

Oakland Township Fire Department Tasks are many and Increasing

On the side of our township ambulances and other vehicles it says “Oakland Township and Rescue”. It could say Oakland Township Fire, Rescue, Medical Emergencies & All Other Emergencies.

Every 911 call creates an incident report. Incidents are also sometimes referred to as “runs” or “calls”. The incident is recorded with details of who responded and when, what the problem was, etc.

The two page list below of year 2021 Incidents/Runs/Calls from Chief Paul Strelchuk illustrates the wide variety of incidents he and his crew must all be prepared to handle at any time 24/7/365, with immediate professional and safe responses.

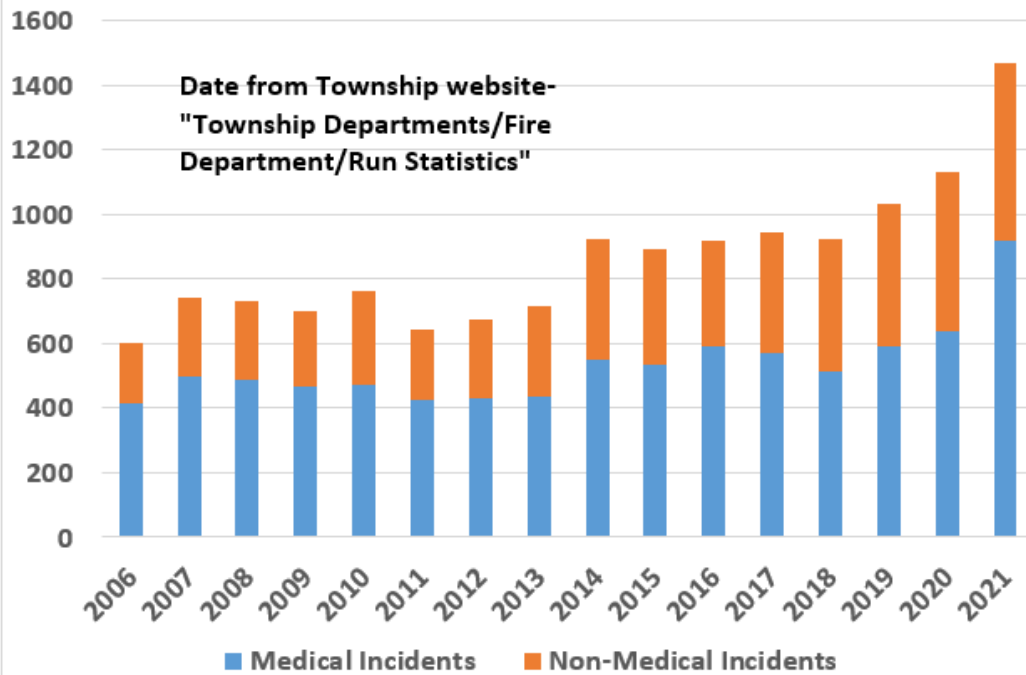
One surprise and concern to me was 40 vehicle accidents with injuries. (Category 322).

| Incident Type and Description | Count | % Type / % Total |
|---|------------|------------------|
| 111 - Building fire | 4 | 12.50 % |
| 1110 - Structure Fire | 7 | 21.88 % |
| 1120 - Utility pole fire | 1 | 3.13 % |
| 113 - Cooking fire, confined to container | 5 | 15.63 % |
| 114 - Chimney or flue fire, confined to chimney or flue | 1 | 3.13 % |
| 122 - Fire in motor home, camper, recreational vehicle | 1 | 3.13 % |
| 131 - Passenger vehicle fire | 2 | 6.25 % |
| 138 - Off-road vehicle or heavy equipment fire | 1 | 3.13 % |
| 142 - Brush, or brush and grass mixture fire | 6 | 18.75 % |
| 143 - Grass fire | 2 | 6.25 % |
| 150 - Outside rubbish fire, other | 1 | 3.13 % |
| 162 - Outside equipment fire | 1 | 3.13 % |
| Total - Fires | 32 | 2.18 % |
| 300 - Rescue, emergency medical call (EMS) call, other | 5 | 0.54 % |
| 321 - EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury | 822 | 89.45 % |
| 321C - EMS call, possible COVID-19 | 19 | 2.07 % |
| 322 - Vehicle accident with injuries | 40 | 4.35 % |
| 323 - Motor vehicle/pedestrian accident (MV Ped) | 1 | 0.11 % |
| 324 - Motor vehicle accident with no injuries | 1 | 0.11 % |
| 341 - Search for person on land | 4 | 0.44 % |
| 356 - High angle rescue | 1 | 0.11 % |
| 381 - Rescue or EMS standby | 26 | 2.83 % |
| Total - Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incidents | 919 | 62.56 % |
| 400 - Hazardous condition, other | 15 | 31.25 % |
| 410 - Flammable gas or liquid condition, other | 1 | 2.08 % |
| 411 - Gasoline or other flammable liquid spill | 1 | 2.08 % |
| 412 - Gas leak (natural gas or LPG) | 4 | 8.33 % |
| 424 - Carbon monoxide incident | 7 | 14.58 % |
| 440 - Electrical wiring/equipment problem, other | 1 | 2.08 % |
| 444 - Power line down | 16 | 33.33 % |
| 4441 - Other Utility-phone/cable lines | 1 | 2.08 % |
| 445 - Arcing, shorted electrical equipment | 2 | 4.17 % |
| Total - Hazardous Conditions (No fire) | 48 | 3.27 % |
| 500 - Service Call, other | 3 | 1.96 % |
| 520 - Water problem, other | 1 | 0.65 % |
| 5311 - Odor Investigation | 9 | 5.88 % |
| 550 - Public service assistance, other | 4 | 2.61 % |
| 551 - Assist police or other governmental agency | 12 | 7.84 % |
| 554 - Assist invalid | 102 | 66.67 % |
| 561 - Unauthorized burning | 8 | 5.23 % |
| 571 - Cover assignment, standby, moveup | 14 | 9.15 % |

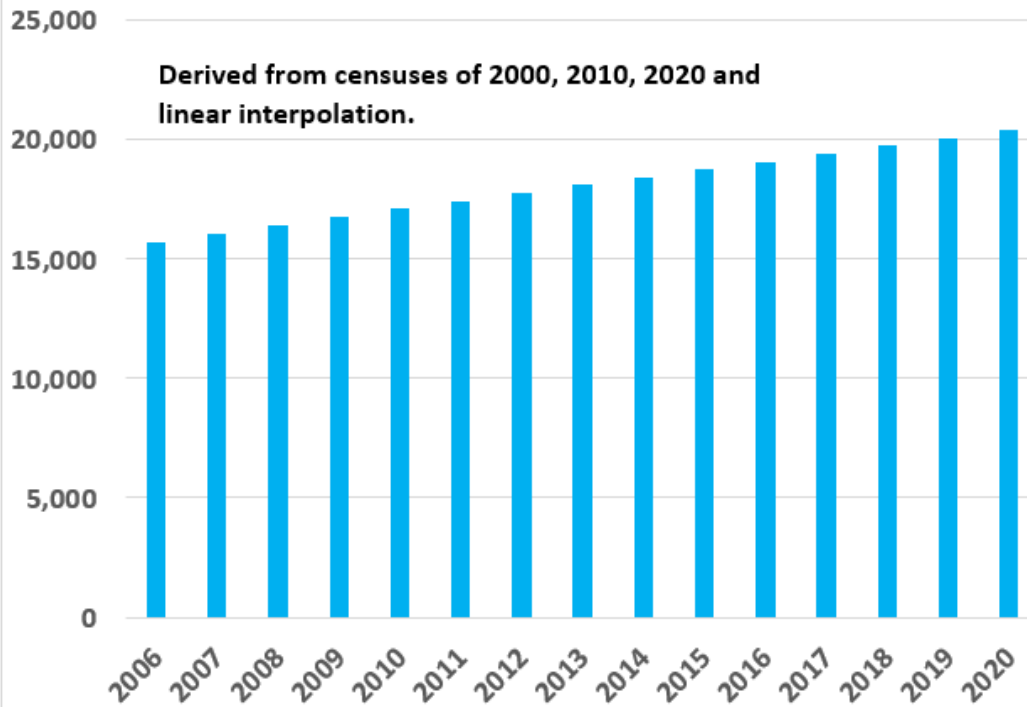
| Incident Type and Description | Count | % Type / % Total |
|--|--------------|-------------------------|
| Total - Service Call | 153 | 10.42 % |
| 600 - Good intent call, other | 16 | 12.50 % |
| 611 - Dispatched & cancelled en route | 100 | 78.13 % |
| 611E - EMS: Dispatched & cancelled en route | 6 | 4.69 % |
| 622 - No incident found on arrival at dispatch address | 1 | 0.78 % |
| 651 - Smoke scare, odor of smoke | 5 | 3.91 % |
| Total - Good Intent Call | 128 | 8.71 % |
| 700 - False alarm or false call, other | 114 | 67.86 % |
| 7001 - Dispatch error (cancelled enroute) | 2 | 1.19 % |
| 7002 - False medical alarm | 40 | 23.81 % |
| 736 - CO detector activation due to malfunction | 2 | 1.19 % |
| 743 - Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional | 1 | 0.60 % |
| 746 - Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO | 9 | 5.36 % |
| Total - False Alarm & False Call | 168 | 11.44 % |
| 800 - Severe weather or natural disaster, other | 3 | 50.00 % |
| 814 - Lightning strike (no fire) | 3 | 50.00 % |
| Total - Severe Weather & Natural Disaster | 6 | 0.41 % |
| 9001 - Dispatch Error | 15 | 100.00 % |
| Total - Special Incident Type | 15 | 1.02 % |
| | 1,469 | |

Incidents are on the rise. That is not surprising to me as the population has increased 53% since the year 2000 (from 13,071 in 2000, to 16,779 in 2010 to 20,067 in 2020). What is surprising is that incidents per 100 residents has also increased, especially in the last year. We had 3.8 incidents per 100 residents in 2006. Last year it increased to 7.1. So where our Fire Department had 1469 incidents in 2021, if we residents were calling 911 at the same rate per 100 residents as on 2006 our Fire Department would have had only 766 incidents last year.

Incidents (Runs) - OTFD



Population of Oakland Township



Maybe we are aging? But that can't be the entire explanation as non-medical incidents are also on the rise per 100 residents.

