



Owen Sound Fire and Emergency Services Annual Report 2024

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Fire Chief's Message



On behalf of the men and women of Owen Sound Fire and Emergency Services, it is my pleasure to present the 2024 Annual Report. The 2024 annual report highlights the call volume, types of responses, public education programs and inspections completed. Our calls for service were up again in 2024 and medical responses drove this increase.

Looking ahead to 2025, we are excited to work with Owen Sound Dispatch staff to become NG-911 compliant, updating our records management software, acquiring a refurbished fire apparatus and progressing towards attaining mandatory certifications for Firefighter Training as per Ontario

Regulation 343/22.

I commend the members of the Owen Sound Fire Department for the level of dedication and skill they continue to demonstrate as they provide outstanding fire protection services to residents of the City of Owen Sound. Thank you to every member of our Department for the work they put in every single day in service to our residents, business owners and visitors. I am incredibly fortunate to work alongside such an incredible team of Professionals.

I would like to thank Mayor Boddy, Council, City Manager Tim Simmonds and the Senior Leadership Team for their continued support. Thank you to the citizens of Owen Sound for their dedication and commitment to a fire-safe community. Please enjoy the annual report.

Sincerely,

Phil Eagleson

Fire Chief – City of Owen Sound



2024 Achievements



Nearly 1000 homes visited during our inspection program with 99% of homes visited having working smoke alarms



More than 18% increase in emergency calls for assistance

Kitchen renovations continued by our On-Duty staff



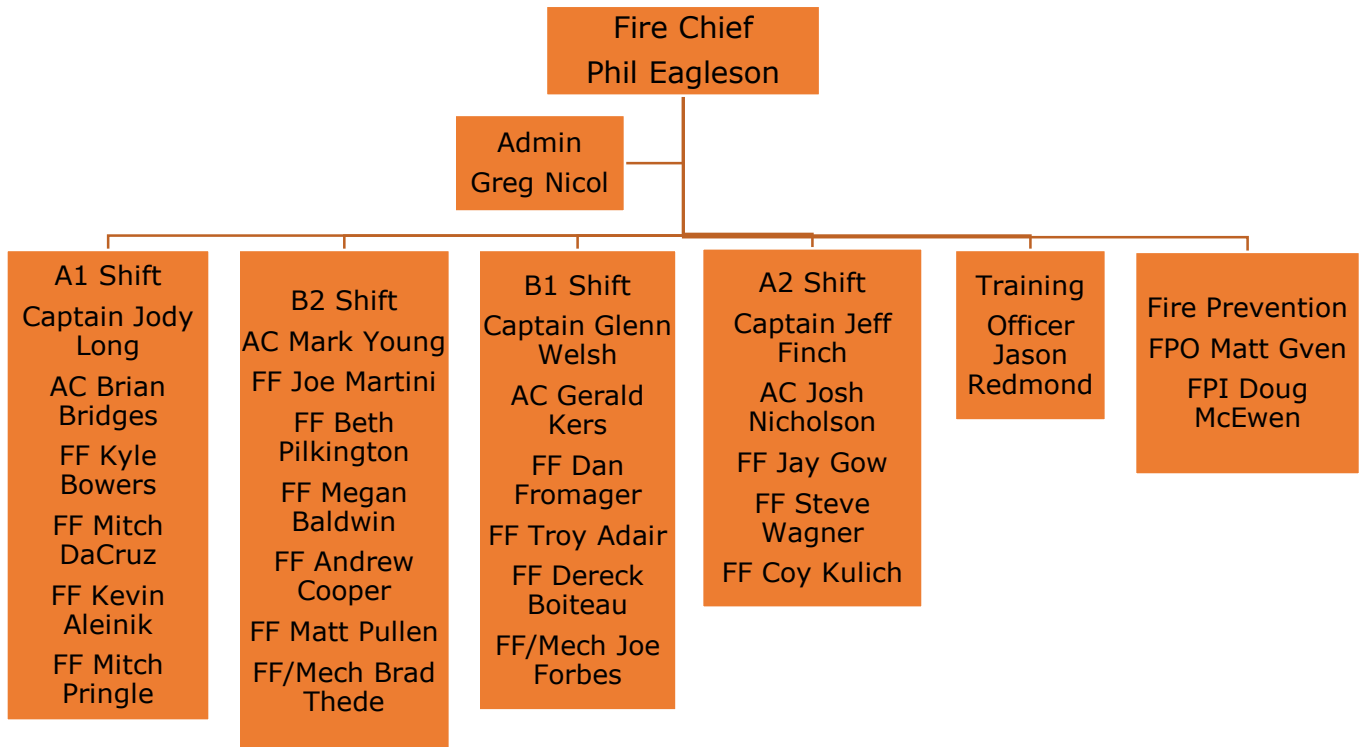
2nd Annual Junior Firefighter program was a success



Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives – Every residence in Ontario must have a working smoke alarm on every level and outside all sleeping areas.



Organizational Chart



Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives – Every residence in Ontario must have a working smoke alarm on every level and outside all sleeping areas.



Staffing Updates – Promotions and Retirements

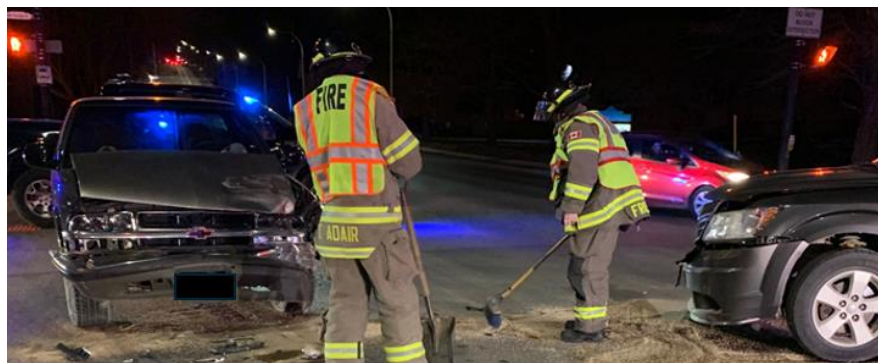
	<p>Congratulations to Matt Given on his promotion to Fire Prevention Officer.</p>
	<p>Congratulations to Glenn Welsh on his promotion to Captain</p>
	<p>We would like to wish Captain Ken Lawrence a happy retirement. Ken started with the City in May of 1994 in the Fire Prevention Office and moved to suppression shortly after his hiring.</p>

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Staffing Updates – New Hires

 A photograph of Firefighter Megan Baldwin, a young woman with blonde hair, smiling. She is wearing a dark blue uniform with a patch on the shoulder that says "OWEN SOUND FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES". She is standing in front of a red fire truck.	<p>Firefighter Megan Baldwin started with us in October. Megan is the second Female firefighter in the history of the Owen Sound Fire Service and comes to us from the Bluewater Fire Service in the Municipality of Bluewater Ontario.</p>
 A photograph of Firefighter Mitch Pringle, a young man wearing a black beanie with a fire department logo and a dark jacket. He is standing in front of a red fire truck.	<p>Firefighter Mitch Pringle started with us in November. Mitch is a native of Owen Sound and served on the Inter-Township Fire Department prior to joining us.</p>



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Training Division Training Overview



Training Officer Jason Redmond

Our fire service is growing and the needs and demands of our business are constantly changing. The Training division is responsible for developing, implementing, and delivering training as well as providing an all-hazard response to incidents across our unique and demanding city. Through training we achieve and maintain the highest performance standards and deliver diverse programming for new recruits and professional development for existing staff.

Training occurs daily at OSFES, and in an evolving landscape, the only way to succeed is to be equipped, trained, and prepared.

Our significant training highlights include:

2024 Training focused on several Technical Rescue disciplines including Ice & Water Rescue, Marine Navigation & Open Water Rescue and Technical High Angle Rope Rescue.

Training Highlights 2024	
Total Training Sessions	224
Total Hours of Training	2,032
NFPA 1021 Fire Officer 1 Course	2
NFPA 1041 Fire Service Instructor 1	2
Public Information Officer	1



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Fire Prevention and Public Education



Fire Prevention Officer Matt Given, Fire Prevention Inspector Doug McEwen

Inspections by Building Occupancy/Type

Inspection Type (Annual totals)	2024
Assembly Occupancies (restaurants, schools, public buildings, bars)	89
Institutional (care facilities, hospitals, nursing homes)	15
Residential (homes, apartments, hotels)	504
Business & Personal Services (professional offices, salons)	374
Mercantile (stores, restaurants with seating for less than 30)	165
Industrial (service stations, industry)	46
Construction Sites	25
Total	1218

Public Education

Detail	2024
Public Education Presentations	79
Public education presentation attendance	2362

Our fire prevention office completed all the mandatory inspections of Care and Treatment Facilities. All the Care Facilities are equipped with sprinkler systems as required by Dec 31, 2024.



Mechanical Division

Fire Mechanic Brad Thede



Fire Mechanic Brad Thede



All equipment and apparatus are inspected and repaired based on an annual schedule that complies with government-regulated standards and mandates. Our department is unique in that we have a Firefighter on staff who is also a licensed mechanic. This allows us to complete most inspections and repairs in-house, decreasing costs and the time equipment is out of service for repairs. Some of the inspections and repairs conducted in 2024 include:

- Annual Ministry of Transportation (MTO) (Yellow Sticker) Safety Inspections on Apparatus and Boat Trailers.
- Annual Fire Pump Capacity Testing as per National Fire Protection Act (NFPA) 1911/1901 Standards.
- Aerial Ladder Testing/Maintenance as per NFPA 1914 Standards.
- Ground Ladder Inspection and Testing as per NFPA 1932 Standards.
- Semi-annual maintenance on Breathing Air Compressor as per CSA Z180.1-19
- Maintenance Services on Speciality Rescue Tools and Firefighting Equipment.
- Daily/ Weekly Inspections and Mechanical repairs on multiple pieces of equipment and apparatus.
- SCBA Inspection/Flow Testing annually as per NFPA 1852 Standards.
- Life Raft Testing as per Transport Canada Regulations.
- Notable Projects Refurbishing a used pickup truck acquired from Grey County EMS as a utility/support vehicle. Body/paint work and mechanical work and emergency lighting completed in-house by on shift Firefighters.



Owen Sound Professional Fire Fighters Local 531

The Owen Sound Professional Fire Fighters Association continues to provide dedicated services to the citizens of Owen Sound.

Local 531 members participated in many local events throughout the year, such as Hottest Yard Sale under the Sun, Kids Day at Kelso, Touch a Truck event at Heritage Place Mall, and Georgian Bay Salmon Spectacular.

In 2024, Local 531 provided sponsorship to teams from Owen Sound Minor Hockey, Minor Soccer, and Minor Girls Field Lacrosse along with sponsorship for Public Skating, Chapman House, Royal Canadian Legion Branch #6, 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb and The Paul Materiuk Memorial Golf Tournament.





Muscular Dystrophy is a long-standing charitable organization that all firefighters nationwide support; the OSPFFA donated to MD from local Fill the Boot events.



Owen Sound Fire Fighters were proud to team up this year with Tim Horton locations across Owen Sound by participating in their SMILE cookie campaign. The funds from the sale of SMILE cookies helped assist families at Christmas.



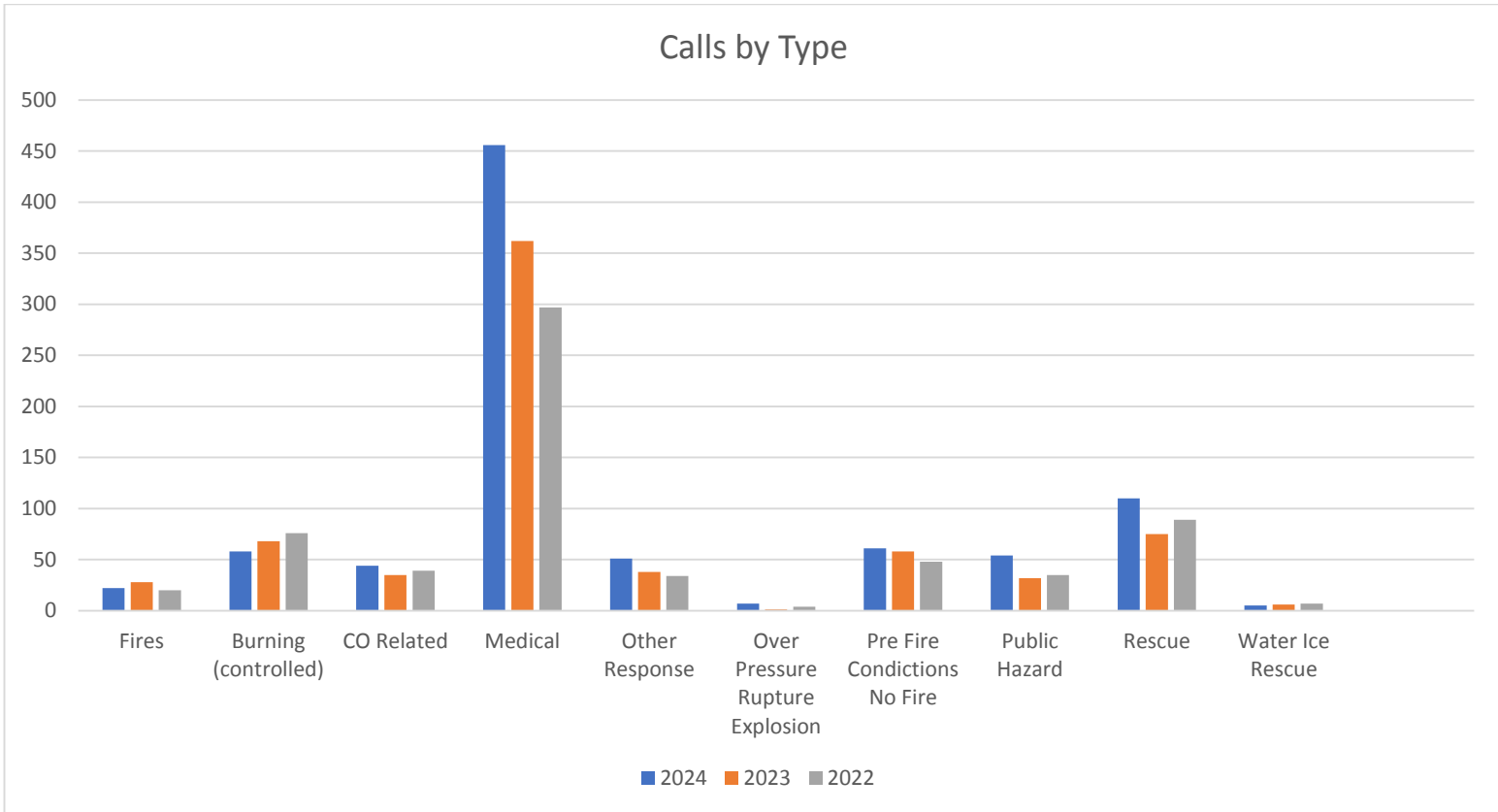
The members of Local 531 were able to collect and deliver toys to over 600 children this year, all made possible by generous donations from local businesses, the citizens of Owen Sound, and the surrounding areas.



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Call Data 2024



Responded to 72 vehicle collisions
 Most responded to intersections
 10th St E and 4th Ave E
 10th St E and 3rd Ave E
 10th St E and 7th Ave E

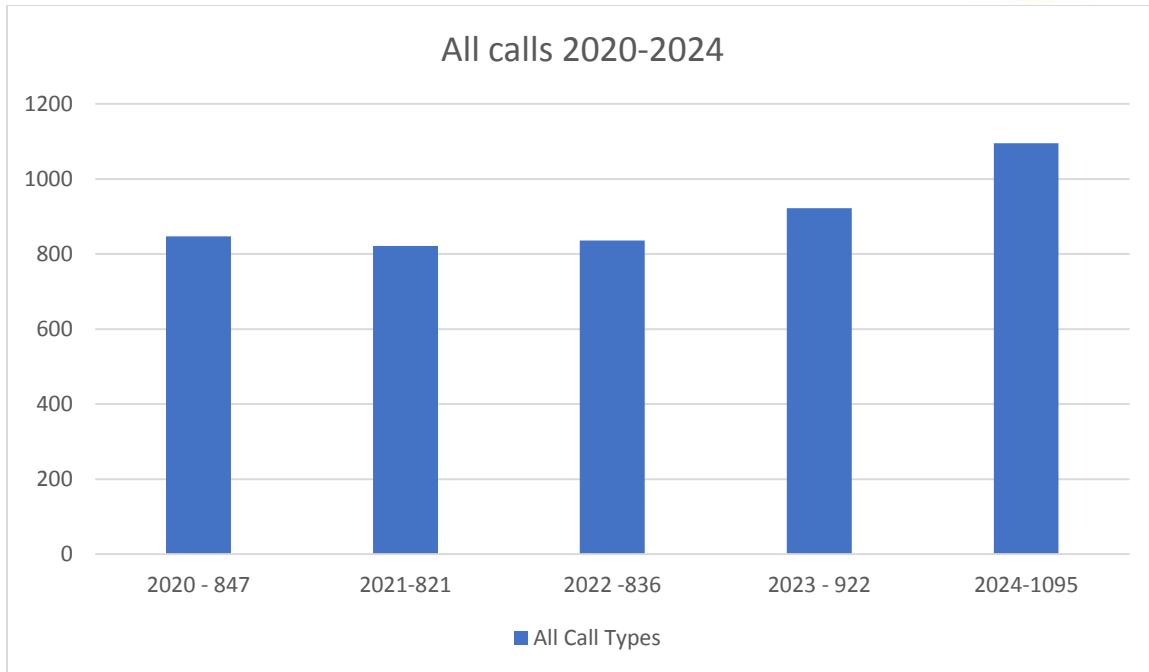
Stop sign fun fact – no calls to
 19th St W and 4th Ave W



42% of calls are
 Medical assists.
 94 more calls than
 2023



22 fires



The five-year average number of calls is 904.

In 2024 18 calls were cancelled on route.

Significant Events

May – Agricultural Society Grandstand significantly damaged due to a fire.

June – Fire at 248 7th Ave E significantly damages the building and causes several residents to be relocated.

June - Wind event causes 13 calls in 14 hours June 13th and 14th



Fire Services Women Ontario

Firefighters Bethany Pilkington and Megan Baldwin attended the Fire Services Women Ontario Annual Training Symposium in Hamilton November 7th to 9th, 2024.

The training symposium agenda topics included High Angle Rope Rescue, Fireground Fitness, Public Education, Electrical Safety, leadership, sexism, fire investigation, mindfulness, lithium-ion batteries, fire suppression, rescue and extrication.





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Owen Sound Fire and Emergency



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