

The Operations Division is responsible for the day-to-day delivery of emergency services including fire suppression, emergency medical service calls, hazardous materials mitigation, heavy rescue including auto extrication, trench rescue, high angle rope rescue, confined space rescue, and fast water rescue.



The Prevention Division, headed by the Deputy Chief, is responsible for all facets of the City's Fire Prevention Program. This program includes an aggressive inspection program, fire safety education, fire investigation, juvenile fire setters program, and plans review.

The Department of Fire & Emergency Services provides all services to incorporated areas of the City. In addition, the Department provides contractual services to the following unincorporated areas: fire protection to the southern half of Franklin Township, fire and EMS response to the northern half of Orange Township, and fire and EMS to all areas of Clinton Township. Also included is fire and EMS service to I-75 from Sidney to the Miami County line, which includes Clinton, Orange, and Washington Townships; and fire service north to Sharp Road.

Sidney Fire Bell

This bell which weighs 1250 pounds, first sounded in the belfry of the Monumental Building in January 1905. It was cast in 1904 by the Buckeye Bell Foundry in Cincinnati.

The bell was used until 1939 before the Fire Department moved into their new building. When a fire call came in, a firefighter would trip a lever which released a weight and rang the bell very fast. After each run, the lever system had to be wound up again. The return signal was three rings and a pause, three rings and a pause, and then three rings. It was recorded in the Shelby County Democrat in 1905 "that citizen aggravation with the bell system was expressed stating that the peal sounds just like a church bell. One woman was indignant because she said she would not know whether to go to church or respond to a fire when the bell rang."

The bell was moved to the City Building in 1944 and mounted in the belfry over the current Utility Department. However, the bell tower leaked and caused problems and was eventually removed in 1969. The fire bell was then moved to a position in front of the City Building. When new construction on the Municipal Building began in 1974, the bell was moved to storage in the City Garage. It was eventually brought back and dedicated on September 5, 1978 and rededicated after moving to the new Fire Station on October 27, 1996.

Sidney Dept of Fire & Emergency Services

222 W. Poplar Street, Sidney, Ohio



Chief Bradley S. Jones

Deputy Chief Ron Wolfe

Sidney Dept of Fire & Emergency Services

.....continuing a tradition of excellence

History of Fire Dept

The history of the Sidney Fire Department dates back to 1857 when a volunteer fire brigade was organized with an engineer, an assistant engineer and minutemen. The volunteers used hand pumps and leather buckets to transport water to a fire. It was another 12 years, in 1869, before the town council authorized the purchase of an Anderson fire engine that required 10-12 men to operate the pump.



On March 10, 1872, Council purchased a hook and ladder wagon with buckets for the fabulous sum of \$588. The City also built a house to store the fire hose for a sum of \$185. The hose house was located at what was formerly the County jail at the corner of Court and Main.

In 1876 the Monumental Building was completed and the Fire Department moved into the west side of the building and operated there until 1940.

The department's first Ahrens steam fire engine was purchased in 1883 for \$4,000 and today is on display at Dayton's Carillon Historical Park. By this time, Sidney had four and one-fourth miles of water pipe and 42 fire plugs. The departmental equipment also included a hook and ladder company and four hose companies.

On June 8, 1885, an article printed in the Sidney Daily News stated "the Fire Department horses now run for their places and are hitched up in 18 seconds from the tap of the gong. Time is not up to the metropolitan departments, but it is sufficient. The fine gray horse Snyder is the slowest of the department in getting to its place."

On March 24, 1890, Council passed legislation to add a Chief and Assistant Chief to the Fire Department. The Chief was paid \$50 a month; drivers, \$40 a month; and minutemen, \$50 a year.

Council approved a full-time Fire Department in June 1903. The roster included: Chief Henry Yost, Firemen George Hume, Red McKinnon, George Rickert, and Harry Lewis. The call man was William Rench.

Chief Yost has the distinction of not only having his name on the Sidney Fire Bell, he was also the first Sidney fireman to die in the line of duty. On May 12, 1906

...continuing a tradition of excellence

The construction on the current building was started on March 22, 1995 with the site work excavation and was completed on September 30, 1996 at a cost of \$2,862,000. This facility houses the Central Fire Station and administration offices of the Department. The building contains 26,703 square feet of space.

Some of the features include:

- Drive-thru apparatus bay
- Combination hose tower/drill tower
- Training classroom that seats 44
- Individual sleeping cubicles
- Restrooms, shower rooms, and kitchen designed according to infection control standards
- EMS decontamination area & storage area
- Reception area w/expanded office space
- Laundry area and hose storage area
- Backup generator
- Energy-efficient heating/cooling system
- Fitness center

**Since
1857**

while responding to a fire at the W. D. John residence on Wilkinson Avenue, Chief Yost fell approximately 32 feet when the ladder he was standing on broke. He had served 19 years on the department, four years as Chief, and is buried in Graceland Cemetery.

The department's first motorized fire engine was purchased in 1913 and was capable of pumping 750 gallons of water per minute.

The current three-platoon system has 37 full-time uniformed personnel with three engines, one aerial ladder platform, one heavy rescue vehicle, three ALS ambulances with one BLS ambulance, a pickup truck, rescue boats, a technical rescue trailer, utility 4x4, and four staff cars. Station #2 on Vandemark Road was opened in 1981 and is staffed by three firefighters, one engine, and an ambulance.

The Department includes a Chief, Deputy Chief, 3 Assistant Chiefs, 3 crew lieutenants, 2 lieutenants in the Fire Prevention Division, 1 lieutenant in the Training Division, and 27 firefighters.

In July 2003, the Department implemented EMS billing and charges for ambulance transports to the hospital.

Sidney Dept of Fire & Emergency Services