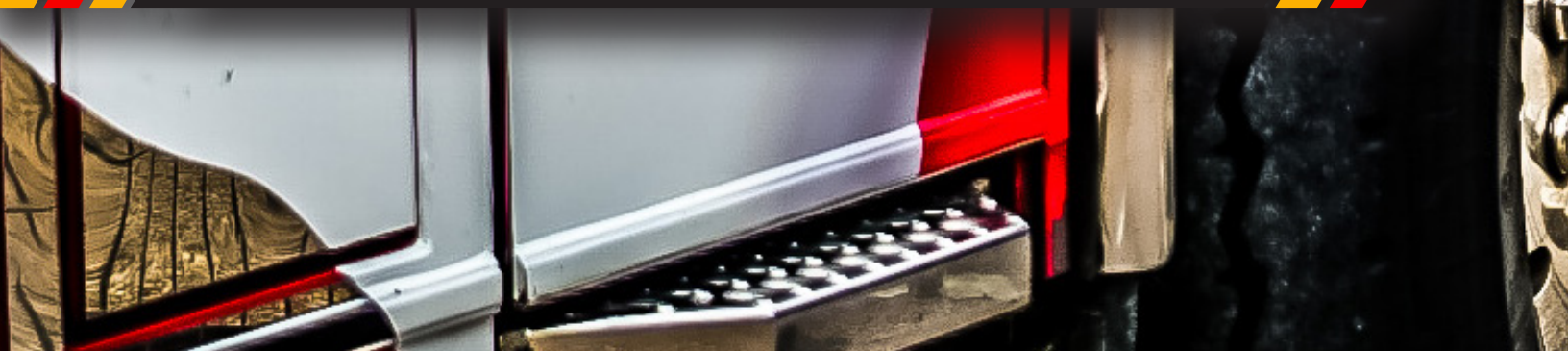




# OSHAWA FIRE SERVICES 2022



# LETTER 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 2022 Annual Report.

Oshawa Fire Services continues to execute and maintain its core values of commitment, dedication and excellence in carrying out its mission to provide fire protection and emergency services to the City of Oshawa at an affordable and sustainable level. Looking to the future, our senior leadership team is committed to adapt, modernize, and continue to focus on the 3 lines of defense: Public Fire Safety Education, Fire Safety Standards and Enforcement, and Emergency Response across the City of Oshawa.

This report will highlight 2022 statistics, achievements, and daily operations performed within the Region's largest Fire Department.

In 2022, O.F.S. achieved many initiatives linked to the Oshawa Strategic Plan.

Examples include:

- Launched GM Canada Pulse Point Life Saving App
- Became the first fire service in Durham Region to utilize a fire blanket to extinguish car fires
- Achieved compliance with the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA) for 2022
- Replaced aging pumper 24 and pumper 26 with new ones
- Recruited 18 new staff members, including 1 Fire Administrative Clerk, 1 Research and Business Analyst, 1 Fire Prevention Inspector, 11 Firefighters, 2 full-time Communications staff members, and 2 temporary Communications staff members

Thank you for your continued support of Oshawa Fire Services and its crews. I would also like to express my gratitude to the members of Oshawa Fire Services for their daily commitment to serving our community and protecting the residents of Oshawa.

Sincerely,



- Derrick Clark, Fire Chief | Oshawa Fire Services



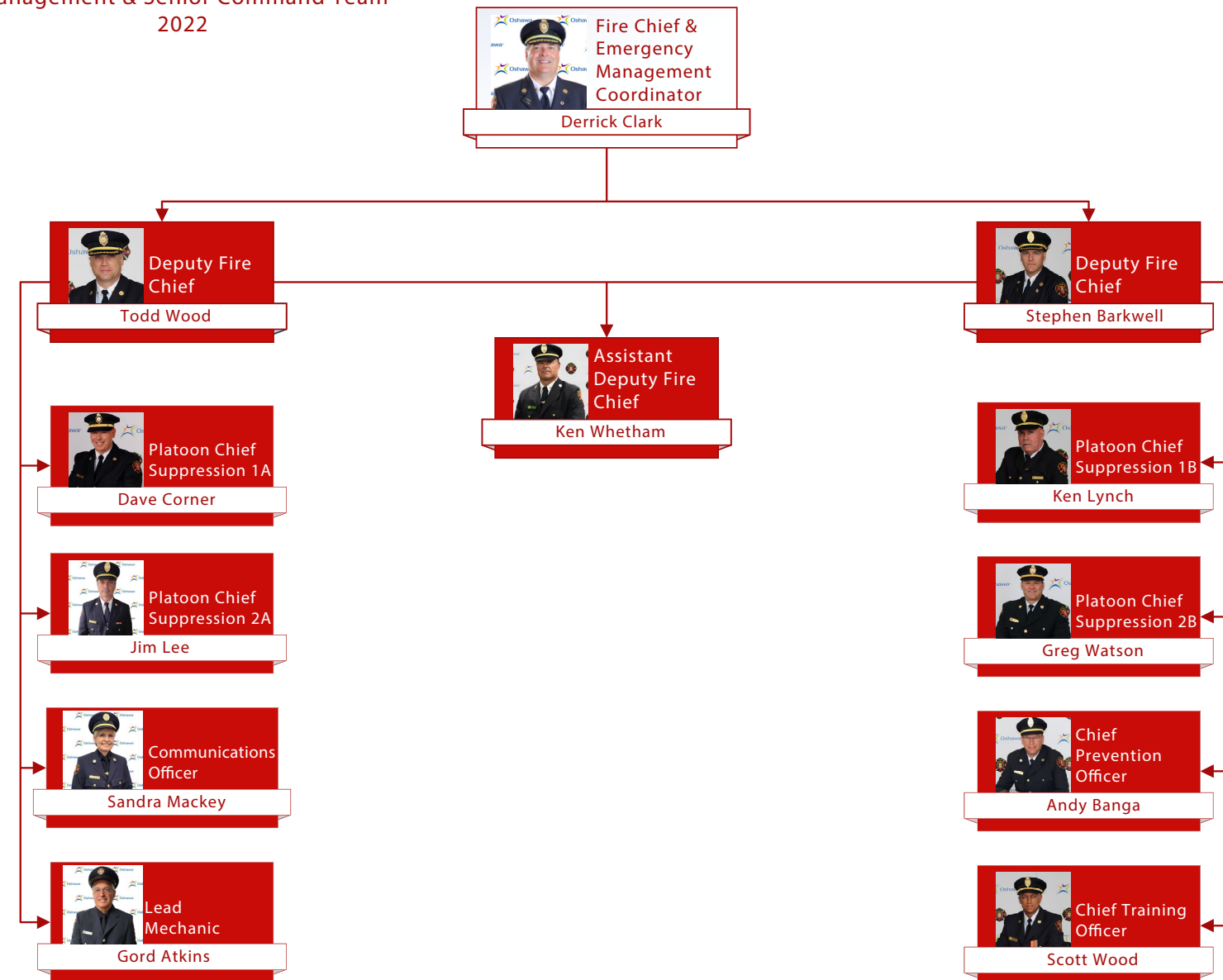
CHIEF CLARK

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## Oshawa Fire Services

Management & Senior Command Team  
2022



# OSHAWA FIRE SERVICES MANAGEMENT TEAM



DERRICK CLARK

Chief Derrick Clark began his career with Oshawa Fire Services in 1986.

Chief Clark has served with Oshawa Fire Services for over 37 years and has held various positions within the department, including Alarm Room Operator, 1st class Firefighter, Shift Instructor, Acting Captain, Training Officer, Chief Training Officer, and Deputy Chief. He became Fire Chief in 2017 and is the Emergency Management Coordinator for the City of Oshawa. He has since implemented continuous improvements in all aspects of the fire service, including the master fire plan and community risk assessment, fire training tower, fire apparatus replacement, staffing enhancements, updated communications software (CAD), community partnerships, and enhanced fire prevention and safety programs such as the "Alarm for Life" home safety program.

In addition to his outstanding contributions to Oshawa Fire Services, Chief Clark has also been recognized by the Ontario Association of the Fire Chiefs as the "Fire Chief of the Year" in 2022. He has received the "Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal" and is a CMMIII certified municipal manager.



STEPHEN BARKWELL

Deputy Chief Stephen Barkwell began his career with Oshawa Fire Services in 1999. His current responsibilities include a blended role between operations and support, encompassing Suppression (2 platoons), Fire Prevention and Training divisions, Alternate Community Emergency Management Coordinator, and Health and Safety Co-Chair.

Deputy Chief Barkwell's past roles include firefighter, Relief Dispatcher, Shift Training Instructor, qualified Training Officer, and Acting Captain. Through his many experiences and training, Deputy Chief Barkwell has a wealth of knowledge in health and safety, financial stewardship, training, human rights, labour relations and legislation. Additionally, Deputy Chief Barkwell is an active member of the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs Urban Advisory Committee, the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs Data Committee and the Science & Technology Committee. Emergency responders face many challenges during their regular duties, including physical and mental health. Deputy Chief Barkwell collaborates with the City of Oshawa's Innovation & Transformation Branch, Durham College, Ontario Tech University and Trent University on various TeachingCity Oshawa projects supporting research and technology development in areas of firefighter navigation and mapping in buildings, firefighter virtual training, and the study of physiological effects of firefighters while completing firefighter tasks in training.



TODD WOOD

Deputy Chief Todd Wood was promoted from the Training Division in May 2017. Reporting directly to the Fire Chief, Deputy Chief Wood has a blended role between operations and support, overseeing Suppression (2 platoons), Mechanical and Communications divisions of Oshawa Fire Services. He has over 23 years of fire service experience and brings a wealth of knowledge in the areas of fire suppression, training and specialized rescue. 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 Operations and Communications Centre and working collaboratively to participate through budget preparation, capital projects and planning. The overall management, service delivery, goal setting, image and financial management of the divisions are reflected in the daily operations. Deputy Chief Wood has overseen the purchase of new fire apparatus and fleet vehicles, as well as updating radios, as we transition to the NexGen/911 platform. We continue to progress as a municipality through the implementation of Fire Services/Emergency and Protective Service strategies and the operations of the work unit, including organization structure and job design, as well as management of financial and human resources.



KEN WHETHAM

Assistant 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. ADC Whetham started his career as a Police Officer and collectively has over 25 years of experience in Emergency Services. He began his profession with the Oshawa Fire Services in 2009 in the suppression division as a firefighter. ADC 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 ADC Whetham developed, implemented and delivered training programs to suppression staff, developed video training, a recruit fitness program and implemented an elevator rescue program.

ADC Whetham's current responsibilities include Operations Support, Facilities, Attendance Management, Health and Safety, and the Mechanical Division. "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."

# OUR DEDICATED STAFF

## Celebrating Staff Success

Craig Bouckley	Exemplary Services Medal
Brian Brough	Long Service Medal
Kevin Dickinson	Long Service Medal
Lance Fass	Exemplary Services Medal
Christopher Haslam	Exemplary Services Medal
Ken Lynch	Exemplary Services Medal & Service Bar
Brian MacDonell	Long Service Medal
Darren Rankin	Exemplary Services Medal
John Vanderven	Long Service Medal

## Chiefs Commendation:

Michael Berney, Kevin Chiavatti, Dianne Crawford, Kyle Gray, Julia Johnson, Tyler Medford, Terry Scott, Tiffany Wallace, Daniel Wark

## Staff Retirements / Resignation

Diane Douglas	Dispatcher
James Mansfield	Dispatcher
Darrin Norman	Firefighter
Paul Richard	Captain - Suppression
Kyle Burke	Firefighter

## Firefighter of the Year

Oshawa Fire Services (O.F.S.) is pleased to announce Chris Leslie as the Durham A.M. Kiwanis Firefighter of the Year.

Born and raised in Durham Region, Chris joined O.F.S. in 2009. He quickly became part of the Technical Rescue Team, joining in 2010, and is currently certified in rope, confined space, trench and water rescues. Chris is also an O.F.S. elevator technician.

Chris is a well-respected leader within O.F.S. and his crew. His experience, composure and ability to work seamlessly within the team all played a significant role during a recent townhouse fire where his crew saved the life of a young child.

## New Team Members

Cassidy Adams	Fire Prevention Inspector
Bowman Allen	Firefighter
Travis Clark	Firefighter
Richard Coates	Firefighter
James Fothergill	Firefighter
Brittney Hunte	Dispatcher (Temp)
Martin Kozelj	Firefighter
Gregory Nemisz	Firefighter
Tyler Pelley	Firefighter
Joshua Plum	Firefighter
Craig Virgin	Firefighter
Jack Wilkinson	Firefighter
Alana Wilson	Dispatcher (Temp)
Bryan Young	Firefighter

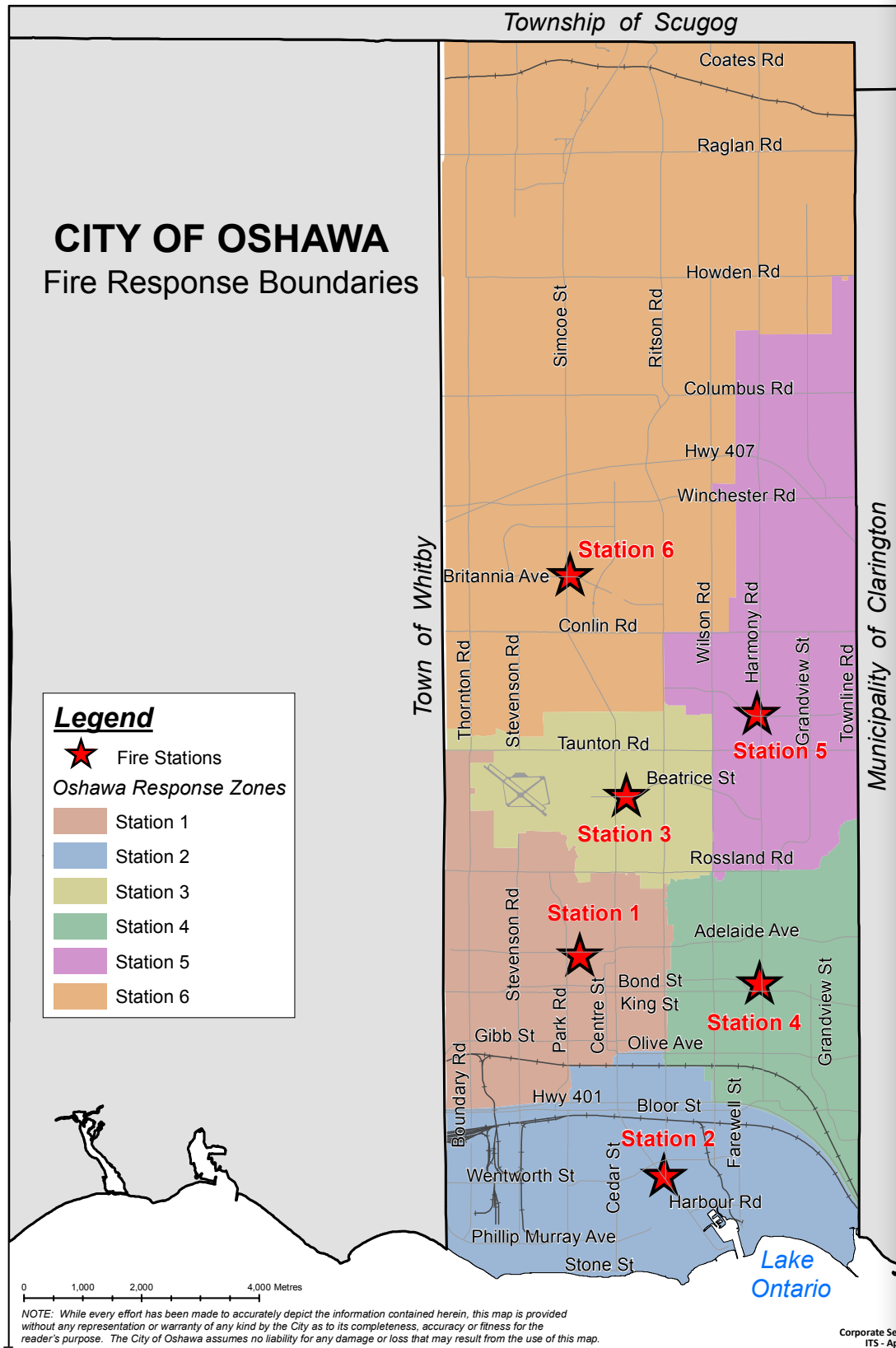
## Staff Promotions

Jeffrey Abbott	Captain - Suppression
Marcela Chiavatti	Dispatcher (FT)
Tyler Medford	Dispatcher (FT)
Ryan Williamson	Captain - Suppression



# AT A GLANCE

## Fire Response Boundaries



Oshawa Fire Services (O.F.S.) is the largest fire department in the Region of Durham, and continues to serve a growing population that numbered approximately 183,000 at the end of 2022.

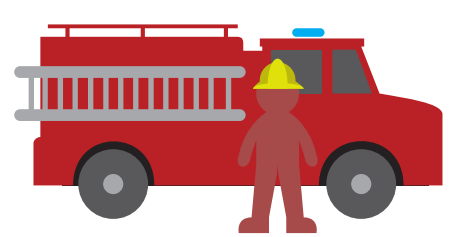
Oshawa Fire Services operates six strategically located fire stations across the city, ensuring the most efficient and effective response to the community, which covers 145.7 square kilometers.

In addition to providing fire services to Oshawa residents, O.F.S.'s Communications division receives emergency calls and offers dispatching services to neighboring municipalities such as Whitby, Clarington, Brock Township, Uxbridge, and Scugog.

The continued growth in building statistics over the years, particularly in the city's north end, is expected to influence the location decision for Fire Station 7.

### Oshawa Fire Services Mission:

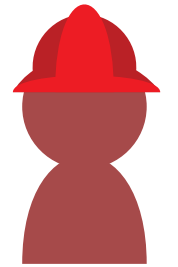
To promote and protect the health and well-being of the community through adaptable and progressive education, prevention and emergency services.



**26,314 Training Hours Completed**



**133 Firefighters**



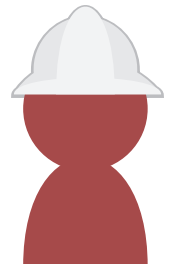
**32 Captains**



**4 Administrative Staff**



**14,207 Calls Dispatched for 6 Municipalities**



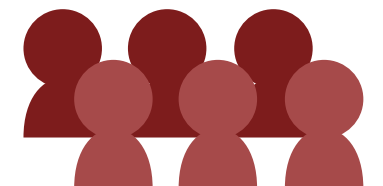
**4 Platoon Chiefs**



**4,158 Fire Inspections and Permits Completed**



**69,350 Households Served**



**183,000 Residents Served**

### Oshawa Fire Services Vision:

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

# FIRE STATIONS



1

## Station 1 | 199 Adelaide Ave. W.

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 one suppression crew that operates Pump 21, Administration staff, the Fire Prevention Division, and the Communications Division.

## Station 2 | 1111 Simcoe St. S.

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 one suppression crew operating Pump 22 and another suppression crew operating Aerial 22.



2



3

## Station 3 | 50 Beatrice St. E.

Constructed in 1976, Station 3 occupies 9,000 square feet and primarily responds to the central west area of the City. It houses one suppression crew operating Pump 23 and another suppression crew operating Aerial 23.



4

## Station 4 | 50 Harmony Rd. N.

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. N.

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 or Rescue 25 and primarily serves the northeast area of the City.



5

6

## Station 6 | 2339 Simcoe St. N.

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 either Pump 26 or Tanker 26, primarily serving the northwest area of the City, including Highway 407.



# TRAINING DIVISION

The Training Division, which is under the command of a Chief Training Officer and two Training Officers, is responsible for developing and implementing legislated training and ensuring health and safety, corporate and department annual training, advanced firefighting techniques and training, recruit training, developing and implementing new policies and procedures, processing testing, analysis and research of new equipment, and facilitating promotional exams and staff development.

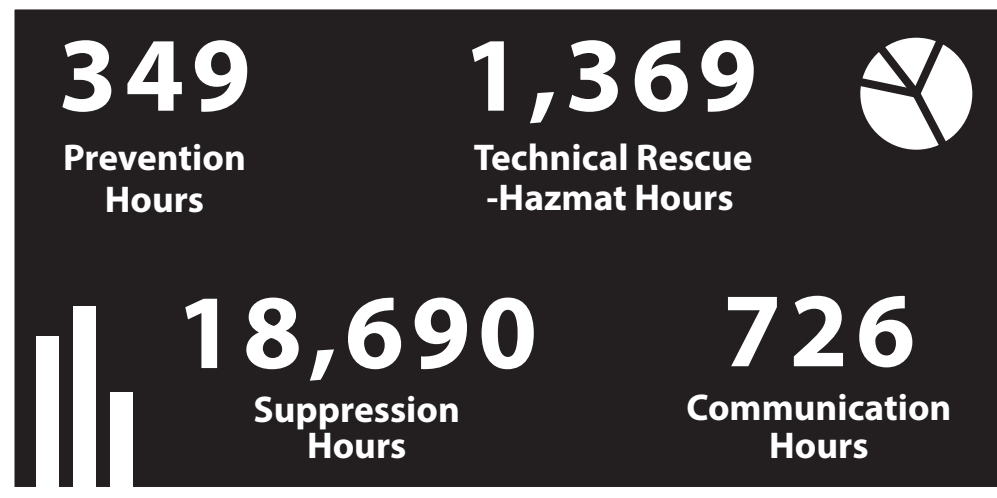
The division facilitates annual training by utilizing modern equipment and methods to ensure all staff are vastly trained in their duties to efficiently respond to a variety of situations including fire, medical assistance, motor vehicle accidents and specialized type rescues that may happen in our community. It supports the development and growth of our firefighters and officers from their recruitment to retirement.

Oshawa Fire Services is certified in full technical rescue response. The division provides extensive annual training to support technical rescue services to other municipalities in the Region of Durham.

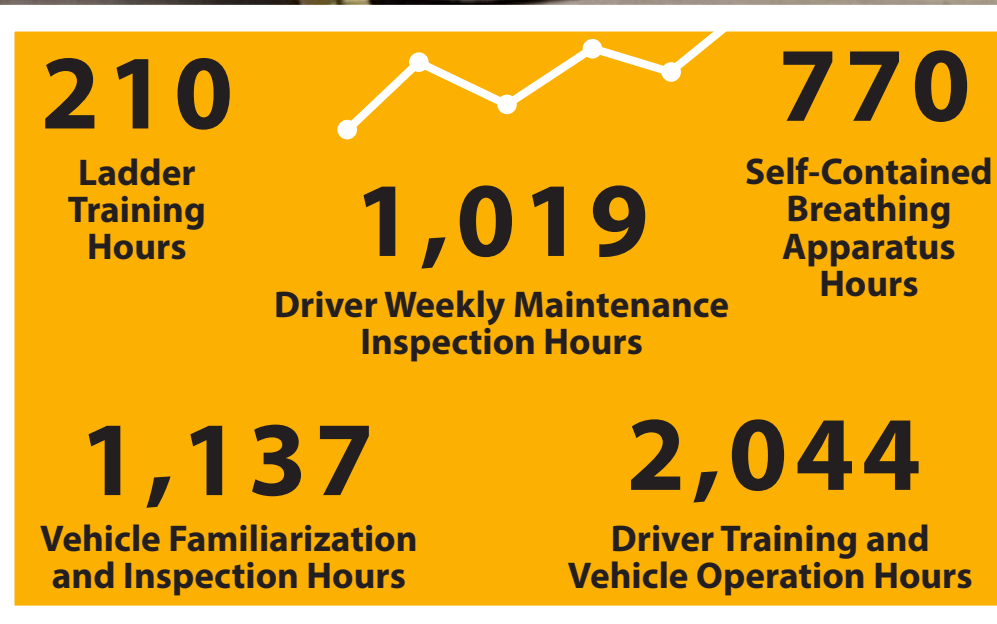
In 2022, a significant divisional initiative was achieved as we became the first fire service in Durham Region to successfully utilize a Bridgeport Fire Blanket for extinguishing car fires, eliminating the need for water.



Total Training Hours 21,134



Additional Training Hours 5,180



# FIRE PREVENTION & PUBLIC EDUCATION DIVISION

Ensuring citizen safety is our utmost priority. The Fire Prevention division diligently analyzes the community's needs, conducting thorough building inspections and spearheading targeted education campaigns. Our aim is to equip the community with effective fire prevention tools and reduce the risk of emergencies. Furthermore, we conduct yearly inspections of vulnerable occupancies, ensuring that our most vulnerable residents are well-protected. Every vulnerable occupancy in our city is fortified with a reliable sprinkler system, providing an additional layer of safety.

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

## Achievements

### Inspection Program

Regular in-person inspections returned this year as COVID-19 restrictions have eased. We were happy to be back out in the community completing inspections on buildings of all occupancy types.

Inspections Completed	#
Residential Inspections	1,884
Residential Rental By-law Inspections	857
Assembly Inspections	261
Complaint Inspections	480
Industrial Inspections	107
New Construction Inspections	188
Occupancy/L.C.B.O	10
Business Licenses	248
Plans Review/Approval	111
Burn Permits	11

### Public Education programs we used in 2022:

- Fire Prevention Week
- Durham College PSW Presentations
- CO Prevention Week
- Spring into Summer
- CAMH Client Safety Expo
- 12 Days of Holiday Safety
- It Happened on Your Street
- Coffee With the Crews
- Teaching City – Durham College
- Elementary School Fire Safety Presentations
- Alarmed for Life

**Elementary School Presentations: 2,323**

**Public Support Worker Presentations: 107**

## Alarmed for Life Program

Be Alarmed! Don't assume your smoke alarms are working. Press the button to check.

**3,204** Homes Visited for Alarmed for Life

**650** Smoke Alarms & Smoke/Carbon Monoxide Alarms Installed:



### Events we attended this year

- Canada Day at Lakeview Park
- Ontario Fire Prevention Officers Association Symposium
- Orientation at Durham College
- Community Safety Barbeques

### Community Members and Partnerships

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



### New Community Event!

Community Safety Barbeques – This year, we endeavoured to meet our community where they live. We hosted three Community Safety Barbeques where community members were invited to meet Fire Services staff and enjoy free hot dogs and drinks, fire safety information, and fire truck tours. They even got to try their hand at using a fire extinguisher. These events were well attended and beneficial to all who attended.

# SUPPRESSION DIVISION

The Suppression Division of our fire services is comprised of 169 skilled firefighters who are deployed across 6 fire stations. These firefighters work dedicated 24-hour shifts to provide front-line support and respond to emergencies with effective fire suppression activities.

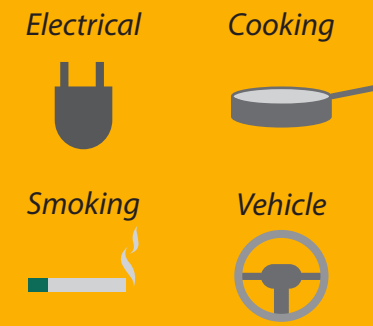
Our suppression staff is committed to continuous improvement and training, staying up-to-date with the latest practices in public safety. They are always prepared to respond to a variety of emergency calls, ensuring prompt and efficient assistance during critical situations.

Their dedication and expertise make a significant contribution to our department's mission of protecting lives and property within our community.

## Firefighter Recruits Class # 96



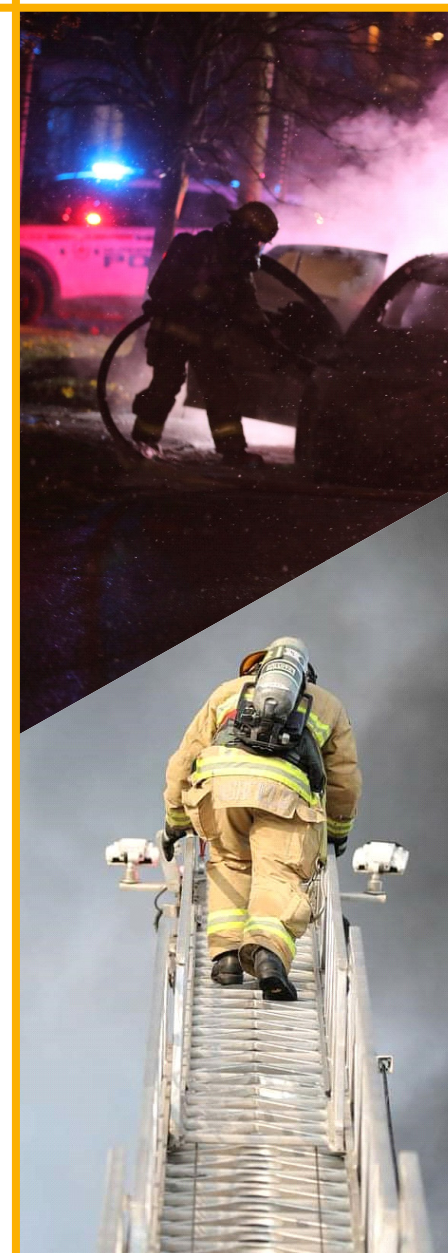
### Top 4 Fire Causes in 2022:



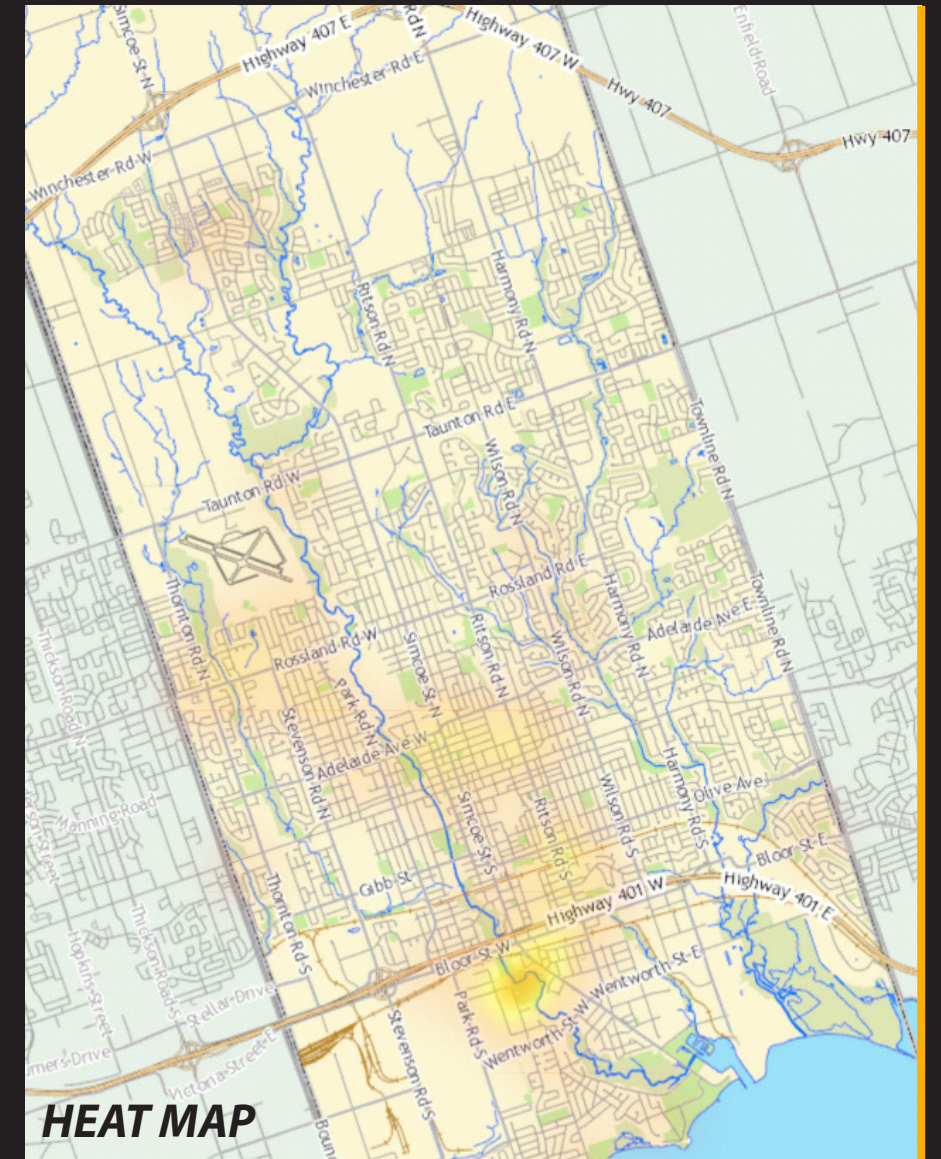
(This info reflects only the reported fires)

## Major Fires 2022

Fire Cause Classification	# of Fires	Dollar Loss
Electrical Failure	7	\$860,000
Unattended Cooking	6	\$465,000
Careless use of Smoker's Materials	4	\$1,167,500
Undetermined	7	\$1,085,000
Incendiary (Suspected Arson)	5	\$2,050,000
Undetermined - Unintentional	12	\$963,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>\$6,590,500</b>



**WORKING  
SMOKE ALARMS  
SAVE LIVES**



## 2022 Canadian Regional Firefit Championships Oshawa

The Oshawa Firefit Regional Championships took place at Oshawa's Delpark Homes Centre and achieved remarkable success this year. People from six provinces, one territory, and three US states came to take part in all four competition categories: Teams, Individual, Tandem, and Relay Races.

More than 1,000 community members got involved, and there were over 30 vendors and displays to check out. Firefit showed a strong commitment to giving back by donating extra resources and contributing financially to local charities.

While taking a short break in 2023, strategic plans for a return in 2024 are already in progress, coupled with considerations of hosting the 2025 or 2026 Canadian Nationals and World Finals. The event had an impact across generations, as over 400 kids enthusiastically took part in the Firefit kids course. Families, sponsors, competitors, and community partners all provided positive feedback to Firefit 2022.





# COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION



**The call for help is where it all begins.** When it comes to public safety Oshawa Fire Communications ensures only the very best are trained in handling emergencies and dispatching appropriate apparatus to incidents. The division is comprised of a Communications Officer overseeing 16 dedicated professionals made up of four supervisors, acting supervisors and dispatchers who work 24/7. They process all emergency or non-emergent calls for six municipalities in the Region of Durham, which include Oshawa, Whitby, Clarington, Brock, Scogog, and Uxbridge Fire Services making Oshawa the leading Communications Centre east of the GTA.

**Divisional goals for 2022** included continuous learning and development of new technologies and continued quality assurance through ongoing performance evaluations. Regular review of call response times were conducted to ensure response times not only meet, but continue to exceed NFPA standards by all personnel.

**Your emergency is their emergency.** Providing support not only to the public, dispatchers are also the lifeline to the firefighters through ongoing radio communications. Relief dispatch firefighters play an important role in ensuring we always have staffing available around the clock.

## Community Engagement - PulsePoint

**PulsePoint**  
Oshawa.ca/PulsePoint

Brought to you by:  
Oshawa, DRCISST, Lakeridge Health

Sponsored by:  
gm, On

**BE A LIFE SAVER.**

Download the free PulsePoint app today!

Oshawa Fire takes pride in being a proactive community partner and strives to engage with all our community partners. In September of 2022, Oshawa Fire introduced PulsePoint into the community.

Through the generous sponsorship from GM Canada and OnStar, Oshawa Fire in partnership with the City of Oshawa, Lakeridge Health and the Durham Region Critical Incident Stress Team introduced PulsePoint Respond and AED, free mobile apps that will save lives in the Oshawa community.

## Keeping busy in the Community!

Although typically not seen and only heard, our Communications Division takes pride in getting involved in events that support our City's core values.

Events such as "Fired up" a LaunchPad event with Lakeridge Health where ER staff got to experience what it is like performing some firefighter activities; participating in an "Active Shooter Scenario" training with DRPS and Durham College students by providing radio communications support. Many activities such as these and others bring our community together and help make it better!

## Making a Scene!

Oshawa Fire was highlighted at the What3Words booth at the 2022 Collision expo. Using a what3words address gives callers a simple way to describe precisely where help is needed so services can dispatch resources straight to the scene.



Our 2022 Performance,  
34,897 Calls Logged in 2022.

### Call Dispatched from Oshawa Communications Division

Oshawa	6,187
Whitby	4,375
Clarington	2,440
Scugog	528
Brock	335
Uxbridge	344
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,209</b>

### Oshawa Incident Response by Type

Medical	2,219
Alarm	1,006
Motor Vehicle Collision	821
Fire Related	637
Public Hazard	875
Rescue	67
Other	762
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,187</b>

# 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 self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), thermal imaging cameras, ladders and other small appliances.

In 2022, the division spent almost 3000 hours maintaining all of the equipment within the Oshawa Fire Service to ensure they function properly to serve our community.



# TEACHINGCITY OSHAWA



Oshawa Fire Services (O.F.S.) 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, O.F.S. has been working with Durham College to contribute to advancing research and technology in firefighter training and firefighter performance and wellbeing.

## Virtual Reality Simulation for Fire Services Training

Durham College and the O.F.S., through support from TeachingCity Oshawa, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council's College and Community Social Innovation Fund, and the Mitacs Accelerate Grant, is continuing their collaboration on the development of a virtual reality structural collapse scenario to enhance the training opportunities available for firefighters. Currently, the virtual reality platform is being developed in Durham College's new Mixed Reality Capture Studio.



The research team has identified the latest virtual reality technology that can accommodate the unique needs of the project as well as the integration of wearable technology that can monitor the physiological responses of firefighters while experiencing the virtual reality scenario is underway.

Two side studies have been developed to complement the physiological measurements that will be conducted during the virtual reality project. The first of these side projects is the validation of a wearable device, worn on the upper arm, that estimates core body temperature. This device can provide Training Officers and Incident Commanders with information about the internal temperature of a firefighter to minimize the risk of hyperthermia during an emergency scenario. If validated, this type of device can be cost-efficient and less invasive. Currently, the research team is working with the new wearable technology and will be conducting data collection between May and August 2023.

The second side study was developed to study the impact of a controlled breathing frequency technique, at 6 breaths per minute (6 BPM - very slowed rate), that may reduce resting heart rate prior to, during, and following a controlled burn tower scenario. The results indicate that the 6BPM breathing frequency intervention was successful in decreasing resting and recovery heart rate, however due to the sample size, no statistical difference could be confirmed. The research team is planning the next steps in the study to increase the number of participants to determine if the results will prove to be statistically significant.



In August and September 2022, the Durham College Fire research team was able to join O.F.S. for training of a new recruit class and observe training scenarios for water rescue, search and rescue, and automobile stabilization. Our team provided the O.F.S. and recruits with the opportunity to use wearable technology, that is capable of monitoring heart rate, breathing rate, and core temperature, to view real-time physiological data during recruit training activities. These monitoring systems were used to educate firefighters on the physiological demands of daily job tasks in controlled training scenarios to promote awareness of the importance evidence-based health and safety protocols.

To learn more about this Oshawa Fire project or TeachingCity, visit [www.teachingcityoshawa.ca](http://www.teachingcityoshawa.ca).

# EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Emergency management plays a crucial role in ensuring the safety and well-being of communities, especially when it comes to fire departments. O.F.S. holds the responsibility for collaborating with the City in preparation, response, recovery, and mitigation efforts for a wide range of natural and human caused emergencies, including fires, hazardous material incidents, natural disasters, and other crises that pose a threat to public safety.

In 2022, The Emergency Management Program successfully conducted a half-day Emergency Management Training session, followed by another half-day discussion based Emergency Management Exercise with a Train Derailment scenario. These events took place at the Emergency Operations Centre and were attended by members of Municipal Emergency Control Group and their appointed designates. The Emergency Management Program met compliance under Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act requirements for 2022.



**In the case of an emergency, call 911.**



**Connect with us:**

Oshawa Fire Services

**Address:** 199 Adelaide Avenue West,  
Oshawa, ON L1J 7B1

**Phone:** 905-436-3311 | **Email:** [fire@oshawa.ca](mailto:fire@oshawa.ca)

**Twitter:** @OshawaFire | **www.oshawa.ca/fire**

Photo credit: Oshawa Fire Services acknowledges and thanks Colin Williamson, Sheri Whetham, Ken Whetham, and A.J Groen for sharing their photos, many of which appear in this report.