

# 2024 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 1,215 fire calls in 2024. Of those calls, fires resulted in 1 civilian injury and accounted for fire losses totaling \$2,007,200.

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 2024, the department responded to 2,774 EMS calls. We have all come a long way from our humble beginnings.

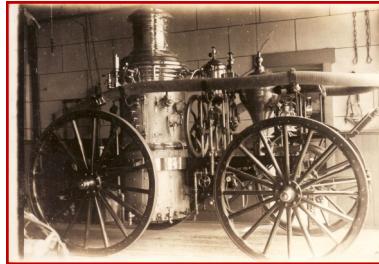
The Sidney Department of Fire & Emergency Services experienced an increase in activity in 2024 along with a few personnel changes. During the past year, the department responded to 3,989 calls for service. This report will attempt to encapsulate the activities and operations of all divisions within the 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.

# 2024 Highlights

In 2024, FF Derek Stitzel was honored as the 2023 Firefighter of the Year. Derek has been with the Department for 8 years. We thank him and congratulate him on this peer-nominated award!



Sidney Fire welcomed two new firefighters in 2024. Jaron Kelly joined the department in March, and William Wallace was hired December.

Welcome to the Sidney Fire family, gentleman!



In March, FF Mark Pleiman retired after 25 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. Jeff Simon

**Fire Prevention Lieutenants:**

Lt. Bryan Ramge & Lt Chance Guisinger

**Executive Assistant:** Katie Hoehne

### A Crew

Assistant Chief Keith Wiley

Lieutenant Rick Slife

FF/Paramedic Anthony Marchal

FF/Paramedic Kyle Barlage

FF/Paramedic Adam Schulze

FF/Paramedic Kyle Meyer

FF/Paramedic Jared Lindsey

FF/Paramedic Carter Jenkins

FF/Paramedic Nick Baker

FF/EMT Jaron Kelly

### 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 Finrock

FF/Paramedic Bryce Barhorst

FF/Paramedic Will Sherman

FF/EMT Will Wallace

### 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

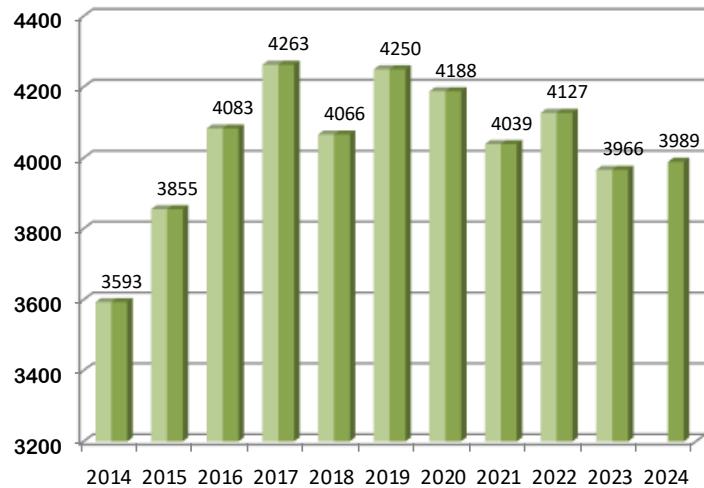
FF/EMT Terrence Vaughan

# 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.

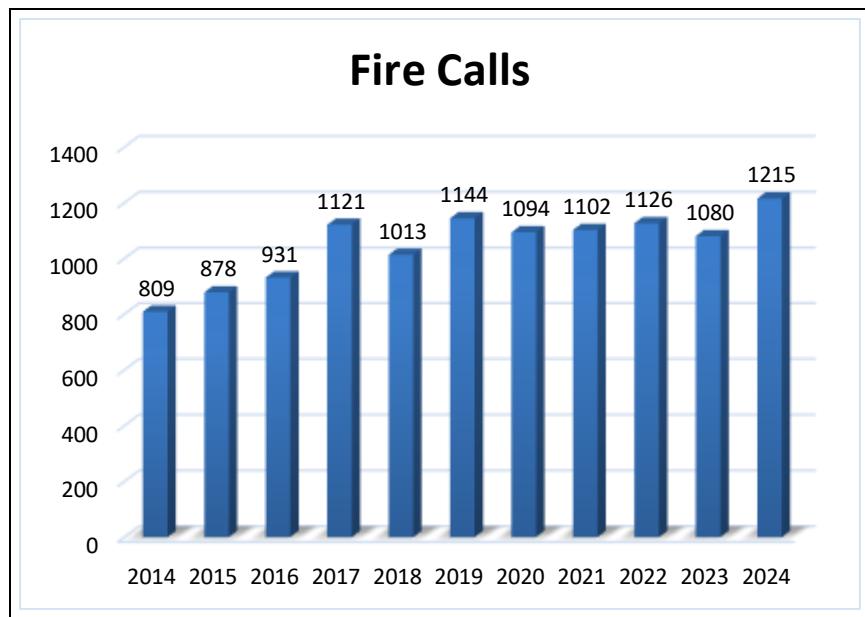
## Total Calls for Service

The department responded to a total of 3,989 calls in 2024 which is a .58% decrease from the 2023 total of 3,966. Calls for service include emergency medical service calls, fire calls, rescue calls, and other miscellaneous calls.



## Fire Calls

The number of fire calls increased 12.5% during 2024. There were 1,215 fire calls compared to 1,080 the previous year. There were 81 actual calls for fire, 127 calls for hazardous conditions, 478 service calls, 343 good intent calls, 182 false alarms, 1 severe weather & natural disaster call, and 3 special incidents types.



## Fire Loss

The total fire loss for 2024 was \$2,007,200 which is up from last year's total of \$1,684,730. Several significant loss fires occurred during the year:

<b>January 27</b>		
2900 Campbell Rd		\$1,500,000
Building Fire		
<b>August 11</b>		
2401 S Vandemark Rd		\$350,000
Building Fire		
<b>December 29</b>		
206 Bon Air Dr		\$100,000
Building Fire		
<b>January 24</b>		
402 E South St		\$40,000
Building Fire		
<b>August 29</b>		
324 E Pinehurst		\$10,000
Building Fire		



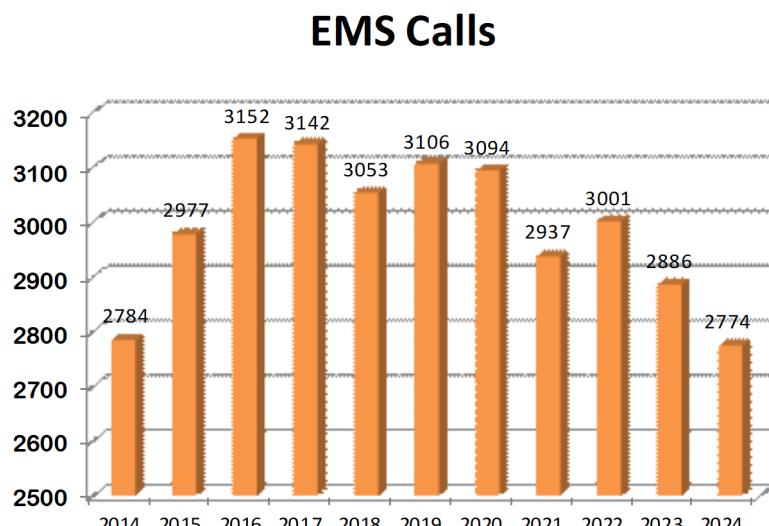
### Vision Statement

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 2024, the department responded to 2,774 calls which is almost a 3.9% decrease from the previous year. Of these calls, 2,482 were in the city, 252 were in the contracted township, and 40 mutual aid calls.

In 2023, EMS calls accounted for 62% 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 2024, Township EMS responses increased from the 2023 total of 242 to 252.

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

	Clinton	Orange	Franklin	Washington
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
2024	178	56	15	3

## 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

	2022	2023	2024
<b>Quint 2</b>	204	193	230
<b>Quint 3</b>	112	97	120
<b>Engine 2</b>	31	31	31
<b>Engine 3</b>	389	346	428
<b>Rescue 9</b>	304	317	304
<b>Medic 1506*</b>	110	0	0
<b>Medic 1508</b>	277	254	36
<b>Medic 1510</b>	886	41	264
<b>Medic 1512</b>		2365	2328
<b>Medic 1514</b>	2388	889	869

# 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.

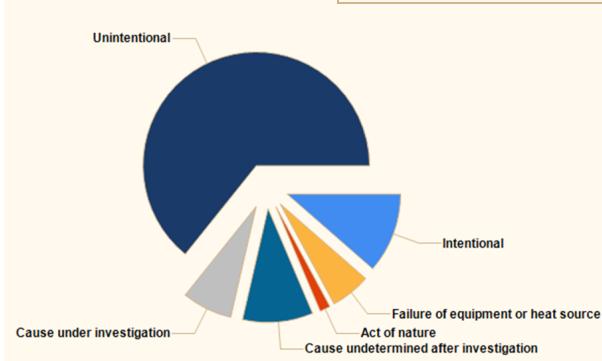
One of the primary goals in fire safety education is to provide a comprehensive program for people of all ages, with a special emphasis on young children. In addition to reaching out to the school-aged children, the FPO also teaches fire safety education to numerous businesses throughout the City.

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
2024	288	13	0	23 (2,634)
2023	374	21	0	46 (6,023)
2022	217	25	3	36 (4,253)
2021	234	24	1	20 (3,128)

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	8	10.8%
Failure of equipment or heat source	4	5.4%
Act of nature	1	1.4%
Cause undetermined after investigation	7	9.5%
Cause under investigation	5	6.8%
Unintentional	45	60.8%



## Fire Prevention cont'd



The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) message for the 2024 Fire Prevention Week was  
**"Smoke Alarms—Make Them Work for you!"**

This year's campaign strives to educate everyone about the importance of having working smoke alarms in the home.

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 2024, there was one civilian injury and three firefighter injuries throughout the year.



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

## Facilities

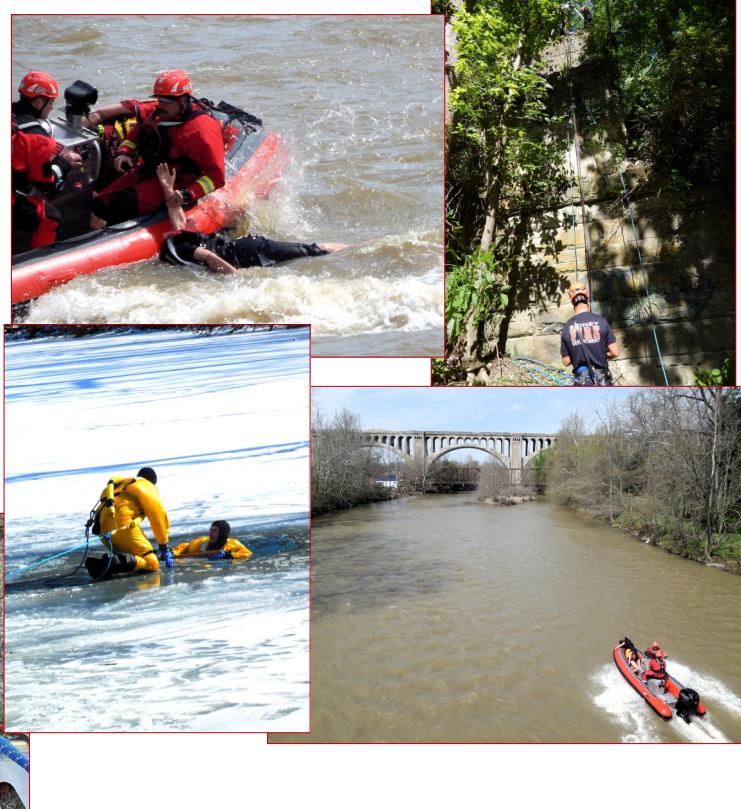
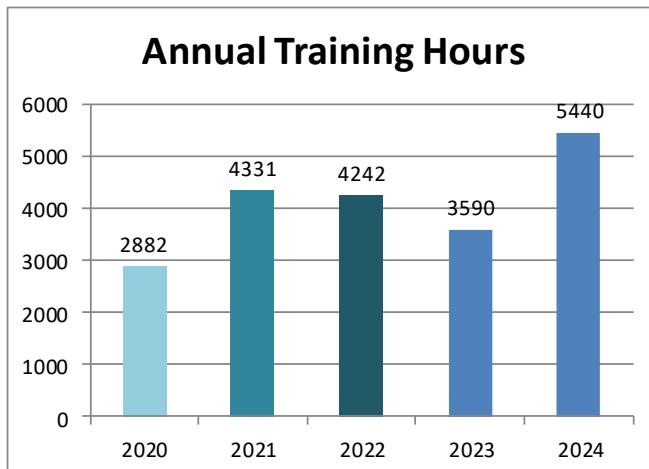
The Department serves the community from two sites. Station #1 is located at 222 West Poplar Street and houses all administrative offices. The other site is Station #2, located at 411 South Vandemark Road which was opened in 1982.

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

Over the past year, department personnel have continued to provide excellent service to our community. Through many challenging and difficult emergencies, their compassion and dedication has been unwavering. We are so blessed to have the caliber and quality of individuals passionately serving and protecting us. Their work is the hallmark of our mission, “to serve and protect the community by preventing the loss of life and property”. We have made significant plans for the future of our department and the people we serve and those we serve with, are the primary focus of these plans.

*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.