



# 2021 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 1,102 fire calls in 2021.

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 2021, the department responded to 2,937 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 2021 along with a few personnel changes. During the past year, the department responded to 4,039

calls for service. Those fires resulted in 10 civilian injuries, and accounted for fire losses totaling \$819,750,

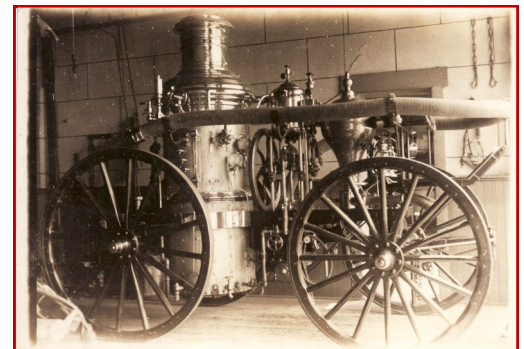
This report will attempt to encapsulate the activities and operations of all divisions within the department over the past 12 months.

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.

## 2021 Highlights

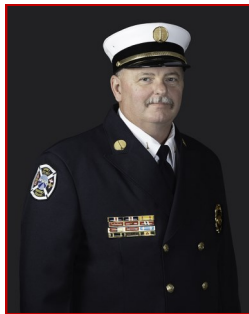


In April 2021 the Department welcomed Jacob Finrock, and in July Henry Ruhenkamp joined the department.

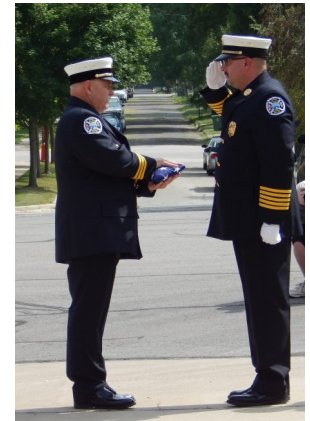
Welcome to Sidney Fire!



FF Collin Habel was honored as the 2020 Firefighter of the Year. Collin has been with the Department for over 5 years. We thank him and congratulate him on this peer-nominated award!



Assistant Chief Mark Barga retired after 30 years with the Sidney Fire Department. We thank him for his time and dedication to the City of Sidney as well as the citizens of Shelby County!



## Personnel

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

### A Crew

Assistant Chief Keith Wiley  
Lieutenant Rick Slife  
FF/EMT Mark Pleiman  
FF/Paramedic Anthony Marchal  
FF/Paramedic Kyle Barlage  
FF/Paramedic Adam Schulze  
FF/Paramedic Kyle Meyer  
FF/Paramedic Jordan Stemen  
FF/Paramedic Ross Kohler  
FF/EMT Jared Lindsey

### B Crew

Assistant Chief Jason Truesdale  
Lieutenant Brian Lundy  
FF/Paramedic Wesley Goubeaux  
FF/Paramedic Scott Marchal  
FF/Paramedic Derek Stitzel  
FF/Paramedic Collin Habel  
FF/Paramedic Quinten Pence  
FF/Paramedic Lucas Woodward  
FF/Paramedic Ken Battiston  
FF/EMT Jake Finrock

### C Crew

Assistant Chief Eric Barhorst  
Lieutenant Bryan Ramge  
FF/Paramedic Mike Utz  
FF/Paramedic Ray Hess  
FF/Paramedic Chance Guisinger  
FF/Paramedic Andy Zumberger  
FF/Paramedic Mitch Ahlers  
FF/Paramedic Josh Waugh  
FF/EMT Josh Strawser  
FF/EMT Henry Ruhenkamp

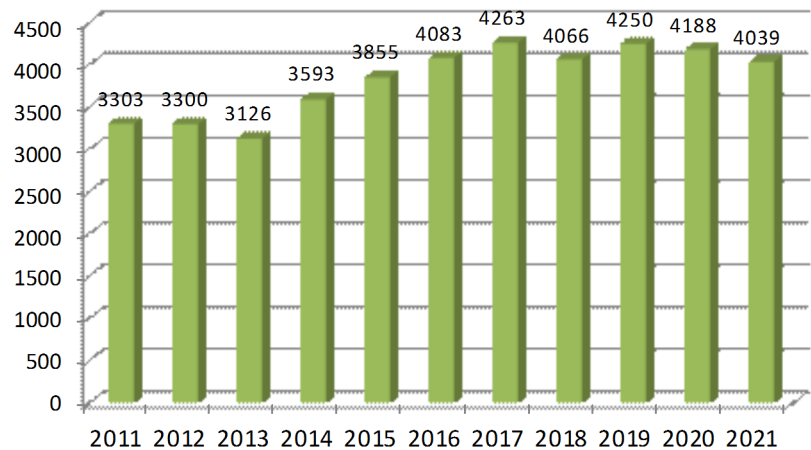


## Operations Division

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.

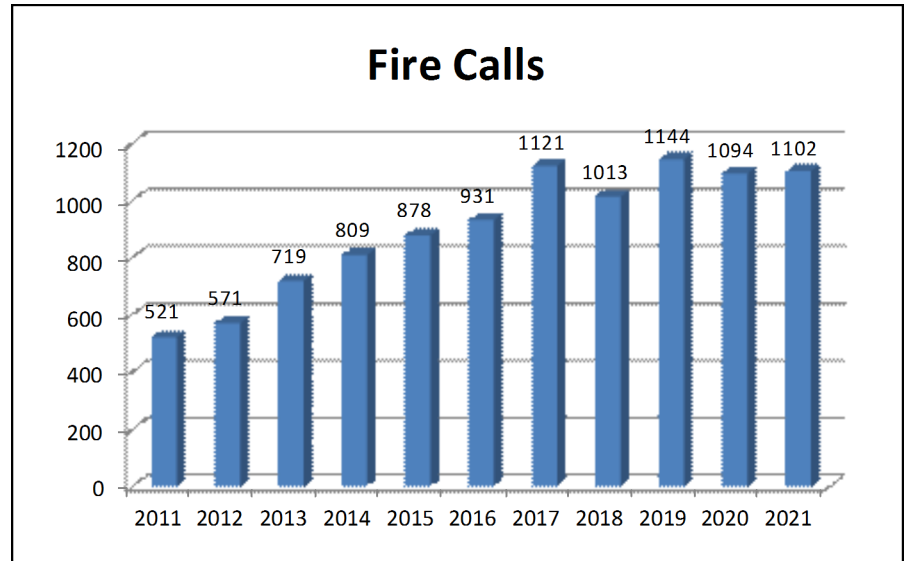
## Total Calls for Service

The department responded to a total of 4,039 calls in 2021 which is a 3.6% decrease from the 2020 total of 4,188. Calls for service include emergency medical service calls (ambulance), fire calls, rescue calls, and other miscellaneous calls.



## Fire Calls

The number of fire calls increased .73% during 2021. There were 1,102 fire calls compared to 1,094 the previous year. There were 83 actual calls for fire, 85 calls for hazardous conditions, 454 service calls, 283 good intent calls, 188 false alarms, 2 severe weather calls, and 8 special incidents types.



## Fire Loss

The total fire loss for 2021 was \$819,750, which is up 90% from last year's total of \$431,050. Several "significant loss" fires occurred during the year:

### May 25

911 E Court St  
Building Fire \$130,000

### February 11,

673 Oak Ridge Dr  
Building Fire \$110,000

### November 21

2308 Armstrong Ave  
Building Fire \$105,000

### November 18

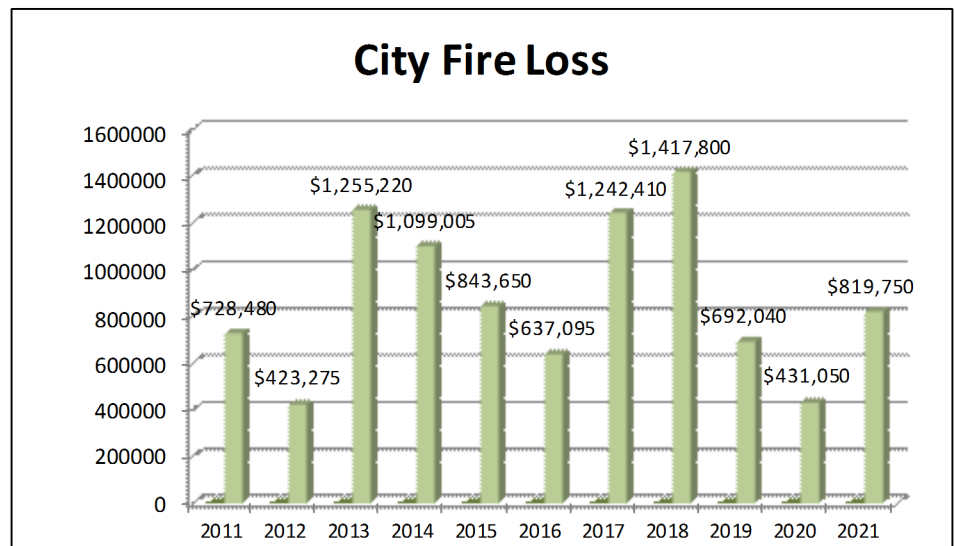
627 Second Ave  
Building Fire \$90,000

### February 10

839 Crescent Dr  
Building Fire \$85,000

### March 22

1861 Fair Oaks Dr  
Building Fire \$85,000



### Vision Statement

The vision of the Sidney Department of Fire and Emergency Services is to be a leader in our industry.

## EMS Calls

The department provides advanced life support and transport services in our emergency medical service system. In 2021, the department responded to 2,937 calls which is almost a 5% decrease from the previous year. Of the 2,937 calls, 2,461 were in the city, 377 were in the contracted township, and 99 mutual aid calls.

In 2021, EMS calls accounted for almost 73% of the department's total emergency responses.

## Township Coverage

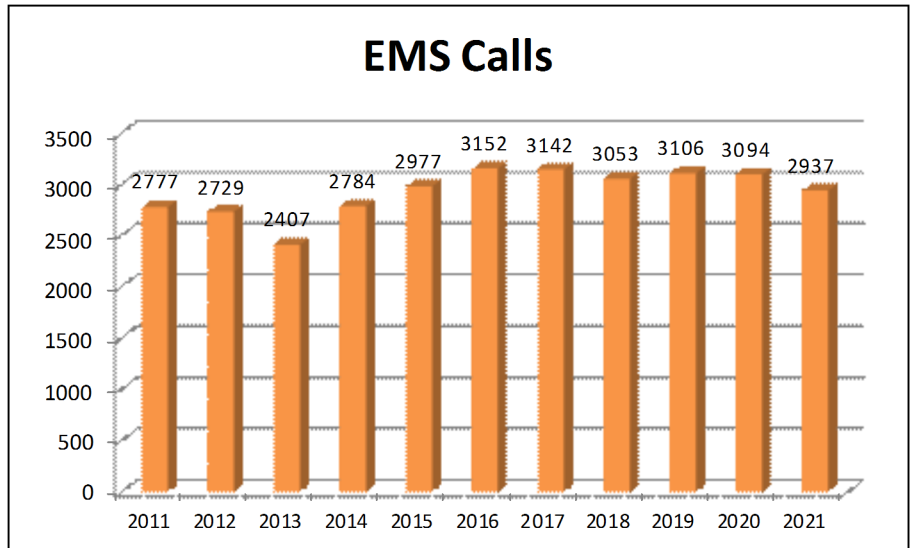
In addition to providing services to the incorporated areas of the City, the Department provides contractual services to the following unincorporated areas: fire protection to the southern half of Franklin Township, fire and EMS response to the northern half of Orange Township, and fire and EMS to all 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 2021, Township EMS responses decreased 20% from the 2020 total of 471 to 377.

## Apparatus and Responses

The department maintains the following fleet of apparatus and equipment: 2 Engines (pumpers) front line; Rescue Engine-used for heavy rescue; 2 Quints (77' ladder and 100' 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.

\* Note: with the purchase of a new medic, the existing medics were re-numbered



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

	Clinton	Orange	Franklin	Washington
<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
<b>2021</b>	333	36	6	2

This table shows the number of calls per apparatus:

	2019	2020	2021
<b>Quint 2</b>	564	254	197
<b>Quint 3</b>	43	152	73
<b>Engine 2</b>	320	13	19
<b>Engine 3</b>	127	190	313
<b>Rescue 9</b>	210	378	278
<b>Medic 1506</b>	353	308	35
<b>Medic 1508</b>	2410	2350	304
<b>Medic 1510</b>	1140	1052	976
<b>Medic 1514</b>	26	14	2280

## Fire Prevention

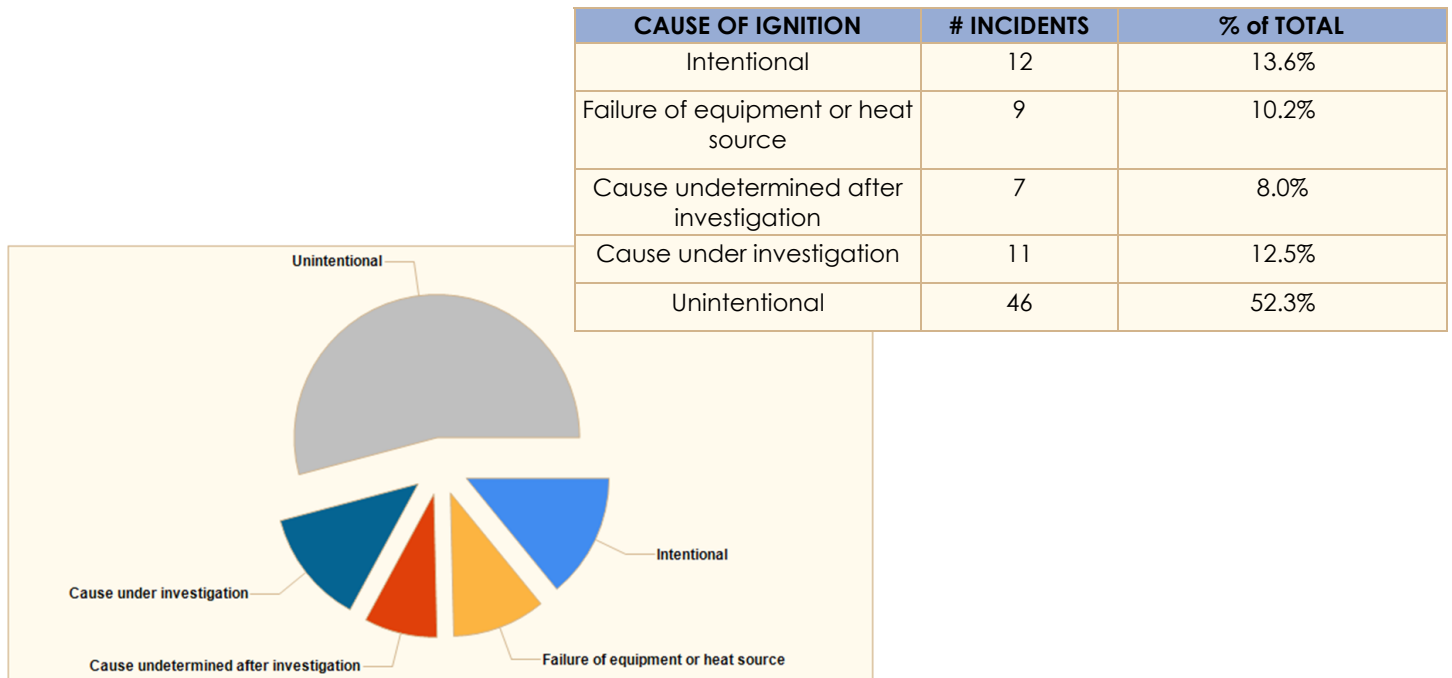
One of the major initiatives of the Fire Prevention Division is an aggressive inspection program. The program consists of inspections of mercantile, manufacturing, public assembly, and other occupancies within the city. The on-site inspection is designed to uncover fire code violations and unsafe practices 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.

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. In addition to reaching out to the school-aged children, the FPO also teaches fire safety education to numerous businesses throughout the City.

The Prevention Division educates area youth with the State of Ohio's Juvenile Firesetter Program.

	Fire Prev. Inspections	Fire Investigations	Juvenile FireSetter Program	Public Education
2021	234	24	1	20 (3128)
2020	336	15	1	1 (60)*
2019	475	9	0	59 (3,112)
2018	646	13	0	83 (2,978)

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 as well as officers from the Sidney Police Department and Shelby County Sheriff's Office. The unit conducted 24 formal investigations during the year—3 out in the County and 20 within the City.





## 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 2021, there were ten civilian injuries and three firefighter injuries during the year.



## Facilities

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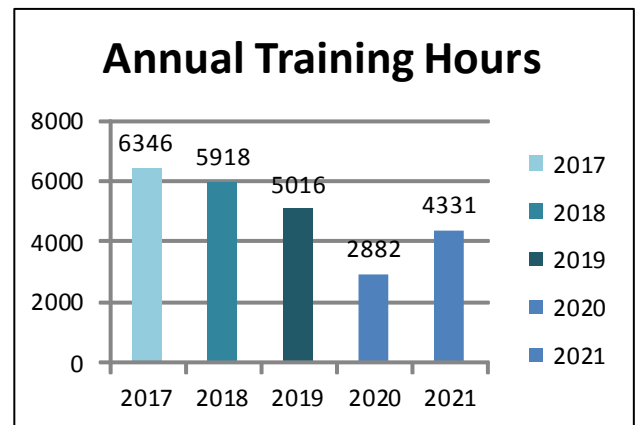
The Department serves the community from two sites. Station #1 is located at 222 West Poplar Street and houses all administrative offices. The other site is Station #2, located at 411 South Vandemark Road which was opened in 1982.

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 medical training with 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 Department of Fire and Emergency Services experienced countless changes throughout 2021. New people, new equipment, and new opportunities have provided the department with exciting changes and challenges ahead in 2022. Your Department of Fire and Emergency Services stands ready to fulfill our mission, “to serve and protect the community by preventing the loss of life and property.”

*Chad A. Hollinger*

Fire Chief



### Value Statement

The values of the Sidney Department of Fire and Emergency Services are to serve our community with professionalism, respect, integrity, and honor.