



# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

City of Sidney Department of Fire & Emergency Services

The Sidney Department of Fire & Emergency Services is an organization with a rich and proud history. At the sound of the bell, siren, or radio dispatch alert, emergency responders react with purpose. The response is quick and efficient and concentrated on serving the needs of our City. Throughout the more than 160 years of service to the community, the sacrifices made by the emergency responders and their families in serving the community are too numerous to mention, but should never be forgotten.

Our beginning dates to 1857, a time when the City was being served by four companies of volunteer firefighters. Growing rapidly with a number of manufacturing firms starting. Sidney began to anticipate the prospect of a major fire occurring in the town. The Great Chicago fire occurred in 1871. Our first Fire Chief was appointed as a result of a local fire that had disastrous outcome in 1879. In 1897, Sidney Fire Department responded to 25 fire calls for the year. The department responded to 1,094 fire calls in 2020.

Sidney was ahead of the curve in 1962 as well. The department started emergency victim care (EMS) out of a van-type vehicle. They responded to 34 calls for service that first year. In 1963, the count climbed to 98. In the year 2019, the department responded to 3,106 EMS calls. We have all come a long way from our humble beginnings.

The Sidney Department of Fire & Emergency Services experienced a large increase in activity in 2019 along with a few personnel changes. During the past year, the department responded to 4,188

calls for service. Those fires resulted in 3 civilian injuries, and accounted for fire losses totaling \$431,050,

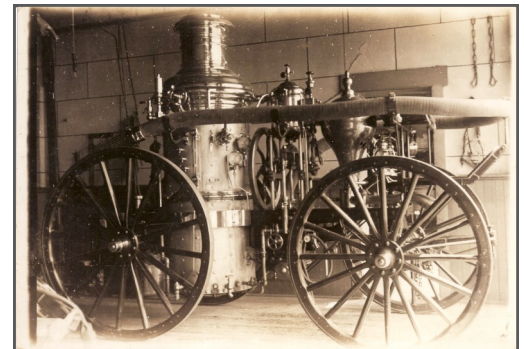
This report will attempt to encapsulate the activities and operations of all divisions within the department over the past 12 months.

The Department of Fire & Emergency Services is a full-service, full-time career department that delivers a wide range of professional fire protection services. The Department consists of three divisions: Administration, Operations, and Prevention.

The Administration Division is responsible for management of all fiscal, human, and physical resources as well as the overall operation of the 24/7 organization.

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

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



## Mission Statement

The mission of the Sidney Department of Fire & Emergency Services is to serve and protect the community by preventing loss of life and property through education and the utilization of a highly-trained and equipped work force.

## 2020 Highlights



In May 2020, the Department welcomed FF Josh Strawser, and in July FF Jared Lindsey joined the department.

Welcome to Sidney Fire!



FF Chance Guisinger was honored as the 2019 Firefighter of the Year. Due to the pandemic, he was unable to be presented with his award in front of Council in 2020. Chance has been with the Department for over 5 years. We thank him and congratulate him on this peer-nominated award!



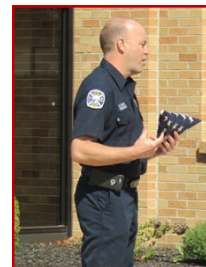
Chief Brad Jones  
27 years



AC Chris Niswonger  
27 years



Lt Rod Dyer  
28 years



FF Steve O'Meara  
33 years



FF Doug Stammen  
29 years

Sidney Fire had five members of the department retire in 2020—with a combined **144 years** of firefighting experience. We thank each of them for their time and dedication to the firefighting service!

## Personnel

(as of 12/31/20)

**Chief:** Chad Hollinger  
**Deputy Chief:** Dallas Davis  
**Training Lieutenant:** Lt. Greg Francis  
**Fire Prevention Lieutenants:**  
Lt. Ryan Heitman  
Lt. Brian Lundy  
**Secretary:** Katie Hoehne

### A Crew

Assistant Chief Keith Wiley  
Lieutenant Jason Truesdale  
FF/Paramedic Mark Pleiman  
FF/Paramedic Mike Utz  
FF/Paramedic Kyle Barlage  
FF/Paramedic Kyle Meyer  
FF/Paramedic Collin Habel  
FF/Paramedic Lucas Woodward  
FF/Paramedic Jordan Stemen  
FF/EMT Jared Lindsey

### B Crew

Assistant Chief Mark Barga  
Lieutenant Bryan Ramge  
FF/Paramedic Wesley Goubeaux  
FF/Paramedic Scott Marchal  
FF/Paramedic Jeffery Simon  
FF/Paramedic Adam Schulze  
FF/Paramedic Derek Stitzel  
FF/Paramedic Quinten Pence  
FF/Paramedic Ross Kohler  
FF/Paramedic Ken Battiston

### C Crew

Assistant Chief Eric Barhorst  
Lieutenant Rick Slife  
FF/Paramedic Ray Hess  
FF/Paramedic Anthony Marchal  
FF/Paramedic Chance Guisinger  
FF/Paramedic Andy Zumberger  
FF/Paramedic Mitch Ahlers  
FF/Paramedic Josh Waugh  
FF/EMT Josh Strawser

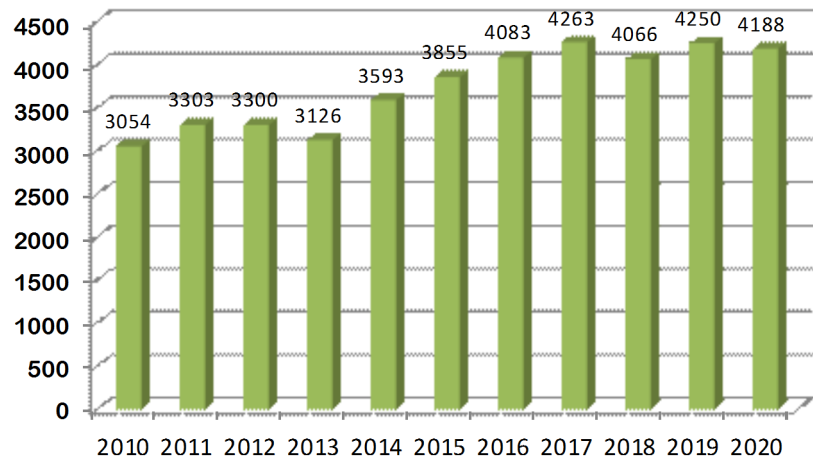


## Operations Division

The Operations Division is responsible for the day-to-day delivery of emergency services including fire suppression, emergency medical service calls, hazardous materials mitigation, technical rescue including auto extrication, trench, high angle rope, confined space, and swift water. The Operations Division also maintains the department fleet and conducts pre-emergency planning inspections of target buildings throughout the community.

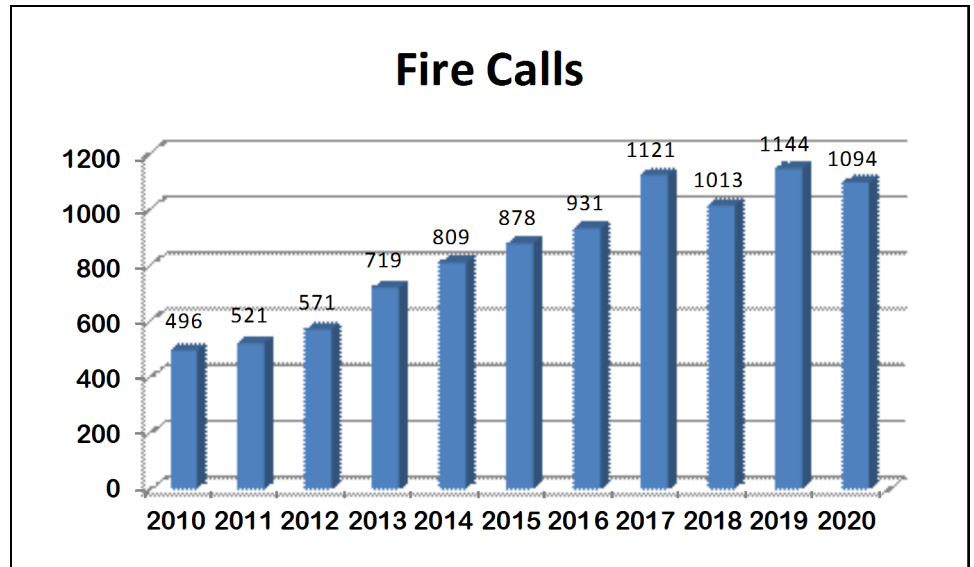
### Total Calls for Service

The department responded to a total of 4,188 calls in 2020 which is a 1.4% decrease from the 2019 total of 4,250. Calls for service include emergency medical service calls (ambulance), fire calls, rescue calls, and other miscellaneous calls.



## Fire Calls

The number of fire calls decreased 4.3% during 2020. There were 1,094 fire calls compared to 1,144 the previous year. In the city, there were 67 actual calls for fire, 97 calls for hazardous conditions, 330 service calls, 220 good intent calls, 201 false alarms, and 5 special incidents types. In the contracted township areas, there were 123 fire responses compared to 83 in 2019. There were 51 mutual aid runs compared to 37 last year.



## Fire Loss

The total fire loss for 2019 was \$431,050, which is down 38% from last year's total of \$692,040. Several "significant loss" fires occurred during the year:

### March 29

2563 N Main Ave      \$150,000  
Building Fire

### March 27

117 Beech St      \$86,000  
Building Fire

### October 3

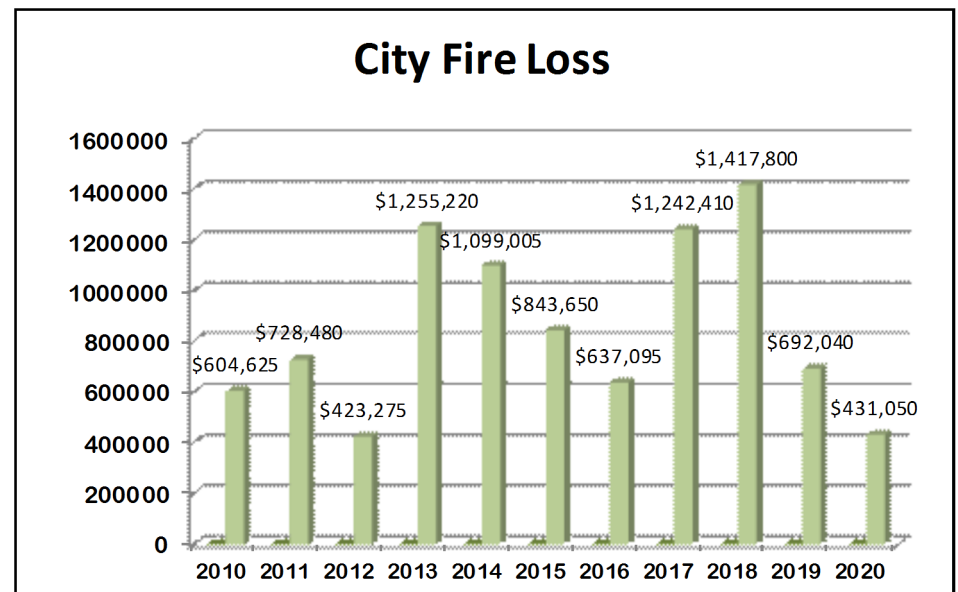
303 Enterprise Ave      \$55,000  
Building Fire

### April 25

500 N Vandemark Rd      \$30,000  
Building Fire

### October 3

323 South St      \$25,000  
Building Fire



### Vision Statement

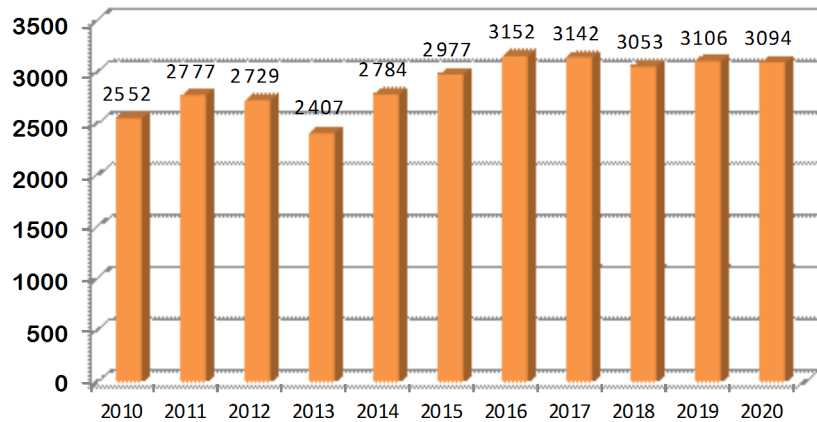
The vision of the Sidney Department of Fire & Emergency Services is to be a leader in our industry. We strive to serve the citizens by anticipating and responding to the changing needs of the community. The department will incorporate new technologies and techniques, focusing on training and education to provide the highest level of customer service and satisfaction in a professional and compassionate manner.

## EMS Calls

The department provides advanced life support and transport services in our emergency medical service system. In 2020, the department responded to 3,094 calls which is almost a .4% decrease from the previous year. Of the 3,094 calls, 2,514 were in the city, 471 were in the contracted township, and 109 mutual aid calls.

In 2020, EMS calls accounted for almost 74% of the department's total emergency responses.

### EMS Calls



## Township Coverage

In addition to providing services to the incorporated areas of the City, 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 in Franklin Township north to Sharp Road.

In 2020, Township EMS responses decreased 3% from the 2019 total of 486 to 471.

This table shows the number of **EMS calls** per township:

	Clinton	Orange	Franklin	Washington
<b>2010</b>	299	25	0	
<b>2011</b>	370	42	1	
<b>2012</b>	246	64	1	
<b>2013</b>	266	30	5	2
<b>2014</b>	300	50	8	4
<b>2015</b>	279	31	4	1
<b>2016</b>	333	34	11	2
<b>2017</b>	412	34	10	3
<b>2018</b>	430	30	8	4
<b>2019</b>	421	51	12	2
<b>2020</b>	399	52	15	5

## Apparatus and Responses

The department maintains the following fleet of apparatus and equipment: 2 Engines (pumpers) front line; Rescue Engine-used for heavy rescue; 1 Quint (77' ladder); 4 Ambulances equipped as Advanced Life Support Units; 2 Utility pick-ups w/4-wheel drive; 5 staff cars (Chief, Deputy Chief, Fire Prevention, and Training); utility car; 4 boats and motors with a trailer and a Mobile Fire Safety Education Center.

In November 2019, Quint 3, having a 100' ladder, was added to the fleet in place of Ladder 5 which was out of service for over a year. Quint 1 therefore became Quint 2 and headed out to Station 2.

This table shows the number of calls per apparatus:

	2018	2019	2020
<b>Quint 1 (Q2 in 2019)</b>	643	564	254
<b>Quint 3</b>	N/A	43	152
<b>Engine 2</b>	298	320	13
<b>Engine 3</b>	79	127	190
<b>Rescue 9</b>	178	210	378
<b>Medic 1506</b>	290	353	308
<b>Medic 1508</b>	2326	2410	2350
<b>Medic 1510</b>	1115	1140	1052
<b>Medic 1514</b>	25	26	14



## Fire Prevention

As with a lot of different activities, the COVID-19 pandemic had a large impact on the Fire Prevention Division's inspections, fire investigations, and educational programs.

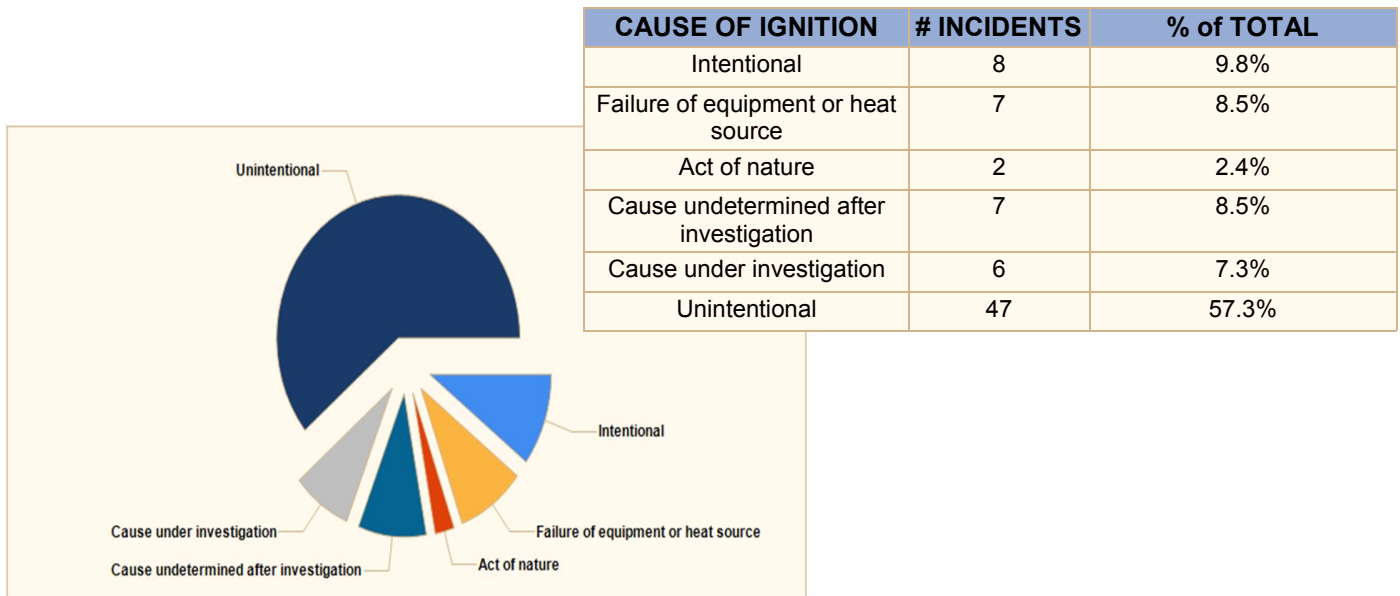
One of the major initiatives of the Fire Prevention Division is an aggressive inspection program. The program consists of inspections of mercantile, manufacturing, public assembly, and other occupancies within the city. The on-site inspection is designed to uncover fire code violations and unsafe practices in the workplace that can lead to a fire or other type of incident that may cause injury, damage to the property or lost income/production. With a large portion of the local businesses being either shut down completely or not open outside visitors, the Division was still able to conduct 336 inspections in 2020.

One of the primary goals in fire safety education is to provide a comprehensive program for people of all ages, with a special emphasis on young children. However, in 2020 the majority of the schools were not open to the public or doing remoter learning, so there were no fire safety education classes held within the schools.

The Prevention Division educates area youth with the State of Ohio's Juvenile Firesetter Program. In 2020, 1 juvenile, aged 8-14, was counseled through our program.

	Fire Prev. Inspections	Fire Investigations	Juvenile FireSetter Program	Public Education
2020	336	15	1	1 (60)*
2019	475	9	0	59 (3,112)
2018	646	13	0	83 (2,978)
2017	574	14	1	102 (3,493)

The Prevention Division is also responsible for fire investigations either as an individual unit or through the Sidney-Shelby County Fire Investigation Unit. This unit is made up of trained fire personnel and officers from the Sidney Police Department and Shelby County Sheriff's Office. The unit conducted 9 formal investigations during the year.



## Fire Prevention cont'd

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The FPO would like to point out that a key element to fire safety is to sleep with your bedroom door in the CLOSED and latched position. Smoke from an unfriendly fire is the by-product of fire that is the most deadly. A CLOSED door will stop or slow the movement of smoke in your home. The closed door provides time for an individual to become alert in clean air and make decisions accordingly. For more information on the importance to **"CLOSE BEFORE YOU DOZE"**, please visit <https://closeyourdoor.org/>



As a reminder to area citizens, the American Red Cross has a smoke detector installation program. For more information, please call the American Red Cross at 937-332-1414.

## Fire Injuries

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In 2020, there were three civilian injuries and one firefighter injury during the year.



## Facilities

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The Department serves the community from two sites. Station #1 is located at 222 West Poplar Street and houses all administrative offices. The other site is Station #2, located at 411 South Vandemark Road which was opened in 1982.

In 1997, the City completed and adopted an updated Comprehensive Plan. That plan recommends a third station in the next 5 years in order to better serve our community with improved response times throughout the City.

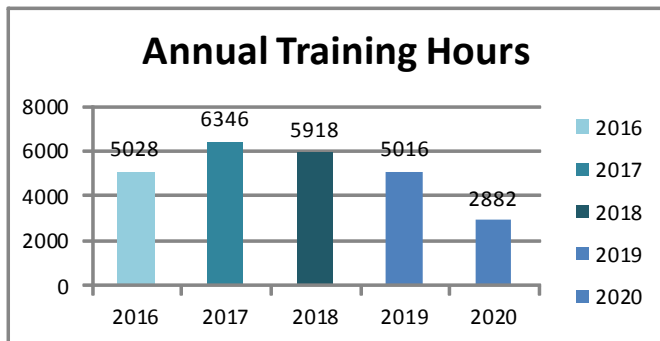
# Training



The Training office, as part of the Operations Division, is responsible for the training of all personnel to maintain proficiency of skills and professionalism in the performance of the skills. Training is categorized into the following categories: Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Fire, Technical Rescue, Hazardous Materials and Professional development.

In EMS, training is conducted in close coordination with Wilson Health and Greater Miami Valley EMS Council (GMVEMSC). Personnel participated in specific classes in; Cardiac, Geriatric and

Pediatric Protocol, Trauma, 12-Lead EKG, Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS), and other EMS courses. Fire training included: pump operations, SCBA and fire ground tactics. Technical rescue training areas including ice rescue, river rescue, swiftwater, trench rescue, rope rescue, vehicle/machinery rescue, hazmat operations, grain bin extrication and confined space.



## Summary



The year 2020 brought tremendous changes for our department, city, nation, and world. Within the department, personnel changes marked one of our most significant changes. I believe people are our most valuable asset; the people we serve, the people we serve with, and our people who serve. Your Department of Fire & Emergency Services is committed to fulfilling our mission with excellence. Thank you for allowing us the honor to serve you.

*Chad A. Hollinger*  
Fire Chief



### Value Statement

#### Professionalism

We serve our community with honor and dedication.

#### Respect

We treat everyone with dignity and compassion.

#### Integrity

You can trust us to always do the right thing.

#### Duty

Our tradition is to do whatever it takes to get the job done.

#### Excellence

We achieve distinction through training, teamwork, and technology.

