



# 2023 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 1,080 fire calls in 2023.

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 2023, the department responded to 2,886 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 2022 along with a few personnel changes. During the past year, the department responded to 3,966

calls for service. Those fires resulted in 6 civilian injuries, and accounted for fire losses totaling \$1,934,730.

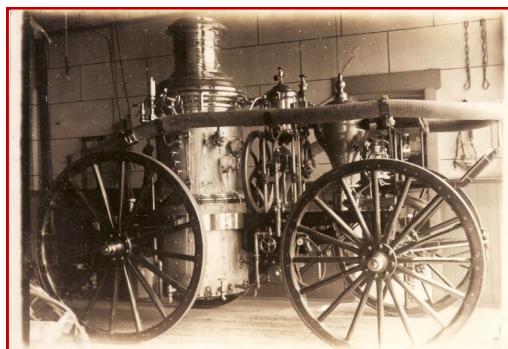
This report will attempt to encapsulate the activities and operations of all divisions within the department over the past 12 months.

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.

# 2023 Highlights

---

In April, FF Scott Marchal was honored as the 2022 Fire-fighter of the Year. Scott has been with the Department for over 15 years. We thank him and congratulate him on this peer-nominated award!



Sidney Fire welcomed two new firefighters in 2023. Terrence Vaughan joined the department in January, and Will Sherman was hired in November.

Welcome to the Sidney Fire family, gentleman!

## Personnel

---

**Chief:** Chad Hollinger

**Deputy Chief:** Dallas Davis

**Training Lieutenant:** Lt. Jeff Simon

**Fire Prevention Lieutenants:**

Lt. Bryan Ramge & Lt Chance Guisinger

**Secretary:** Katie Hoehne

### **B Crew**

Assistant Chief Jason Truesdale

Lieutenant Brian Lundy

FF/Paramedic Wesley Goubeaux

FF/Paramedic Scott Marchal

FF/Paramedic Derek Stitzel

FF/Paramedic Quinten Pence

FF/Paramedic Lucas Woodward

FF/Paramedic Ken Battiston

FF/Paramedic Jake Finfrock

FF/EMT Bryce Barhorst

FF/Paramedic Will Sherman

### **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 Jared Lindsey

FF/Paramedic Carter Jenkins

FF/EMT Nick Baker

### **C Crew**

Assistant Chief Eric Barhorst

Lieutenant Ryan Heitman

FF/Paramedic Mike Utz

FF/Paramedic Ray Hess

FF/Paramedic Andy Zumberger

FF/Paramedic Mitch Ahlers

FF/Paramedic Josh Strawser

FF/Paramedic Henry Ruhenkamp

FF/Paramedic Alex Herron

FF/EMT Ricardo Lenhart

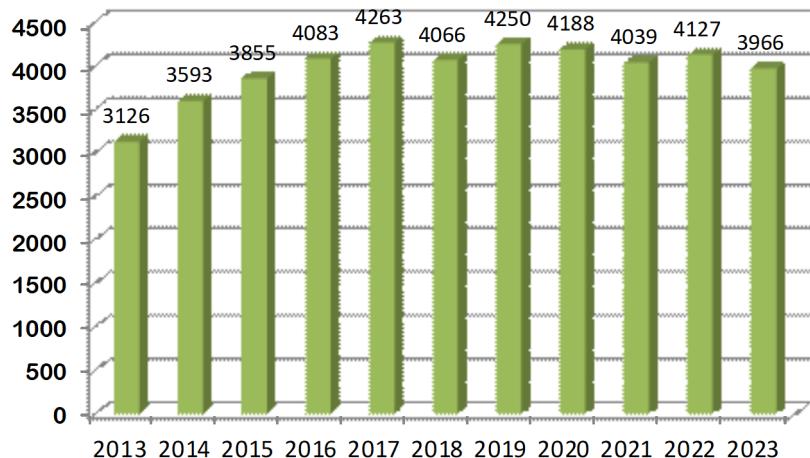
FF/EMT Terrence Vaughan

# 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.

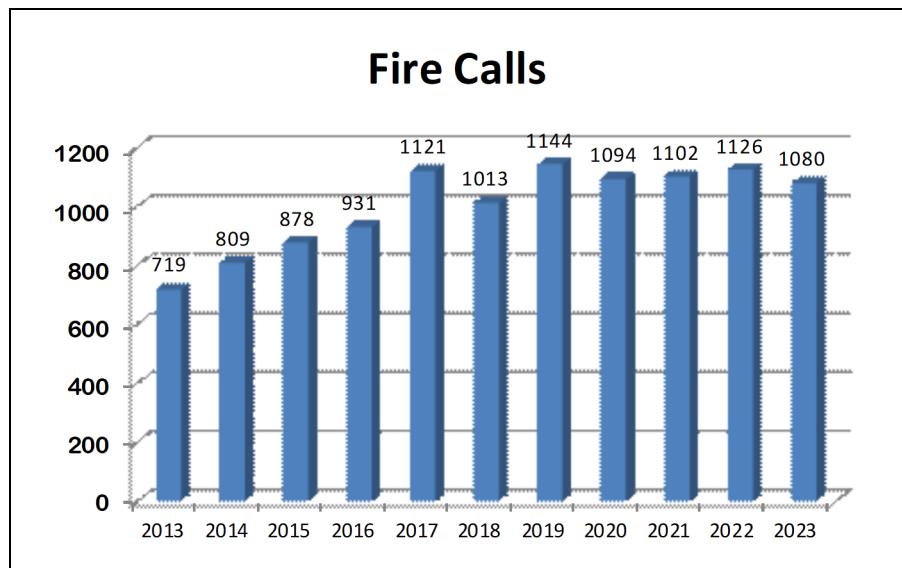
## Total Calls for Service

The department responded to a total of 3,966 calls in 2023 which is a 3.9% decrease from the 2022 total of 4,127. Calls for service include emergency medical service calls, fire calls, rescue calls, and other miscellaneous calls.



## Fire Calls

The number of fire calls decreased 4.08% during 2023. There were 1,080 fire calls compared to 1,126 the previous year. There were 82 actual calls for fire, 97 calls for hazardous conditions, 429 service calls, 293 good intent calls, 170 false alarms, 1 severe weather & natural disaster call, and 8 special incidents types.



## Fire Loss

The total fire loss for 2023 was \$1,684,730\*, which is up from last year's total of \$443,900. Several "significant loss" fires occurred during the year:

**December 1**  
1810 Progress Way      \$500,000  
Building Fire

**April 10**  
1703 Letitia Drive      \$280,000  
Building Fire

**August 6**  
630 Foraker Ave      \$184,580  
Building Fire

**May 24**  
1283 Wapak Ave      \$175,000  
Building Fire

**July 13**  
1624 Holly Place      \$170,000  
Building Fire

### City Fire Loss



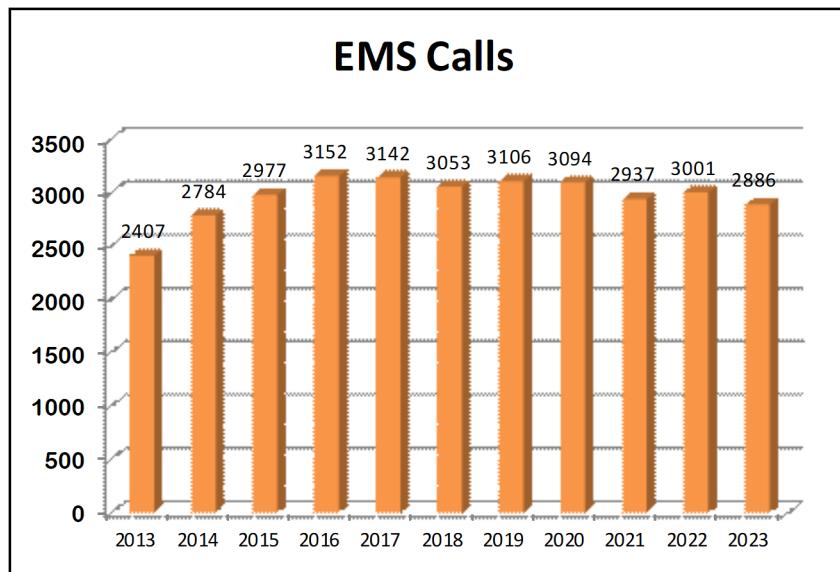
### Vision Statement

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 2023, the department responded to 2,886 calls which is almost a 3.83% decrease from the previous year. Of these calls, 2,603 were in the city, 242 were in the contracted township, and 41 mutual aid calls.

In 2023, 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 certain areas of the following unincorporated locations: fire protection & EMS coverage in Clinton Township, fire protection and EMS coverage in Orange Township, fire protection in Franklin township, and EMS coverage for the right-of-way of Interstate 75 which lies in Washington Township.

In 2023, Township EMS responses decreased 32% from the 2022 total of 355 to 242.

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

	Clinton	Orange	Franklin	Washington
2013	266	30	5	2
2014	300	50	8	4
2015	279	31	4	1
2016	333	34	11	2
2017	412	34	10	3
2018	430	30	8	4
2019	421	51	12	2
2020	399	52	15	5
2021	333	36	6	2
2022	292	49	12	2
2023	178	47	17	0

## 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 medic 1512 in 2023, medics 1506 and 1510 became reserve medics and the order of dispatching was changed

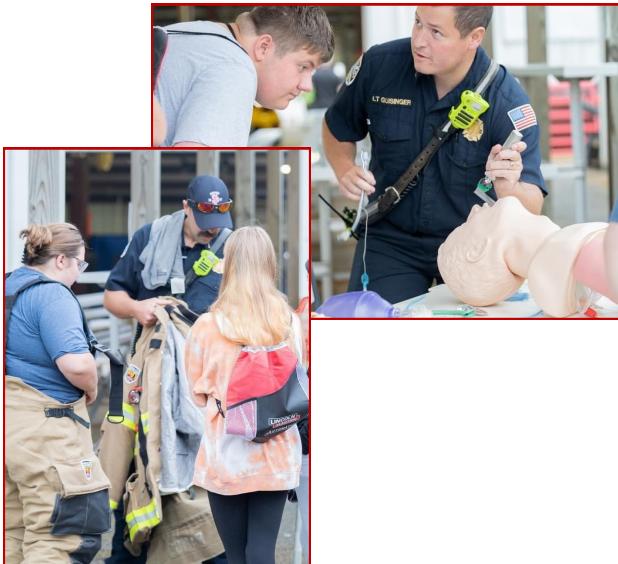
	2021	2022	2023
<b>Quint 2</b>	197	204	193
<b>Quint 3</b>	73	112	97
<b>Engine 2</b>	19	31	31
<b>Engine 3</b>	313	389	346
<b>Rescue 9</b>	278	304	317
<b>Medic 1506*</b>	35	110	0
<b>Medic 1508</b>	304	277	254
<b>Medic 1510</b>	976	886	41
<b>Medic 1512</b>			2365
<b>Medic 1514</b>	2280	2388	889

# 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.

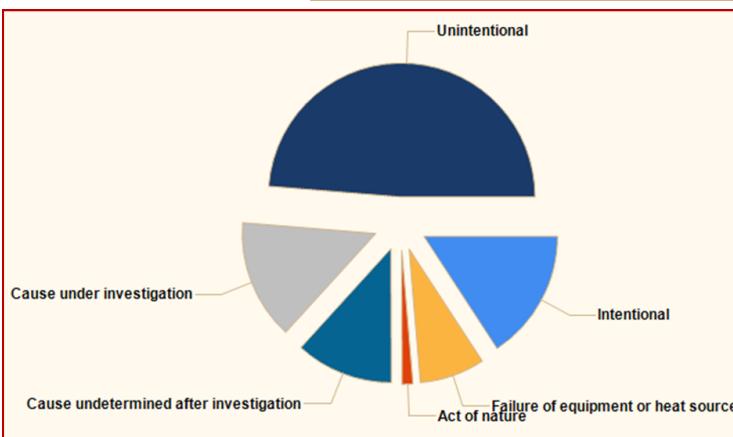
The Prevention Division educates area youth with the State of Ohio's Juvenile Firesetter Program.



	Fire Prev. Inspections	Fire Investigations	Juvenile FireSetter Program	Public Education
2023	374	21	0	46 (6,023)
2022	217	25	3	36 (4,253)
2021	234	24	1	20 (3,128)
2020	336	15	1	1 (60)

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 21 formal investigations during the year—4 out in the County and 17 within the City.

CAUSE OF IGNITION	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Intentional	12	14.8%
Failure of equipment or heat source	6	7.4%
Act of nature	1	1.2%
Cause undetermined after investigation	9	11.1%
Cause under investigation	11	13.6%
Unintentional	37	45.7%



## Fire Prevention cont'd

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) message for the 2023 Fire Prevention Week was  
**"Cooking safety starts with you!"**

This theme underscores the importance of fire prevention in the kitchen, where a significant number of home fires originate. Kitchen fires are among the leading causes of home fires and injuries in the United States.



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

In 2023, there were six civilian injuries and two firefighter injuries during the year.



## Facilities

Note: some of the photos shown are from the Sidney Daily News.

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.

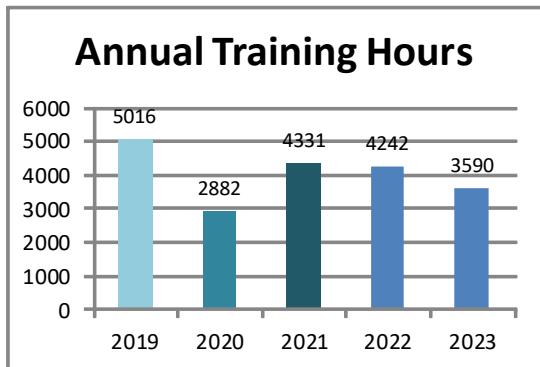


# Training

---

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 staff of your Sidney Department of Fire and Emergency Services have prepared significant plans for the future of the organization. With the anticipated growth to our manufacturing and housing bases, the department has made plans to address staffing shortages, apparatus and equipment needs, and facility replacement and repair. A Strategic Planning process is scheduled for 2024 which will further expand upon the plans already laid out. On behalf of the members of the Sidney Department of Fire and Emergency Services, I thank you for allowing us the opportunity 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.

---