

Strongsville Fire and Emergency Services



50 years of FULLTIME
1971-2021
Fire-Rescue-EMS



2021 Annual Report

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

JACK DRAVES, FIRE CHIEF



Strongsville Fire and Emergency Services is an all-hazards emergency response agency staffed, trained, equipped, and ready to respond to your call for help due to fires, motor vehicle accidents, medical and trauma emergencies, hazardous materials incidents, technical rescue incidents, and many other less serious or hazardous incidents. Our Firemedics take great pride in delivering professional, competent, and compassionate services to the residents and businesses of Strongsville.

In fact, Strongsville Fire and Emergency Services celebrated 50 years of professional, full-time service on June 1, 2021. In order to properly commemorate this milestone, the Department hosted a pancake breakfast for over 200 current and retired department members and their families. We were also able to recognize three firefighters who were members of the first full-time department in 1971. Those members are Fire Chief Jim Jerome, Lieutenant Terry Schneider, and Firefighter George Lange.

As we look back on 2021 we continued to face challenges related to COVID-19, uncertainty in the economic climate, struggles in the political environment, and restlessness to many social issues. Despite all these challenges, the department found ways to address these challenges and provide quality public safety services. I believe the stability and success of the organization rests on four pillars: Professionalism, Competence, Compassion, and Pride. These four pillars define who we are, why we are successful, and why we are respected in the community. We are committed to providing the best possible services to our residents and businesses based on fiscally responsible allocation of human, physical, and financial resources.

As the country continued to adjust to the COVID pandemic and all the challenges it brought with it, operations returned to pre-pandemic call volumes. Staffing and response times continue to be important issues. In that regard, the City Administration worked with Strongsville City Council after a failed levy attempt in November 2022 to put a revised 2.0 mill fire operating levy on the May 4, 2021 ballot. Unfortunately, the voters also rejected this proposed increase to hire additional Firemedics and support operations of a fifth fire station near the route 42/route 82 intersection.



In 2021, the Department logged 6,576 calls for service. This was a 14% increase over 2020 incidents (COVID affected call volume in 2020 due to state mandated closures and residents seeking less medical care at hospitals) and just a 2% increase over 2019 pre-COVID incidents. Emergency Medical Services continues to represent nearly 75% of the call volume.

Strongsville Fire and Emergency Services received the American Heart Association Mission: Lifeline Gold Plus EMS Recognition Award for identifying and treating heart attacks in the field for the past eight years. Strongsville Fire and Emergency Services is one of only 33 agencies in the nation to receive the Gold Plus Award every year. This is an example of the professional and competent Firemedics in the organization and the quality services we provide to our residents and the community.

I encourage you to read through the entire annual report to get a better sense of our operations, our accomplishments, and the dozens of ways in which we interact and serve the community every day. If you have any questions or you would like more information on a topic, please do not hesitate to contact me.

It is an honor and privilege to serve as your Fire Chief. I have the great fortune to work alongside many talented, dedicated and highly-trained Firemedics and Officers. These individuals have dedicated their lives to helping others by providing quality services to our residents, businesses and visitors on a daily basis. They provide these services with near flawless perfection, often under the most stressful and dangerous circumstances. Thank you to the entire Strongsville community for your continued dedication and support of our mission.

Sincerely,

Jack Draves
Fire Chief



OUR VISION

The **VISION** of Strongsville Fire and Emergency Services is to continue being the finest fire and emergency services organization possible by utilizing and developing our members to their fullest potential, maximizing our use of the resources available to us and being responsive to the growth and changing needs of our community.

Our Mission

Our **MISSION** is to protect the lives, property and environment of the people who live, work or travel in Strongsville.

Our Values

The **VALUES** of Strongsville Fire and Emergency Services are to provide its members with a framework for making management decisions and guiding individual behavior. Our value system describes those attributes that make the organization and our members an asset to the community.

The **VALUES** of Strongsville Fire and Emergency Services are:

- ❖ **HUMAN LIFE** - OUR TOP PRIORITY
- ❖ **SERVICE** - OUR REASON FOR EXISTENCE
- ❖ **EXCELLENCE** - OUR GOAL
- ❖ **INTEGRITY** - THE BASIS FOR TRUST
- ❖ **ACCOUNTABILITY** - PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL
- ❖ **INNOVATION** - FOR CREATIVE PROBLEM SOLVING
- ❖ **EDUCATION** - FOR GROWTH

Ward 1 Fire Station is located at 11297 Webster Road. The station opened in April 2001 and serves the northeast quadrant of the city. The two and one-half bay station also has a community meeting room and serves as the Ward 1 police mini-station. The station is staffed by a Lieutenant and two Firemedics. Station 1 is equipped with a 100' aerial platform, an ambulance, and the Ohio Region 2 Urban Search and Rescue truck and trailer



Ward 2 Fire Station is located at 15939 Drake Road. The station opened in April 1997 and serves the southeast quadrant of the city. The one and one-half bay station also serves as the Ward 2 police mini-station. The station is staffed by a Lieutenant and two Firemedics. Station 2 is equipped with a pumper truck and an ambulance.



Ward 3 Fire Station is located at 22000 Albion Road. The station opened in March 1981 and was renovated in 2016. This station serves the northwestern quadrant of the city. The two-bay station has a hose tower and hose room. Station 3 also serves as the Ward 3 police mini-station. The station is staffed by a Lieutenant and two Firemedics. Station 3 is equipped with a pumper truck and an ambulance. It also houses a reserve ambulance and pumper truck.



Ward 4 Fire Station is located at 17000 Prospect Road. The Fire Department began operations at Station 4 on February 11, 2008. This station serves the southwest quadrant of the city and serves as the Department's Administrative Headquarters. The five and one-half bay station includes a classroom, training tower and the Ward 4 police mini station. The station is staffed by a minimum of a Lieutenant, two Firemedics, and a Captain as the Shift Commander. Station 4 is equipped with a 75-foot ladder truck, an ambulance, a pumper, a command vehicle, a reserve ambulance, and several support vehicles. The station is also equipped with SERT Hazardous Materials response vehicle and equipment.



ASSISTANT CHIEF of ADMINISTRATION

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF NEIL ROZMAN

The Assistant Chief of Administration is responsible for human resources, payroll, facilities management & capital improvements, Health and Safety, and coordinating operations with the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).



Human Resources:

- a. FM Bob Kuhn retired after 21 years of service-
- b. FM Jim Gaffney, FM John Rudman and FM Ryan Colegrove separated service from SFES in 2021.
- e. Larry Wenz retired from SFES in 2011 after serving the Strongsville Community for 33 years. Sadly, Larry lost a long-running battle with cancer in January. He will be missed!
- f. In the largest single group ever hired, SFES added 11 new Firemedics. A short bio of each Firemedic appears later in this report.
- g. COVID again had a major impact on operations as most of our employees and their families experienced the illness at some point during 2021. The holiday season from Thanksgiving through the New Year was especially difficult.



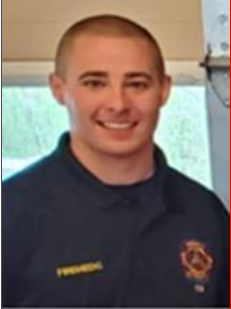
Larry Wenz

Payroll: As cyberattacks are increasing in frequency, the Communication Technology Department is constantly upgrading the firewalls and implementing more secure processes to protect our payroll information. The city upgraded the Kronos payroll management system.

Facilities Management:

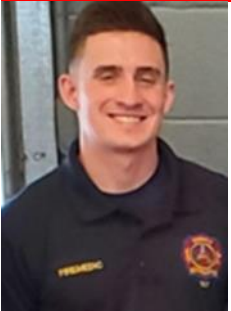
- a. SFES spent approximately \$250,000 replacing, repairing and upgrading the stations and their related subsystems.
- b. All city buildings had the Needlepoint Bipolar Ionization installed in the HVAC ductwork. This device works with the HVAC system to kill bacteria, virus, and mold in the circulating air.
- c. Station 1 improvements include: new roof, de-icer cables over the Community Room stairway to eliminate the ice dam, and a new generator Automatic Transfer Switch.
- d. Station 4 received an upgraded control program for the building HVAC system.

New members - In 2021, SFES hired 11 new Firemedics to replace Firemedics that separated service with the city and to add additional full-time employees. Total Department staffing is now 68 full-time Firemedics. Captain Green updated the probationary orientation program. The two year probationary program commences with an intensive 48-hour week of training and two weeks as an observer before being assigned to a shift. Once on shift, the probationary Firemedics spend a month at each of the four stations learning the response district, vehicles, and equipment. In 2021, SFES registered over 1,300 hours of probationary training and almost 500 hours of “new driver training”.



John is a 3rd generation FF. He graduated Revere HS in 2015, Tri- C Fire Academy in 2016, and paramedic school in 2020. He also graduated from the University of Akron in 2019 with a Bachelors in Accounting.

John Tibbs



William graduated Independence HS in 2014 and served four years active duty with the United States Marine Corps. He graduated from Tri-C Fire Academy 2019 and the Parma Paramedic Program in 2020. He has experience from Highland Hills and East Cleveland FDs.

William Strizzi



Matt served 11 years in the Airforce and Air National Guard. He is a certified Haz-Mat Tech, Fire Inspector and holds a Bachelors in Fire/Safety Engineering from the University of Cincinnati. He has experience with Ashland, Sandusky, and Munroe Falls FDs.

Matt Haines



Tony graduated from North Olmsted HS in 2004. He joined the Airforce and served two tours in Iraq. He finished paramedic school in 2013. He has served as a FF/EMT in Alaska and he has experience from Cleveland EMS, St. Vincent Charity Hospital, Hopkins Airport, and Newburgh Hts. FD.

Tony Sessin



Lee Brass

Lee graduated from Brunswick HS in 2010. He attended the Ohio Fire Academy for fire school and EMT certifications. He graduated paramedic school from Lorain CCC. He has experience from Hinckley FD and University Hospitals.



Dustin Baizar

Dustin lives in Strongsville and graduated from Lake Ride Academy in 2012. He received his Bachelors from BW in Scenic Design and Technical Direction in 2016. He finished the Fire Academy and Paramedic School at Tri-C in 2020. He has experience from Broadview Hts and Hinkley FDs.



Ben Verbus

Ben was born and raised in Columbia Station, graduating HS in 2014. He graduated from the Tri-C Fire Academy in 2016 and paramedic program in 2018. He has experience from Columbia Station FD, Cleveland Clinic Emergency Departments as well as private ambulance service.



Mike Fulton

Mike comes from Rocky River and graduated BGSU with a Bachelors in Liberal Studies. He also graduated from Tri-C with an Associates of Applied Science in Fire and EMS in 2018. He has experience from Kirtland and Chesterland FDs. He served in both the Americorps in Yosemite and the Peace Corps in Ethiopia.



Chris Milne

Chris was born and raised in Parma. He started as an EMT for Donald Martens and Cleveland Clinic Critical Care transport. He graduated as a paramedic from Lorain CCC in 2016 and the Tri-C Fire Academy in 2017. He has experience from Hinckley FD and MetroHealth Emergency Department.



Sean Fox

Sean lives in Strongsville and graduated from Padua in 2009. He finished the fire academy and paramedic school at Tri-C and is pursuing an Associate's Degree in Emergency Management. He has experience from Seville FD.



David Haffner Jr.

David, Jr. followed his father, Capt. Dave Haffner Badge 062, into the fire service. He graduated from North Royalton HS in 2017. During HS, David completed the Fire Academy at Cuyahoga Valley Career Center. In 2019, he completed paramedic certification and received his Associates of Applied Science in Fire & EMS. He has experience from Brunswick Hills, Independence, Seven Hills, and Brooklyn FDs.



Strongsville Fire and Emergency Services offers a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training program. Under the leadership of Dale Hawk, CERT educates people about disaster preparedness and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, and disaster medical operations. Using their training, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following a natural, technological, or man-made incident and they can take a more active role in preparing their community.



<u>2021 Event Service</u>	<u>Participants</u>	<u>Hours</u>
July 4 th Fireworks Foltz Sports Fields	11	41.5
September 11th Remembrance VFW3345 Post	9	27
Arts at the Chalet Metroparks Chalet	6	15.5
CC BoH COVID Vaccine POD County Fairgrounds	37	189.5
CC BoH COVID Vaccine POD Tri-C Western Campus	31	173
Duck Races Metroparks Chalet	5	12.5
Homecoming Festival Town Square	27	56.5
Homecoming Fireworks Playground-Tennis Courts	12	37.5
Memorial Day Parade Pearl Rd Parade Route	5	10
Rib Burn off Town Square	21	45.5
Strongsville Rec. Movie Night Strongsville FB Field	5	11.5
Weather Event- High wind, wires down SFD Station #4	2	6
Winter Wonderland Lights & Fireworks Town Square	12	30
WW Town Square Patrol Town Square	13	26
Total for Event Service (14 events)	196	682
<u>CERT Training</u>		
CERT Monthly Meetings SFD Station #4	16	16
CERT Storage Clean-up SFD Station #4	18	41
EMR BLS Training SFD Station #4	10	40
EMR Refresh Training Virtual Conference	127	190.5
Heart Saver CPR/First Aid Training SFD Station #4	17	77.5
<u>Total for Meetings/Training (5 events)</u>	<u>188</u>	<u>365</u>
Grand Total for 2021 (19 events)	384	1047

ASSISTANT CHIEF of OPERATIONS

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF AJ ALJABI



The Assistant Fire Chief of Operations is responsible for coordinating the daily operations of the department, training oversight, liaison with Southwest Emergency Dispatch (SWEDC), vehicle and equipment maintenance, and purchasing.

➤ Staffing

- 60 members on three shifts
- 3 FPO (Captain Fire Marshal and 2 Inspectors)
- 1 Lieutenant/Administrative Officer
- 1 Captain Training Officer
- 3 Chief Officers

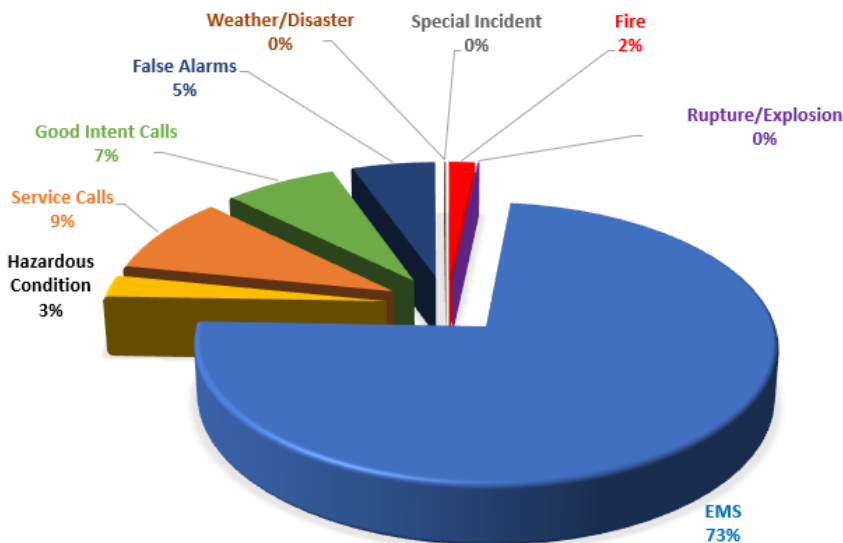
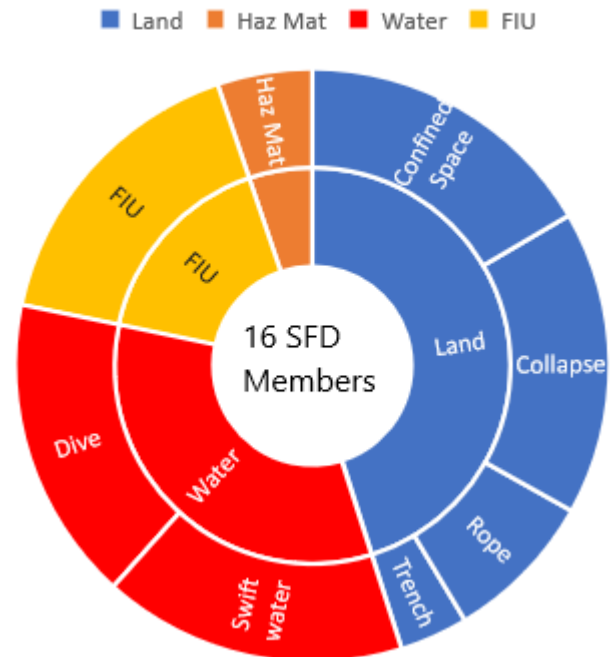
➤ New Equipment

- Hose tester
- 800 feet 4" supply hose
- New 4 gas meter
- Over \$60,000 of equipment for the new Ladder truck
- Thermal Imaging Camera for command vehicle

➤ New to the Fleet

- 2021 Sutphen SPH 100' mid-mount aerial delivered; \$1.3 M
- 2021 Braun Ambulance Remount; \$250,000
- 2021 Ford Interceptor Utility for the Training Officer; \$38,000

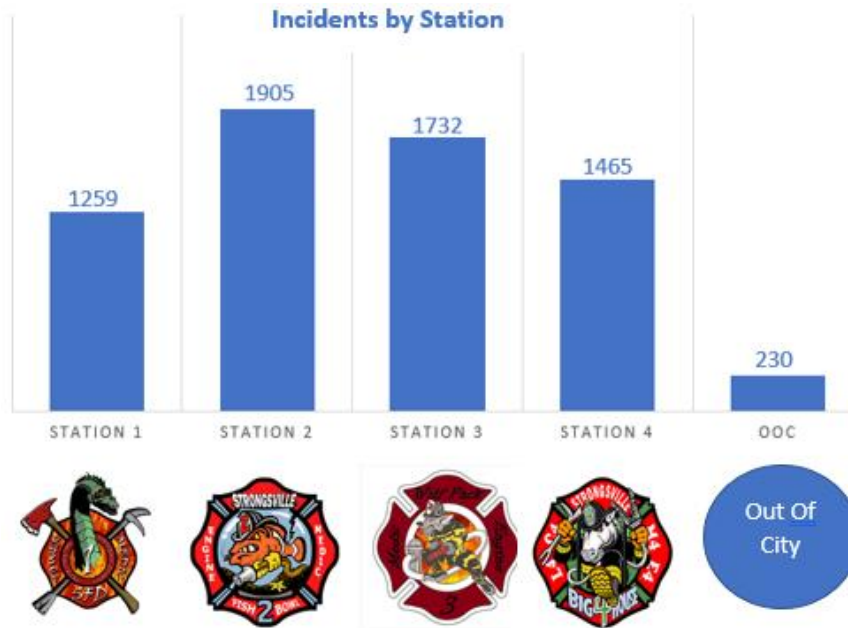
Regional Teams



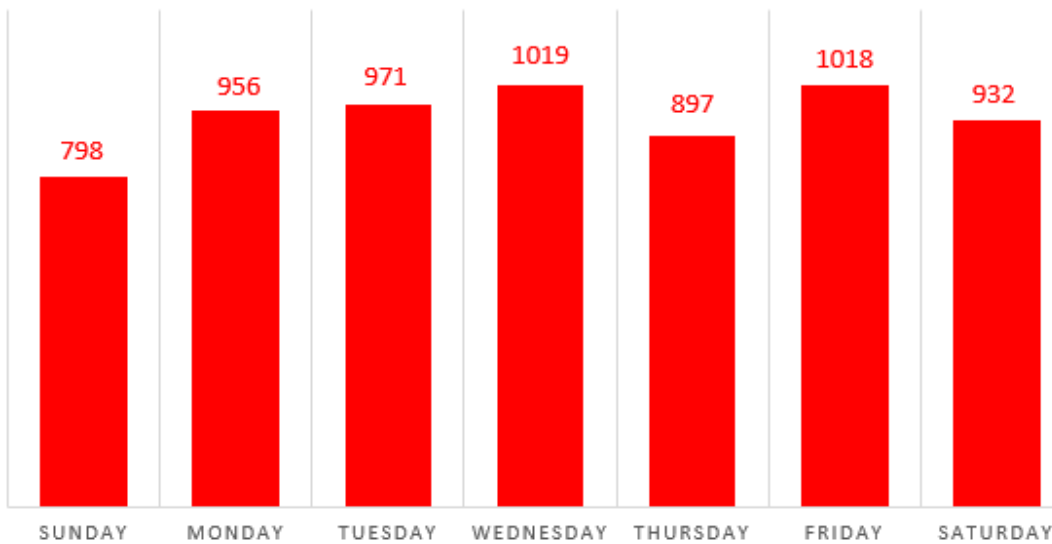
2021 INCIDENT BREAKDOWN
TOTAL INCIDENTS 6576

2021 Operational Summary

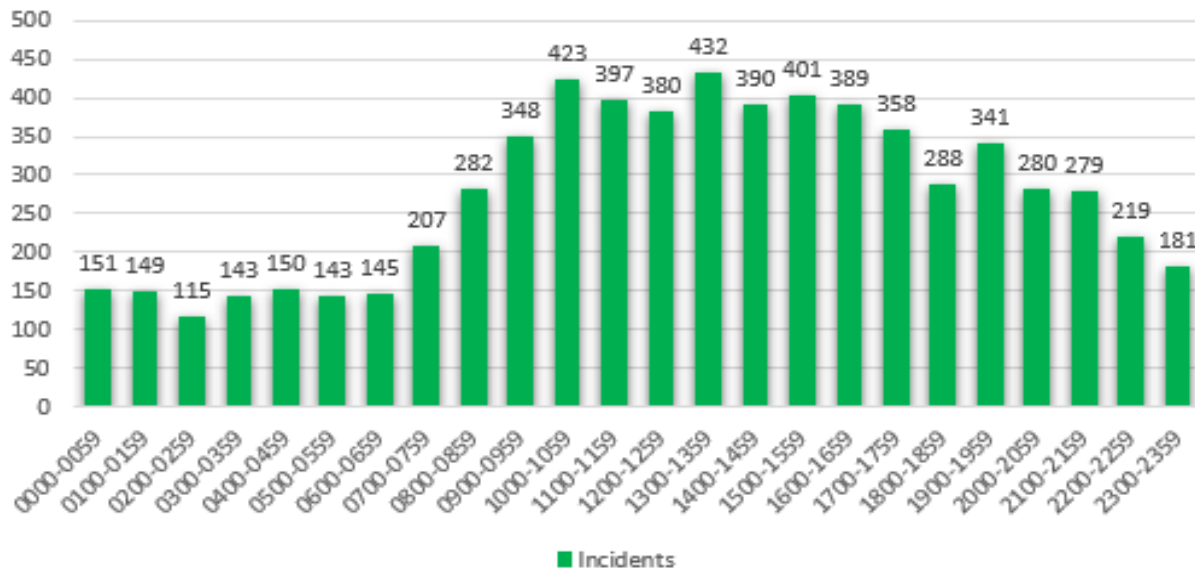
TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE	6576
EMS Calls	4855
EMS Transports	3877
Ambulance Billing Collections	\$1,174,132
Fire & Service Calls	1736
Total Fire Losses	\$3,478,510
Fires with Property Loss	36
Fires with losses >\$10K	13 structures 2 vehicles
Mutual Aid Given	232

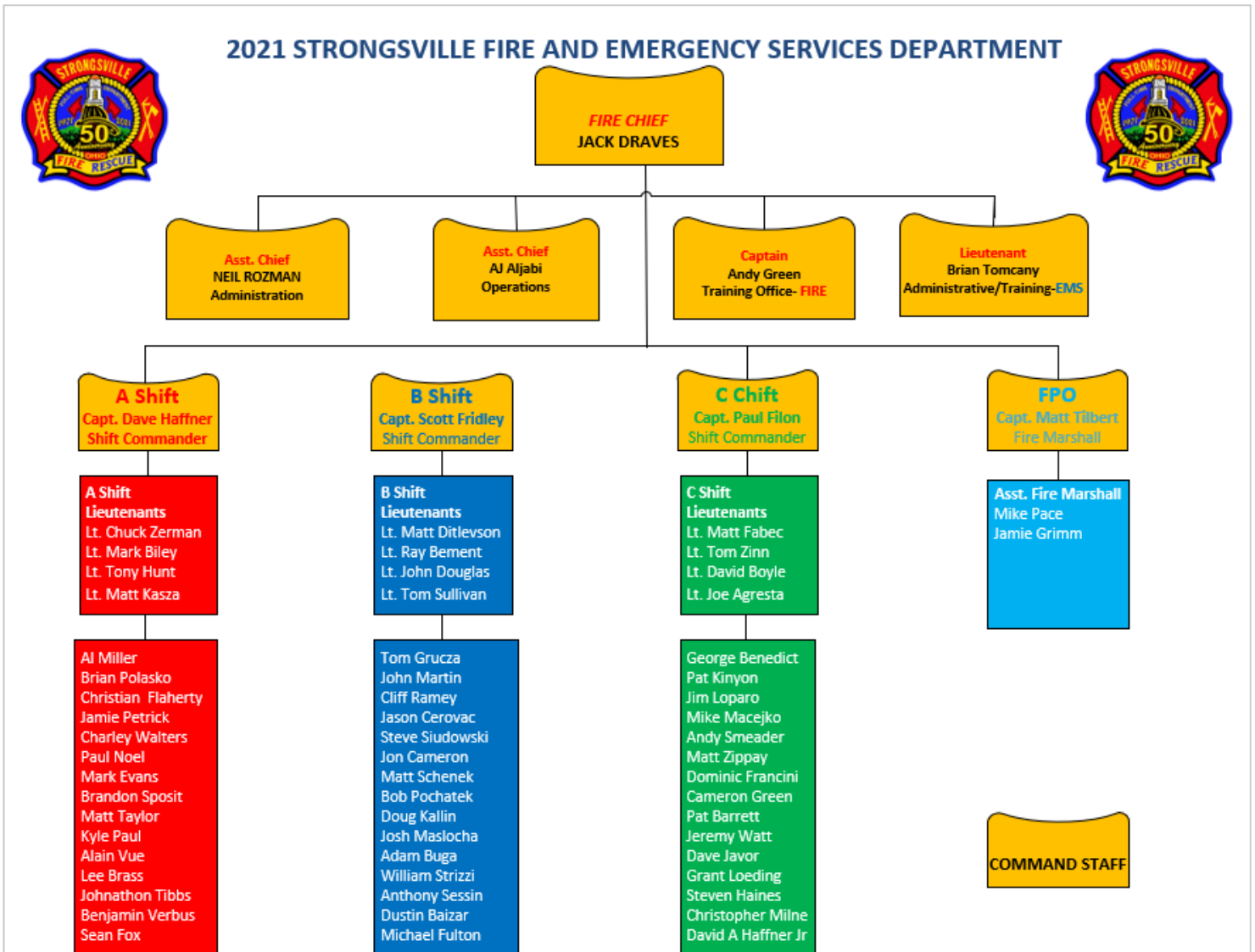


Incidents by Day 2021



Incidents per Hour 2021





Maintenance at a Glance

Annual Preventative Maintenance (PM) Programs

2021



Over 3500 public/private hydrants
 Powerloads and Cot PM
 Portable Gas Meters PM
 18,000 feet of Hose tested
 Vehicle fleet biannual PM
 Radio Maintenance
 SCBA Bench Testing
 Stairchairs PM

SCBA mask Fit testing
 SCBA Cylinder Hydrostatic testing
 MAKO fill station biannual PM
 Aerial and Ground Ladders PM
 Apparatus pump testing
 Small Engine maintenance
 Life Pack 15 heart monitors PM
 Lucas CPR devices PM

All City AED's in public buildings and public vehicles.



Major Incidents

2.15.2021
19336 W 130th
Cause-undetermined
Loss-\$160,000
property and content



3.23.21
18444 Heritage Trail
Cause-undetermined
Loss-\$450,000
property and content



7.27.21
19643 James Way
Cause-undetermined
Loss-\$80,000
property and content



8.23.21

17824 Lyon Lane
Cause-Accidental
Loss-\$230,000
property and content



8.29.21

9303 Cherry Tree
Cause-Lightning
Strike
Loss-\$2,000,000
property and content



8.30.21

Pick of the Litter SPM
Cause-Burning
incense next to wood
chips
Loss-\$50,000
property and content



EMS SERVICES/COMMUNITY OUTREACH

ADMINISTRATIVE LT. BRIAN TOMCANY



Strongsville Fire and Emergency Services has been a recognized leader in Emergency Medical Services (EMS) since the 1970's. Our agency's commitment to continuing the pursuit of our *Vision* of providing the *finest fire and emergency services* was recognized when we received the 2021 American Heart Association Mission: Lifeline Gold Plus EMS Recognition Award for the eighth consecutive year. This award highlighted the hard work and dedication of SFES members as we were one of only 33 agencies in the nation and the *only one* in the State of Ohio to receive this award.



Today 66 of our 68 members are paramedics who are responsible for almost 400 pages of protocols capable of providing advanced life support interventions to the residents of our community. As healthcare continues to evolve, statistics continue to show less emergent calls and more non-emergency calls. This data supports a more active Community Outreach effort which focuses on non-emergency, non-traditional fire department responses and interventions by establishing more partnerships with local resources. One area is through our Opioid Task Force response with the Strongsville Police Department and Ohio Guidestone. Our goal is to provide access to treatment and ongoing support for people struggling with all types of addiction. We also pursue our *Vision* by identifying high risk residents within our community who are declining in health and safe living conditions.

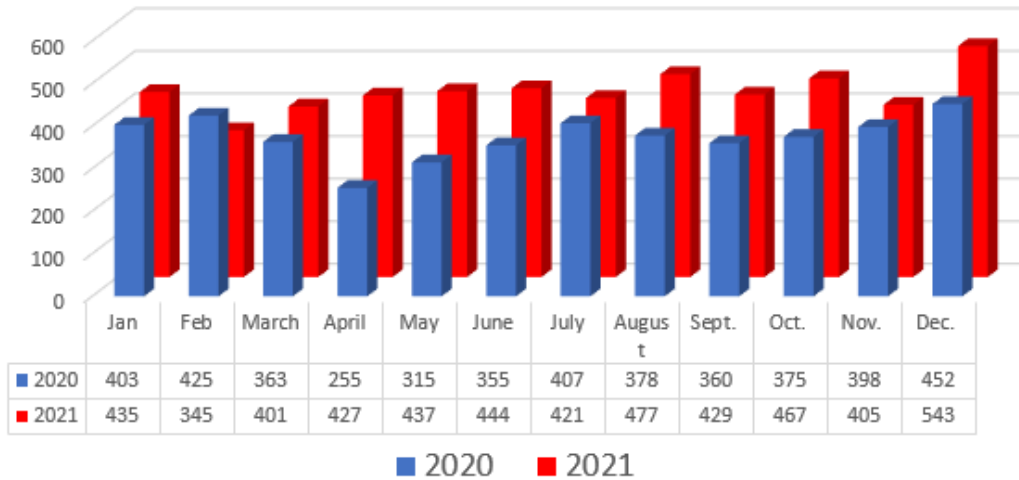


Through referrals from our EMS providers, neighbors, Senior Center Staff, police officers and other community members, we follow up with these referrals with a home visit and complete a home assessment to try and understand each person's individual circumstances and identify obstacles preventing them from living a life of dignity in a safe environment. We attempt to re-engage family and match their needs with local healthcare, residential senior center agencies, and county mental and social services.

EMS volume increased 17% from 4,487 incidents in 2020 to 5,231 incidents in 2021. The increase in 2021 was predominately due to state shut-down orders, public health restrictions, and public distress in healthcare settings in 2020 due to COVID. The surge of the highly

contagious COVID Omicron variant in December 2021 also contributed to the increase in 2021. The COVID pandemic has continued to challenge pre-hospital care providers with ongoing protocol revisions and personal protective equipment.

EMS Incidents 2020 vs 2021



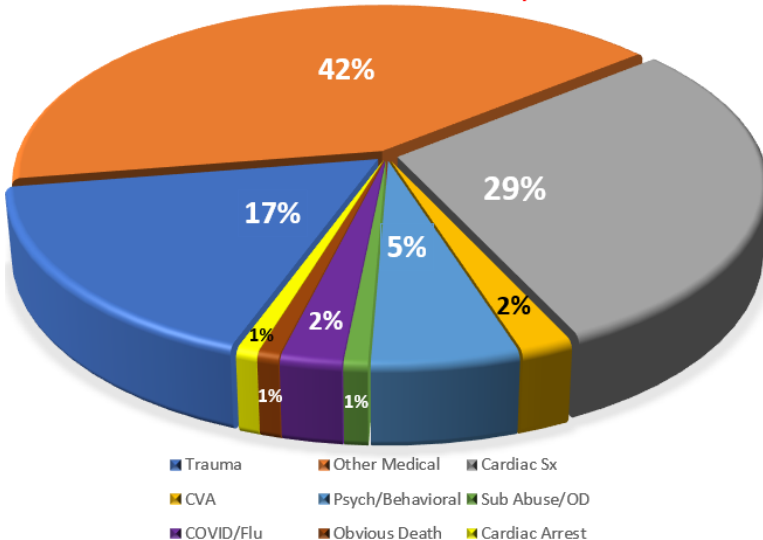
SFES transports primarily to the main campus of Southwest General Health Center (SWGHC) and Southwest-Brunswick ED, which together account for 88% of our transports. Under unique circumstances, SFES also transports to The Cleveland Clinic Main Campus, Brunswick ED, Fairview, Medina; University Hospitals Main Campus & Parma Medical Center, UH-Broadview Hts; MetroHealth Medical Center Main Campus, Parma, and Brecksville ED's.

SWGHC serves as our Medical Control. Dr. Susan Tout is our Medical Director and Jackie Haumschild is our EMS Coordinator. Both serve on the Cuyahoga County EMS Protocol Committee to ensure quality pre-hospital care is provided to our community. They provide a variety of continuing education opportunities including, but not limited to, monthly in-station

continuing education, conferences, and Fire Rescue 1 online training. SWGHC has provided guidance and helped us navigate the COVID pandemic.

SFES renewed the EMS billing contract with EMS Management and Consultants from 2021-2024 with options for two 1-year extensions. In 2021, SFES collected \$1.2M from EMS fees. Monies collected are deposited into the Emergency Vehicle Fund, which is dedicated to purchasing new emergency vehicles.

TYPES OF EMS INCIDENTS
2021 TOTAL EMS RUNS 5,231



FIRE PREVENTION OFFICE

CAPTAIN MATT TILBERT FIRE MARSHAL

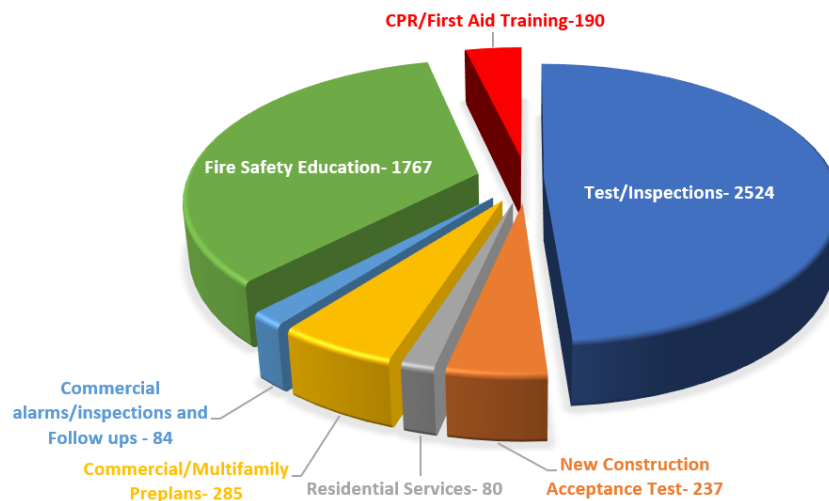


The mission of the Fire Prevention Office (FPO) is to educate the community about the benefits of proper safety practices and to identify and eliminate all types of hazardous conditions that pose a threat to life, property and the environment. The FPO is staffed with a Fire Marshal and two Assistant Fire Marshals. They complete a variety of inspections. These include, but are not limited to, all new construction projects starting with initial plan review and ending with the acceptance and testing of all life safety systems in all commercial and industrial facilities, educational occupancies, healthcare facilities and specialized home inspections related to adoption, foster and daycare.

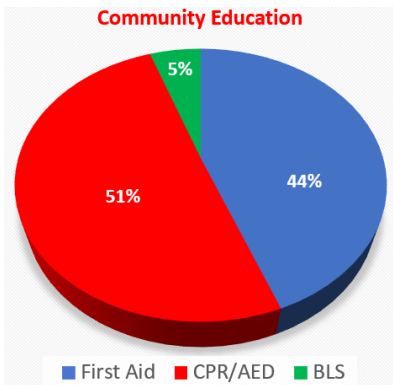


Delivering the high level of service to the community did not change throughout the pandemic and has actually led to many positive initiatives. The increase in outdoor dining created a mobile food truck boom in Northeastern Ohio and created a need for an ordinance to be written with the help of FPO and a permitting and inspection process to be performed by the Office. COVID-19 also increased the need for life safety and fire prevention education in 2021 after most face-to-face education and training ceased in 2020. This led to almost eight weeks of Safety Town and an entire day dedicated to a Safety Village to be used as a 2020 makeup educational session for over 1,000 students.

RISK REDUCTION ACTIVITIES



CPR



Strongsville Fire and Emergency Services offers a variety of life saving classes to the public. We offer Heart Saver CPR-AED, Heart Saver First Aid, and Healthcare Provider CPR to the public. Four certified instructors provide American Heart Association training to residents, groups and businesses. Each class is about four hours and takes place at Fire Station 4.

In 2021, a total of 140 people learned First Aid, 160 were instructed in CPR/AED use, and an additional 17 people were certified in BLS. Of those taught CPR and First Aid, 126 of them were cross trained in both. There was a total of 190 students for the year.



Engineering-Enforcement-Education



2022 TRAINING OFFICE

CAPTAIN ANDREW GREEN-TRAINING OFFICE



Training is an essential part of being prepared for Fire, EMS, HAZMAT, and Technical Rescue emergencies. The mission of SFES Training Office is to provide the education and training necessary for the Department's emergency responders to effectively, efficiently, and safely respond to all calls for service. In 2021, the Training Office delivered a 43 percent increase over the previous year's total of 6,078 hours. (Note that training was greatly scaled back in 2020, due to COVID-19). These training exercises are evaluated through subjective, written, and/or manipulative methods.

Continuing education and training are a necessity as members of an "all- hazards emergency response

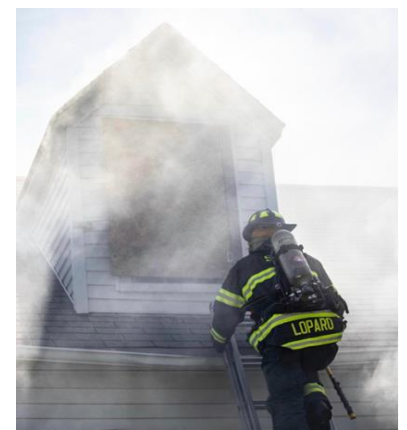
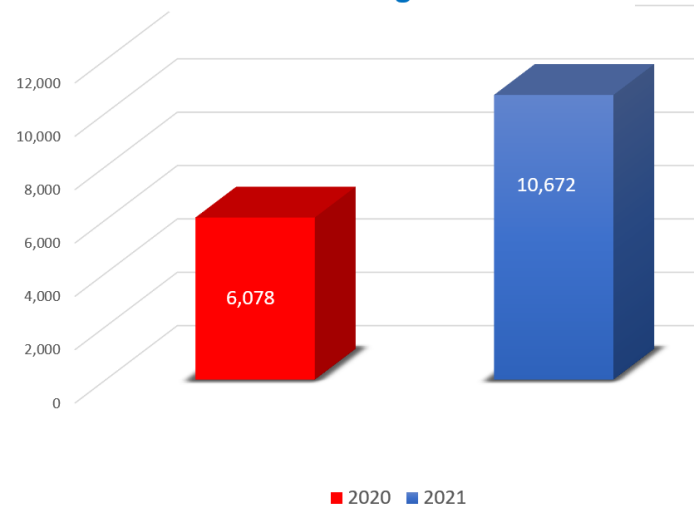
agency". Our Firemedics respond to a wide variety of emergencies, many of which occur in hazardous and dangerous environments. These include residential and commercial structure fires, hazardous material releases, technical rescues, motor vehicle accidents, and medical emergencies. Using donated structures allows firefighters to simulate fire scenarios and practice under more realistic conditions. The firefighter seen here is practicing VEIS (Vent-Enter-Isolate-Search drill).



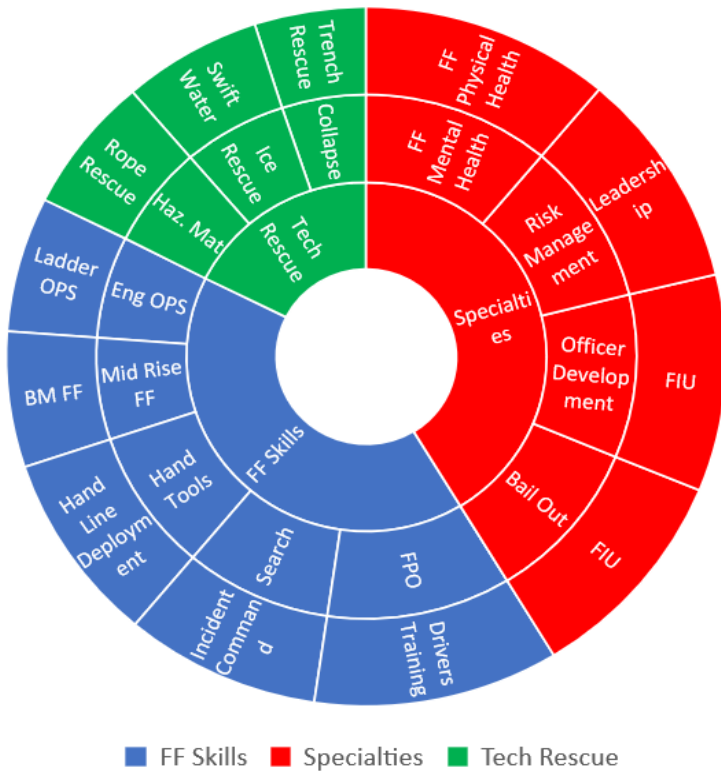
Ice rescue training at Greenbriar Association Lake.

For our personnel to function efficiently and safely during any situation, they require a great deal of knowledge, skill, and most importantly, the ability to make critical decisions under duress. In response to these needs, our training provides fundamental, advanced, and sometimes innovative training on a frequent basis that is consistent with current science, industry Best Practice standards, and regulatory requirements.

Hours of Training 2020 vs 2021



All Hazards Emergency Response



Vehicle Extrication strategies

The Training Office conducted After Action Reviews (AAR) of major fire incidents in 2021. These AAR allow fire crews to review the radio traffic, fire ground assignments, scene conditions, and command decisions that took place

during the incident. The goal of an AAR is to dissect and analyze an incident so that we may improve operations so our firefighters may operate more safely and better serve and protect the community.

Size up (Water Supply & Street Conditions)

- Set back from street to front door about 75ft
- 175 ft E2 to rear yard
- 240 ft from E3 to rear yard

After Action Reviews

Sutphen SPH 100' Aerial Platform was delivered in October 2021. The vehicle was built by Sutphen Corporation in Columbus, Ohio at a cost of \$1.3M. Many of the hydraulic components were manufactured right here in Strongsville by Kraft Fluid Systems. Most of the fire and rescue equipment was replaced or upgraded including the TIC, hose, saws, battery-powered fans and lights, rope rescue, and hand tools. Crews dedicated hundreds of hours in training on this new truck prior to it being placed into service at Station 1.





50 years of Full-time Fire and EMS Services



On July 17, 2021, Strongsville celebrated 50 years since the fire department transitioned from **part-time to full-time**. There were over 200 family, friends, political leaders and other community members who came to enjoy this historic milestone with food, PowerPoint presentations, Community Service Awards Ceremony, and many other accomplishments. Special Recognition to three original members in attendance: Chief Jim Jerome, Ret. 1994; Lt. Terry Schneider, Ret. 1998; and Firefighter/EMT George Lange, Ret. 2006.



Strongsville Fire Department Fire Academy for Kids

The Fire Academy for Kids Program is designed with children in mind - creating an unforgettable and unique educational experience about the profession of firefighting and EMS. Strongsville Fire Chief Jack Draves explains, "So, this was the brainchild of Firemedic Matt Schenek. Matt's son would visit the fire station when his dad was on shift and it became apparent that a knowledge gap existed between what Matt did at work and what his son thought he did."

Matt taught his son about firefighting and then decided to go a step further. Looking back, Matt says he started the Academy for Kids because, "I wanted other children to have access to the same things as mine do."



Each day 18 cadets arrive at the station and begin the day by taking an Oath of Office administered by Mayor Perciak. Throughout the morning, they learn about turnout gear, safety equipment, and fire apparatus. Next, the group is divided into two groups. One group attends a dispatcher presentation learning hands-only CPR and



bleeding control while the other group does fire extinguisher training - then they swap. At noon, the cadets enjoy a pizza lunch and then they're back to work with a victim search evolution using a thermal imager, a disoriented firefighter self-rescue hose evolution, fire pump operations, fire engine ride, rope rescue evolution, and roof ventilation exercise. Then, they're off to the firefighter Combat Challenge. This is a timed obstacle course which simulates many functions required to be a firefighter. Finally, to recognize their completion of the



Fire Academy for Kids, each child is presented with a certificate and are served a frozen treat. Firemedic Schenek coordinates the entire program including registration, advertising, recruiting volunteers, and soliciting donations from local business. Strongsville Firemedics volunteer their time to be instructors. Matt is touched by the support of his fellow firefighters, "Guys bring their own kids through the Fire Academy for Kids and in a couple years - they're eager to return as volunteers!" This program has been a success due to the support and dedication of everyone involved.

Grants and Donations

February 2021-Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) Priority One EMS- Received \$2,632.78.

February 2021- Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) EMS COVID PPE-Received \$1500.

March 2021- Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) - Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Grant Programs Directorate (GPD)- No Award

April 2021-Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG)- RIT Pack/Cylinder Air- Compressor/Cascade/Fill Station (Fixed or Mobile) for filling SCBA- No Award

December 2021- Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG)- Air Compressor/Cascade/Fill Station (Fixed or Mobile) for filling SCBA-Award Pending

Swagelok donated \$1000 for Public Education and Training

Donation

St. Colette Catholic Church in Brunswick, led by Father William Krizner held a September 11th fundraiser. They raised over \$10,000 and with the money raised they purchased two Rapid Deployment Craft (RDC) at a cost of \$5,000 a piece. The RDC is an inflatable “banana boat” used in ice and water rescues. One RDC is to be shared by Brunswick, Brunswick Hills and Hinckley. The other is shared by Strongsville and North Royalton. Many thanks go to Ed Pfahl, Event Coordinator and former Strongsville Ward 2 Councilman, Father Krizner, and the parishioners of St. Colette for their very generous donation.



City Events

Strongsville Fire takes a lead role in all Community Events with pre-incident planning of the events, coordination of resources and overall safety for fireworks events. These events include, but not limited to the July 4th Community Fireworks, Homecoming, Rib Burn-off, Winter Wonderland, Duck Race, and Community Band Salute to Heroes.

20th Anniversary of the September 11th Attacks

The Annual Remembrance Ceremony is traditionally hosted by Strongsville Police and Fire Department at Fire Station 4. This year, SPD and SFD coordinated with Strongsville VFW Post 3345 to make the 20th Anniversary of the terrorist attack, that killed 3,793 people-343 from the Fire Service and 73 from Law Enforcement, a commemorative event. Strongsville VFW Post 3345 dedicated a special First Responders Memorial bench to Strongsville Fire and Police Departments. The Strongsville Community Band played Patriotic songs and the ceremony was followed by a community lunch.



Firefighter of the Year Award

Since 2009, The Knights of Columbus St. Francis of Assisi Council 10792 has been recognizing a member of our department for outstanding service. This year's award went to Firemedic Andy Smeader who was nominated by Lieutenant Charles Zerman who stated "He is respected by his FF peers and the



company officers of the department for his ability to teach skills relevant and critical in the performance of our mission". Andy has been a department member since 2006 and he has served on several committees that include Turnout Gear Committee, SCBA Maintenance and Repairs, and the Fire Training Committee.

2021 Leadership and Service Awards Presentation

Meritorious Service Award

2020 Meritorious Service Award presented to Lt. John Douglas and FM Jason Cerovac for actions taken to assess and treat a conscious V-tach patient with limited resources.

Community Service Award

2020 Community Service Award Presented to FM Matt Schenek for developing and coordinating community outreach programs for children and medically vulnerable residents.

Leadership Award

2020 Leadership Award presented to FM Andy Smeader for actions taken as a lead man to request and render aid when his crew was involved in a motor vehicle accident.