



Pine Island Fire-Rescue
Brandon R. Sather, Fire Chief

Box 489 - 315 South Main
Pine Island, MN 55963
Phone (507) 273.3310, Fax (507) 356-4846
E-Mail: info@ci.pineisland.mn.us
Web Site: pineislandmn.gov

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Oronoco Township board members,

2025 concluded as the busiest year for the Pine Island Fire Department. At the end of the year, firefighters responded to a total of 516 calls within our fire district. On July 1st, members of the PIFD began taking medical calls for Oronoco Township. For the last six months of the year, the PIFD responded to a total of fifty-seven (57) calls in Oronoco Township with thirty-seven (37) medical-related calls, six motor vehicle accident calls, and fourteen fire-related calls. Fire includes any emergency from vehicle fire, structural fire, CO, law enforcement assist, and lift assist.

For Oronoco Township, the call breakdown includes:

- July- eight medical calls, one motor vehicle accident, two fire calls
- August- six medical, one motor vehicle accident, two fire calls
- September- four medical, three fire calls
- October- five medical, two motor vehicle accident, four fire calls
- November- six medical, one motor vehicle accident, three fire calls
- December- eight medical calls, one motor vehicle accident

Out of the thirty-seven medical calls in the [redacted] firefighters in the medical truck. Mayo Clinic Ambulance responded before the PIFD on nine calls (five of those were to Oronoco Estates) and arrived at the same time with PIFD on scene for seven calls. On four medical calls, PIFD was impacted with their response because of the 85th Street NW bridge closure. Ice- and snow-covered roads impacted the response time on three calls within the township.

Within the township, no specific patterns have emerged. There were three medical calls to Sunset Homes Assisted Living (two of the calls were by a patient that did not have a personal vehicle and requested an ambulance to transport), and a total of fourteen calls (fire and medical) to Oronoco Estates. To date, the PIFD has made three referrals for additional support to patients within Oronoco Township. One patient has been referred to the Fall Prevention Program (a program just started by Olmsted County in collaboration with the PIFD in November). **The goal of the PIFD is to provide preventative care/service for residents within our fire district.** This means that we collaborate with Pine Island Area Home Services, Fall Prevention through Olmsted County, and Age-Friendly Initiatives from Pine Island.

Overall, during 2025 new trends emerged in the fire service. As cell phones continue to advance, it has caused an increase in call volume for many fire departments. For Oronoco Township, we have outlined what calls were canceled by Olmsted County Dispatch to the PIFD. In our total fire district, we had 37 dispatched and canceled while enroute with 17 of those calls canceled in Oronoco Township. The summary for all of 2025 is as follows:

- Fire alarm-caused by a phone activation. False alarm
- Reported structure fire called in by a passerby. It was a controlled brush burn.
- Motor vehicle crash that involved a deer. No injuries. PIFD was canceled by OFR.
- Fire alarm- alarm company contacted dispatch to cancel fire response.
- Semi fire-The caller was calling dispatch and the tractor-trailer continued from Oronoco Township into Pine Island Township and ZFD fire district.
- Two carbon monoxide alarms-False alarm confirmed by alarm company.
- A grass fire in the highway median. MSP extinguished with fire extinguisher.
- Two lift assists- law enforcement assisted caller off the floor without injury.
- Three medical calls to Oronoco Estates- MCAS canceled PIFD prior to arrival.
- Two medical calls where the patient refused medical care after calling 911.
- One medical call- Caller stated they would not wait for an ambulance and self-transported.
- Motor vehicle crash reported- A phone was left on top of a car and fell off, activating crash alarm.

The members of the Pine Island Fire Department continue to strive and provide the best service to the residents of our fire district. We continue to meet the emerging challenges facing the fire service and will ensure that we respond when called for an emergency. Please do not hesitate to share any questions or concerns you may have, along with any ideas or suggestions for the PIFD leadership. We have an open invitation to any township board member that would like to have a tour of our fire station and see what equipment is available to your residents!

We look forward to continuing to work alongside Oronoco Township!

Respectfully,

Chief Brandon Sather
BRS/djf