



OSHAWA FIRE SERVICES 2025 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 the residents of Oshawa, we extend our sincere appreciation to the dedicated members of Oshawa Fire Services.

Their unwavering commitment, courage, and professionalism help to keep our community safe every day. Whether responding to emergencies, supporting residents in times of need, or promoting fire prevention and educating the public, their service does not go unnoticed.

This past year brought significant achievements within Fire Services, from completing its first year as a Gold-level member of Fire Service Women Ontario, introducing the “Fire Pals Oshawa” primary school education program and transitioning to a state-of-the-art Fire Dispatch center at the Consolidated Operations Depot. We are proud of Oshawa Fire Services’ ongoing efforts to continue to innovate and grow.

We are deeply grateful for the sacrifices Oshawa Fire Service makes and the pride they take in protecting our city. Their dedication ensures that the great City of Oshawa remains a caring and safe community and a city of choice for residents and businesses.

Thank you for your service.



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 2025 Annual Report.

The past year marked another period of significant progress for O.F.S. Building on the major advancements achieved in 2024, 2025 focused on strengthening our communications infrastructure, modernizing our facilities, and advancing key components of our long-term operational strategy.

The Communications Centre of Excellence renovation was completed in 2025, providing a fully accessible, modernized, and resilient environment that meets all A.O.D.A. requirements and supports the transition to the C.R.T.C.-mandated NG911 network. In addition, our new Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) system went live, enhancing interoperability, response coordination, and data accuracy across all Durham Region fire services.

Facility modernization also advanced significantly. The first phase of the Fire Station 3 renovation was completed, improving firefighter decontamination spaces and supporting our ongoing Occupational Health and Safety Cancer Prevention Strategy. In parallel, design work for the Fire Station 2 renovation was finalized, positioning the project to move into construction in the coming years as part of our multi-year Fire Station renewal program.

In alignment with the Oshawa Strategic Plan, particularly *Care: Safe & Sustainable Environment and Lead: Governance & Service Excellence*, O.F.S. achieved several key initiatives in 2025, including:

- Completion of the Communications Centre of Excellence renovation
- Successful launch of the new CAD system
- Completion of Phase 1 of the Fire Station 3 renovation
- Finalization of design for the Fire Station 2 renovation
- Continued compliance with the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA)
- Ongoing implementation of the Business Continuity Program in Emergency Management
- Updates to the Community Risk Reduction Plan following the Community Risk Assessment review

It remains an honour to lead such a dedicated team of professionals who consistently demonstrate their commitment to the safety, resilience, and well-being of our community. Their work upholds the mission, vision, and core values of both Oshawa Fire Services and the City of Oshawa.

Sincerely,



Stephen Barkwell, Fire Chief





**FIRE CHIEF
STEPHEN BARKWELL**

Stephen Barkwell was appointed Fire Chief and Community Emergency Management Coordinator for the City of Oshawa in August 2023, assuming responsibility for all aspects of Oshawa Fire Services. With more than 26 years of service, Chief Barkwell has built his career within the department since joining in 1999, progressing through roles including Firefighter, Relief Dispatcher, Shift Training Instructor, Qualified Training Officer, Acting Captain, and Deputy Fire Chief.

His academic background includes a Master's Certificate in Public Sector Management from Ontario Tech University and a Certificate in Project Management for Leaders from York University. He is currently pursuing a Certificate in Fire Services Executive Management from Humber College.

Chief Barkwell's professional experience spans health and safety, financial stewardship, training and professional development, human rights, labour relations, and legislative compliance. He is an active contributor to the fire service community, serving on several committees, including the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs Urban Advisory Committee and Health & Safety Committee, as well as the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs Data Committee and Science & Technology Committee.

Recognizing the evolving challenges faced by emergency responders, Chief Barkwell collaborates with the City's Innovation & Transformation Branch, Durham College, Ontario Tech University, and Trent University through various TeachingCity Oshawa initiatives. His work supports research and technological advancement in areas such as firefighter navigation, virtual training environments, and the physiological impacts of firefighting tasks.



**DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF
TODD WOOD**

Deputy Chief Todd Wood reports directly to the Fire Chief and oversees the Risk Reduction and Communications Divisions of Oshawa Fire Services. Deputy Chief Wood began his career with Oshawa Fire Services in 1999 and progressed through the ranks as a Firefighter and Training Officer before assuming his current leadership role in May 2017.

He is responsible for coordinating and supporting divisional operations, contributing to budget development, capital planning, and long-term strategic initiatives. As part of Oshawa Fire Services' modernization efforts, Deputy Chief Wood led several key projects in 2025, including the relocation of the Communications Division, the transition to a new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system, and the rollout of updated telephony infrastructure to support Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG911) readiness, ensuring Oshawa Fire Services remains aligned with national public safety communications standards.

In addition to these major initiatives, he oversees the acquisition of new fire apparatus and fleet vehicles, along with upgrades to radio systems to ensure operational compatibility as NG911 capabilities expand.



**DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF
MICHAEL BARLOW**

Michael Barlow was appointed Deputy Fire Chief of Oshawa Fire Services in October 2023. In this role, he leads the Suppression Division and oversees the operations function of the department, ensuring the effective delivery of frontline fire protection and emergency services across the City. In 2025, his portfolio expanded to include oversight of infrastructure support for all Oshawa fire stations, further strengthening the integration of operational readiness and infrastructure stewardship within the service.

Deputy Chief Barlow has been a dedicated member of Oshawa Fire Services since 2007, progressing through the ranks to Acting Captain before assuming his current leadership position. With extensive experience in fire suppression, emergency response coordination, and specialized rescue operations, he has played a key role in enhancing the department's operational capability, preparedness, and resilience.

As a respected and collaborative 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 to numerous departmental committees and has been an active member of the Peer Support Team since 2018, supporting mental health and wellness initiatives within the service. Deputy Chief Barlow continues to bring passion, professionalism, and a strong commitment to excellence in serving the residents of City of Oshawa.

Deputy Chief Lance Fass was promoted to Deputy Chief, Readiness and Support Services, in 2025, reporting directly to the Fire Chief.



**DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF
LANCE FASS**

He joined Oshawa Fire Services in September 2002, beginning his career as a Firefighter. With over 2 decades in emergency services, he has developed extensive operational expertise and leadership experience, progressing steadily through the ranks. In 2015, he was appointed Acting Captain and was later promoted to Captain on 1B Shift in July 2023.

Deputy Chief Fass was a founding member of the Technical Rescue Team, playing a key role in building the service's specialized rescue capabilities. Throughout his career, he has also served as a Pump Operator Instructor and Driver Trainer, helping to ensure the safe and effective operation of fire apparatus and supporting the professional development of frontline personnel.

In his current role, Deputy Chief Fass oversees Mechanical and Asset Management, Training and Professional Development, Emergency Management, and Labour Relations, while supporting overall operational readiness. He remains committed to advancing the strategic priorities of the Senior Management Team and ensuring Oshawa Fire Services continues to deliver exceptional service to the community.

New Team Members:

Jennifer Bromley – Emergency Management Program Manager
Breanna Ells – Dispatcher (Temp)
Michael Fish – Firefighter
India Guest – Firefighter
Tyler George – Firefighter
Ryan Mayall – Firefighter
Marcus McIvor – Firefighter
Esha Merchant – Fire Services Administrator (Temp)
Mark Pitropov – FP Inspector
Brandon Runnalls – Firefighter
Blake Snyder – Firefighter
Jordan Therrien – Dispatcher (Temp)
Evan Tokarz – Firefighter
Alexis Willms – FP Inspector

Staff Promotions:

Craig Baird – Suppression Captain
Scott Calder – Chief Training Officer
Cory Devereaux – Suppression Captain
Lance Fass – Deputy Fire Chief
Brehanna Gassman – Dispatcher
Cory Hesson – Training Captain
Lauren Lloyd – Dispatcher
Kelsey McCCasey – Dispatcher
Kristen Whittall – Dispatch Supervisor

Staff Retirements / Resignation:

Breanna Ells – Dispatcher (Temp)
Tara Gordon – Dispatcher (Temp)
Candice Hollingshead – Firefighter
Tanya Norman – Dispatch Supervisor
Ray Sadeghi – FP Inspector
Hollie Snell – Dispatcher (Temp)
Al Ulrich – Suppression Captain
Scott Wood – Chief Training Officer

Firefighter of the Year:

Jarod Regan

Celebrating Staff Success:

Dave Craven – 25 year service medal
Michael Dingman – 25 year service medal
Fulton Fleming – 25 year service medal
Tim Fogal – 30 year service medal
Michael Griffin – 25 year service medal
Candice Hollingshead – 30 year service medal
Scott MacInally – 30 year service medal
Arthur Mann – 25 year service medal
Jason Marden – 20 year service medal
Troy Mayall – 25 year service medal
Jamie Taylor – 25 year service medal
Joe Therrien – 30 year service medal
Bryan Ward – 25 year service medal
Todd Weitzel – 25 year service medal
Ryan Williamson – 25 year service medal

Vision

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

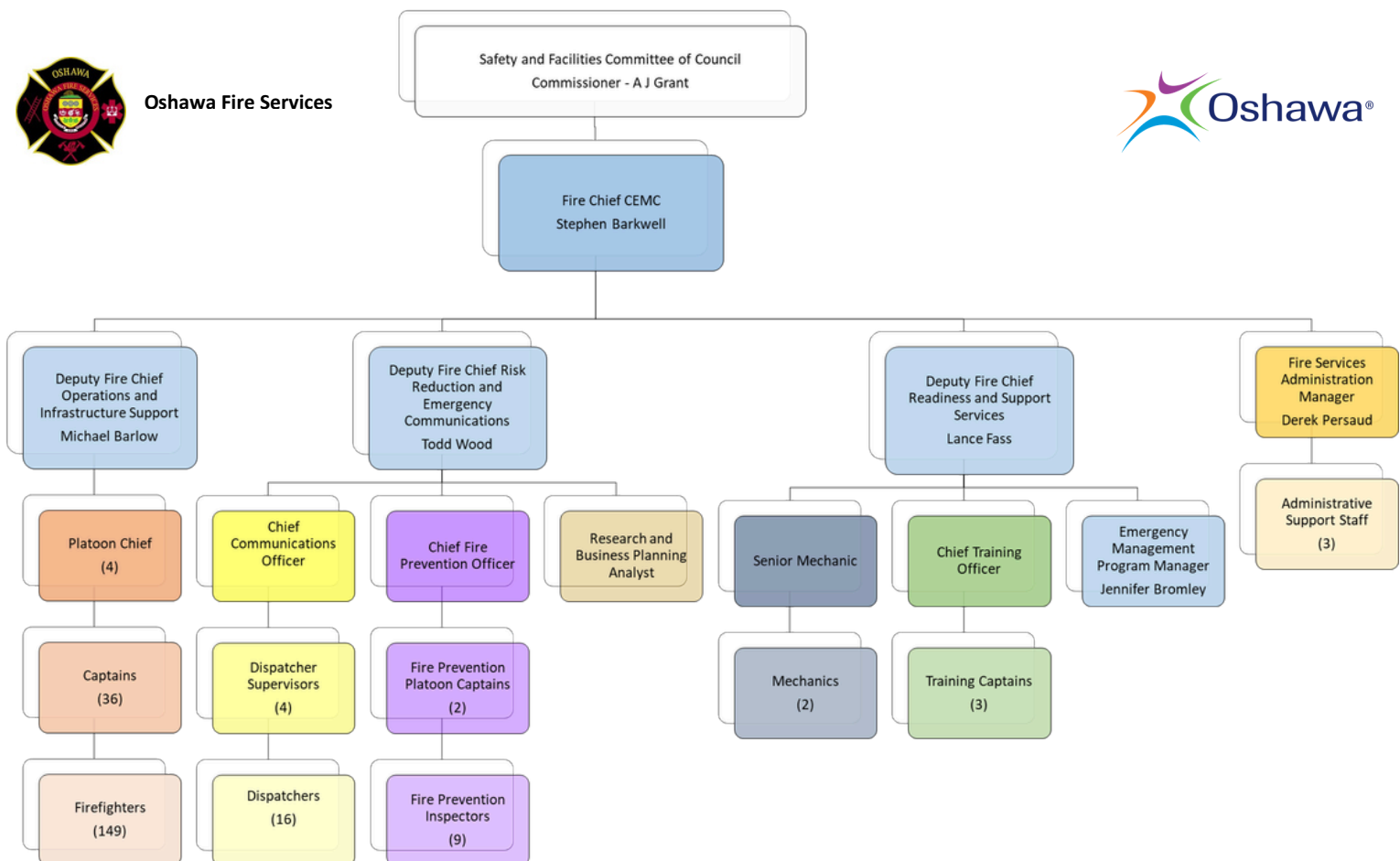
Mission

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

O.F.S. Organizational Chart



Oshawa Fire Services



At a Glance



239
O.F.S. Staff across
6 Divisions



199,300
Residents
Served



75,016
Dwelling Units
Served



33,579
Training Hours
Completed



5,387
Fire Inspections
& Permits
Completed



25,553
Emergency Calls
Dispatched for
the Region of
Durham



Fire Loss from Structure Fires
\$7.9 Million Dollars



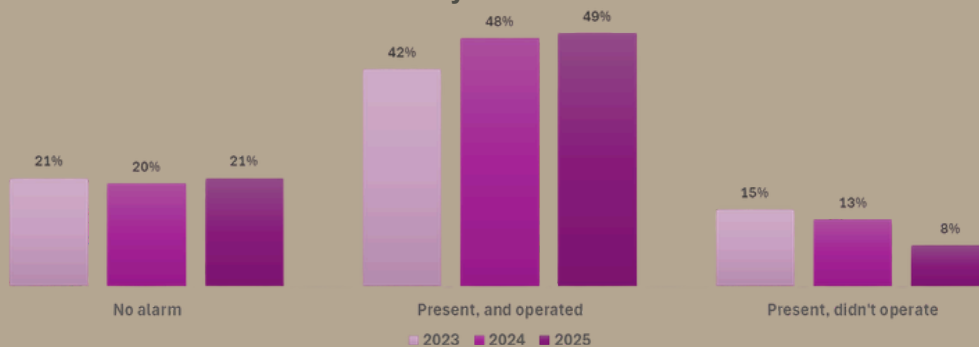
Percent Property Saved
99.97%

Alarmed for Life Program:



In 2025, the Alarmed for Life Program reached **3,832** homes and installed over **950** alarms, continuing our commitment to fire safety through education and smoke alarm installations.

O.F.S. Smoke Alarms Functionality for Structure Fires from 2023 to 2025:



FIRE STATION 1

199 Adelaide Ave. West

Fire Hall 1 functions as the central hub of Oshawa Fire Services operations. Opened in 1981, this 24,000 square foot facility supports frontline emergency response in the downtown core while also housing key support divisions. Two suppression crews operate Pump 21 and Rescue 21 from this location, alongside the on-duty Platoon Chief (Car 25). The station also accommodates administrative staff and Fire Prevention.



FIRE STATION 2

1111 Simcoe St. South

Fire Station 2 has been serving the southern portion of the city since 1982. The 9,750 square foot facility provides coverage to a diverse response area that includes residential, commercial, and the Highway 401 corridor. The station is staffed by two suppression crews operating Pump 22 and Aerial 22, ensuring timely response to both structural and transportation-related incidents.



FIRE STATION 3

50 Beatrice St. East

Originally constructed in 1976, Fire Station 3 continues to play a key role in protecting the central west area of Oshawa. The 9,000 square foot facility houses two suppression crews operating Pump 23 and Aerial 23. In 2025, Fire Station 3 underwent important upgrades to its washroom and changeroom facilities to improve accessibility, supporting a more inclusive and functional work environment for all personnel.



FIRE STATION 4

50 Harmony Rd. North

Fire Station 4, built in 1982, provides fire protection coverage to the central east area of the city from its 6,500 square foot facility. The station is staffed by one suppression crew operating Pump 24 and also accommodates two Fire Prevention Inspectors, supporting both emergency response and proactive fire safety initiatives within the community.



FIRE STATION 5

1550 Harmony Rd. North

Since opening in 2006, Fire Station 5 has evolved into a multi-functional facility serving the northeast sector of Oshawa. At 17,900 square feet, it houses the Training and Mechanical Divisions, along with one suppression crew operating Pump 25, Rescue 25, or Tanker 25, providing operational flexibility to meet a wide range of emergency response needs.



FIRE STATION 6

2339 Simcoe St. North

Fire Station 6 is the newest facility in the Oshawa Fire Services network, having been constructed in 2016. The 10,675 square foot station supports response coverage in the City's northwest, including the Highway 407 corridor. It is staffed by one suppression crew operating Pump 26 and includes three Fire Prevention Inspectors, enhancing both emergency response capacity and fire prevention efforts in this growing area.



TRAINING DIVISION

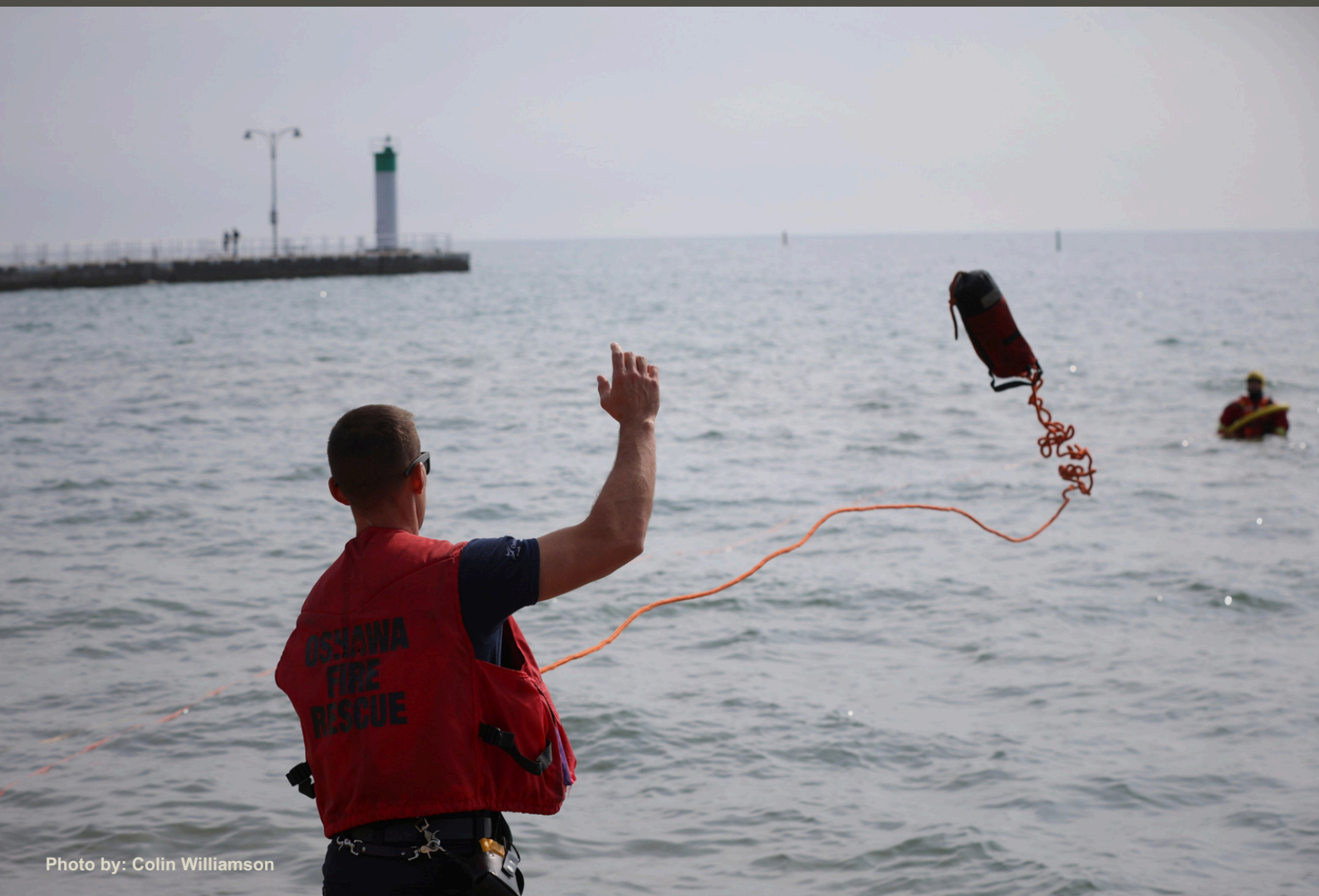


Photo by: Colin Williamson

The Oshawa Training Division remains committed to ensuring emergency responder skill levels are developed, maintained, and practiced to the highest standard to provide exceptional service to the City of Oshawa. In 2025, the division experienced another outstanding year marked by significant growth and achievement. Eight new firefighters from Recruit Class 99 successfully completed eight weeks of recruit training before beginning frontline service. Throughout the year, the division facilitated a substantial number of 33,579 training hours across multiple disciplines, including Suppression 24,754 hours, Fire Prevention 369 hours, Technical Rescue 6,415 hours, and Communications 2,041 hours.

Key accomplishments in 2025 included delivering HazMat Mission Specific training; implementing a Captains' Mentorship Program and a structured promotional process; and establishing a partnership with Miller Waste Systems. The division achieved course recognition for NFPA 1021 Fire Officer I, NFPA 1041 Fire Instructor I, and NFPA 1002 Pump Operator, while also completing NFPA 1006 Technical Rescue Certification within the Training Division. Additional advancements included the implementation of incident command for operational response, the introduction of self-certifying First Responder medical training, and a partnership with the Public Works Department at the Training Centre. The division also collaborated with Durham College to advance Virtual Reality Officer Training and participated in a regional nuclear response exercise with Ontario Power Generation. Further professional development initiatives included Wounded Warriors Canada's "Before Operational Stress" training and IAFF Survival Training.



FIRE PREVENTION & PUBLIC EDUCATION



Achievements

Inspections

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

- Residential Inspections: 2,358
- Residential Rental By-law Inspections: 851
- Assembly Inspections: 279
- Complaint Inspections: 988
- Industrial Inspections: 66
- New Construction Inspections: 245
- Occupancy / L.C.B.O.: 18
- Business Licenses: 463
- Plans Review / Approval: 100
- Burn Permits: 19

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
- Home Escape Plan Contest - Elementary Schools
- Alarmed for Life
- Saved by the Beep
- Cornerstone – Fire Safety Presentations
- 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 8,333 elementary school students

Citizen safety is our highest priority. The Fire Prevention Division assesses community needs by conducting comprehensive building inspections and developing and maintaining targeted public education initiatives. These efforts help ensure the community is equipped with effective fire prevention knowledge and resources, reducing the likelihood of emergencies.

The division is staffed by highly trained, dedicated, and professional personnel, consisting of nine Fire Prevention Inspectors, two Fire Prevention Captains, and a Chief Fire Prevention Officer. The Division was pleased to welcome two new Fire Prevention Inspectors, Mark Pitropov and Alexis Willms, to the team.

Community Members and Partnerships

- Best Buy
- BRK First Alert
- Canadian Red Cross
- Canadian Tank Museum
- Canadian Tire
- CAMH
- Children's Aid Society
- Community Safety Net
- DKI CRCS
- Durham College
- Durham Regional Police Services
- Enbridge
- Harvey's Restaurants
- Home Depot
- McDonald's Restaurants
- OFMEM
- OSCC
- Oshawa Generals
- Oshawa Municipal Enforcement Services
- Walmart

Events we attended this year

- Bloom Retirement Home PR Event
- Canada Day at Lakeview Park
- Children's Aid Society – Fire Extinguisher and Fire Safety Training
- Community Safety Day
- Doors Open
- DRPS Youth in Policing Community Advocacy Networking Conference
- Emergency Preparedness Week Open House
- Employee Wellness Fairs
- Fall Orientation – Trent University
- McHappy Day
- Orientation at Durham College
- OSCC Pickleball Tournament
- Oshawa Generals Game Fire Safety Information Booth
- Peoney Festival
- Rose Valley Community Park Opening
- Rotary Lunch and Learn Fire Safety Presentation
- Santa Clause Parade
- Shape Oshawa at the Oshawa Centre

Community Events

Community outreach remained a key component of the division's efforts in 2025. Throughout the year, the division participated in a wide range of community events and initiatives. We also continued our valued collaboration with the Oshawa Generals, using game-day opportunities to share fire safety messaging with thousands of residents in a fun and engaging environment.

In addition, the division participated in a Health Fair at Hillsdale Estates and Terraces and the Safe Work and Wellness Event at City Hall, further strengthening partnerships and expanding the reach of fire safety education across the community. At each event, we drew from our full suite of public education programs to enhance the experience and deliver meaningful, personalized fire safety education to the residents of the City of Oshawa. We were also proud to bring back Community Safety Day, which was a tremendous success and provided an excellent opportunity for residents to connect with emergency services and community partners.

Our commitment to neighborhood level engagement continued through participation in the City's Summer Park Program and the delivery of summer camp safety presentations. These initiatives provided opportunities for residents to meet Fire Services staff, ask questions, receive fire safety education, and enjoy fire truck tours in a relaxed and accessible setting. The division also completed a targeted smoke alarm giveaway campaign and delivered our three signature seasonal initiatives: Spring into Summer Safety, 12 Days of Holiday Safety, and Alarmed for Life.

SUPPRESSION DIVISION

The Suppression Division remains the operational emergency response unit of Oshawa Fire Services, delivering 24/7 emergency response and core life safety services to protect our community. Operating from six fire stations, the division is staffed by four platoons comprised of four Platoon Chiefs, 36 Captains, and 149 Firefighters who serve with professionalism, resilience, and a strong commitment to public safety.

In 2025, suppression crews continued to provide an all-hazards response to a wide spectrum of emergency incidents. These included fire suppression, emergency medical response, vehicle extrication, hazardous materials incidents, and complex technical rescues such as rope, confined space, trench, elevator, and water rescues. Firefighters consistently demonstrated their ability to respond decisively during critical incidents, delivering life-saving care, stabilizing hazardous conditions, and mitigating property and environmental loss.

In April 2025, Recruit Class 99 began training, welcoming eight new Firefighters to the organization. These recruits underwent comprehensive training to prepare them for the diverse challenges of all hazard emergency response.

The division also plays a vital role in advancing community safety beyond emergency response. Firefighters actively supported public education and fire prevention initiatives, including station tours, school visits, fire drills, and participation in the Alarmed for Life smoke alarm program. Suppression personnel further contributed to community risk reduction through building pre-incident planning and close collaboration with Fire Prevention staff.

Operational effectiveness is supported through a structured incident command system and a strong emphasis on continuous training and professional development. Regular skills maintenance, scenario-based exercises, and specialized training ensured suppression crews remained prepared to respond to increasingly complex and evolving emergency environments.

Through disciplined operations, ongoing training, and meaningful community engagement, the division continues to uphold Oshawa Fire Services' mandate to protect life, property, and the environment.

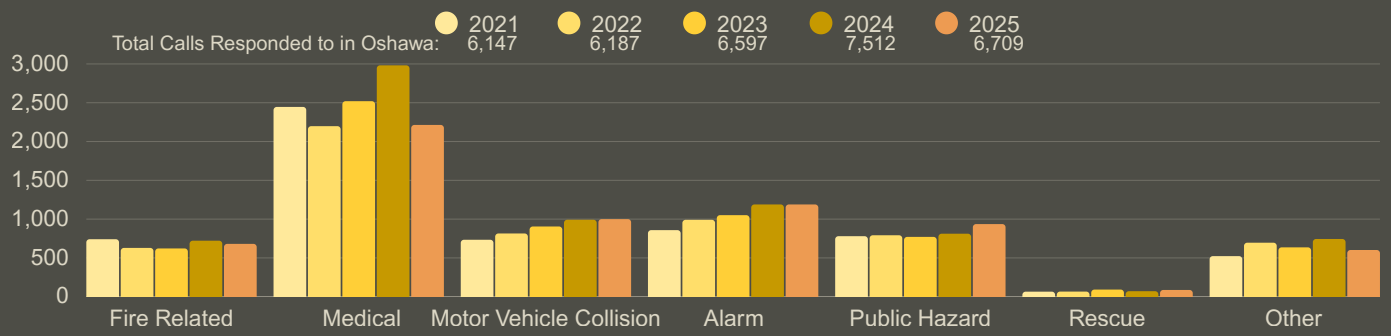


Oshawa Fire Recruit Class 99 with Training Division Staff



2025 Canadian Regional FireFit Championships Oshawa

Oshawa Incident Response by Type:



of Major Fires with Estimated Loss Over \$500,000 Year-over-Year Comparison:

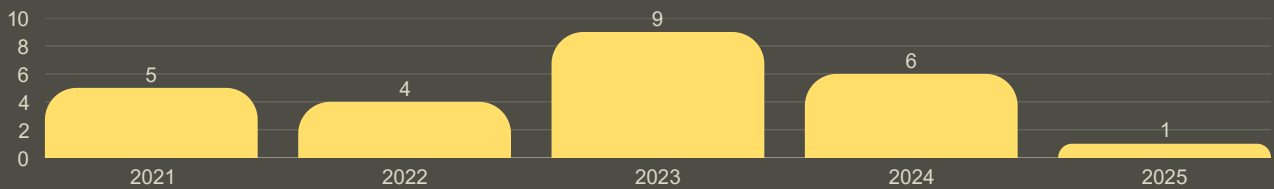


Photo by: Colin Williamson

A resident extends his hand and gives a big thank you to a firefighter after battling a fire on a cold winter night

COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

Oshawa Fire Services Communications Division is comprised of twenty dedicated Communications professionals and one Chief Communications Officer. The division is responsible for dispatching both emergency and non-emergency responses for all eight municipalities within the Durham Region (Oshawa, Whitby, Clarington, Ajax, Pickering, Scugog, Uxbridge, and Brock) and remains the largest Fire Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) east of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA).

In 2025, the division experienced a year of significant transformation and modernization. Through strategic investments in technology, infrastructure, and partnerships, the division enhanced operational efficiency, strengthened emergency response capabilities, and positioned itself to support continued regional growth and innovation.



New Communications Centre

All technological advancements were consolidated within a newly constructed, modern Communications Centre in Oshawa. Designed with future growth and regional demand in mind, the expanded facility provides increased workspace, improved ergonomics, enhanced system redundancy, and infrastructure capable of supporting additional dispatch consoles and emerging technologies.

The new centre reflects Oshawa Fire Services' commitment to operational excellence, employee wellness, and long-term sustainability in emergency communications.

Modernized Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) System

In 2025, Oshawa Fire Services, with the support of the City's Information Technology Division, project team members, and dedicated subject matter experts from Fire, successfully implemented a new Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) platform.

This advanced system streamlined call processing and dispatch workflows, improved unit recommendation accuracy, and enhanced real-time situational awareness for both telecommunicators and responding crews. Enhanced mapping capabilities, integrated data systems, and improved reporting functionality now support faster, more informed operational decision-making.

The implementation of a new CAD represents a significant milestone in strengthening frontline fire response and ensuring long-term operational resiliency.

Enhanced Fire Station Alerting

The division also deployed a new Fire Station Alerting system that enables alerting and automated dispatching directly to fire stations.

This technology has reduced manual processes and improved turnout times by delivering consistent, clear, and immediate notifications to responding personnel. The integration of Station Alerting with the CAD platform has enhanced overall response efficiency, minimized delays, and strengthened firefighter readiness across all stations.

Next Generation 911 (NG911) Readiness

In preparation for the national transition to Next Generation 911 (NG911), the division implemented a new soft-phone solution.

This modern telephony platform enhances system redundancy, increases flexibility in call handling, and ensures alignment with evolving NG911 standards. The implementation positions Oshawa Fire Services to meet future provincial and federal requirements, including expanded data-sharing capabilities and improved accessibility options for callers.

Community and Educational Partnerships

The new Communications Centre has also enabled the division to expand community and educational partnerships.

In 2025, Oshawa Fire Services formalized its collaboration with TeachingCity and Durham College to provide student placement and observational learning opportunities within the division.

These placements offer students valuable exposure to the dynamic and high-responsibility environment of Fire 911 telecommunications. The program supports mentorship, experiential learning, and potential recruitment pathways for the next generation of emergency communications professionals.

MECHANICAL DIVISION

The Mechanical Division plays a vital role in supporting the operational readiness of Oshawa Fire Services. The division is responsible for the procurement, inspection, maintenance, and repair of all fleet vehicles, including fire apparatus and support vehicles. In addition, the team maintains and services essential firefighting equipment such as decontamination equipment, self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), ladders, and various small appliances and engines used in daily operations.

Throughout the year, the division ensured that all required annual certifications were successfully completed, including fire apparatus inspections, pump testing, ladder testing, and SCBA equipment certification.

In 2025, the division dedicated approximately 4,672 hours to maintaining and servicing equipment across O.F.S., ensuring all apparatus and equipment remained in optimal working condition to serve the community safely and effectively.

The division also supported fleet modernization efforts, welcoming a new frontline fire apparatus into service in the fall of 2025, which was placed into operation at Fire Station 2.



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



In September, the emergency management team welcomed a dedicated Emergency Management Program Manager. This new position supports Oshawa's Strategic Plan by enhancing emergency preparedness and response strategies for both staff and residents, while also advancing updates to business continuity and emergency plans.

Throughout 2025, the Emergency Management Program prioritized staff training and exercise participation to strengthen coordinated emergency response efforts internally and with partner agencies. These initiatives supported the implementation of Bill 25, the Emergency Management Modernization Act, which delivers long-overdue updates to the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act.

In 2025 staff completed Provincial certifications in Basic Emergency Management and received specialized training in natural gas emergency response. Staff also participated in several exercises, including one at the Oshawa Airport and a large-scale, two-day nuclear exercise conducted in partnership with Ontario Power Generation, the Province of Ontario, the Region of Durham, and other regional partners.

Emergency preparedness messaging was promoted through the City's website, social media platforms, and public safety events covering topics such as 72-hour emergency kits, seasonal readiness, preparedness in high-rise buildings, and more. The emergency management program continued to keep the Corporate Leadership Team and Council members informed of significant weather and other events through situation reports, supported by routine and enhanced monitoring at appropriate emergency activation levels.

The City's Emergency Management Program was also formally recognized by the Province of Ontario for meeting all legislative requirements under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act.

BENEVOLENT COMMITTEE



Our Community Impact

- 1** Earth Day – cleaned up garbage at Conant Park and Connaught Park
- 2** Tim Hortons Camp Day – collected donations in support of Tim Hortons Camp Day
- 3** Operation Backpack – helped ensure children in Oshawa had the school supplies they needed for back-to-school
- 4** GlobalMedic – donated food to Simcoe Hall Settlement House
- 5** Boot Toll – raised funds for Muscular Dystrophy Canada and other local charities
- 6** Baseball Tournament – in support of Muscular Dystrophy Canada and local charities
- 7** Stuff the Fire Truck – collected toys for local charities during the holiday season
- 8** John Howard Society Christmas Hamper Program – donated \$1,000 in gifts to support residents in need within the Region of Durham
- 9** Skating Day – hosted a community skating event
- 10** Pet Food Drive – donated pet food to the Durham Region Humane Society

HONOUR GUARD



Both images above show Oshawa Fire Services participating in the 2025 Remembrance Day parade



**Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives
Test Yours Today**