

Owen Sound Fire & Emergency Services

Annual Report 2025



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Message from the Fire Chief

Mayor and Council,

As we reflect on the past year, I am proud of the dedication, professionalism, and commitment demonstrated by the members of our Fire Department. Please enjoy this report as a summary of the many successes we valued in 2025.

This year placed a continued emphasis on training and the development of new personnel. We welcomed 2 new firefighters into the organization while continuing to develop 2 recruits from 2024. We invested significant time and resources to ensure all 4 new members were properly trained, mentored, and integrated into our operational culture. Through ongoing skills development, and scenario-based training, our members strengthened their abilities to respond safely and effectively to emergencies. These efforts not only support individual growth but also enhance the overall readiness of our department.

From an operational standpoint, the department experienced an average year in terms of call volume, with responses consistent with historical trends. Calls ranged across fire suppression, medical assistance, motor vehicle collisions, and public safety support. Regardless of the nature or frequency of calls, our crews responded with professionalism and a strong commitment to serving the community.

I would like to thank our firefighters, officers, and support staff for their hard work and dedication throughout the year. I am also grateful to our municipal leadership and community members for their continued support. As we move forward, we remain focused on training, safety, and continuous improvement to ensure we are prepared to meet the needs of our community in the year ahead.

Respectfully,

Phil Eagleson

Fire Chief, City of Owen Sound



2025 Achievements



Responded to 37 distinct types of emergency and service calls

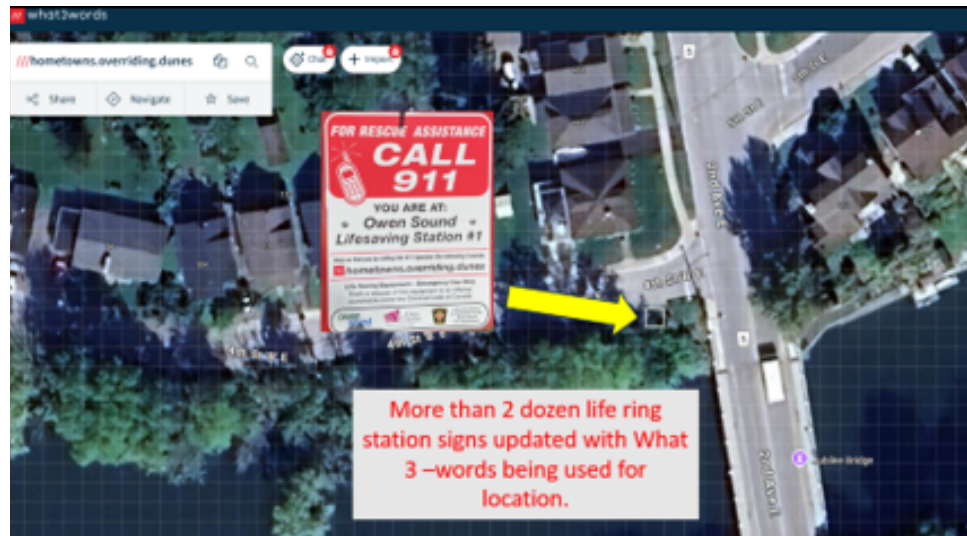


Inspected 100% of care facilities, ensuring compliance and community safety



Experienced 36 high-demand days with five or more calls for service

Life ring signs throughout the City were upgraded with What3Words locations, improving accuracy during water-related emergencies.



What3Words uses three simple words to identify an exact location anywhere in the world, enabling dispatchers to quickly relay precise coordinates to responding crews.



Refurbishment of Ladder 4 completed, extending service life and operational readiness

Jay Gow Awarded OPP Commissioner's Citation for Lifesaving



Firefighter Jay Gow shown with Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound MPP Paul Vickers receiving a certificate honouring his lifesaving efforts.

Jay Gow has been a Firefighter with Owen Sound Fire & Emergency Services for 28 continuous years. His years of experience and dedication to training have equipped him with the skills needed to save lives, particularly in high-stress, hazardous situations.

The OPP Commissioner's Citation for Lifesaving is a prestigious award bestowed upon individuals, including both OPP members and civilians, for demonstrating extraordinary acts of bravery and compassion in situations where lives were at risk.

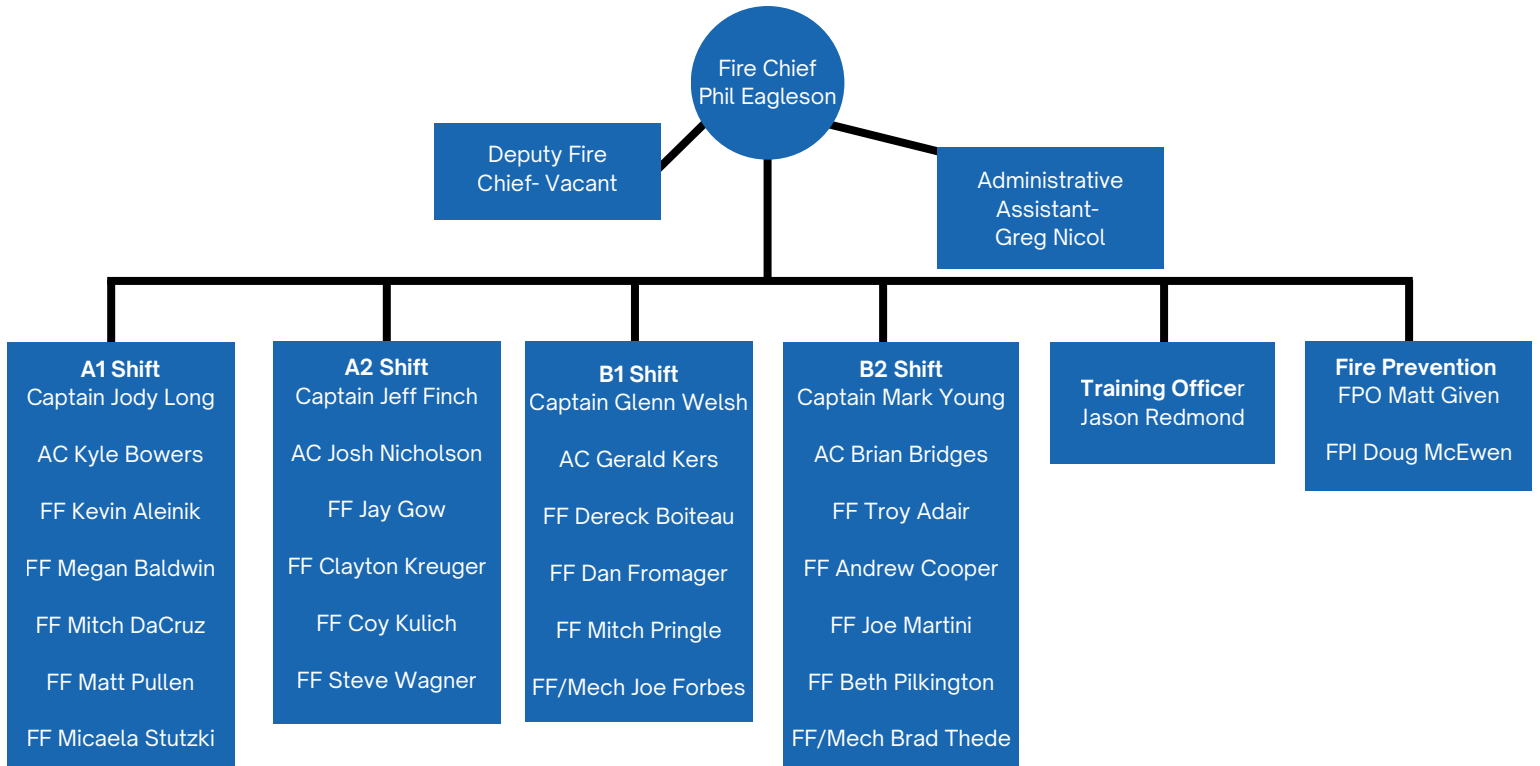
The City of Owen Sound is proud to congratulate Firefighter Jay Gow, on receiving the prestigious Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Commissioner's Citation for Lifesaving.

The award was presented on June 5 in Jarvis, Ontario, in recognition of the group's courageous and unconventional rescue of three men following the collapse of a grain silo in 2024.

"This is an incredible honour, and we are extremely proud of Firefighter Gow for their quick thinking, bravery, and teamwork in what was a highly dangerous and unpredictable situation. Their actions exemplify the best of our emergency services."

- Mayor Ian Boddy

Fire Department Organizational Chart



Staffing Updates

Promotions



Mark Young was promoted to Captain of the B2 Shift in January.



Kyle Bowers was promoted to Acting Captain of the A1 Shift in February.

New Hires



Micaela Stutzki joined the A1 Shift team.



Clayton Kreuger joined the A2 Shift team.

2025 Call Data

Protecting Our Community, Every Day

While the Owen Sound Fire Department responds to an average of two fires per month, each call represents a potential crisis averted and a life protected. Beyond fires, our team responds to nearly three calls per day, handling medical emergencies, accidents, and other critical incidents.

Key highlights:

- March 6: Busiest day with 11 calls.
- Peak hour: 11 a.m. to noon – 75 calls in the busiest times of day.
- August: Busiest month – 116 calls for service.
- Vehicle collisions: 62 total; hotspot at 10th St & 4th Ave E – 4 collisions.
- High-demand locations: 10 addresses accounted for 14% (150) of all calls.

These statistics show that fire prevention is just one part of our mission.

The department is a constant, trained presence in the community, ready to respond wherever and whenever we are needed — keeping Owen Sound safe, day in and day out.



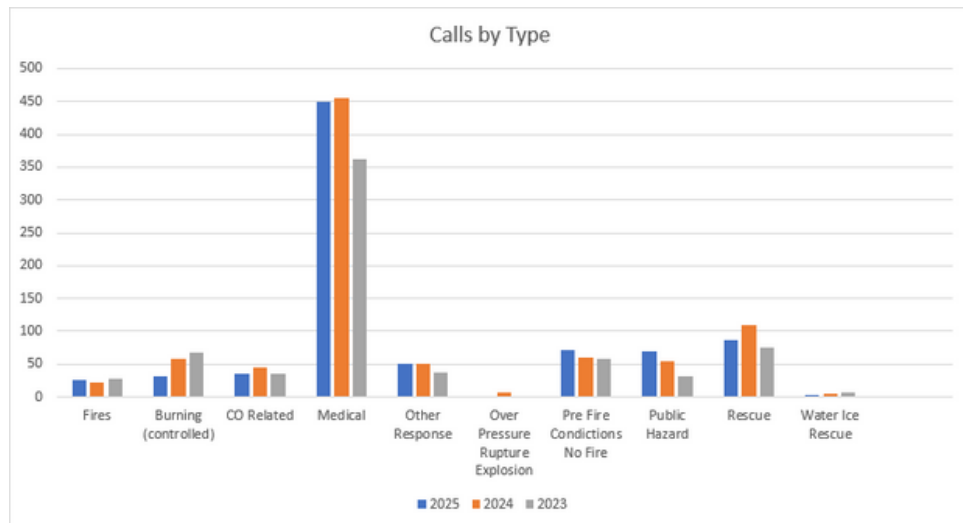
42% of calls were medical-related.
No change from 2024.



Grey County EMS responded to 6634 calls in the City. We assisted with 449, or 6.8% of all EMS calls.



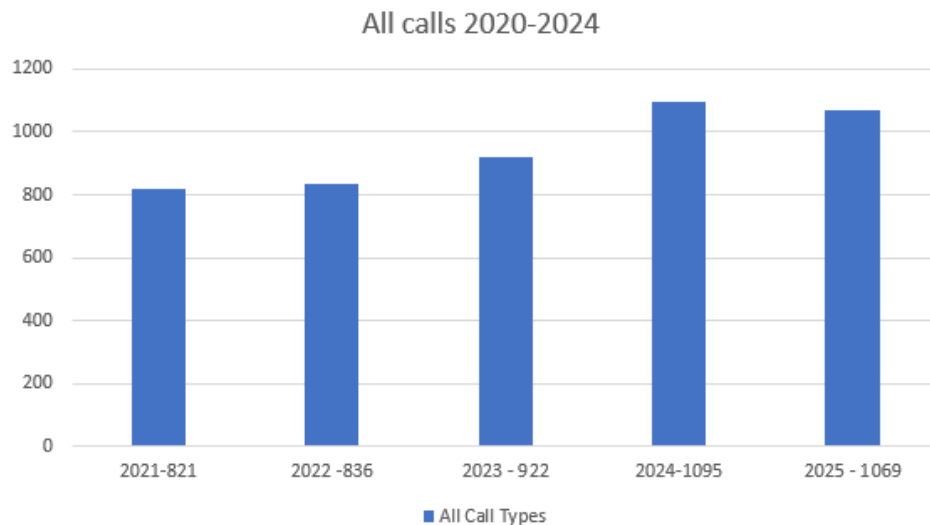
2025 Call Data



From fires to medical emergencies, our mission is full-time community safety.



The five-year average number of calls is 948.



Training Division

In 2025, the Owen Sound Fire Department maintained a strong focus on operational readiness, firefighter safety, and professional development through a comprehensive and forward-looking training program. Key initiatives included NFPA-aligned skills training across all suppression disciplines, with particular emphasis on firefighter survival, mayday procedures, and effective incident command.

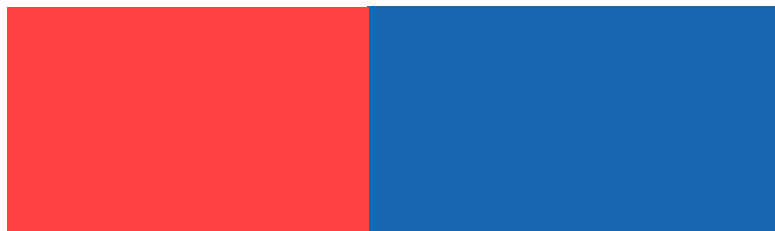
Through this ongoing commitment to training, department members remained well-prepared to meet operational demands while upholding the highest standards of safety, competence, and professionalism in service to the Owen Sound community.

2025 Highlights



A focus on Technical Rescue disciplines including Ice and Water Rescue, Marine Navigation and Open Water Rescue, Technical High Angle Rope Rescue, and Auto Extrication.

Total Training Sessions	187
Total Hours of Training	2345
OFC NFPA Completed Courses	21
Surface, Ice, Swift Water Rescue Awareness	8
Common Passenger Vehicle Auto Extrication	4



Additional Training Completed

NFPA 1021 Fire Officer Course	2
NFPA 1041 Fire Service Instructor 1	2
Fire Investigator	2
Legislation for the Ontario Fire Service	1
Lithium-Ion Batteries: Overview for Fire Professionals	3



Leadership Spotlight



In 2025, Firefighters Bethany Pilkington, Megan Baldwin, and Micaela Stutzki represented Owen Sound at the Fire Services Women Ontario Annual Training Symposium. This event brought together women firefighters from across the province to share expertise, build skills, and strengthen leadership in the fire service.

The symposium covered a wide range of critical topics, including high-angle rope rescue, fireground fitness, public education, electrical safety, leadership, fire investigation, mindfulness, lithium-ion battery safety, fire suppression, rescue, and extrication. By participating in this training, our firefighters continue to lead the way in professional development, diversity, and excellence in fire service.

Public Education & Fire Prevention

Our team completed over **80** public education presentations to **3167** individuals in our community



Fire Prevention Officer Matt Given & Fire Prevention Inspector Doug McEwen

Fire Prevention

Inspection Type (Annual Totals)	2025
Assembly Occupancies (restuarants, schools, public buildings, bars)	98
Institutional (care facilities, hospitals, nursing homes)	13
Residential (homes, apartments, hotels)	545
Business & Personal Services (professional offices, salons)	384
Mercantile (stores, restaurants with seating for less than 30)	281
Industrial (service stations, industry)	61
Construction Sites	24
Total Inspections	1406

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 December 31, 2025.

Junior Firefighter Camp

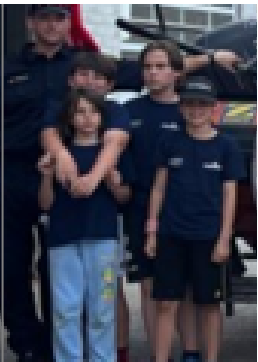
In spring 2025, Owen Sound Fire and Emergency Services hosted its annual Junior Firefighter Camp for Grades 5 and 6 students from Owen Sound and the surrounding area. A total of 40 students participated in this hands-on program focused on fire prevention, emergency response, and community safety.

Working alongside professional firefighters, participants built teamwork, confidence, and responsibility while learning practical skills, including fire extinguisher use, 911 dispatch and radio communications, firefighting gear familiarization, hose and ladder safety, pump operations, basic first aid, and fire suppression.

The program was offered at no cost to participants and supported through the generous contributions of corporate sponsors Boston Pizza, Georgian Bay Fire and Safety Ltd., and JTS Fire and Security, whose support helped make the program possible.



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High School Co-op Education

Our department continues to see the lasting benefits of the High School Co-operative Education program.

Every year, students like Carter Frook and Emmitt Arthur (pictured below) join our team, gaining hands-on experience and learning the roles and responsibilities of our department. Over the years, dozens of young people have walked through our doors, and many have been inspired to pursue careers in firefighting thanks to this program.

The co-op program not only gives students a head start on their careers but also strengthens our department by fostering the next generation of skilled, passionate firefighters.



Today, three of our full-time firefighters—Gow, Pringle, and Kreuger—got their start in the program as co-op students, and now proudly serve our community as valued team members.

Mechanical Division

Apparatus and Equipment Lifecycle Management

All fire apparatus and equipment are maintained in accordance with a scheduled lifecycle program that meets or exceeds legislated standards and regulatory requirements.

In 2025, the Mechanical Division completed the in-house upfitting of two former EMS pickup trucks for station and emergency use, maximizing the value of existing assets while minimizing costs.



Fire Mechanic Brad Thede

The Department also finalized the refurbishment of a 75-foot ladder truck in partnership with Sutphen Fire Trucks (Ohio). Staff were actively involved throughout the refurbishment process, including multiple pre-inspection visits, to ensure quality, compliance, and long-term reliability.

The ladder truck has now been delivered and is undergoing final decaling and equipment outfitting. Once placed into service, it will strengthen frontline response capability, extend the service life of a critical asset, and enhance firefighter safety for the City of Owen Sound.

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.

Inspections & Repair 2025 Highlights

- Annual Ministry of Transportation (MTO) Yellow Sticker Safety Inspections on Apparatus and Boat Trailer
- 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 Specialty 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



75' Ladder Truck - before, during, after



Pick-up Trucks - before & after

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 Street Sale, Touch a Truck event at Heritage Place Mall, and the Owen Sound Salmon Spectacular.

In 2025, 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.



Left: B1 Shift Celebrated Retiree Archie Bishop's 100th birthday.

2025 Local 531 Highlights

Muscular Dystrophy is a long standing charity that all Canadian firefighters support; the OSPFFA donated to MD from local Fill the Boots 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.






Contact Us

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