



Village of
Oak Park

2025 Annual Report

Oak Park Fire Department

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Message from the Chief

As Fire Chief, it is my honor and a privilege to serve alongside the dedicated members of the Village of Oak Park Fire Department. Our firefighters/paramedics, officers and support staff demonstrate courage, professionalism and an unwavering commitment to public service in our community each day. Together, we are proud to protect and serve the residents, businesses and visitors of the Village of Oak Park.

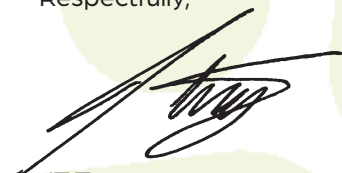
We operate as an all-hazards emergency response and prevention agency with a mission that extends well beyond emergency incidents. Through comprehensive Community Risk Reduction initiatives including fire prevention, public education, building preplanning, construction plan reviews and disaster preparedness, we work proactively to reduce risk and strengthen community safety even before emergencies occur.

Collaboration remains central to our success. We regularly partner with other Village departments, including the Oak Park Police Department, Public Works, and the E.C.H.O. (Engaging Community for Healthy Outcomes) team, to deliver coordinated services that support both immediate response and long-term community well-being.

Calendar year 2025 was a historic one for the Department, with a record 9,474 calls for service. We also strengthened our capabilities by welcoming new personnel and placing a new ambulance and fire engine into frontline service. These investments reflect our ongoing commitment to readiness, reliability and excellence. On behalf of the Oak Park Fire Department, I extend my sincere gratitude to our elected Board of Trustees and the Village Manager's Office for both their continued support of public safety and their commitment to ensuring our department has the resources necessary to serve effectively.

This annual report highlights the dedication of our members and the progress we have made together. I invite you to review the information within to learn more about our services, accomplishments and priorities as we continue working to keep our community safe.

Respectfully,



JT Terry
Fire Chief
Village of Oak Park Fire Department



Fire Chief JT Terry



Operations

The Operations Division remains the backbone of our emergency response, operating on a 24/48-hour shift schedule to provide 24/7 coverage. Under the leadership of a shift Battalion Chief, we maintain a minimum daily staffing level of 16 cross-trained firefighter/paramedics. This staffing model ensures that every frontline apparatus is equipped to provide Advanced Life Support (ALS), bringing the emergency room directly to the patient's side.

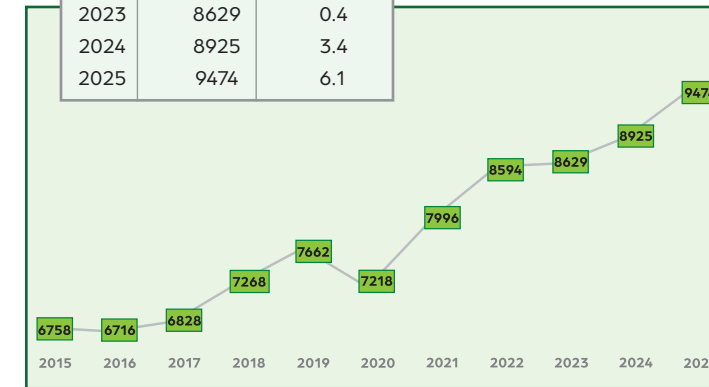
Our current deployment strategy maximizes our 16-person daily minimum to staff a robust fleet:

- **Medical Response:** 3 Advances Life Support (ALS) Ambulances
- **Fire & Technical Rescue:** 2 ALS Engines and 1 ALS Ladder Truck
- **Command:** 1 Shift Commander

In 2025, the Department responded to a record-breaking 9,474 calls, marking an increase of 549 incidents over the previous year.

YEAR	CALL NUMBER	PERCENT INCREASE
2015	6758	5.2
2016	6716	0.93
2017	6828	1.6
2018	7268	6.4
2019	7662	5.4
2020	7218	-0.6
2021	7996	10.7
2022	8594	7.4
2023	8629	0.4
2024	8925	3.4
2025	9474	6.1

OPFD CALL VOLUME



INCIDENT SERIES	CATEGORY	CALL COUNT	PERCENTAGE
100	Fire	117	1.23%
200	Overpressure/Explosion	4	0.04%
300	Rescue & EMS	5755	60.75%
400	Hazardous Condition	223	2.35%
500	Service Calls	1202	12.69%
600	Good Intent	1264	13.34%
700	False Alarm	901	9.51%
800	Severe Weather	2	0.02%
900	Special Incident	6	0.06%
TOTAL		9474	100%

MABAS Division XI

The Oak Park Fire Department participates in Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) Division XI, a regional collective of seven departments (Oak Park, River Forest, Forest Park, Berwyn, Cicero, Stickney, and North Riverside). MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System) in partnership with IEMA (Illinois Emergency Management Agency) has established a statewide, non-discriminatory mutual aid response system for fire, EMS, Fire Investigation, Hazardous Material/ technical Rescue and other specialized incident operational.

2025 Mutual Aid Activity	Responses to Neighboring Communities 371	Aid Received from Neighbors 80
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Rescue and Emergency Medical Services



The Oak Park Fire Department's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers are highly trained professionals who work in a structured yet dynamic environment with a constant emphasis on preparedness, rapid response, and continuous professional development. Their mission is delivered around the clock, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, blending advanced medical care with essential public safety duties.

Typical daily responsibilities include performing equipment checks to ensure operational readiness, responding to EMS and fire-related emergencies, completing accurate and comprehensive incident documentation, and participating in ongoing training to maintain and advance clinical and operational skills.

In 2025, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) activity was overwhelmingly driven by medical response, reinforcing EMS as the department's primary operational

function. A total of 5,313 EMS calls excluding vehicle accidents accounted for the vast majority of incidents, highlighting the community's strong reliance on the Fire Department for emergency medical care.

The second-largest category, Invalid Assists (851 calls), represents a significant portion of overall workload. While these incidents are typically lower acuity, they still require a full response and consume personnel time and system resources, affecting unit availability.

Motor vehicle-related incidents comprised a meaningful secondary demand, including 164 motor vehicle accidents with injuries, 158 accidents without injuries, and 45 vehicle/pedestrian accidents. These calls underscore the department's critical role in roadway safety, patient care, and coordinated emergency response.

Specialized and technical rescue incidents occurred infrequently, including elevator rescues, lock-ins, high-angle rescues, and rescue standbys. Although low in volume, these incidents require advanced training, specialized equipment, and operational readiness, emphasizing the need to maintain technical rescue capabilities.

Overall, the data illustrate that EMS response is the dominant driver of call volume, with a notable share of responses dedicated to non-transport or lower-acuity incidents. These trends support continued investment in EMS staffing, training, and operational efficiency while maintaining preparedness for specialized rescue events despite their relatively low frequency.

RESCUE/EMS CALLS BY INCIDENT TYPE	2024	2025
EMS Calls Excluding Vehicle Accidents	4912	5313
Lock in	17	19
Medical Assist of EMS Crew	3	3
Motor Vehicle Accident with Injuries	182	164
Motor Vehicle/Pedestrian Accident	61	45
Motor Vehicle Accident, No Injuries	173	158
Extrication, Rescue, Other	1	0
Extrication from Vehicles	2	
Remove from Stalled Elevator	54	51
High Angle Rescue	0	1
Extrication from Machinery	1	0
Rescue or EMS Standby	1	1
Invalid Assist	759	851

Fire Prevention Bureau

The Fire Prevention Bureau serves as the department's proactive division, focused on Community Risk Reduction (CRR) reducing fire risk through inspections, code enforcement, and hazard mitigation. Its mission is to prevent emergencies by identifying and minimizing fire hazards and ensuring that buildings and occupancies comply with safety standards. This work is carried out by a dedicated team consisting of a full-time Fire Marshal, two part-time fire inspectors, and seven firefighter/paramedics.

In 2025, the Fire Prevention Bureau (FPB) sustained a high level of operational activity while maintaining strong efficiency and service delivery. The Bureau completed 2,191 plan reviews across residential, commercial, and specialized systems, with workload peaking during the spring and summer construction season. Despite increased demand, the FPB maintained an average plan review turnaround time of three days, reflecting effective workflow management and staff performance.

Residential development drove much of the Bureau's workload, with 1,023 single-family and 297 multi-family residential plan reviews completed. Commercial construction activity remained steady with 465 reviews, while solar installations continued to grow, totaling 260 reviews and peaking in the latter half of the year. These trends highlight evolving development patterns and the expanding technical scope of FPB responsibilities.

The Bureau conducted 838 target hazard inspections, supported by 545 re-inspections, resulting in 1,383 total fire and re-inspections for the year. Inspection activity intensified during mid-year and early fall, demonstrating focused enforcement efforts to address higher-risk occupancies and ensure code compliance.

In addition to inspections and plan reviews, FPB staff responded to 642 fire and life safety inquiries and completed a wide range of system testing and final approvals, including 162 TCO/CO finals, 68 fire sprinkler hydro tests, 59 sprinkler finals, and 42 fire alarm system finals. These activities underscore the Bureau's critical role in public safety, customer service, and construction oversight.

Overall, the 2025 data reflect a Fire Prevention Bureau that effectively balanced increasing demand, seasonal workload fluctuations, and expanding technical responsibilities while maintaining timely service and strong compliance outcomes.



FPB ACTIVITIES	2024	2025
Alarm and Sprinkler plan reviews	172	140
Hood and Duct Suppression Reviews	2	6
Solar Reviews	248	260
Commercial Building/Construction	309	465
Multi-Family Residential Buildings	158	297
Single-Family Residential Reviews	932	1023
Total Plan Reviews	1821	2191
Plan Reviews Average Turnaround (Days)	3	3
FOIAs	43	58
Key Boxes	67	48
Business Walk-thru	61	57
Fire Sprinkler Hydro	44	68
Fire Sprinkler Final	52	59
Hood & Duct Suppression System Final	5	11
Fire Alarm System Final	45	42
TCO/CO Final	165	162
Any Fire/Life Safety Inquiry	594	642
Fire Pump Tests	43	41
Fire Inspections (464) *Target Hazards*	712	838
Re-Inspections	556	545
Total Fire & Reinspections	1,268	1,383

Training Division

All sworn members of the Oak Park Fire Department of duly certified as Firefighters through the Office of the State Fire Marshal and Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) Paramedics. While most OPFD members are certified Advanced Technician Firefighter, the highest of certification offered by the OSFM, all members exceed the standards set forth as Basic Operations Firefighters. Beyond advanced fire and rescue certifications, all members of the Oak Park Fire Department are IDPH licensed Paramedics able to provide Advanced Life Support when responding. The Training Division, ensures our personnel remain at the cutting edge of life-saving tactics.

In addition to providing the required Continuing Education for the OSFM and Continuing Medical Education for our paramedics, the Training Division also coordinates with other local fire departments, and taxing bodies such the Oak Park Park District and District 200 and 97 for joint training session and in-person reviews and coordination of life safety procedures.

The integration of a Training Lieutenant in 2026 to manage and lead the three Shift Training Coordinators will allow for seamless, continuous professional development across all three shifts. This addition in 2026 will also benefit our ongoing recruitment initiatives.



Public Education Team



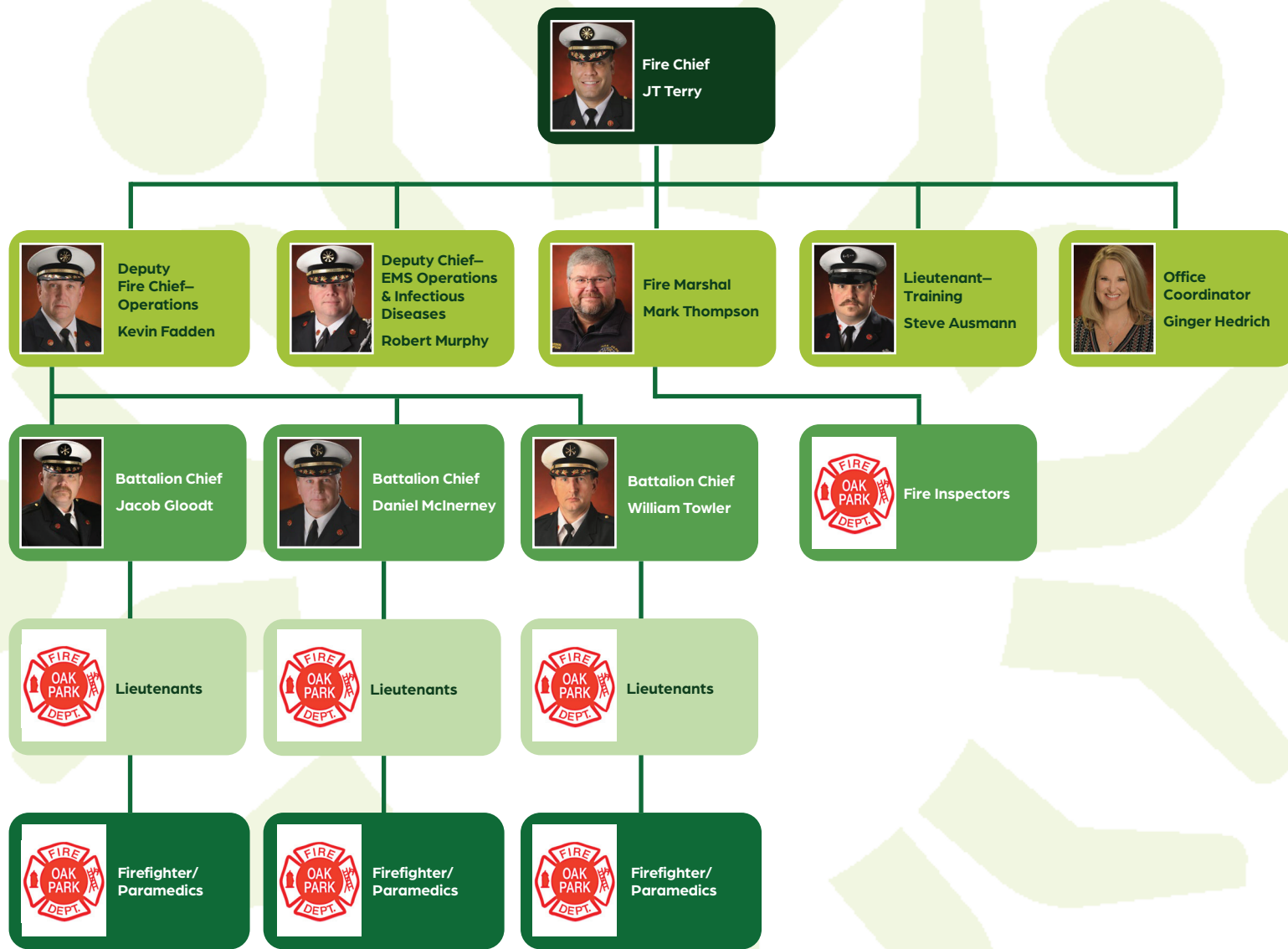
The Village of Oak Park Public Education Team, provides numerous fire and life safety education programming opportunities to the community, while continuing to expand our programs and improve engagement with residents and businesses each year. This past year we continued our partnership with the American Heart Association and conducted both in-station and off-site CPR classes, equipping community members and organizations with life-saving skills. In conjunction with Safe Kids Worldwide, members attended certification class and we brought our infant and child car seat inspection program back. Please visit our website for the latest class offerings or to sign up for a car seat inspection.

The biggest event for our team is the annual Open House. We were able to have a great day and had over 350 people in attendance. There were many activities and vehicles for everyone to see, including live demonstrations and fire/sprinkler demonstration.

Each spring, we visit elementary schools to teach various fire safety topics including how to call 911. The Second graders participated in a live demonstration using our new smoke trailer, simulating the conditions of a smoke-filled home. In addition to the reaching out to our youngest residents at the schools, we also make regular visits to homeowner associations meetings and long term living facilities for conversations on Community Risk reductions such as trip hazard identification, the importance of smoke detectors and the clearly identified emergency and contact information.



Organization



Promotions and Retirements



Chief JT Terry



Deputy Chief Robert Murphy



Battalion Chief William Towler



Lieutenant Dan Huska



Hired Savannah Reinhart



Retired Chief Kobyleski 40 years



Retired Firefighter/Paramedic John Frye 21 years

ISO Rating



The Village of Oak Park Fire Department has achieved a Class 2 rating from the Insurance Services Office (ISO), the second-highest possible designation for fire protection services. This Public Protection Classification (PPC) places the department in the top 5% of more than 48,000 fire departments evaluated nationwide. The ISO assessment measures fire suppression capabilities against established industry best practices, providing an objective benchmark of performance.

The ISO rating evaluates several key components that also serve as indicators for economic development, reflecting whether a community is operating in a progressive and well-supported manner. These components include:

- Age and condition of fire apparatus
- Automatic and mutual aid agreements
- Communications systems
- Community risk reduction efforts
- Fire service personnel, including staffing levels and training
- Water supply infrastructure



By classifying a community's ability to suppress fires, the ISO PPC program assists local officials in evaluating and improving fire protection services. It also provides a standardized, nationwide framework to support strategic planning, budgeting, and investment in facilities, equipment, and training.

In addition to fire suppression, the Village of Oak Park Fire Department delivers a broad range of critical services. These include emergency medical response, technical rescue operations, hazardous materials response, public education initiatives, and a variety of emergency and non-emergency calls for service. This comprehensive approach ensures the department effectively meets the diverse needs of the community.