

2025

Department of Fire & Emergency Services Annual Report

Mission Statement

The mission of the Otonabee-South Monaghan
Department of Fire and Emergency Services is to take action for the provision of services to protect the lives, valued property, and the natural environment. Providing an array of services to address threats to public health and safety, including the risk of a fire, if started, that would seriously endanger the health and safety of any person, property or the natural environment and any use that can be made of it.

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Executive Summary

Preamble

The Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan Fire Department had a productive year.

The department was very successful in recieving grants this year from the provincial government for items that would be difficult for a small community to obtain.

The department purchased a drone and licenced members of the department and public works to operate the drone. This has already been used for emergency response and provides needed information for the effiency and safety of the crew. We have also demonstrated its use to the County Special Response Unit (SRU) and the OPP to augment their drone program.

In 2025 and 2026, the department is focusing on cancer prevention. As the types of fires become challenging though the use of synthetic materials and hazardous conditions, we have an obligation to provide the tools, policies, and equipment to end their career cancer-free. We have received funds to add extracors and dyers to all stations, field decontamination units, special soaps, and additional safer bunker gear. In 2026, we are adding fans and misters to our equipment to decontaimiate members from air born contaminates on their gear.

The biggest challenge ahead for the Otonabee-South Monaghan Fire Department is the rising cost of equipment, which is increasing faster than our growth in reserves. As with other departments within OSM, the cost of items far exceed the budgetary increases. As we look to the future, it will be tougher to maintain our existing services and equipment for the residents and visitors to OSM. The need to reach out for grants and lobby governments will be necessary.

Emergency Response & Operations

This report provides a summary of the 2025 activities for the Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan Department of Fire and Emergency Services

The Otonabee-South Monaghan Department of Fire and Emergency Services delivers a broad spectrum of services to the public. Many times, we are the closest help in times of need. We remain committed to working with our allied agencies to ensure the public receives the highest level of service.

The Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan Department of Fire and Emergency Services responded to **441** calls for emergency help in 2025. This is an increase of **12** calls in the total responses over the previous year. The grand total of individual station responses was **728** collectively. These emergency responses required 4265.04 person hours from the department's volunteers and staff.

Dispatch Services

The City of Peterborough Fire Services provides our call-taking and dispatch services under contract. This service has proven to be exceptional in quality with well-trained professional dispatchers. Peterborough Fire Service (PFS) provides the ability to download statistical data required to complete the mandatory OFMEM Standard Incident Reports (SIR). This program is adaptable to our current fire service software and has proved to be a great asset.

Peterborough Fire Dispatch continues to work on upgrading to the NG911 system to meet all deadlines.

Paging Services

The Peterborough County Fire Chiefs Association (PCFCA) has signed an agreement with Bell to provide the necessary coverage to conduct paging operations. The system went into operation in 2025, and the new pagers, which OSM purchased in advance for the transition, are now in use. Our current paging services rely on this third-party supplier, as well as the messaging services of Who's Responding (through Fluent IMS). Who's Responding is a secondary alerting system and is not designed for primary paging.

Major Response Categories and Response Type Comparison

The majority of responses are a result of three categories:

Medical	**41.72%** of total call volume.
Fire Related	**1.81%** of total call volume.
MVCs	**11.79%** of total call volume.

Fire-Related Response

The department responded to 17 **fire related incidents (including 9 grass fires)**, out of which 4 were structure related.

The total value of structures involved in a fire was 1,019,000.

The loss to structures due to fire was 362,000.

The amount **saved** by the fire services at these incidents was **$ 657,000.**

Injuries from Fire – Civilian and Firefighter

There were 0 deaths to civilians at a fire incident in 2025.

There were 0 injuries to a firefighter at a fire incident in 2025.

Medical Response

Medical assistance calls in 2025 decreased by 63 (184 from 247) from the previous year and represent 41.72% of the Department's total call volume.

These responses are governed by a Tiered Response Agreement between the CACC Lindsay and EMS.

The new Medical Priority Dispatch System (MPDS) was implemented in 2025. Although the overall call volume is slightly higher, the increase resulted from the ice storm (described in the subsequent section), not from an increase in medical responses, as may be seen by the decline noted above.

Monthly Response Statistics

The overall total 2025 call volume increased by 12 from the previous year (429 to 441). As with every year, call volume per month is never the same, with calls increasing some months and decreasing in others.

There were 38 calls in January, a decrease of five from last year. The most significant change occurred in March due to a significant ice storm event, with 65 calls in that month alone. The remainder of the year remained steady, showing only minor fluctuations throughout and ending with 28 calls in December.



ICE STORM

Peterborough County
March 2025

Response / Property Classification

In tracking responses by property classification, we are able to apply resources, such as our public education and fire inspection services to the specific areas of interest.

Class “C” Residential Occupancies, at 38%, remain a primary risk for structural fires.

Personnel and Training

At the close of 2025, we held a roster with a total of 81 personnel. This includes the Chief, Deputy Chief, and all suppression personnel.

Provided within this report is the department’s organizational chart.

In addition to the **4265.04 hours** accumulated during emergency response, the department personnel accumulated a total of **2807.00 training hours**.

The grand total of personnel time applied being **7072.04 hours**.

The department’s Training Officer/Deputy Fire Chief and Fire Chief develop, implement, and monitor the department’s training program.

This report lists the training achievements that the department’s personnel achieved in 2025.

Detailed individual training records are maintained in accordance with legislative requirements, industry standards, and department policies.

As of July 1 of 2026, all fire personnel must be certified to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standard of which they perform. OSM is on track to meeting this requirement.

Fire Inspections & Code Enforcement

Fire inspections and code enforcement are regularly conducted. In 2025, the department conducted 16 initial fire inspections, which required 5 follow-up inspections.

We have a responsibility to ensure buildings within our community are inspected in order to maintain their fire safety. Unfortunately, some buildings and property owners require applied enforcement for the safety of our citizens, workers, residents, and firefighters. When enforcement activities are required, they become very time consuming and costly, which through the municipal budget is borne by all taxpayers. We pursue compliance to the Fire Code as our preferred option. However, we will also continue to apply enforcement when required.

Open Air Burning:

In 2022, Council approved a new Open Air Burning By-law #2022-50***. The Fire Protection and Prevention Act,* Ontario Fire Code and the Otonabee-South Monaghan, By-law # 2022-50,** requires persons who want approval to burn to obtain a burn permit and/or special approval to do so.

The issuance of Burn Permits and/or the authorization for Special Burn Approval is controlled to manage open air burning in the Township. Landowners can only burn under the burn conditions stated within their permit and/or set by the Chief Fire Official. Failure to comply may result in significant fines.

During times of extreme heat and dry weather, “Burn Bans” may be issued. By utilizing the automated burn permit system, this can easily be applied to restrict burning. In addition, notification systems, such as the Municipal webpage and the local media, are utilized to announce when a ban is in effect and when it is lifted. This process greatly reduces the amount of annual grass and wildfires and promotes a fire safe community.

OSM and Peterborough County saw drier than normal rates in 2025 and a 7-week burn ban was required. Although not popular with residents, it kept grass fire response down to an acceptable level.

Applicants are able to apply for their burn permit through the automated burn permit system, as well as by phone and in person if they prefer.

209 permits were issued using the burn permit system in 2025.

Inspection and approval for large burn piles is by appointment and approval of the Fire Chief. (Burn piles pertain to clearing of lands for farming and/or development purposes).

Acknowledgements

I wish to commend all members of the Otonabee-South Monaghan Department of Fire and Emergency Services for their continued dedication and commitment in 2025. Their actions contribute to the success of the department and the service they provide to our citizens and visitors.

2025 Achievements

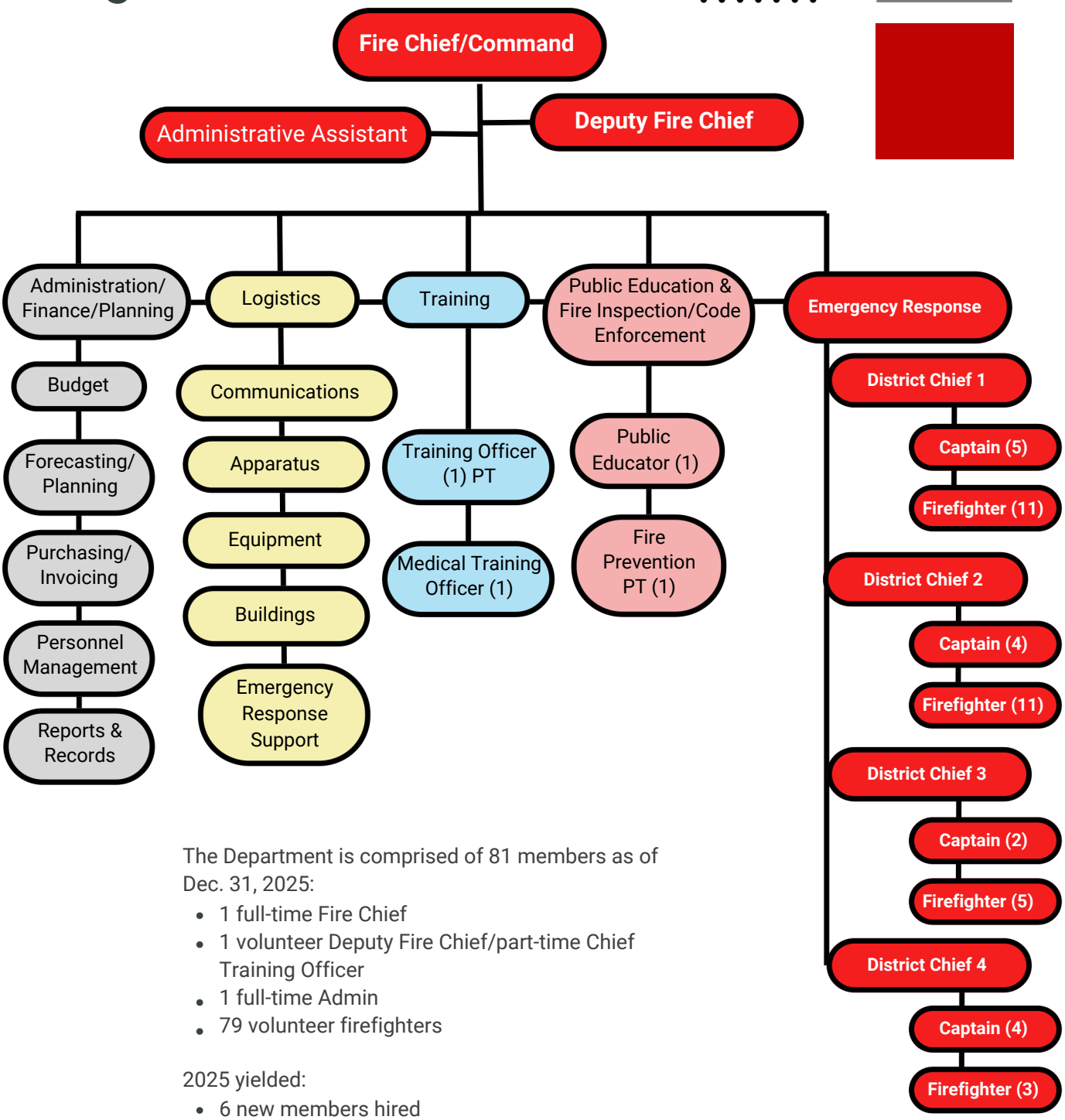
1. Continued with the requirements for the next re-accreditation process for the Fire Underwriters Survey Superior Tanker Shuttle Accreditation (due every 4 years, practiced and recorded annually).
2. Met the Legislated Requirements for Public Education and Smoke Alarm Program.
3. Met the Legislated Requirements for Fire Inspections and Code Enforcement.
4. Continued with the annual replacement program of Personal Protective Equipment.
5. Purchased drone and certified staff.
6. Ordered and inspected Pump 2 for delivery in January 2026.
7. Met the legislative requirements for our Emergency Management Program – including the annual Training and Exercise of the Municipal Emergency Plan and Control Group.



Thank you

I wish to express my sincere appreciation for all members of Municipal Council, Administration, and Staff for their continued support in providing us with the tools and resources that allow us to perform when we are called to duty.

Organizational Chart



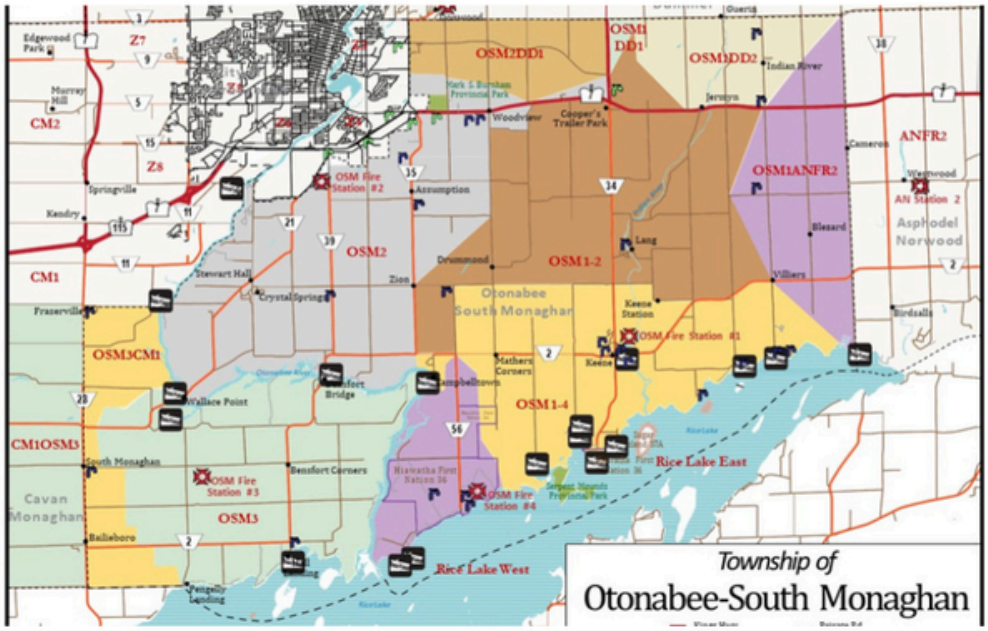
The Department is comprised of 81 members as of Dec. 31, 2025:

- 1 full-time Fire Chief
- 1 volunteer Deputy Fire Chief/part-time Chief Training Officer
- 1 full-time Admin
- 79 volunteer firefighters

2025 yielded:

- 6 new members hired
- 3 resignations

Fire Station Response Areas



	Initial Alarm/Area/Station					Assistance Alarms				
	Stn#1	Stn#2	Stn#3	Stn#4	**Total**	Stn#1	Stn#2	Stn#3	Stn#4	**Total**
Jan	15	14	2	7	38	14	8	2	3	27
Feb	17	11	5	2	35	7	8	2	1	18
Mar	20	28	10	7	65	10	9	5	3	27
Apr	14	26	7	2	49	19	9	4	4	36
May	12	9	2	5	28	10	3	2	1	16
Jun	13	8	4	4	29	10	10	3	1	24
Jul	19	15	5	5	44	12	12	10	5	39
Aug	17	14	5	5	41	10	11	2	2	25
Sept	12	16	2	5	35	15	9	3	2	29
Oct	9	9	3	0	21	5	3	1	2	11
Nov	12	10	3	1	26	4	5	0	3	12
Dec	12	11	4	3	30	10	8	3	2	23
Sub Total	**172**	**171**	**52**	**46**	**441**	**126**	**95**	**37**	**29**	**287**
% Sub Total	39%	39%	12%	2%	**92%**	44%	33%	13%	10%	**100%**

Total Combined Responses per Individual Station					
Grand Total	**298**	**266**	**89**	**75**	**728**
% Total	41%	37%	12%	10%	100%

Operations Summary

The 2025 Department of Fire & Emergency Services Response Summary:

441	Total Responses
728	Total Station Reponses
15:41 min	Average Response Time

Total Incident Reponses	**441**
Total Structures Value Involved in Fire Response (structure and content)	$1,019,000
Total Structure Value Loss to Fire Response (structure and content)	$362,000
Total Structure Value Saved (structure and content)	**$657,000**
Average Cost per Incident	$217.22
Person Cost per Hour (Firefighter Rate)	$ 22.46
Total Hours for Emergency Response	4,265.04
Total Training Hours	2,807.00
Grand Total Person Hours	**7072.04**
Deaths to Personnel	0
Injuries to Personnel	0
Deaths to Civilians (in Structure Fires)	0
Injuries to Civilians (in Structure Fires)	0

Automatic Aid Agreement Reponses	Asphodel-Norwood	6 activations
	Douro-Dummer	13 activations
	Cavan Monaghan	1 activations (OSM to CM)
	Cavan Monaghan	0 activations (CM to OSM)
Mutual Aid Activations OSM assisted others	Asphodel-Norwood	0 activations
	Cavan Monaghan	1 activations
	Douro-Dummer	0 activations
Mutual Aid Activations	OSM initiated	11 activations - SRU incidents

Response per Property Classification Comparison

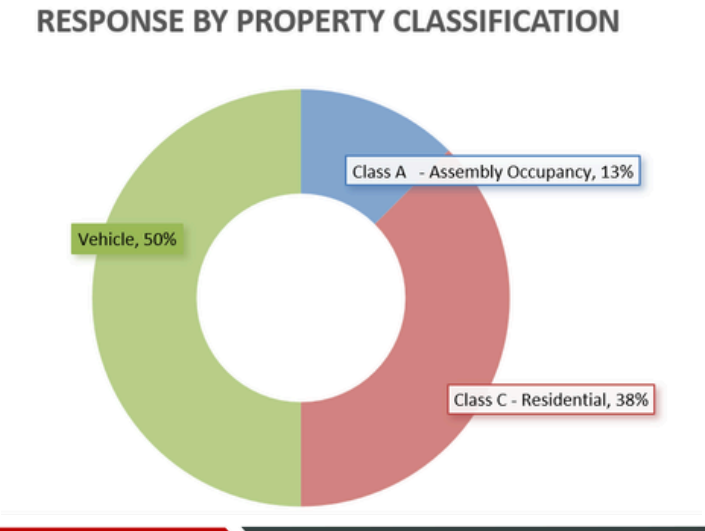
In 2025, the Otonabee-South Monaghan Department of Fire and Emergency Service responded to 8 incidents related to a real fire.

Out of the 8 incidents, 4 involved a structure.

Out of the 8 incidents related to a real or potential fire involving structure, none ended up being false alarms upon arrival.

Response per property classification
to real or potential fire-related incidents with a structure involved.

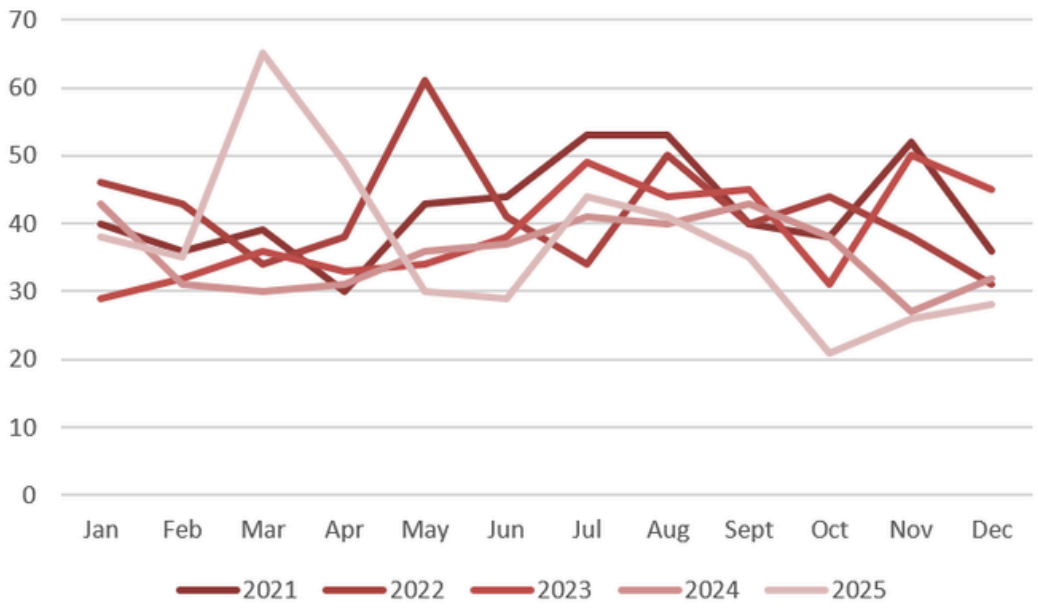
Property Classification	Number of incidents - including False Alarms	%
Class A - Assembly Occupancy	1	13%
Class B - Healthcare	0	0%
Class C - Residential	3	38%
Class D - Business	0	0%
Class E - Mercantile	0	0%
Class F - Industrial	0	0%
Vehicles	4	50%
	8	100%





Five (5) Year Monthly Comparison

Call volumes can fluctuate for various reasons through the year. Extreme weather and tourist seasons seem to have the most impact on our call for services to date. The following chart illustrates a 5-year comparison of call volume per month.



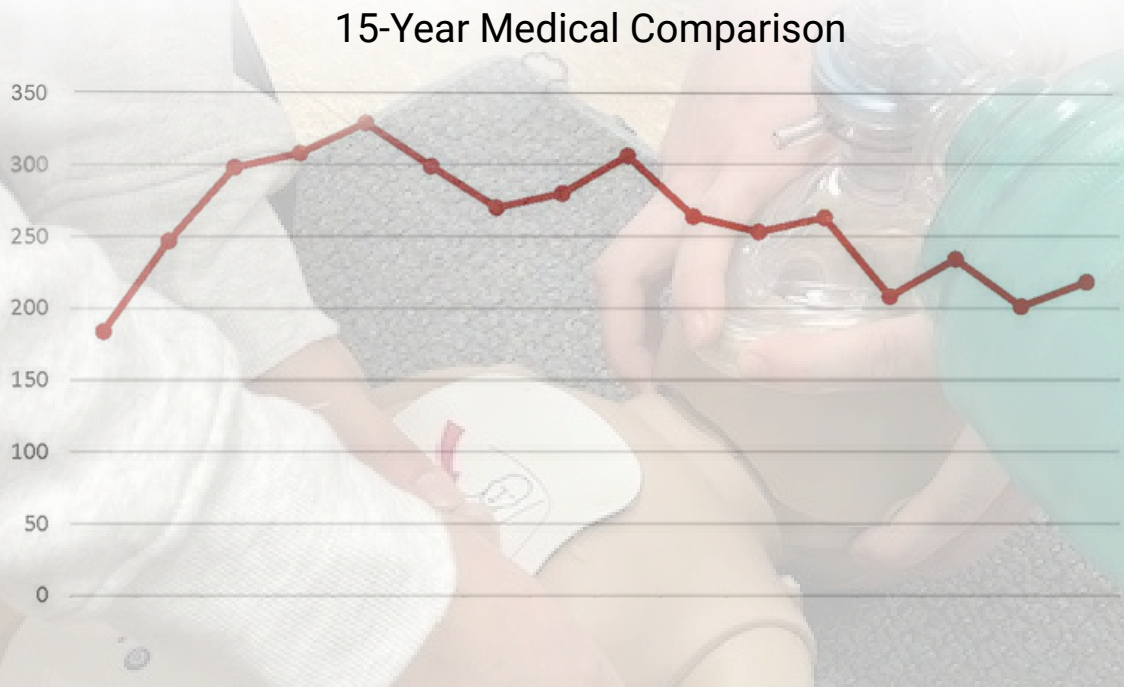
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2025	38	35	65	49	30	29	44	41	35	21	26	28
2024	43	31	30	31	36	37	41	40	43	38	27	32
2023	29	32	36	33	34	38	49	44	45	31	50	45
2022	46	43	34	38	61	41	34	50	40	44	38	31
2021	40	36	39	30	43	44	53	53	40	38	52	36

Medical Response

In 2025, medical response incidents accounted for 41.72%% (184 incidents) of our total call volume (441 incidents).

We continue to work with EMS in the provision of this service, putting the patient first. The fire service response, especially in our rural community, is a critical element in the "Chain of Life". The Medical Tiered Response Program and the Technical Interoperability Framework (TIF) dispatch system allow the fire service to provide medical intervention to patients deemed be in or experiencing a life-threatening situation.

The supplied data illustrates 15 years of medical responses. The implementation of the Medical Priority Dispatch System (MDPS) is the basis for reduction in OSM Fire Services responding to calls, showing that it can make a difference.



2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
184	247	298	308	329	299	270	280	306	264	253	263	208	234	201

Training Division

In 2025, the management of the training division was coordinated by the Deputy Chief/Chief Training Officer, under the direction of the Fire Chief. The requirements of the department's in-house training sessions were coordinated with the assistance of the District Chief/Station Training Coordinators and the Department Medical Coordinator.

In-house training sessions are set out in a bi-annual training schedule, with training and meeting sessions taking place bi-monthly and on some weekends. Training topics in 2025 included, but were not limited to:

- Large Scale Forest Fire Training with Ken Cox from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)
- Emergency Driver Discussion and Highway Traffic Act Review
- Ice Water Practical training and scenario
- Live fire skills with propane props in Norwood
- Skills tested to (Volunteer Fire Insurance Service) VFIS levels in own stations trucks
- Bi-Annual Medical refresher and update on current practices with firefighters going through medical skills evolutions
- Utility Training Vehicle (UTV) Training- Driver Skills and Equipment Knowledge
- Practical Fire Ground Evolutions at remote location on Foley rd.
- Fireground Operations discussion and back-to-basics skills

In addition to in-house training sessions, the Department utilizes the Eastern Ontario Emergency Training Academy (EOETA) in Norwood to access courses that meet NFPA Professional Qualification Standards.







Public Education

The Fire Protection and Prevention Act (FPPA) mandates that all fire departments establish a program that includes public education with respect to fire safety and certain components of fire prevention, FPPA, 1997, Part II, 2.1.(a).

This department implements a program that includes, but is not limited to focus on schools, children, and the elderly. While the main focus of the topics presented are fire safety, there are many life safety messages that are shared through the year that are intended to help keep our residents safe. The following chart outlines the groups and events the public education team and department members organised in 2025.

Group Type	# of Events	Locations/Events
Schools	4	• Swim to Survive - Grade 3's Water Safety • North Shore Public School (multiple days) K • Kawartha Montessori School • Rhema Christian School
Community Groups	3	• Kids Sports Camp Fire Station Tour - Station 4 • Daycare Fire Station tours • Squirrel Creek outdoor education visit and truck tour at the summer camp for Karis Disability Services members
Public Events	6	• Summer Fire Prevention visit - Trailer Park Community • Canada Day Parade • Jesse's Journey - escorting swimmers crossing Rice Lake in South Monaghan, in support of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy • The Keene Pumpkin Festival • Test your smoke alarm day – social media messages • 12 Days of Holiday Fire & CO Safety radio messaging and social media engagement
Total	13	







Outlook for 2026

As part of the overall Municipal Strategic Plan and Capital Forecast, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services is committed to the development, acquisition, and delivery of the following in 2026:

Development

- Continue with the requirements for the next re-accreditation process for the Fire Underwriters Survey Superior Tanker Shuttle Accreditation (due every 4 years, practiced and recorded annually).
- Continue with the evaluation of the Fire Master Plan initiatives, as received in 2022. Finalization of the department's radio upgrades to a digital platform and paging system.
- Continue the annual Smoke/CO Alarm and public education programs.
- Review the 2026 Fire Capital Asset Plan.

Acquisition

- Receive new Pump 2 at Station 2.

Delivery

- Delivery and continued development of Public Education programs.
- Continue the review of 911/Civic Addressing and Sign Maintenance program.
- Meet the legislative requirements for the Emergency Management Program – including the annual Training and Exercise of the Municipal Emergency Plan and Control Group.



Appendix A

Legislation FPPA

Municipal Responsibilities

It is important for the members of Municipal Council, management, and staff to have an understanding of the legislated responsibilities for the provision of fire protection services. These responsibilities are set out in the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, (FPPA), Section 2. (1) (a) and are further explained in the Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Guideline entitled "Minimum Required Services" (PFSG 04-40-03).

The Fire Marshal of Ontario promotes the delivery of mandatory services through a "fire effectiveness model" entitled the Three (3) Lines of Defense.

The "First Line of Defense - Public Fire Safety Education". This focuses on the change of human behaviour towards fire. It is accomplished through delivery of education materials, pamphlets, and direct education sessions to target groups. These programs target but are not limited to vulnerable sectors of society, such as school children and seniors. An annual Public Education strategic plan is developed to meet the needs of our public, both in Fire Education and Emergency Management awareness.

The "Second Line of Defense - Fire Inspection and Code Enforcement". This ensures compliance of property/buildings are being maintained in accordance with the FPPA Regulations, Part IV, the Ontario Fire Code. Inspection services are provided by the Fire Prevention Officer (FPO) and Fire Chief. Inspections are carried out upon complaint, request, and through our annual inspection program.

The "Third Line of Defence - Emergency Response". Emergency response requires the immediate action of highly trained and skilled fire personnel with well-maintained apparatus and equipment to intervene and bring the emergency situation under control. Our mandate is the preservation of life, property, and the natural environment.

Fire emergencies will continue to happen. A blended focus of public education, fire prevention activities, training, preparedness, and emergency response is required to meet our legislated obligations and provide optimal service to the citizens of Otonabee-South Monaghan. The collection and analysis of data, as found throughout this report, gives direction to the fire service to apply resources in the appropriate areas.

The Fire Department is governed and services are provided under the approval of the Municipal Council, as set out in the Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan Fire Services Establishing and Regulating By-Law 2019-47.

The Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan Fire Department continues to meet and exceed the required legislated responsibilities on an annual basis.