

OAK HARBOR FIRE DEPARTMENT

2014
ANNUAL REPORT





2014 Annual Report of the City of Oak Harbor Fire Department
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RCW 35.103.040 — Annual evaluations
Annual report.

(1) Every city and town shall evaluate its level of service and deployment delivery and response time objectives on an annual basis. The evaluations shall be based on data relating to level of service, deployment, and the achievement of each response time objective in each geographic area within the jurisdiction of the city or town.

(2) Beginning in 2007, every city and town shall issue an annual written report which shall be based on the annual evaluations required by subsection (1) of this section.

(a) The annual report shall define the geographic

areas and circumstances in which the requirements of this standard are not being met.

(b) The annual report shall explain the predictable consequences of any deficiencies and address the steps that are necessary to achieve compliance.

[2005 c 376 § 104.]

*Cover Photo: Lieutenant Paul Schroer during live-fire practice burn.
(OHFD Photo / Laura Titherington, May 2014)*



Oak Harbor Fire Department Directory

Headquarters, Station 81.....	(360) 279-4700
Administrative Staff	
Fire Chief Ray Merrill	279-4701
Deputy Chief Mike Buxton.....	279-4702
Administrative Assistant Angela Braunstein.....	279-4703
Maintenance Division	
Lieutenant Mike Engle	279-4705
Training Division	
Lieutenant Craig Anderson	279-4706
Suppression Division	279-4707
Lieutenant Don Baer, E Shift	
Lieutenant Paul Schroer, F Shift	
Lieutenant Mike Engle, G Shift	

2014 Annual Report

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MAYOR
Scott Dudley

MAYOR PRO TEM
Danny Paggao

COUNCIL MEMBERS
Rick Almberg

James M. Campbell

Beth Munns

Robert (Bob) Severns

Tara Hizon

Joel Servatius

*Firefighter Otto Haffner at practice live-burn, May 2014.
(OHFD Photo / Laura Titherington)*

City of Oak Harbor Vision Statement

Oak Harbor... Whidbey Island's
Premier Waterfront Community

City Mission Statement

The staff of the City of Oak Harbor is committed to delivering the highest possible level of service to its citizens, improving economic opportunity, quality of life and fostering community partnerships

City Goals

- Goal 1: Promote a healthy and growing business community
- Goal 2: Improve the appearance and livability of the community
- Goal 3: Encourage a safe community
- Goal 4: Build and enhance community partnerships
- Goal 5: Deliver superior quality service to our customers
- Goal 6: Protect and enhance capital investment in the City
- Goal 7: Promote a healthy work environment and employee excellence
- Goal 8: Annual review of the City's overall performance

OBJECTIVES of your Oak Harbor Fire Department:

- To respond to fire, rescue, medical and hazardous incidents on land or water;
- To conduct fire and life safety inspections of existing businesses, multi-family dwellings, and public assembly facilities;
- To review plans and conduct on-site inspections of new developments and buildings to ensure fire and life safety code compliance;
- To provide public education in the areas of fire prevention, CPR, first aid, life safety, accident prevention, and disaster planning preparedness;
- To provide disaster equipment such as generators, lighting, mobile command units, and multiple casualty units during natural and manmade disasters;
- To provide training and technical support to fire and city personnel;
- To provide classroom facilities and assist with the instruction of the Juvenile Fire-Setter Intervention Program;
- To provide career opportunities with a Firefighter Pilot Program for high school students;
- To provide training facilities and assist with the Island County Recruit Academy;
- To conduct investigations of all fires to determine their cause and origin;
- To maintain the mutual aid agreement with all emergency service providers on Whidbey Island;
- To maintain and operate an Emergency Operations Center for the City and as back-up for the Island County;
- To conduct and participate in county-wide training at the department's training facility; and
- To provide meeting facilities for non-profit organizations.



VISION STATEMENT

To continue to be recognized as consistently providing quality services in an efficient manner to our growing community.

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide professional and cost effective services by maintaining highly trained and highly motivated career and paid-on-call staff, combined with sufficient apparatus, equipment and facilities.



Paid-On-Call Firefighter Dwayne Jansen on scene at a residential structure fire operating L81's aerial ladder, March 2014. (OHFD Photo / Mike Buxton)

We minimize injuries, death, and property loss related to fires, medical emergencies, and other disasters through the efficient delivery of effective fire suppression and pre-hospital treatment.

Oak Harbor Fire Department Organizational Overview

Oak Harbor Fire Department is committed to creating a healthy community for residents and visitors by delivering the highest quality of emergency services to the City of Oak Harbor. Your 44 firefighters (10 career and 34 paid-on-call) operate from one station staffed 24 hours per day.

The department is responsible for fire suppression, emergency medical services, rescue services, hazardous emergency response, enforcement of fire and safety codes, environmental protection, and fire cause/arson investigation.

Emergency Management Services enhance the community's overall level of emergency preparedness by providing an emergency operations plan and emergency operation center.

Our community of over 22,136 residents in 9.714 square miles valued at over \$1.5 billion, is protected by one fire department with an annual operating budget of \$1.9 million. Residents and businesses enjoy lower property insurance premiums due to the City's Washington Survey and Rating Bureau (WSRB) / Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating of 4.

Personnel in your fire department are committed to customer service, both internally and externally, and provide services with an attitude of professionalism. We believe that training is a critical component necessary to providing high quality services. We take pride in the dedication of our personnel and their ability to provide the highest quality emergency services to the Oak Harbor community.

Oak Harbor Fire Department Service Area



2014 Statistics

General

Area Served in Square Miles
9.714

Miles of city streets
68.81

Population (as of 4/2013)
22,136

Assessed Valuation
\$1,590,666,301

Emergency Incident Responses

Fire Insurance Rating
4

Average Response Time
4 minutes, 8 seconds

Incident Responses
All Types
1,123

Fire Incidents
68 (6%)

Medical Incidents
546 (49%)

Fire Loss
\$285,220

Injuries
2 minor civilian injuries
(lacerations at scene of structure fire)



Ray Merrill
Fire Chief
Director of Emergency Services
24 years of service
Member Since 1989

Chief's Report for 2014

Welcome to the Oak Harbor Fire Department's 2014 Annual Report.

People first: The City of Oak Harbor is fortunate to have all of our dedicated firefighters on staff. Your fire department is comprised of 10 career firefighters (including myself), 1 administrative assistant, and approximately 34 paid-on-call firefighters. This type of staffing is considered to be a combination department and has saved the City's General Fund hundreds of thousands of dollars over the years. All of our members are dedicated, enthusiastic, and passionate about their part of the department. Later in this annual report you'll 'meet' those members.

Seven (7) Oak Harbor firefighters graduated from the 2014 Island Recruit Academy. Those members spent approximately 160 hours of classroom and hands-on training in order to become firefighters. Upon graduation from the Academy all became nationally certified as a firefighter, but their training has not stopped. They continue to learn

new skills and tasks while obtaining required certifications.

Four (4) department members attended Washington State Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training. This is a 180 hour course on emergency medical care. All did very well with the training and earned both National and State Emergency Medical Certification.

Some of our members have attended specialized training at the Emergency Management Institute, a division of the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The courses they attended provided education in advanced disaster preparedness, duties of government during disasters, and safety of our citizens.

During 2014 our department responded to 1,123 calls for assistance. The following pages of this report will detail some of those incidents. The department did respond to 68 fire calls including 17 confirmed structure fires.

As we have seen around the country

violence in places where people gather, such as schools and malls, has been increasing. The fire department has taken the approach of being prepared if this ever happens in Oak Harbor. We now have an "Active Shooter" medical team that actively trains with the Oak Harbor Police Department and will enter active emergency events to provide immediate medical support. The words "Active Shooter" bring all forms of images and our goal is to provide the best possible and quickest medical care during an emergency.

In 2013 the Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau conducted a review of our service level. They provide the rating structure for insurance companies; the lower protection class rating a department receives the better insurance rates home owners and commercial occupancies pay. Currently the City has a Class 4 rating – we were hoping to obtain a Class 3 rating. We missed the lower rating by a mere 161 points. The review revealed steps

ADMINISTRATION
creating a safe and healthy community

we can take to help lower our deficiency points and improve the City's rating. Some have been easy to implement, others will be more costly. As an example, we get no deficiency for having a ladder truck; we do get 16 deficiency points for not having a *reserve* ladder truck. And those 16 points equates to 10% of our 161 points away from a Class 3 rating. Am I advocating purchasing a new ladder truck? No. Am I looking at a multi-purpose vehicle that does more than one job and meets the Rating Bureau's requirements? Absolutely.

2015 and beyond; as growth has taken place and the City continues to grow the time is fast approaching that we consider a new fire station in the Southwest section of the City. There is an area of land by Fort Nugent Park that was set aside a few years ago for a future fire station. We will soon begin the process of selecting a design team, sharing the vision with the public, obtaining input, and hopefully begin the actual construction of a facility. This will require a voter approved bond for the construction phase. As a note, it has been 25 years since the fire department has requested a bond for any construction. The last bond, which was retired six years ago, funded the current fire station that was constructed in 1992.

Along with the construction of the fire station we will look for creative ways to fully staff the station. This too plays a key role in our Surveying and Rating Bureau protection classi-

fication. Later in the year we will begin public forums and informational meetings to obtain public input and direction.

So 2015 will be a busy and productive year.

In closing I would be remise in not thanking all of the members of this great fire department. They all do an outstanding job, they are here when needed. We have a great team – who are here to serve, here to protect, and here to keep safe the citizens and visitors of Oak Harbor.

Thanks to Angela Braunstein for always 'being available' to answer everyone's questions, keeping us on track, and making all of our jobs so much easier due to her knowledge of computers and programs. Thanks for her work on this annual report; members of the department submit information and she complies, arranges, and makes it look great.

Please feel free to contact me at (360) 279-4701 or rmerrill@oakharbor.org or stop by the fire station should you have any questions, concerns, or input. We are here to serve the public.

Ray Merrill

Ray Merrill,
Fire Chief



Fire Chief Ray Merrill and Lieutenant Craig Anderson during a Monday Night Drill. February 2015. (OHFD Photo / Laura Titherington)



*Oak Harbor Recruit Firefighter Class of 2014
[left to right] Zack Gifford, Gerrit Nagel, Andy Kiesel, Josh Jansen,
Ed-Paul Macapinlac, Mike Fletcher, and Kevin Frondoza.
(OHFD Photo / Angela Braunstein, February, 2015)*

Our community remains safe, healthy, and economically viable because we hire well-qualified candidates, put them through our rigorous training program, maintain high performance standards, and have all members engage in continuous training and development to maintain and upgrade their skills.

ORGANIZATION

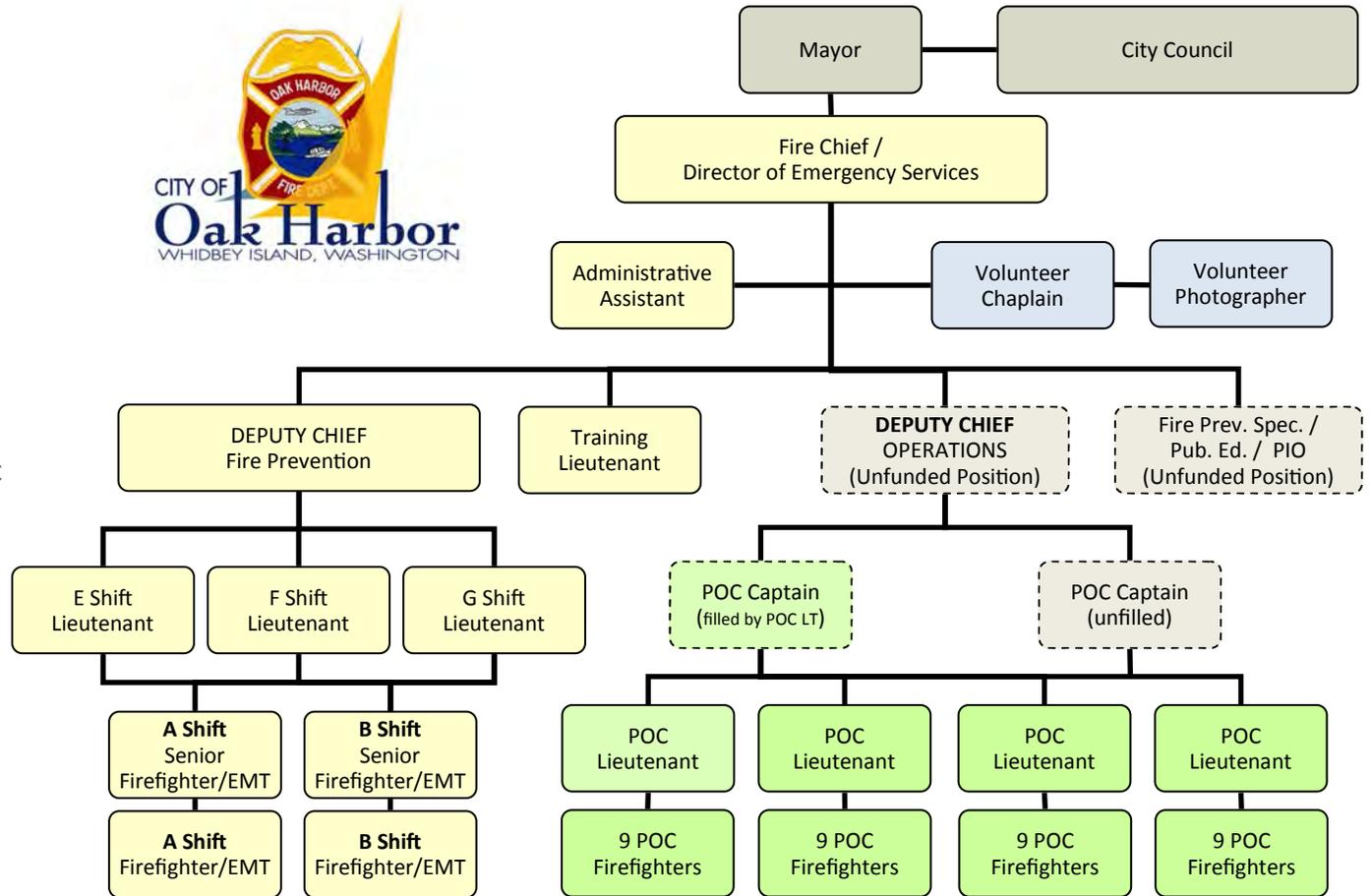
taking care of our community

Everyone plays a role...

City Council approved a reorganization of Oak Harbor Fire Department in 2009. At the end of 2014, OHFD has 10 career Firefighter/EMTs, 1 full-time administrative assistant, 4 POC lieutenants, 28 certified POC firefighters, and 3 newly hired POC firefighter recruits training for firefighter certification.

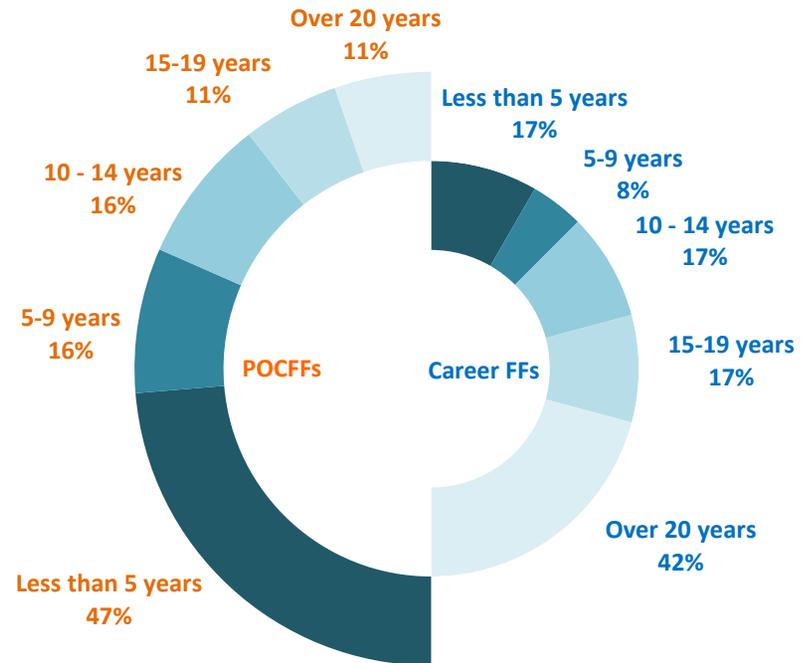


Oak Harbor Fire Organizational Chart





Years of Service



Paid-On-Call Firefighters

Of the 34 Paid-On-Call Firefighters, nearly half (47%) have less than 5 years of service. Many move on to career jobs with other departments.

Career Firefighters

Of the 10 Career Firefighters, the spectrum is reversed, with the majority (42%) having over 20 years of service.

Photos of our firefighters are displayed on the firehouse lobby wall. Photos of new members are added each year, if you look closely you'll see that some have been there awhile and need updating. You may also notice we're all wearing the same uniform, designating each member as part of the team. It's not until you begin reading names that you realize the majority of our firefighting team are people who volunteer their time serve their community as a paid-on-call firefighter.

PEOPLE FIRST here to serve, here to protect



2014 Island County Fire Recruit Academy group photo during live fire practice. (OHFD Photo / Laura Titherington, April 2014)



Angela Braunstein
Administration Assistant
9 years of service
Member Since 2005

Revenue				YEAR 2014		YEAR 2013	
Line	Type	Bars Account Code	Subtotals	Totals	Subtotals	Totals	
1	Donations & Contributions	001.00.367.011.2000		\$0.00		\$0.00	
2	Fire Control Services	001.00.338.22.0000		\$44,733.75		\$37,327.48	
	Prehospital Medical Alarms		\$44,733.75		\$37,327.48		
3	Fire Facility Rental: Station 81			\$3,822.00		\$600.00	
	Island County Recruit Training	001.00.362.040.0000	\$3,822.00		\$600.00		
4	Fire Protection Services: Permit Fees	001.00.338.022.1000		\$2,765.00		\$2,143.00	
5	Incident Report Fees	001.00.342.090.0000		\$40.00		\$20.00	
6	Other Miscellaneous Revenue			\$0.00		\$679.57	
	Taxable	001.00.369.091.1000	\$0.00		\$177.74		
	Non-Taxable	001.00.369.090.0000	\$0.00		\$501.83		
	Xerox/Fax - Taxable	001.00.341.069.1000	\$0.00		\$0.00		
Total Revenue				\$51,360.75		\$40,770.05	

Grants				
Line	Type	Bars Account Code	Totals	Totals
1	WA DOH Prehospital Participation	001.00.334.004.9000	\$1,473.00	\$1,208.00
2	North Region EMS (Bike Helmets)	001.00.337.010.0000	\$0.00	\$250.00
Total Grants			\$1,473.00	\$1,458.00

FINANCE

contributing to community economic viability

Financial management contributes to the safety, health, and economic viability of the community by allocating the department's resources in ways that promote effective and efficient emergency and non-emergency operations.

	Appropriation	Expenditures	Returned to	Percentage
SUPPRESSION (includes ICOM)	1,217,148.00	1,135,348.81	81,799.19	93.28
ADMINISTRATION	215,347.00	216,257.86	(910.86)	100.42
PREVENTION / INVESTIGATION	127,960.00	129,719.57	(1,759.57)	101.38
TRAINING	156,072.00	176,391.26	(20,319.26)	113.02
INTRFUND REPAIRS/MAINT (apparatus)	65,038.00	65,038.00	0.00	100.00
FACILITIES	70,675.00	54,209.08	16,465.92	76.70
INTRFUND TECHNOLOGY CONTRIBUTIONS	33,915.00	33,915.00	0.00	100.00
INTRFUND EQUIP REPLACEMENT CONTRIBUTIONS (vehicle fund)	76,563.00	76,563.00	0.00	100.00
CAPITAL OUTLAY/IMPROVEMENTS	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1,962,718.00	1,887,442.58	75,275.42	96.16

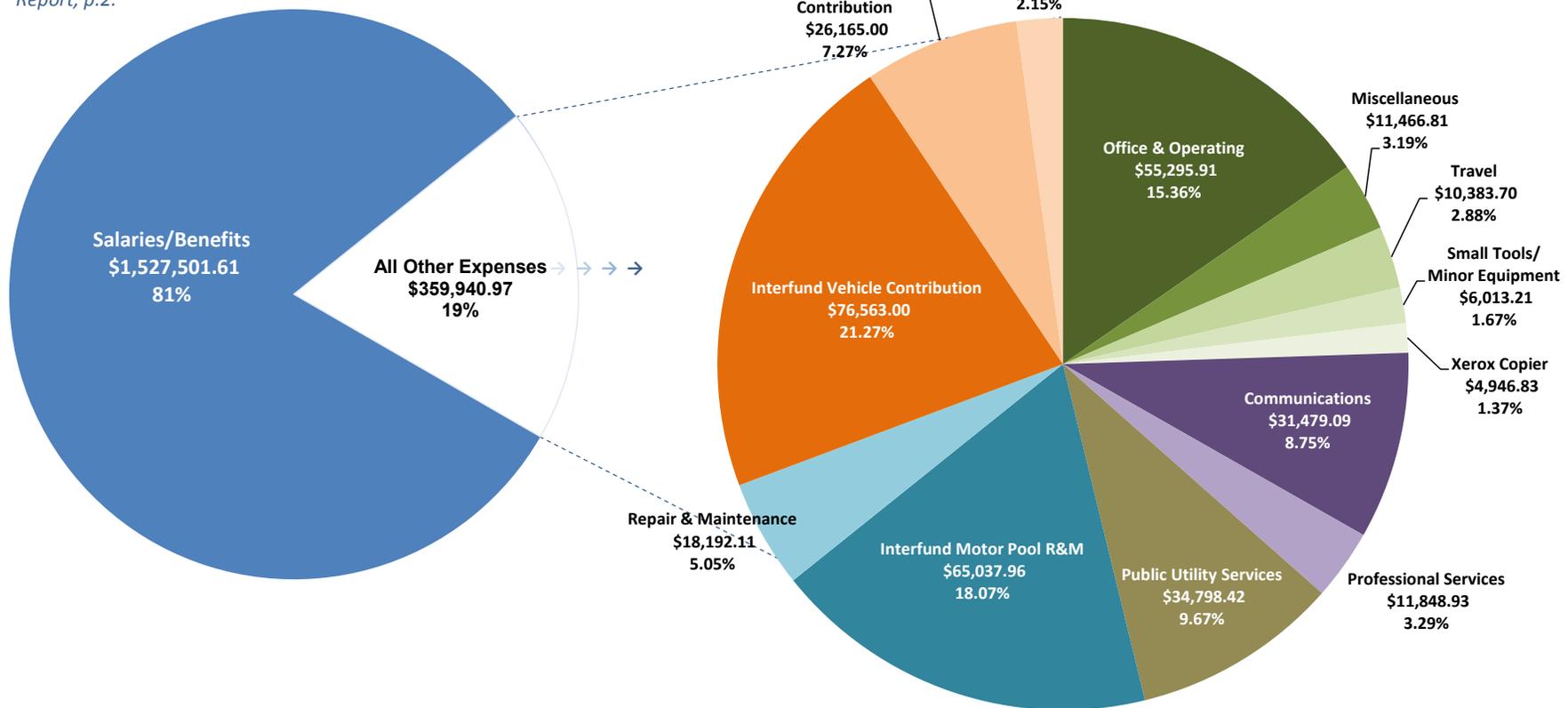
Expenditure Budget

“Public Safety (Police and Fire) remain the primary essential service provided by the City of Oak Harbor. [The 2014] budget continues to provide public safety at the same high level service regarding response times, extent of coverage and quality of service.” — City of Oak Harbor 2013-2014 Biennial Budget Report, p.2.

The Fire Department is funded by the City of Oak Harbor General Fund. The General Fund receives property taxes, sales taxes, and other revenues, it accounts for 15% of the City’s total operating budget (20% when including reserve funds). In 2014, 11% of the City’s General Fund was allocated to the fire department.

In other words, 11% of 15% of all City funds — **2% of the City’s Total Operating Budget** — are allocated to Emergency Fire Services. As personnel are your greatest asset in the fire service, salaries and benefits use the greatest portion of the department’s allotted budget, consuming 81%

(big blue “Pac-Man” below, left). Of the remaining 19%, shown in the break-out chart, close to one-third (**oranges**) is saved into reserve for planned vehicles and technology replacements. 25% goes to daily operations (**greens**), 23% is dedicated to repair and maintenance (**teals**), 12% to communications (**purples**), and 10% to public utilities.





*Left: Firefighters from Naval Air Station-Whidbey Island during a live fire training burn, May, 2014
Top right: Paid-On-Call Firefighters during Monday night training drill, February 2015.
Bottom right: POC LT Christ Garden and POC FF Dennis Wright, each with over 20 years of service,
August 2014. (OHFD Photos / Laura Titherington)*



Mike Engle
Lieutenant
G Shift -- Suppression
17 years of service
Member Since 1997



Don Baer
Lieutenant
E Shift — Suppression
11 years of service
Member Since 2003



Paul Schroer
Lieutenant
F Shift — Suppression
20 years of service
FT Member Since 2014
Member Since 1994

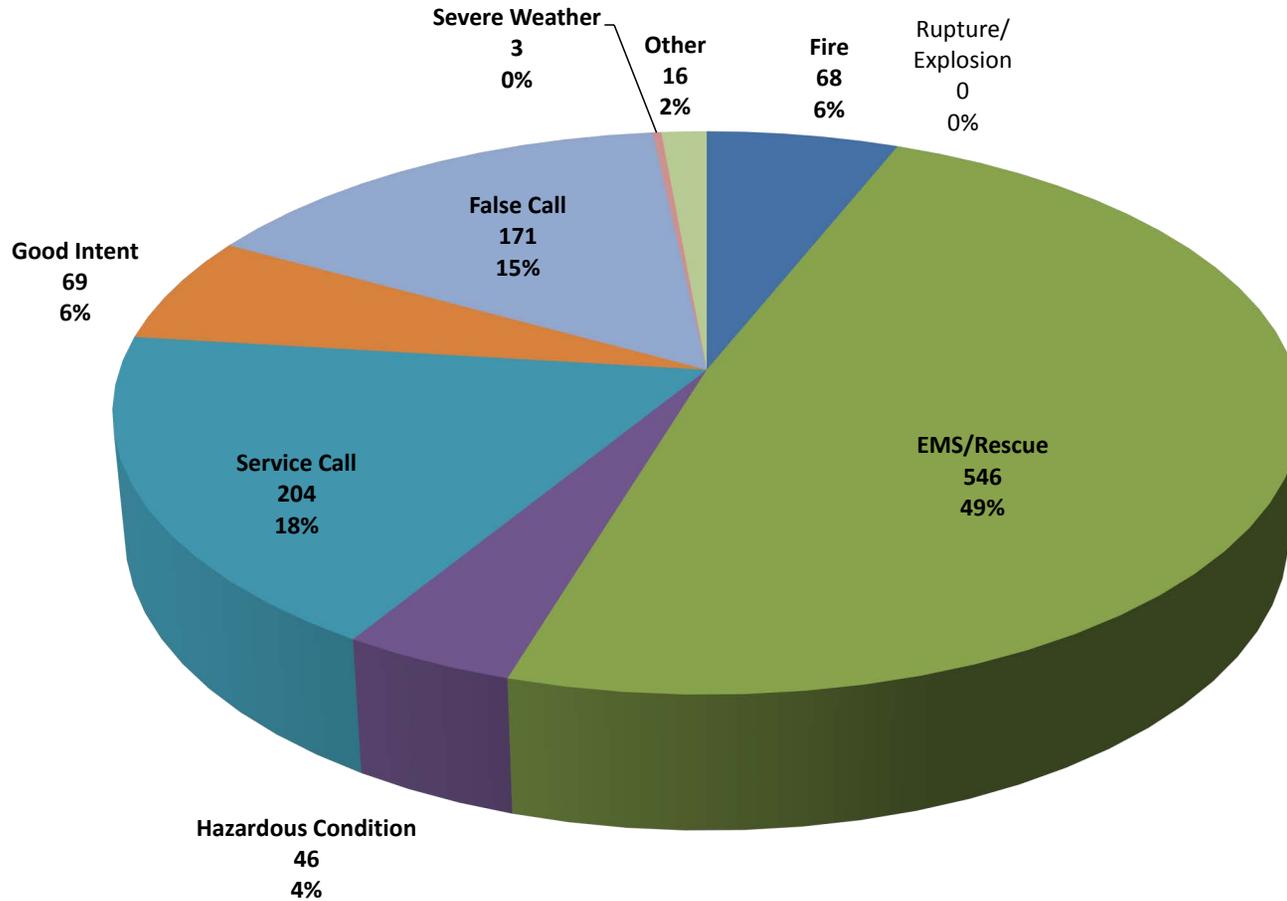
Emergency Incident Response for 2014

The Suppression Division is primarily responsible for the mitigation of emergency incidents. Other functions include fire and life safety inspections and assistance with public education activities.

<u>Fire</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>Service Call</u>	<u>204</u>
Residential Structure	13	Water Problem/leak	29
Building (non residential)	4	Public Service	27
Cooking Fire	16	Assist Invalid	71
Chimney Fire	5	Unauthorized Burning	13
Grass/Brush Fire	11	Assist police or gov. agency	10
Vehicle	8	Other	54
Trash/Dumpster	7		
Other	4		
<u>Rupture/Explosion</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>Good Intent</u>	<u>69</u>
		Dispatched & Cancelled	41
		Smoke Scare	9
		Other	19
<u>EMS/Rescue</u>	<u>546</u>	<u>False Alarm (No Fire)</u>	<u>171</u>
Assist EMS Crew	407	System Activation, Malfunction	37
Motor Vehicle Accident	122	System Activation, Unintentional	126
EMS Call (not MVA)	10	System Activation, Malicious	5
Other	7	Other	3
<u>Hazardous Condition</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>Severe Weather</u>	<u>3</u>
Gasoline or Oil spill	11		
Natural Gas Leak	7	<u>Other</u>	<u>16</u>
Electrical Problem	23	No Response/	
Carbon Monoxide Incident	1	Dispatch Error	13
Other	4	Citizen Complaint	3
		<u>Total</u>	<u>1,123</u>

SUPPRESSION
protecting the safety and health of our community

2014 Emergency Incident Response by Call Type (1,123 total calls)



2014 INCIDENT RESPONSE AT A GLANCE

Total Incident Response:
1,123 Incidents

Average Response Time:
4 minutes, 8 seconds

Number of EMS Calls:
546 (49%)

Busiest Month:
October with 113 calls

Busiest Day of the Week:
Wednesday (182 Calls)

Busiest Hour of the Day:
07:00-07:59 (83 calls)

Slowest Day of the Week:
Sunday (139 calls)

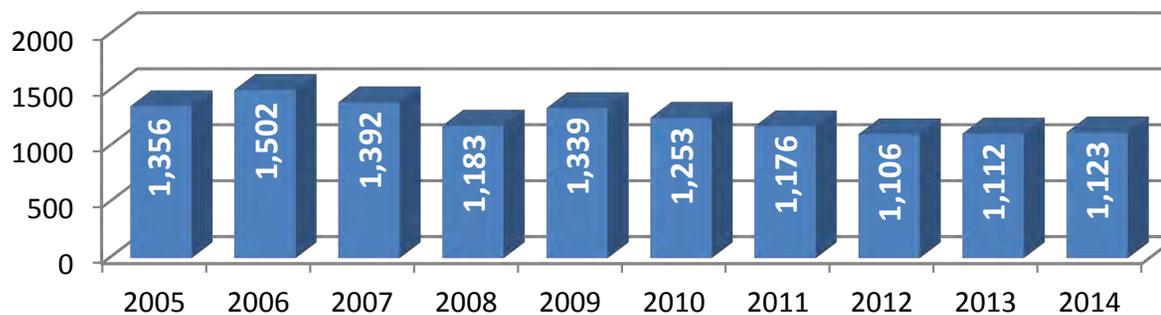
Slowest Hour of the Day:
04:00—04:59 (17 calls)

1 Year Response Trends:
INCREASING
.98% more than 2013

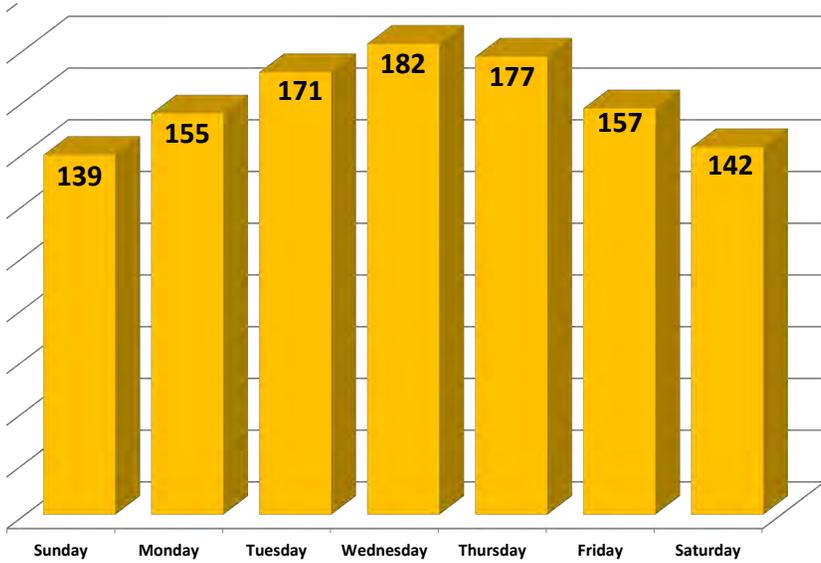
10 Year Response Trend:
DECREASING
20.75% less than 2005

Average Number of Calls
[2005-2014]:
1,254

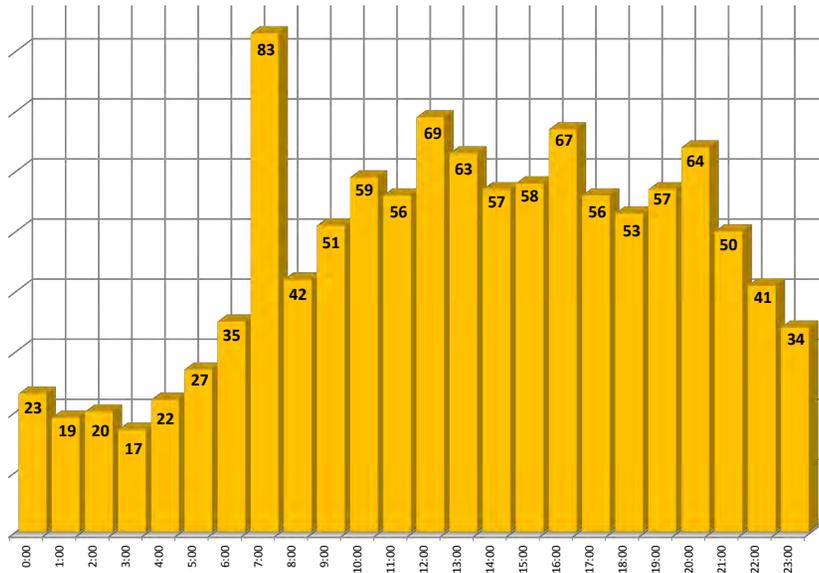
Incident Response 10-Year Trend



2014 Incidents by Day of the Week



2014 Incidents by Hour of the Day



2014 Incidents by Type and by Month

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL
Residential Fires	1	0	1	2	2	5	2	1	7	0	1	1	23
Vehicle Fires	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	7
Vegetation Fires	1	0	0	0	1	2	4	1	1	1	0	0	11
Medical (assist WGH)	31	31	42	42	35	39	32	34	21	29	33	38	407
Auto Accident	11	9	5	7	8	11	10	14	6	12	11	12	116
Other Medical	1	1	3	0	1	5	0	5	3	3	1	0	23
Hazmat / Gas Leak	2	6	4	5	2	5	1	5	3	5	4	4	46
Service	12	13	12	7	6	18	18	18	17	34	24	25	204
False Alarm / Good Intent	16	24	22	13	20	22	20	22	17	24	14	24	238
Other	1	2	7	3	3	4	6	4	6	4	1	7	48
Total Incidents	77	87	97	80	79	112	93	104	81	113	89	111	1,123



Night training drill. (OHFD Photo / Laura Titherington, December 2014)

Continuous Coverage to the City

Oak Harbor Fire Department is a combination department. Staffed by a combination of full-time/career firefighters and Paid-On-Call (POC) firefighters who work together to provide continuous coverage to the City of Oak Harbor - 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Command 8: 24 hours a day. Command duty is filled by the deputy chief, full-time lieutenants, and POC lieutenants.

A/B Career Firefighter Shifts: Twelve-hour shifts Tuesday through Sunday, 0700-1900 hours (14 hour shifts on Mondays—0700-2100 to accommodate weekly training drills). Four full-time/career firefighters work a rotating schedule: two firefighters on shift for four consecutive days followed by four consecutive days off shift.

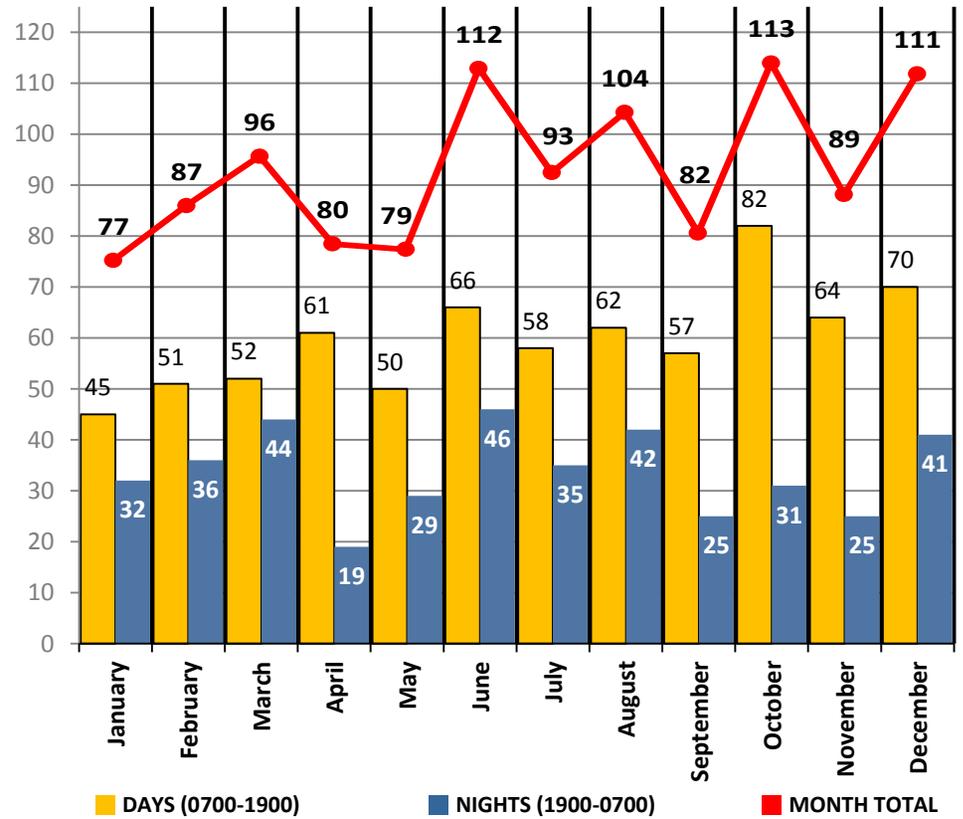
E/F/G Officer Shifts: Three lieutenants (LT) work a rotating cycle of 24-hour shifts: 24 hours on duty, 24 hours off duty, 24 hours on duty, 24 hours off duty, 24 hours on duty, and 96 hours off duty. From 0700-1900 LT is the engine company officer. From 1900-0700 LT fills the Command 8 position.

Paid-On-Call Firefighters (POCFFs) are equipped with pagers and respond from home or work when additional manpower is required. POCFFs work 10 or 12 hour platoon shifts (not to exceed 53 hours per week).

POC Platoon Day Shift: Twelve-hour shifts, 7 days a week, 0700-1900 hours. Completes a daytime four member engine company: 1 POC platoon day shift, 2 FT FFs (A or B shift), and 1 Officer (E, G, or F shift).

POC Platoon Night Shifts: Twelve-hour shifts (1900-0700) 6 nights per week, and ten-hour shifts (2100-0700) on Mondays [to accommodate weekly training drills]. An engine company of four POCFFs perform various duties and respond to emergency incidents. Personnel occupy sleeping quarters at station 81 while on shift.

Call Volume: Day vs. Night by Month



You're protected DAY and NIGHT! Full-time firefighters provide coverage from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm [718 calls; 64% call volume—yellow bars in chart above]. Paid-On-Call firefighters provide coverage from 7:00 pm and through the night to 7:00 am [405 calls; 36% call volume—blue bars in chart above]. It's a system that allows for inexpensive fire and emergency service protection round-the-clock. Comparable cities with all career firefighters, spend 3x more than for EMS services. Utilizing the paid-on-call firefighting program saves \$3.5 million every year (see page 24-25 for more comparisons).

Emergency Response within the City of Oak Harbor by Quadrant

The City of Oak Harbor is divided into four quadrants. Whidbey Avenue separates north/south; Oak Harbor Street separates east/west.

Oak Harbor's only fire station is located on Whidbey Avenue in the southeast quadrant, largely a commercial area. Being close by, this quadrant shows the fastest response time.

The SW quadrant, which is farthest from the fire station and naturally shows the greatest response time. It is primarily a residential area and has the greatest potential for future residential and commercial growth. It is the logical place to build a second fire station. An area of land has been set aside for this purpose at Fort Nugent Park.

* Incidents not included in this chart include 47 calls cancelled enroute (no arrival) and calls to areas outside of our jurisdiction; there were five calls to assist Island County Fire District 5 (Central Whidbey) - one fire call, average response of 00:31:34.



STATION 81



PROPOSED SECOND FIRE STATION



Above: Vehicle fire caused by freshly washed kitchen rags spontaneous combusting — they were placed, hot from dryer, into a plastic bag and left in the vehicle. The kitchen oils remaining on the rags after washing was enough to combust and start the fire.

Right: Ladder 81 assisting Central Whidbey Fire & Rescue at Fort Ebey State Park after a Paraglider became tangled in a tree. POC FF Andrew Moon observes. (OHFD Photos / Mike Buxton, February 2014)



Response Time for OHFD (does not include dispatch time)

	2014	2013	2012	2011
Fire	00:03:52	00:04:06	00:04:19	00:04:26
Rupture/Explosion	None	00:05:14	00:05:26	00:03:23
EMS/Rescue	00:04:12	00:04:15	00:04:10	00:04:18
Hazardous Condition	00:04:11	00:04:33	00:05:32	00:05:05
Service Call	00:04:43	00:05:02	00:05:55	00:05:49
Good Intent	00:04:48	00:04:04	00:05:02	00:04:16
False Call	00:03:29	00:03:41	00:04:19	00:04:07
Severe Weather	00:03:55	None	None	None
Other	00:03:51	00:02:04	00:03:01	00:02:41
Average for Year	00:04:08	00:04:07	00:04:43	00:04:16

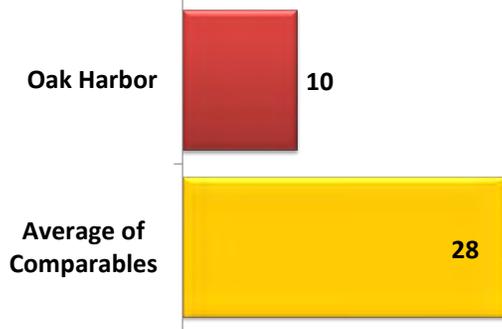
We evaluate staffing and service levels of comparable jurisdictions to determine the standard of care we may attempt to achieve. The operating budget, staffing levels and facilities for Oak Harbor Fire Department are far below those of comparable departments, yet, our service level shines.

Benchmarking

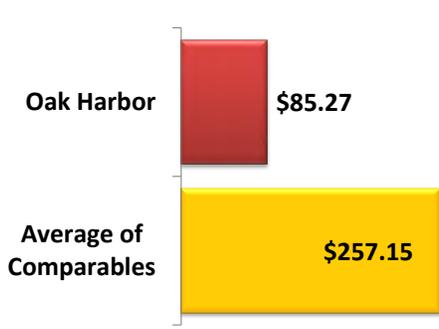
Department	Population	Valuation of Area (in billions)	Square Miles Fire	Square Miles ASA	Operating Budget	Cost per capita	WSRB /ISO Rating	Total Calls FY2010	Calls per 1000 population	EMS Transport Agency	# of Stations	# Miles Per Station	Total Career Staff	Career Staff per 1000 Population	Calls per career staff
Arlington (City)	18,000	\$1.80	8	30	\$4,997,500	\$277.64	5	3,958	200	Y	3	2.7	27	1.50	146.59
Anacortes (City)	16,800	\$2.46	15.4	85	\$3,509,000	\$208.87	5	2,732	156	Y	3	5.2	24	1.43	113.83
Moses Lake (City)	20,350	\$2.80	19	19	\$5,000,000	\$245.70	4	3,389	167	Y	2	9.5	33	1.62	102.70
Mount Vernon (City)	32,700	\$2.47	15	15	\$4,392,121	\$134.32	4	4,626	129	Y	3	5	34	1.04	136.06
Port Angeles (City)	19,080	\$1.59	10	10	\$3,958,100	\$207.45	4	3,760	180	Y	1	10	22	1.15	170.91
Whatcom 7 (District)	21,500	\$3.68	75	77	\$4,600,000	\$213.95	5.5	2,184	102	Y	6	12.5	30	1.40	72.80
Vason Island (District)	10,624	\$1.98	36	36	\$5,440,979	\$512.14	6	1,453	136	Y	5	7.2	27	2.54	53.81
Average of Comparable Fire Depts	19,865	\$2.40	25	39	\$4,556,814	\$257.15	5	3,157	153	Y	3	7	28	1.53	114
Oak Harbor (City)	22,136	\$1.60	9.741	NA	\$1,887,443	\$85.27	4	1,123	51	N	1	9.7	10	0.45	112

Data on comparable cities/districts is from 2013, with the exception of Moses Lake and Whatcom 7 which is from 2010. Oak Harbor Fire's total calls do not include all emergency incidents occurring in the City of Oak Harbor; in 2013, Whidbey General Hospital responded to 2,653 EMS calls in the OHFD response area.

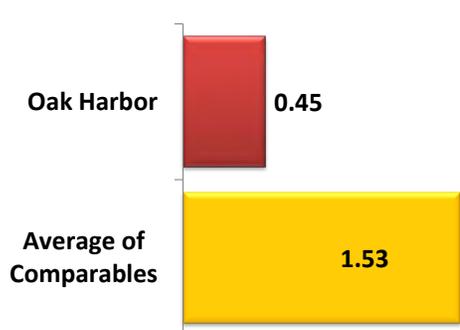
Number of Career Firefighters



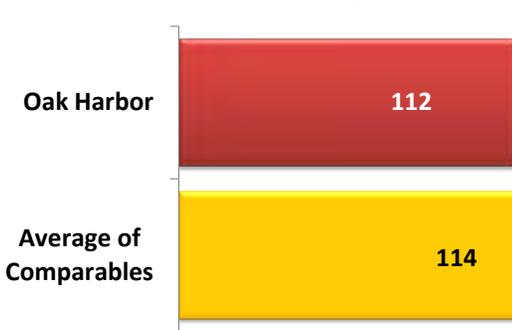
Fire Service - Cost per Capita



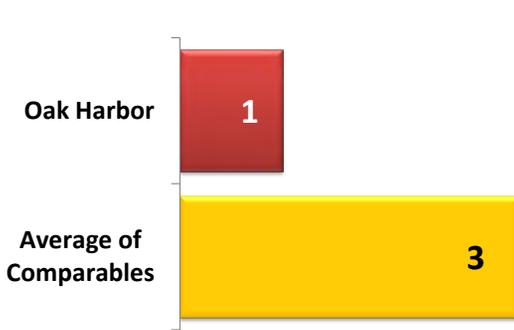
Career Staff per 1,000 Population



Calls per Career Firefighter



Number of Fire Stations



Square Miles covered by Station



POC FF Gerrit Nagel donning full protective gear and carrying fire hose during a training drill. (OHFD Photo / Laura Titherington, June, 2014)





Mike Buxton
Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal
22 years of service
Member Since 1992

Fire Code Enforcement and Fire Prevention

Fire Code Enforcement and Fire Prevention

The Oak Harbor Fire Department is proactive in code enforcement and fire prevention, our goal is to conduct a fire and life safety inspection of every business and apartment building in the City of Oak Harbor each year. During these inspections the fire department personnel check fire safety features such as fire alarm system and fire sprinkler systems maintenance records, presence of fire extinguishers as well as ensuring kitchen hood and duct suppression systems are up to date with maintenance and testing.

The on-duty fire crews conduct "Engine Company Inspections" these fire inspections assist the engine companies with building familiarity, fire system feature locations as well as pre-fire planning.

Exit and egress access are evaluated

for proper operation and clearances. In specific occupancies, fire code requires illuminated exit signs and emergency battery back-up exit illumination, there were 111 corrections for repair and maintenance of exit signs and lighting in 2014.

Potential fire hazards are identified and corrected, in 2014 fire inspec-



POC FF Genevieve Reeves checking tags during an Annual Fire & Life Safety Inspection. (OHFD Photo / Mike Buxton)

tors found 75 electrical hazards in business throughout the city, overloaded extension cords, unapproved multi-plug adapters, and damaged electrical wiring are a few of the commonly found hazards. Engine companies conducted 1,041 fire inspections in 2014

Plans Examination, Tenant Improvements, and New Occupancies

The Oak Harbor Fire Department conducts a plans examination of all tenant improvements in current occupancies that undergo major changes, often walls are removed or added. This alteration may affect the coverage of required fire sprinkler and fire detection coverage. Fire code requirements in conjunction with the National Fire Protection Association Standards (NFPA) must be applied to the changes. Permits are issued after plans are examined and determined to meet all fire code and NFPA standards.

PREVENTION

influencing safe community & infrastructure design

TOTAL FIRE PERMITS ISSUED IN 2014: 39	
Qty	Permit Type
2	Hood & Duct Suppression System
16	Fire Alarm System—New & Upgraded
9	Fire Sprinkler System—New & Upgraded
4	Oil Tank Abandonment
2	Operational Permits—Tent/Canopy
5	Fireworks Stand
1	Fireworks Show

There were several major tenant improvements that required alterations and additions to the fire sprinkler and fire alarm systems in 2014

Whidbey Dermatology and Whidbey Physical Therapy moved into the space left vacant by Navy Federal Credit Union on Cabot Drive. This space was split into two suites; each space underwent a major renovation which included modifications to the fire alarm and sprinkler systems.

The vacated Blockbuster South by Albertsons was renovated brought up to current fire code and occupied by Petco.

Washington Savings and loan underwent a renovation which included installing a fire alarm system.

DaVita Dialysis located at the Harbor Station complex on Hwy 20 combined several suites at that location in an expansion and tenant improvement.

Whidbey PBY Museum was moved from building 12 on the Seaplane base to a portion of the vacant Whidbey Furniture building, improvements to the fire alarm system and panel were made at that time.

Many other building tenant improvements occurred in 2014 a total of 39 new occupancies were inspected in 2014.

Fire Investigation

The Oak Harbor Fire Department Fire Investigators and Command officers conducted 34 fire origin and cause investigations in 2014

One of the most common causes of fire is unattended cooking; these

fires can inflict significant damage to not only the area around the stove but significant heat and smoke damage throughout the living space. A quick fire attack is paramount in minimizing the fire and smoke damage.



PROPERTY SAVED

Fire Loss Analysis

In 2014 there was **\$6.09 million** worth of property at risk in 24 fire incidents

96% of the property involved was **saved**

Only **\$285,220** worth of property was lost

This kitchen fire was quickly controlled by the resident with a dry chemical fire extinguisher. There was minimal damage to the hood and cabinets. (OHFD Fire Investigation Photo, 2014)



In this photo from a July 4th garage fire (above), notice the fire load removed from the garage after the fire was extinguished. Miscellaneous household items can be seen in front and along the side of the house. Household furnishings and contents must be examined as potential evidence.

The basic methodology of a fire investigation relies on the systematic approach and attention to all relevant details of the fire scene. The investigator must first determine the origin then analyze the circumstances and conditions that brought the ignition source, fuel, and oxidant together.

Burn patterns indicated this fire started in the North West corner of the garage, note the potential ignition source (electrical wiring) in the center of the deep charring.



(OHFD Photos / Mike Buxton, July 2014)



REGION 3 FIRE INVESTIGATION TASK FORCE

Oak Harbor Fire Department is a member of the Region 3 Fire Investigation Task Force; Region 3 covers Whatcom, Island, Skagit and San Juan counties. The role of the task

force is to assist and support investigators in each county on large or complex fires such as arson fires and fire fatalities. Members meet quarterly for training and coordination in purchasing fire investigation supplies and equipment. In 2014, Fire Chief Merrill secured grant funding to purchase new cameras for the Region 3 Task Force.

In June of last year, in conjunction with the Region 3 Task Force, Oak Harbor Fire Department hosted a Certified Fire Investigator Exam and Practical skills test. This allows fire personnel around the state trained in fire investigation an opportunity to become certified as a fire investigator. This certification requires fire investigation training meeting NFPA 1033 and NFPA 921, Hazardous Material Awareness training to NFPA 472, Courtroom testimony training, and Washington state IFSAC written examination. Region 3 Task Force certified investigators evaluated investigator candidates perform to the proper standards and techniques during the practical test using the scientific method of fire investigation. Candidates were also evaluated on evidence collection and interviewing.

The Oak Harbor Fire Department currently has four certified fire Investigators.

2014 City of Oak Harbor Fire Investigations – 34 Fire Investigations Performed

Date	Location	Structure type	Type of fire	Cause
Jan 19 th	2852 Oak Harbor Rd.	Apartment	Room and content	Overheated power adapter
Feb 7 th	1640 NE Goldie St.	Parking lot	Vehicle	Oily rags in vehicle spontaneously combusted.
Mar 4 th	605 NE 7 th Ave.	Residential	Chimney fire	Creosote buildup
Mar 19 th	665 SE Glencoe St.	Apartment	Oven fire	Dehydrator stored in oven ignited, accidental
Mar 24 th	563 NW Lateen Loop.	Residential driveway	Motorhome	Overheated extension cord
April 5 th	1451 NW Outrigger Lp.	Residential	Crawlspace	Furnace fire.
April 13 th	601 NW Hiyu Drive	Residential driveway	Vehicle	Electrical short from jumpstarting incorrectly
April 20 th	436 NE Midway Blvd.	Commercial car wash	Vehicle	Loose fuel line
April 25 th	820 N. Oak Harbor St.	Residential	Room and content with extension.	Electrical panel shorted out.
May 2 nd	869 N. Oak Harbor St.	Apartment	Kitchen	Unattended cooking.
May 21 nd	168 Captain Ct.	Residential	Room and content	Discarded cigarette butt
June 2 nd	1952 SW Putnam Dr.	Residential	Deck fire	Beauty bark ignited and spread to deck.
June 2 nd	770 SW Harrier Dr.	Apartment driveway	Vehicle fire	Arson
June 2 nd	235 SW 6 th Ave.	Assisted Living Facility	Attic fire	Improperly installed furnace heat stack.
June 10 th	950 N. Oak Harbor St.	Apartment	Kitchen	Unattended cooking
July 4 th	139 NW 10 th Ct.	Residential	Garage with extension.	Electrical wiring short.
July 9 th	850 SW Kingma Ct.	Residential	Deck fire	BBQ too close to the deck rail
July 15 th	32950 SR 20	Commercial Hotel	Brush fire	Cutting torch being used on sign
July 27 th	135 NE Baron Dr.	Apartment	Oven fire	Accidental
July 28 th	890 SW Kimball	Apartment	Room and content	Hot ember/object placed in a garbage bag.
Aug 1 st	1454 NW Falls Creek Lp.	Apartment	Kitchen fire	Unattended cooking
Aug 9 th	897 SW 2 nd	Residential	Deck fire	Discarded cigarette butt
Aug 18 th	33185 SR 20	Restaurant	Cigarette receptacle near entrance	Metal liner was removed/missing
Sept 6 th	1825 North Bluff Rd.	Residential	Fully involved	Undetermined
Sept 11 th	1670 SW Mulberry	Apartment	Deck fire	Discarded cigarette butt
Sept 12 th	811 SE 8 th	Apartment Parking lot	Dumpster fire	Discarded cigarette butts
Sept 21 st	31800 SR 20	Commercial property	Wooded area	Homeless campsite burnt up.
Oct 2 nd	130 SW 3 rd	Commercial	Equipment fire	Electrical
Oct 18 th	16 th & Goldie Rd.	Wooded area	Brush and camp	Homeless camp burnt up.
Nov 21 st	151 N Oak Harbor St.	Apartment	Kitchen fire	Unattended cooking
Dec 3 rd	100 E. Whidbey Ave.	Assisted Living	Attic fire	Damaged electrical
Dec 10 th	1320 SE 10 th Ct.	Apartment	Kitchen	Melting wax on the stove top unattended
Dec 12 th	661 SE Fidalgo	Commercial	Basement	Electrical system failure
Dec 30 th	465 NE Midway Blvd.	Commercial	Outside storage bin	Undetermined



Craig Anderson
Lieutenant
23 years of service
FT Member Since 1995
Member since 1991

Is being a firefighter fun? My answer is “Being a well-trained, ever-learning firefighter is fun.” Being a firefighter is also being in an ever changing career. Firefighters must continue to be students of their trade, or risk succumbing to it.

Lance Vinson

“I solemnly swear to perform my duties as a Firefighter for the City of Oak Harbor to the best of my abilities”.

This opening line of the Oak Harbor Fire Department’s Firefighter Oath continues to provide the motivation for our rigorous training schedule. When a firefighter swears to perform to the best of their abilities, they are not only promising to be lifelong

students of their craft, but also promising to give their best effort every time they step on the training ground or enter the classroom. Our firefighters are hands-on people. Knowledge gained is applied physically, in a repetitive manor, which allows our personnel to perform with muscle memory that is earned through giving their “best” during training.

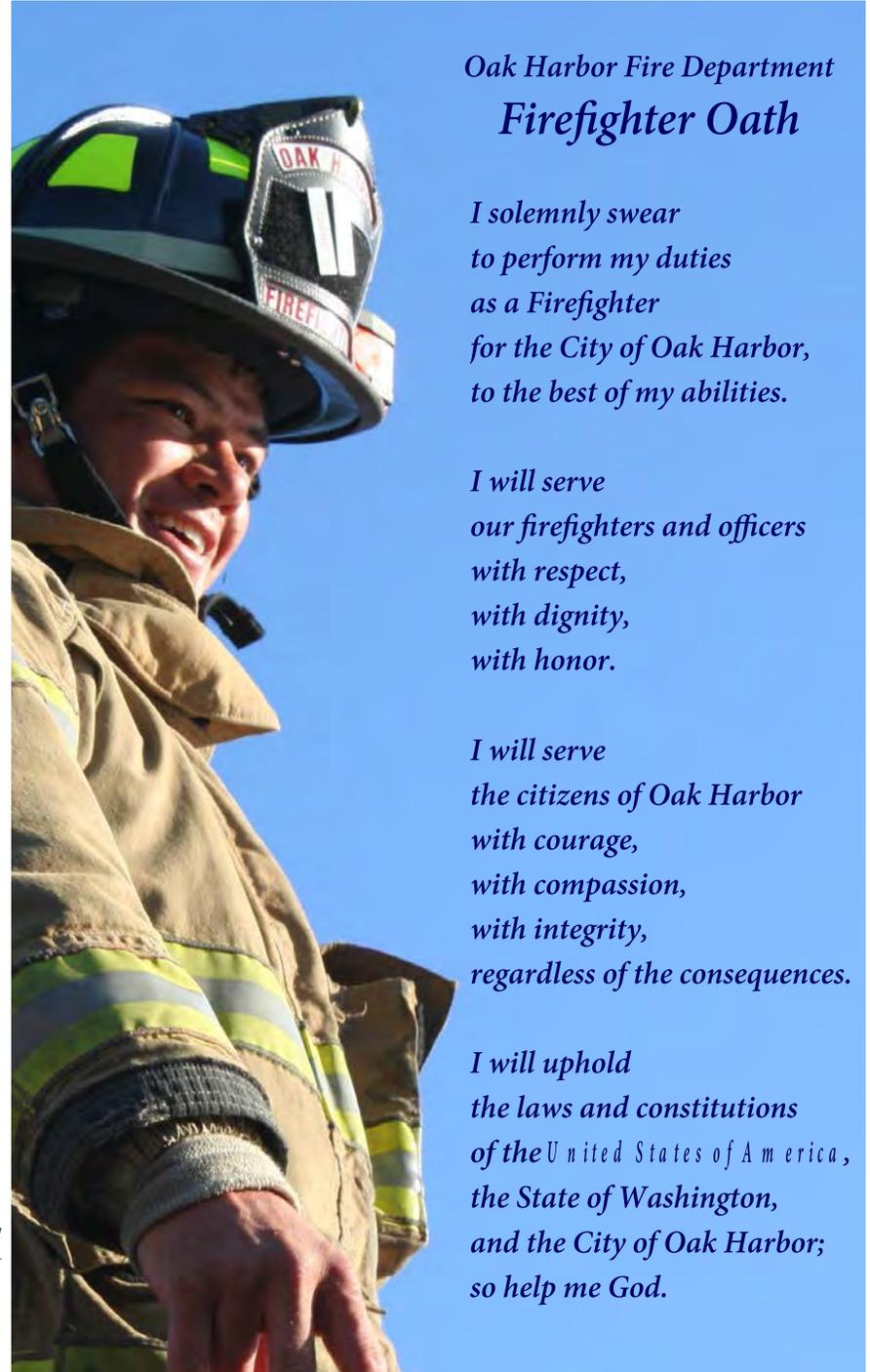
As the needs of our community continue to change and to grow, so too will the training programs and training requirements of the Oak Harbor Fire Department. What will not change is the effort and dedication of our personnel who will always give their best to be of service to you.

TRAINING *the essence of transformation*



Above: Firefighters on scene at live structure fire practice burn on Barrington Ave. at the donated former-home of long time resident Dorothy Neil. Battalion Chief S. Merrill with Navy Federal Fire—on left in lower photo. (OHFD Photo / Laura Titherington, May 2014)

Right: POC FF Conor Ching during a training drill in May 2014. The OHFD Firefighter Oath is taken by all OHFD firefighters as their promise to serve the citizens of Oak Harbor. (OHFD Photo / Laura Titherington, May 2014)



Oak Harbor Fire Department Firefighter Oath

*I solemnly swear
to perform my duties
as a Firefighter
for the City of Oak Harbor,
to the best of my abilities.*

*I will serve
our firefighters and officers
with respect,
with dignity,
with honor.*

*I will serve
the citizens of Oak Harbor
with courage,
with compassion,
with integrity,
regardless of the consequences.*

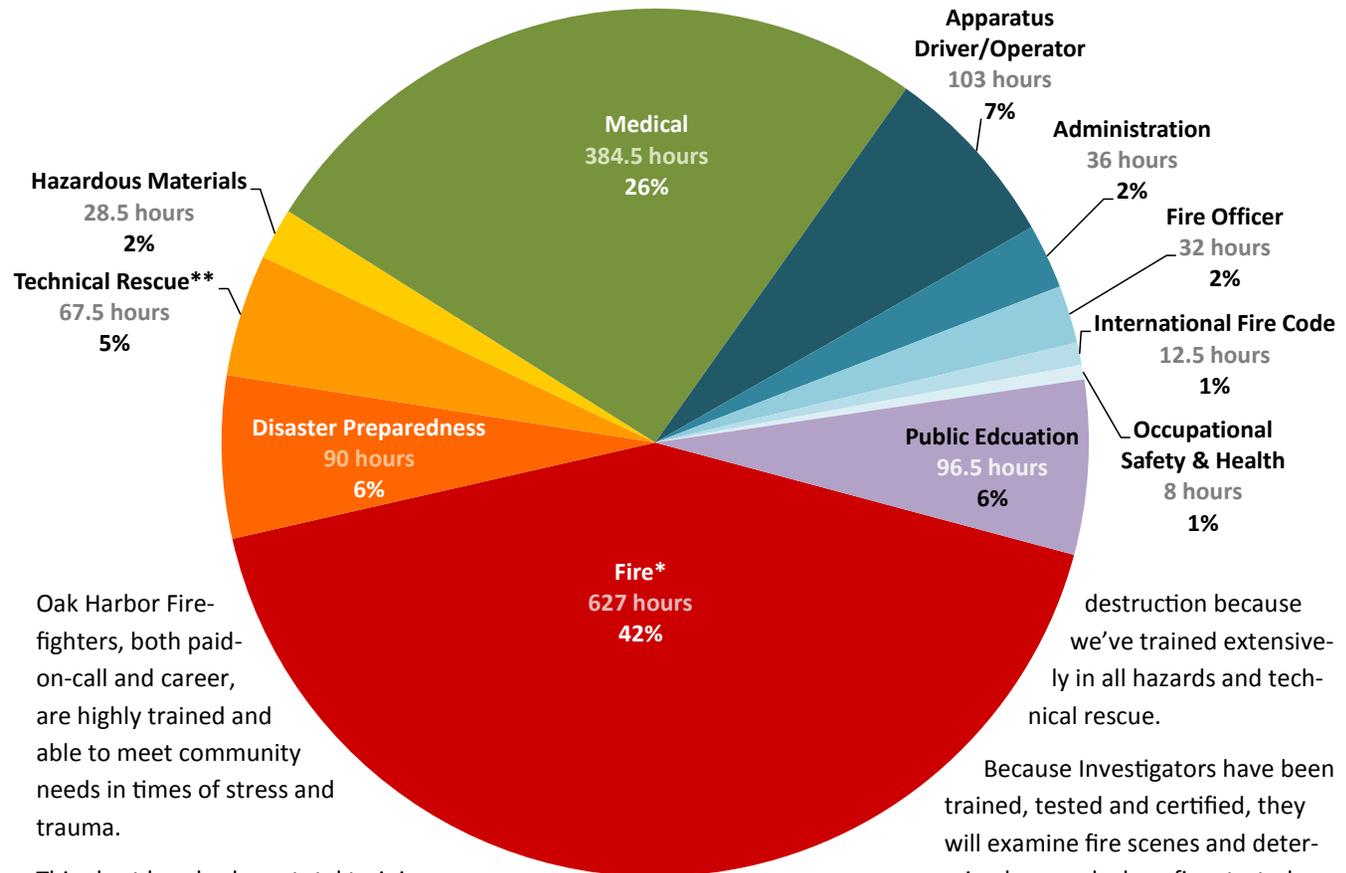
*I will uphold
the laws and constitutions
of the United States of America,
the State of Washington,
and the City of Oak Harbor;
so help me God.*

Our community remains safe and healthy because the Training Division ensures all fire and EMS personnel are knowledgeable, highly skilled, and experienced professionals.

2014 Training Hours Provided to Personnel, by Activity Type

Total Hours Offered: **1,486.5**

Personnel completed a combined total of **7,917** hours in training



Oak Harbor Firefighters, both paid-on-call and career, are highly trained and able to meet community needs in times of stress and trauma.

This chart breaks down total training hours for the year by activity type. Naturally, the most time (42%) is spent on fire suppression training, as the lives of our personnel are at greatest risk while fighting fires. Thirty-two percent is medical training, including EMT certification training enabling us to meet the pre-hospital needs of the community.

When you have an emergency, Oak Harbor Firefighters are able to arrive on scene quickly and safely due to many hours of Emergency Vehicle Incident Prevention (EVIP) and Driver/Operator training.

We isolate and mitigate emergencies quickly without undue mess and

destruction because we've trained extensively in all hazards and technical rescue.

Because Investigators have been trained, tested and certified, they will examine fire scenes and determine how and why a fire started.

The incident will be handled safety, with care and accuracy following specific administrative, officer, fire code, and safety training.

Through our public education program, we spend time educating the community on how to live safely and prepare for emergencies.



2014 Certifications

OHFD members who received certification (or re-certifications):

Graduated from IFSAC Accredited Island Recruit Academy, IFSAC Firefighter 1 Certification, and IFSAC Hazardous Materials Operations Level Certification:

- Mike Fletcher, POC Firefighter
- Kevin Frondoza, POC Firefighter
- Zackery Gifford, POC Firefighter
- Joshua Jansen, POC Firefighter
- Andy Kiesel, POC Firefighter
- Ed-Paul Macapinlac, POC Firefighter
- Gerrit Nagel, POC Firefighter

Fire Plans Examiner

(International Code Council)

- Mike Buxton, Deputy Chief

IFSAC Fire Instructor 1 Certification:

- Genevieve Reeves, POC Firefighter

IFSAC Fire Instructor 2 Certification:

- Don Baer, Lieutenant
- Cameron Hopkins, Firefighter
- Jake Hammond, POC Firefighter

IFSAC Driver / Pump Operator Certification:

- Genevieve Reeves, POC Firefighter
- Josh Fikse, POC Firefighter
- Andrew Moon, POC Firefighter
- Tim Walstad, POC Firefighter

IFSAC Fire Inspector 1 Certification:

- Otto Haffner, Firefighter
- Cameron Hopkins, Firefighter
- Jake Hammond, POC Firefighter

Emergency Medical Technician Certification:

- Genevieve Reeves, POC Firefighter
- Joshua Fikse, POC Firefighter
- Andrew Moon, POC Firefighter
- Travis Stanford, POC Firefighter

Emergency Medical Technician Re-Certification:

- Don Baer, Lieutenant
- Robert Mirabal, POC Firefighter

IFSAC = International Fire Service Accreditation Congress

Navy and Oak Harbor Firefighters during a live-fire practice burn on Barrington Avenue. (OHFD Photo / Laura Titherington, May 2014)

Facility and Fleet Maintenance Division



It isn't the most exciting topic, but it is essential. As the front line responder, our mission is to provide the best service possible to our city and citizens. It is the mission in maintenance to provide the best possible equipment.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) puts forth guidelines to constantly make responding to emergencies as safe for firefighters as possible. Unfortunately these guidelines are created because someone either got hurt or killed trying to do their job. As a result, all of our essential equipment is tested at least annually. This includes all supply and discharge hose, self-contained breathing apparatus, ground ladders, and fire engine pumps. The ladder truck receives an annual third party inspection relative to safety and purpose. There are quarterly air samples tested from our breathing air compressor to ensure safe breathing air. Fire-fighting bunker gear is inspected

and sent for cleaning and repair as needed.

Everyone is responsible for inspecting apparatus and equipment and reporting inoperative or inadequate equipment. A good program is in place and personnel always look for ways to increase knowledge and improve the standard of readiness.

The maintenance division works closely with City mechanics who attend fire mechanic conferences and have a thorough understanding of our efforts to stay prepared to respond. They are meticulous and professional in what they do.

It isn't a frontline, glamorous job but there is pride and satisfaction in supplying our firefighters and officers with well-maintained equipment so they can provide the best service possible to our city and citizens.

Fire Hose Tested in 2014:

- 1.75" attack hose—75 pieces at 50 feet each. This includes the Marina hose.
- 2.5" attack hose: 105 pieces of 50 feet each.

- 5" supply hose—67 pieces

Ground Ladders Tested in 2014:

- Extension ladders: 2 at 35', 5 at 30',
- Roof ladders: 6 at 14', 1 at 20'
- Captains ladders: 6 at 10'

Apparatus

Scheduled for annual preventive maintenance at City shops and maintained regularly at the Fire Department through daily apparatus checks and inspections

- 4 Fire engines, includes annual pump test on each
- 1 Aerial Ladder truck; annual third party inspection and testing
- 1 Ford 550 Rescue Truck
- 2 Command Chevy Tahoe SUVs
- 1 Training/Utility Pickup truck
- 1 Air Trailer for filling breathing air bottles
- 1 Fire Investigation Trailer
- 1 Technical Rescue Trailer
- 1 Spill Containment/Hazmat Trailer

- 2 Special Operations Trailers for Mass Casualty Incidents

- 1 Utility Trailer
- 1 Forklift
- 1 30KW Diesel Generators
- 1 Diesel Tractor Truck
- 1 Diesel Flatbed Truck
- 1 40' Flatbed Trailer
- 1 400-gallon Potable Water Trailer

Personal Protective Gear and Equipment

- 30 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBAs) receive annual flow testing and as needed repairs
- Air bottles inspected and repaired as needed
- 45 sets of assigned PPE receive semi-annual inspection and as needed cleaning and repairs (repair/cleaning by qualified contractors)
- Approximately 45 SCBA masks are fit tested to assigned personnel annually as per NFPA requirements

MAINTENANCE
facilities, apparatus, equipment

- Boots, gloves, helmets; flash hoods are all replaced as needed
- Equipment such as flashlights, hand tools... axes, shovels, Halligan bars, EK-hooks, pike poles are cleaned and repaired as needed
- Portable, mobile and base radios receive repairs as needed
- Firefighting nozzles, appliances and large GPM nozzles are inspected regularly and repaired as needed
- Approximately 55 fire pagers are programmed and repaired as needed
- All medical equipment is checked daily and replaced as necessary to include Oxygen, Pharmaceuticals, suction units and AED's
- Each emergency response unit is equipped with laptop computers for address, prefire plans, hazmat reference, and dispatch information. Each computer requires updates and repairs as necessary
- Air monitoring equipment receives calibration and repairs as needed
- 5 Thermal Imaging Cameras are maintained in ready status
- Technical rescue equipment (ropes, stokes baskets, and hardware) are inspected and maintained
- Various power tools including corded and cordless are in-

spected regularly

- Hazmat absorbent materials
- Salvage tarp repairs

Gas powered equipment is essential to our mission and is inspected and annually serviced, these include:

- 10 Stihl chain saws
- 4 positive pressure fans
- 4 electric fans
- 4 Stihl circular saws
- 11 portable gas generators
- 2 power heads for Jaws
- Various air-powered extrication tools

Buildings and equipment within:

- Hush breathing air compressor requires annual filter changes, quarterly air samples and necessary repairs
- Sprinkler confidence tests

- Alarm confidence tests
- HVAC quarterly maintenance
- Irrigation maintenance
- Annual truck bay door preventive maintenance
- Required annual fire extinguisher preventive maintenance
- Annual calibration of test gauges
- Load testing on backup generator and high wattage generators trailers
- Monthly generator checks on station 81 and ICOM
- Inventory and purchase of medical supplies
- Annual calibration of SCBA mask fit test machine

Building maintenance ranges from changing light bulbs, L&I hot water tank inspections, painting, cleaning gutters, and grounds maintenance

to shower door repairs. All emergency backup generators are topped off with fuel regularly.

Station Repairs in 2014

- Installed 300 gallon reserve fuel tank
- Installed eye wash station per Labor & Industries requirements
- Built storage shed
- Repaired station signage and spot lights
- Repaired West Wing roof leak



We're proud to introduce "Big Red". In 2014, we traveled to Herlong, CA to pick up this surplus US military vehicle—a 2000 Freightliner Truck with low miles and lots of life. Our talented staff cleaned, sanded and painted the body to match our fleet, transforming it from army green to fire truck red. (OHFD Photo / Laura Titherington, February 2015)



Command 8: Two 2004 Chevrolet Tahoe SUVs. Used by Command, usually first on scene. Carries supplies necessary for incident command as well as medical supplies, thermal imaging and photographic equipment.

Four Engines: Two 2007 E-Ones (E81 & E812) and Two 1998 Seagraves (E813 & E814) each equipped with 1500gpm pumps, hose, ladders, fans, tarps, air bottles, tools and enough medical and other equipment to operate alone for a limited period of time. In 2013, all engines (pumpers) passed the required NFPA 1911 annual 3-hour pump test.

Ladder 81 is a 1992 Seagraves aerial and carries volumes of equipment ranging from mass casualty medical supplies to ladders, ventilation fans, saws, lighting, salvage and rescue gear. Atop the truck is a 100-foot aerial ladder that is useful in reaching rooftops with limited access. NFPA 1914 requires and annual inspection of the ladder. The inspection takes an average of five hours and is conducted by a third party vendor.

Rescue 81 is a 2012 Ford 550 that entered

service in 2013 and is equipped with medical supplies, generator, lights and water vacuums. It responds to medical calls, supports other apparatus, and pulls special ops trailers.

Spec Ops Trailers designed for specific response circumstances:

Spill Containment trailer—equipped for hazardous material response both in the sound and on the ground.

Confined Space Rescue trailer—equipped for rescue from tight quarters or precarious perches where rope rescue is necessary.

Air/Rehab trailer—houses an air compressor for on-scene SCBA bottle refilling and equipment to rehab working firefighters.

Mass Casualty Incident trailer—contains supplies and equipment for assisting in large scale incidents.

Crime Scene / Fire Investigation trailer—a unit shared with Oak Harbor Police Department, is equipped to assist in fire and crime scene

investigation in the field.

Support and Disaster Vehicles: Big Red truck, fire marshal van, training pickup, utility trailer, two tractor trucks, 40' flatbed trailer, diesel flatbed truck, fork lift, a mobile generator, and a 400 gallon potable water trailer ready for response.

Annual preventive maintenance and repair work is done on all apparatus. Much of the minor repairs are done here at OHFD while the annual servicing and major repair work is scheduled at City Shops. NFPA 1915 and 1071 stipulate accurate record keeping and high quality assurance when emergency vehicles need repair.

BIG RED 2000 Freightliner Truck entered service in 2014. It was received via US Military Surplus for no charge. Our talented staff transformed it from Army Green to Fire Truck Red. We then had striping added to match our fleet. (OHFD Photo / Laura Titherington, January 2015)



OHFD photos / Angela Braunstein and Laura Titherington



Upper, L-R: POCFF Shannon Holcomb and FF Steve McCalmont, POC FF Jake Hammond, and POC FFs Dwayne Jansen and Robert Mirabal.



Lower, L-R: POC FF Grant Bull, POC LT Tom Cross in full gear, and POCFFs Ryan Lange (left), Conor Ching (center, in a cervical collar), and Dan Martin (right) practice an immobilization technique. (OHFD Photos / Laura Titherington, 2014)



Steve McCalmont
Senior Firefighter, B Shift
Association President
24 years of service
FT Member since 2000
Member Since 1990



Shannon Holcomb
POC Firefighter
Association Vice-President
9 years of service
Member Since 2005



Genevieve Reeves
POC Firefighter
Association Sec/Treasurer
2 years of service
Member Since 2012

Oak Harbor Firefighters Association contributes to the safety, health, and economic viability of the community by allocating resources and support to Oak Harbor Fire Department's public education and public service programs. This is possible through monthly member dues and community donations.

Oak Harbor Firefighters Association

The Oak Harbor Firefighters Association is a non profit 503(C) organization whose members are Oak Harbor Fire Department employees. We are a service organization providing assistance to firefighters and their families, department retirees, and the Oak Harbor community.

The Association had a very productive 2014, from fun to not-so-fun.

Some of the fun things we accomplished:

- Challenge series race
- National Night Out — distributed over 200 bike helmets to local children
- First Family Toppins Party at Station 81
- Stashtober fundraiser for EOD Wounded Warrior Foundation.
- Home Depot Safety Fair — distributed bike helmets to local children
- Holiday Shop with a Firefighter at Wal-Mart
- Christmas present and Teddy Bear delivery to children in need

- Association Members Christmas party.

We only had a few not so fun moments:

- Retirement plaque made for Corky Bridgeford
- Flowers were purchased for past family & department members funerals.

We are looking forward to 2015 with three new members going through academy training right now and two lateral Paid-On-Call Firefighters slated to be on-board soon.

Our annual sweetheart's dinner was in February and was a magical experience.

Seems like the summer Toppin's Fro-Yo Social is right around the corner. I can hardly wait for summer.

I'm looking forward to serving with Shannon (vice-president) & Genevieve (Secretary/Treasurer) again this year, last year was great.

Thanks to all the Association members for a great 2014.

Note: Full-time firefighters and lieutenants are also members of (and represented by) Oak Harbor Firefighters LOCAL 4504 IAFF, which is a separate organization from the Oak Harbor Firefighters Association.

ASSOCIATION
taking care of our community through service

Social Media Communications

Our presence in social media contributes to a healthy and safe community and offers the potential to make a positive impact on the community. And builds trust that will be critical in times of disaster.

“Social media is an innovative way of socializing where we engage in an open dialogue, tell our stories and interact with one another using online platforms.”

(Associated Press, 2010)

Connect with us! We maintain a Facebook page and a Twitter feed where we share news about the department, safety information, breaking Oak Harbor announcements, and health and safety event information. We interact with you — if you have questions, comments or information to share, we’re available.

When Oak Harbor faces a disaster our Public Information Offer will utilize every possible avenue to share information with the community, including posting to social media.

Did you know that over 50% of the world’s population is under 30 years old? In Oak Harbor, the median age of our population is 28 years old. 77.6% of us are under age 44; 43.2% are under age 24. Social media is an excellent way to connect with and interact with the community. We hope you will join us!



On Facebook find us at:
<http://www.facebook.com/OHFire>



On Twitter we’re are
@OakHarborFD or
<http://www.twitter.com/OakHarborFD>

We currently have 214 followers on Twitter and 472 on Facebook. Our posts reach an average of 400 people, sometimes many more. Our [Fireworks regulations post](#) from June 2014 was shared 92 times and reached over

5,700 people.

2014 began with just 111 Facebook “likes” and by the end of the year we had 451.

We’re excited to have this powerful tool to reach you and all people in our community. 71% of adults internet users use Facebook (Pew Research Center, 2014) and 63% of people with disabilities use social media (Wireless RERC, 2011). Facebook is automatically translated to the user’s language, so it enables us to reach non-English speaking residents.

Social media has been integrated into our overall communications plan, however, one of our main objectives is to build credibility so that in times of disaster we will already be a trusted source of emergency services information — you will

know we’re available, active and ready with the data you need.

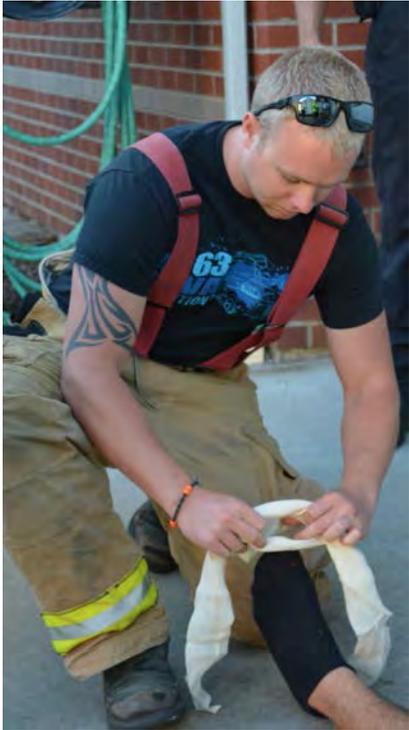


HOW IS SOCIAL MEDIA USED IN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT?

- Prepare for emergencies — good for all, but especially useful for people with disabilities and non-English speakers.
- Monitor during events for those who need help
- Alert and warn in the midst of disaster
- Relief and recovery efforts
- Keep you updated with news and information
- Data Collection — what are YOU seeing and experiencing?
- User feedback via messages, wall posts, polls, etc.
- Available anywhere on any device
- Just one part of a much larger communication plan

CONNECTION

leveraging technology to improve service delivery



Upper, L-R: POC FF Travis Stanford practices first-aid on a volunteer's foot, Lieutenant Don Baer connects a hose, and POCFF Robert Mirabal and POC LT Rich Rodgers.



Lower, L-R: POC FFs Andrew Carroll and Jake Jansen, Lieutenant Craig Anderson, and Josh Jansen and Gerrit Nagel inside a training tower window. (OHFD Photos / Laura Titherington, 2014)



Emergency Services is the disaster preparedness and response side of the fire department. The fire chief serves as the City's Emergency Services Director (.90 FTE as Fire Chief and .10 FTE as EMS Director).

In 2014, the City experienced no disasters. The department remained engaged in planning and preparing for future disasters.

2014 Accomplishments:

- City Emergency Operations Center (EOC) utilized for management of Independence Day celebrations and public events, including the annual Home Depot Safety Fair.
- Emergency Operations Center (EOC) reconfigured for utilization as a classroom space

- Island County Department of Emergency Management (DEM) utilized EOC.
- Active Shooter / High Risk Entry training and exercise conducted.
- Prehospital Grant utilized to purchase additional entry team protective gear.
- Unified Command and large scale disaster and response training continues.

2014 Goal:

Goal: Conduct an annual training exercise.

Objective: practice and evaluate the effectiveness of the CEMP and the readiness of City departments.

Being prepared and knowing what to do can help reduce fear, anxiety and losses. Individually, we can prepare our homes and families to get through critical times. Community based preparedness and planning allow us to manage the potential hazards following a disaster event.

Emergency Services Financials

	Allocations	Expenditures	Balance	% Used
2014 EXPENDITURES	5,700.00	3,387.46	2,312.54	59.43%
2013 EXPENDITURES	5,700.00	1,805.26	3,894.74	31.67%

EMERGENCY SERVICES

building service resiliency through emergency management



Joint Mobile Command Trailer utilized by Island County Department of Emergency Management (DEM) on display at the Annual Home Depot Safety Fair. Lower left: Eric Brooks (on left) director of Island County DEM sharing information with a citizen. Lower right: an ambulance prepared for infection disease transport during training drill. (OHFD Photos / Laura Titherington and Angela Braunstein, 2014)

Lieutenant Emory “Corky” W. Bridgeford
 Retired Career Firefighter
 Served OHFD 30 years: March 1, 1984 to
 April 16, 2014.

We offer a special thank you to **Lieutenant Corky Bridgeford** and recognize his many years of service and dedication.

Corky began his service with the City of Oak Harbor as a volunteer / paid-on-call firefighter in 1984.

After twelve years of service and attaining the rank of POC Captain, he was hired as a full-time firefighter. He served as both

shift and maintenance lieutenant. He retired with 18 years of full-time service. A retirement ceremony was held at Station 81 to honor Lieutenant Bridgeford and his family for their service.



(OHFD Photos)

RETIREMENTS

thank you for your service!



"I want you to know how much I appreciate your people at the Fire Station. They have been helping me out...have been so kind, helpful and professional. Our City is very fortunate to have these fine people on staff." — B. Cook

"Thank you for all you you've done." — Island County Amateur Radio Club



"Thank you so much for all the wonderful services you have provided to Harbor Tower Village in the past year. Our community is so appreciative of your team's fast, professional care." — VTV Staff



"Thank you so much for serving as a community greeter for our first day of school! We received rave reviews from staff and parents who were very impressed by your warmth, presence, and support. I am grateful for your dedication to our students, you caring, and commitment to our community." — Dr. Lance Gibbon, OHSD Superintendent

"Thank you for always being there. You're a great bunch of guys" - B. Faris

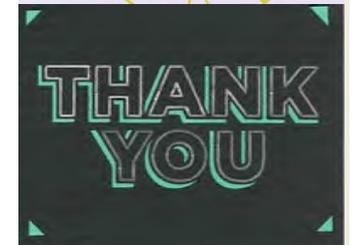
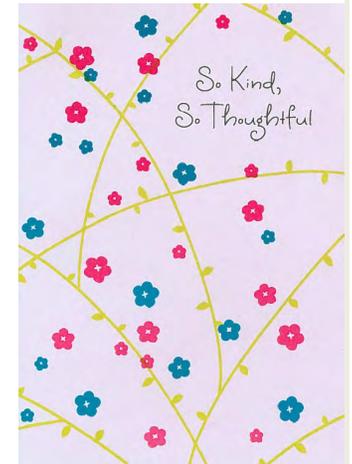


"Thank you very much for your recent program at Oak Harbor Library teaching children about fire safety. Your program is always a huge hit for families in North Whidbey. It's also a great reminder for parents to be aware of keeping their children safe and well." D. Lagassw

"The staff of Burley Funeral Chapel would like to thank your crew for their help with the placement of flags on Sunday, September 7th for our 9-11 Memorial. 2,977 flags were displayed, one for each life lost on September 11, 2001. This project would not have been possible without the help of your volunteers. Our sincerest thanks to our crew for helping." — M. Andreasen, C. George, and D. Colwell



Thank You



COMMUNITY

Appreciation and Support

"Thank you for your support by attending the New Years Day Resolution Run & Polar Bear Plunge. We were so excited to have you there and we look forward to seeing you next year."
— M. Ricker



"Thank you for your donation to the Broad View Elementary PTA... [it] was greatly appreciated and a popular item at our auction! ...Our success is possible because of you."
— D. Schulz



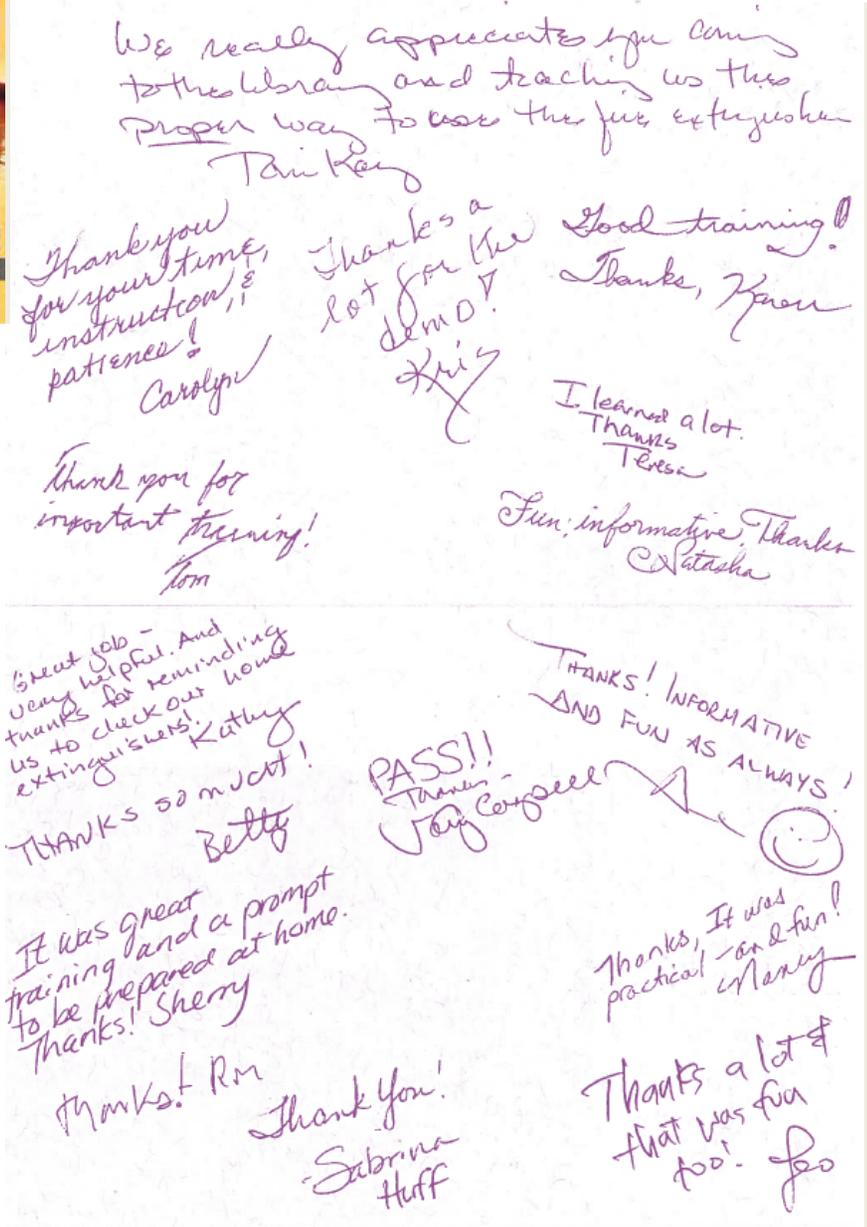
"Thank you for having us and showing us the importance of your job! — Chinese Group Cultural Homestay International



"Thank you for coming to our class to talk about fire safety. The students enjoyed learning about what to do in case of a fire and they loved the fire engine. We truly appreciate your visit."
— His Kids Preschool

"Thank you for taking time from your busy schedule to come and read to the students... we really appreciate your time and willingness to forge community connections." Ms. Collings

Thank you for the wonderful tour of the fire station. The information shared — meeting place, stop-drop-roll, and what a firefighter may look like during a fire — is so important for the kids to learn. You taught them in a fun way! Thanks again." — His Kids Preschool



More COMMUNITY Appreciation and Support

"We greatly appreciated [your firefighters] attending our "Spring Installations and Summer Safety Event"... They were a pleasure to work with and represented the Fire Department as a true professionals with exceptional customer service, which helped make our small event a successful one. Thank you again for sending such great representatives from your department" — M. Braswell



Celebrate. Remember. Fight Back.®



Family Bible Church
Matthew 28:18-20

2760 N Heller Road
Oak Harbor, WA 98277
360.679.1585

June 24, 2014

Chief Merrill
Oak Harbor Fire Department
855 E. Whidbey Ave.
Oak Harbor, WA, 98277

Subject: Letter of Thanks and Appreciation for Church Usher CPR Training

Dear Chief Merrill:

On behalf of Family Bible Church, I'd like to thank the following personnel from your department for providing CPR training for our ushers on June 14, 2014:

Fire Dept. Officers:
Hopkins, Scheer, Filson, and Klarsky.

Mr. Hopkins was the articulate lecturer- instructor, and we were so grateful for the training and guidance.
We cannot put a value on such life-saving information as this.
Thank you all so much.

You can be proud to have these professional people represent your department.

Sincerely,
D. Rubin
Pastor Donald Lander
Family Bible Church

1031 U.S. 1st Freeway SE
Oak Harbor, WA 98277
Phone: 360-422-2226
Fax: 360-879-0315

October 18, 2014

Chief Merrill
Oak Harbor Fire Department
855 East Whidbey Avenue
Oak Harbor, Washington 98277

Dear Chief Merrill,

North Whidbey Help House is the food bank serving northern Whidbey Island. Through November of this year, we have distributed 6,957 food baskets that have fed 18,453 people. We also assisted 50 people with Salvation Army prescription vouchers.

A donation was recently made for Christmas, in honor of Angela and the EMTs, by Billie Cook. What a wonderful way to spend the holiday cheer.

From the Board of Directors, staff and volunteers at Help House, we wish Merry Christmas to you and yours.

Joni T. Wiseman
Executive Director

*North Whidbey Help House is a charitable organization under Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3). Help House acknowledges that you did not receive any goods or services, to refuse for same donation.
United Way Participating Member

"I want to thank [you] for all your work and care while extinguishing the fire in my home... you guys were awesome. It was one of the more difficult days in my life and you helped me so much. Y'all are my heroes!" — S. McWherter

THE HOME DEPOT

May 18, 2014

Chief Merrill
855 E. Whidbey Ave
Oak Harbor, WA 98277

Dear Chief Merrill,

We greatly appreciated Otto Halber and Andrea Moss attending our "Spring Installations and Summer Safety Event" on May 17th. They were a pleasure to work with and represented the Fire Department as a true professionals with exceptional customer service, which helped make our small event a successful one.

Thank you again for sending such great representatives from your department.

Regards,
S. McWherter
Main Branch
Project Services Lead Consultant
The Home Depot - 800-956-1363
855 E Whidbey Ave, Oak Harbor, WA 98277

Hillcrest Elem Sch.
Room 10
Life Skills

5-16-14

Dear OHFD,

Your special ways
and generous hearts
make a beautiful difference.
Thank you so much.

We appreciate you
teaching us all about
fire safety. The kids
learned alot!!
Heidi McDonald

Dear Oak Harbor Fire Department Staff

We want to take a moment to say **THANK YOU**—not only for all you do for us as a community, but to personally thank you for coming to help us whenever we need you! You are truly a blessing to us, and to Oak Harbor as a whole!

Harbor Tower Village
Staff & Residents



January

- **INCIDENT RESPONSE: 80**
- **TRAINING HOURS: 173**
- **EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT) course** (5-months) began for POCFFs G.Reeves, J.Fikse, A.Moon, and T.Stanford.
- **ISLAND CO RECRUIT ACADEMY**, 5-months; began for 7 POCFF Recruits: M.Fletcher, K.Frondozo, Z.Gifford, J.Jansen, A.Kiesel, E.Macapinlac and G.Nagel
- **OHFD SAFETY COMMITTEE**

YEARS OF SERVICE

- POCFF R.Rodgers - 40 yrs
- POCFF R.Lange - 6 yrs
- POCFFs C.Ching - 5 yrs



February

- **INCIDENT RESPONSE: 90**
- **TRAINING HOURS: 214**
- **LUNCH WITH A FIREFIGHTER**, monthly through May, public education / mentoring program at OHSD elementary schools
- Annual **SWEETHEART'S DINNER** honoring spouses of OHFD firefighters

YEARS OF SERVICE

- POCFF D.Martin - 12 yrs
- POCFFs S.Holcomb and J.Heiserman, and Admin Asst. A.Braunstein - 9 yrs



March

- **INCIDENT RESPONSE: 104**
- **TRAINING HOURS: 237**
- **WA SURVEY & RATING BUREAU EVALUATION**
- OHFD also participated in the **ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE**
- **ACTIVE SHOOTER WORKSHOP** with Island County DEM and FEMA.

YEARS OF SERVICE

- POCFF D. Wright - 21 yrs
- POCFF A.Carroll and POCLT T.Cross - 11 yrs



April

- **INCIDENT RESPONSE: 85**
- **TRAINING HOURS: 159**
- LT **P.Schroer** hired as full time Lieutenant, assigned to F Shift
- LT **EMORY "CORKY" BRIDGEFORD** RETIRED with 18 years of service
- Support provided for **WHIDBEY ISLAND MARATHON & HALF MARATHON**
- Participated in **HOLLAND HAPPENING PARADE**
- Donated a **RIDE-TO-SCHOOL** to Broadview Elementary School
- Participated in **MASS CASUALTY INCIDENT (MCI) TRAINING DRILL**
- Coordinated a **LIVE FIRE PRACTICE BURN** with North Whidbey Fire & Rescue
- Recruit POCFF F.Arroyo resigned
- POCFF G.Grubb resigned

YEARS OF SERVICE

- FF S.McCalmont - 24 yrs total (14 yrs full time)



May

- **INCIDENT RESPONSE: 86**
- **TRAINING HOURS: 170**
- **S.A.D.D. DUI Presentation** at Oak Harbor High School
- POCFF **DEAN FARIS** RETIRED with 28 years of service

YEARS OF SERVICE:

- POCFF R. Mirabal - 9 yrs
- POCFF V. Orellano - 1 yr



June

- **INCIDENT RESPONSE: 122**
- **TRAINING HOURS: 150**
- **ISLAND CO RECRUIT ACADEMY GRADUATION — FIREFIGHTER I CERTIFICATION**, six (6) POCFF Recruits: M.Fletcher, K.Frondozo, Z.Gifford, J.Jansen, A.Kiesel, E.Macapinlac, and G.Nagel
- **WA STATE DEPT OF HEALTH (DOH) PRE-HOSPITAL PARTICIPATION GRANT \$1,473** awarded OHFD to help meet DOH requirements to provide prehospital services to the public
- **EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT) CERTIFICATION:** Gen Reeves, Josh Fikse, Andrew Moon, and Travis Stanford
- **ANNUAL PUMP TESTING AT OHFD**

TRAINING TOWER: Navy Region NW Fire & Emergency Services (NASWI), Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue, North Whidbey Fire & Rescue, and OHFD

- OHFD also provided generators for **RELAY FOR LIFE** event

YEARS OF SERVICE

- FF D.Baer - 11 yrs



July

- **INCIDENT RESPONSE: 101**
- **TRAINING HOURS: 49**
- OHFD personnel participated in the **INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE**, crews were positioned by the fireworks display site and additional crews covered the City during July 4th festivities

- Utilized **INCIDENT COMMAND TRAILER** during **INDEPENDENCE DAY** Firework display at Windjammer Park, Oak Harbor
- **FOOD DRIVE COMPETITION** with Oak Harbor Police Department — Donkey wears winner's uniform at National Night Out (PD won—912 items to our 624)

- Island County **BURN BAN** begins, due to weather

YEARS OF SERVICE

- LT C.Anderson - 23 yrs total (19 yrs full time)



Police Chief Green with Donkey Odie, honorary Police Officer at National Night Out. (OHFD/Laura Titherington, August 2014)

YEAR IN REVIEW

giving back to our healthy community



August

- **INCIDENT RESPONSE: 107**
- **TRAINING HOURS: 66**
- **NATIONAL NIGHT OUT**, children fitted for bicycle helmets, public education props provided for children, an emergency scenario played out, literature provided with emergency resources, and an appearance by Smokey Bear
- 1st Anniversary of OHFD's use of **SOCIAL MEDIA**. Find us at: www.facebook.com/OHFire and [@OakHarborFD](https://twitter.com/OakHarborFD) on Twitter
- In addition, OHFD provided an EMS station at the North Whidbey Island Sunrise Rotary Club **ANNUAL CHALLENGE SERIES RACE** and provided generators at the **NORTH WHIDBEY LIONS CLUB ANNUAL CAR SHOW**

YEARS OF SERVICE

- POCLT C.Garden -28 yrs
- LT M.Engle - 17 yrs



September

- **INCIDENT RESPONSE: 90**
- **TRAINING HOURS: 54**
- **9/11 Memorial** at NASWI
- **CITY OF OAK HARBOR MILITARY APPRECIATION PICNIC** at Windjammer Park.
- **ENTRY LEVEL POC FIREFIGHTER RECRUITMENT** began
- Island County **BURN BAN** due to dry weather ends. Permanent burn ban continues in City of Oak Harbor and it's urban growth areas

YEARS OF SERVICE

- POCFF D.Jansen - 34 yrs
- Chief R. Merrill - 24 yrs
- POCFF P.Schroer - 20 yrs
- FF E.Klaszky - 5 yrs



October

- **INCIDENT RESPONSE: 118**
- **TRAINING HOURS: 80**
- **ANNUAL WELLNESS REQUIREMENT** for full time suppression personnel
- **NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK:** "Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives: Test Yours Every Month!"
- **LATERAL AND ENTRY LEVEL PAID ON CALL FIRE-FIGHTER** testing
- OHFD also participated in **HOME DEPOT'S ANNUAL SAFETY FAIR**
- Oak Harbor Firefighters participate in **STASHTOBER 2014** and earn donations for the EOD Wounded Warrior Foundation
- Engine 81 at Oak Harbor's Downtown Trick-or-Treat Event.
- POCFF Jason Russell resigned

YEARS OF SERVICE

- Deputy Chief M.Buxton - 22 yrs



November

- **INCIDENT RESPONSE: 91**
- **TRAINING HOURS: 63**
- **CHANGE YOUR CLOCK, CHANGE YOUR BATTERY NATIONAL CAMPAIGN**, reminder to change smoke detector batteries
- In addition, OHFD personnel participated in the **ANNUAL NORTH WHIDBEY COMMUNITY HARVEST THANKSGIVING DINNER** at the Elk's lodge



December

- **INCIDENT RESPONSE: 116**
- **TRAINING HOURS: 73**
- **3 ENTRY LEVEL POC FIREFIGHTERS HIRED**

- **25TH ANNUAL OHFD FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY** held at Station 81, honored fire-fighters and their families — Ho-Ho-Holiday Hoedown!

YEARS OF SERVICE

- POC FF J.Roberts — 18 yrs
- POCFF G.Bull — 5 yrs
- FF C.Hopkins — 4 yrs total (2 yrs fulltime)
- FF O.Haffner — 4 yrs total (1 yr fulltime)
- POCFFs J.Hammond, Ja.Jansen, and T.Walstad — 4 yrs
- POCFFs G.Reeves, J.Fikse, A.Moon, and T.Stanford — 2 yrs
- POCFFs M.Fletcher, K.Frondozo, Z.Gifford, J.Jansen, A.Kiesel, E.Macapinlac and G.Nagel — 1 yr



Laura Titherington, OHFD Photographer. (Photo courtesy K.C. Pohitilla, May 2014)

The Firefighter's Prayer

*When I am called to duty,
God, whenever
flames may rage;
Give me strength
to save some life,
whatever be its age.
Help me embrace
a little child before it is
too late or save
an older person from
the horror of that fate.
Enable me to be alert
and hear the weakest
shout,
and quickly and
efficiently
to put the fire out.
I want to fill my calling
and to give
the best in me, to guard
my every neighbor
and protect his property.
And if, according to my
fate, I am to lose my life;
please bless with your
protecting hand my
children and my wife.
— Author Unknown*

Firefighter Otto Haffner participating in a demonstration at Oak Harbor High School for the Senior class showing an automobile accident caused by an impaired driver. OHFD and OHPD participate in this an annual event just prior to prom and graduation to help students consider the consequences of destructive decisions. (OHFD/Angela Braunstein, May 2014)



Goals and Objectives for 2015 - 2016

Goal: Re-rate the City's insurance rating from a class 4 to class 3, per the Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau's standard rating scale.

Objective: A lower rating reflects the abilities and preparedness of the department to respond to emergency incidents.

Objective: Lower rating reduces property insurance rates.

Objective: Insurance rates for businesses and some residences may be decreased when the City has earned a lower insurance rating.

Goal: Sponsor six - eight Paid-on-call Recruit Firefighters per year to attend the Certified Recruit Firefighting Academy and certify to the IFSAC Firefighter 1 standard.

Objective: Increase the total number of paid-on-call personnel.

Goal: Continued effort in Public Education on fire safety and disaster preparedness.

Objective: Reduce loss and prepare for disasters that are likely to occur in the Oak Harbor area.

Goal: Continue certification process for Firefighter 2, Fire Officer 1 and 2, Fire Investigator, and Driver/Operator.

Objective: To maintain highly qualified personnel.

Goal: Complete a revised and accurate organizational chart of the fire department.

Objective: To develop and maintain the hierarchy of the fire department.

Objective: To maintain the vital positions and show the reporting structure of the department.

Goal: Design, fund, construct, and staff a new fire department facility in the southwest quadrant of the City.

Objective: Build a fire station to better serve the residents in the southwest quadrant of the City.

Objective: Provide for additional staffing at the existing station and to provide for around the clock coverage at the new fire station.

Objective: Be prepared for the anticipated growth in the southwest quadrant.

Goal: Purchase a 75-foot 'Quint style' fire apparatus.

Objective: To specify, and purchase a 75 foot quint ladder/fire engine to fulfill a Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau requirement to have two ladder trucks for the City of Oak Harbor.

LOOKING FORWARD

preparing for the future, planning for success

Goal: Increase department staffing levels.

Objective: [option 1] Hire, as a minimum, four (4) career firefighters to staff Station 81 in order to provide 24/7 coverage on two (2) fire engines.

OR [option 2] Hire, as a minimum, six (6) career firefighters to staff Station 812 in order to provide 24/7 coverage at that station. Positions can be staggered on the hiring, 2 or 3 in 2015 and 2 or 3 in 2016.

Objective: Hire a full time Office Assistant to assist with data entry, payroll, training, maintenance, and operational reports.

Goal: Replace the current MTR2000 analog base station / transmitter for the fire department. Purchase and install at ICOM a GTR 8000.

Objective: Replace the current MTR2000 analog base radio that is more than 15 years old. The current radio / transmitter will not operate on the new P-25 Federal guidelines as required for the digital band. Parts will become obsolete within the next 2-3 years. A Federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant was application was submitted in 2014 requesting assistance with this purchase. If awarded, funds will be available in 2015.

Goal: Purchase replacement and new firefighting tools and equipment for suppression activities.

Objective: To replace old and nearly worn out fire suppression tools and equipment to include portable circular saws, Blitz fire monitors, thermal imaging cameras, and ventilation fans.



OHFD with Region 3 Fire Investigation Task Force built several small, one-room structures or cells — complete with flooring, drywall and furnishings. The cells are then strategically set on fire to test Fire Investigator candidates from all over the region. Candidates obtain facts about the fire that occurred within the structure and determine the origin and cause of the fire. Fire investigators are tested on basic investigation methodology, fire behavior, fire patterns, determining accidental causes, incendiary fires, electrical and appliance fires, evidence collection, recording the scene, and legal considerations, including courtroom testimony. It's a long process and we are pleased that 18 firefighters in Region 3 are now certified Fire Investigator because of the testing process we provided. OHFD has five certified Fire Investigators. (OHFD/Laura Titherington, May 2014)



2014 Annual Report
Oak Harbor Fire Department

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Oak Harbor, Washington

Produced and presented by Ray Merrill, Fire Chief
Editor: Angela Braunstein, Administrative Assistant

Thank you to department personnel for division reports and statistics: Deputy Chief Mike Buxton, Prevention; Lieutenant Craig Anderson, Training Division; Lieutenant Mike Engle, Maintenance Division; Firefighter Steve McCalmont, OHFF Association; and Firefighter Otto Haffner, Benchmarking Data.

The Oak Harbor Fire Department acknowledges the following for photographs appearing in this report: Angela Braunstein, Mike Buxton, K.C. Pohtilla, and department photographer Laura "Lolly" Titherington.

An electronic version of this publication is available at www.oakharbor.org

The former Barrington Avenue home of long-time Oak Harbor resident, Dorothy Neil, burns during a live structure fire training exercise. The structure was donated to provide necessary and invaluable joint training opportunities to firefighters from North Whidbey Fire & Rescue (the county fire district), Navy Federal Fire Department, Oak Harbor Fire Department, and Island County Recruit Firefighting Academy. Prior to the burn, the structure is utilized by firefighters and police officers for search and rescue, forcible entry, and other non-destructive training exercises. (Photo courtesy K.C. Pohtilla, May 2014)