



Strongsville Fire and Emergency Services

Annual Report



FY2023

Mayor Tom Perciak
Safety Director Charlie Goss
Fire Chief Jack Draves
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Strongsville Ohio 44149
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17000 Prospect Road Strongsville, Ohio 44149 440.580.3210 fire@strongsville.org

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 incidents. Our Firemedics take great pride in delivering professional, competent, and compassionate services to the residents and businesses of Strongsville.

I believe the stability and success of the organization rest on four pillars: **Professionalism, Competence, Compassion, and Pride**. These four pillars are the foundation and guiding principles of our Department. By focusing on these principles, we provide the best possible services despite the many economic, political, and social challenges we face locally and across the nation. As we look back on 2023 and all the challenges we encountered, the Department found innovative and creative ways to overcome these challenges and to provide quality public safety services to the community.

As an organization, we are committed to protecting the lives and property of our residents and ensuring our businesses remain successful. Our commitment to safety is reflected in our rapid and efficient emergency response, dedication to enforcing the fire code and safety standards, providing quality fire and life safety education to the entire community, and providing the necessary resources and skills to our members to make them successful.

In 2023, the Department logged 7,074 calls for service; this was a 2.6% increase over 2022. Emergency Medical Services continue to represent nearly 75% of the call volume, and 70% of our emergency calls for service have at least one other call occurring at the same time. The average response time for the first unit to arrive at an emergency incident is six minutes and forty-one seconds. Skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, senior housing facilities, and other medical facilities account for approximately 23% of our total call volume. Nearly 64% of our EMS patients are over 65 years old. The Administration continues to follow these trends so that we can adjust our operations and resources to the needs of the residents and continue to provide the quality services that the residents have come to expect and so rightly deserve.

To demonstrate this point, Mayor Perciak, the City Administration, and City Council are moving forward to construct and operate a fifth fire station in the central part of the City. Residents passed two rezoning issues, Issue 81 in November 2023 and Issue 20 in March 2024, to rezone six parcels of city-owned land from single family residential to public facility on the south side of Royalton Road, just west of Pearl Road. We are now in the process of securing architectural and engineering design services for the fire station. The central fire station is strategically located and an integral part of the overall emergency response plan by serving the residents and business in the center of Strongsville and along the Route 42 and Route 82 corridors.

We are doing many great things to serve the community, but we must always be looking to improve emergency operations so that we operate more safely, effectively, and efficiently. We must also be responsive to the changing needs of the community and how we may be able to

better serve 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.

Respectfully,

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

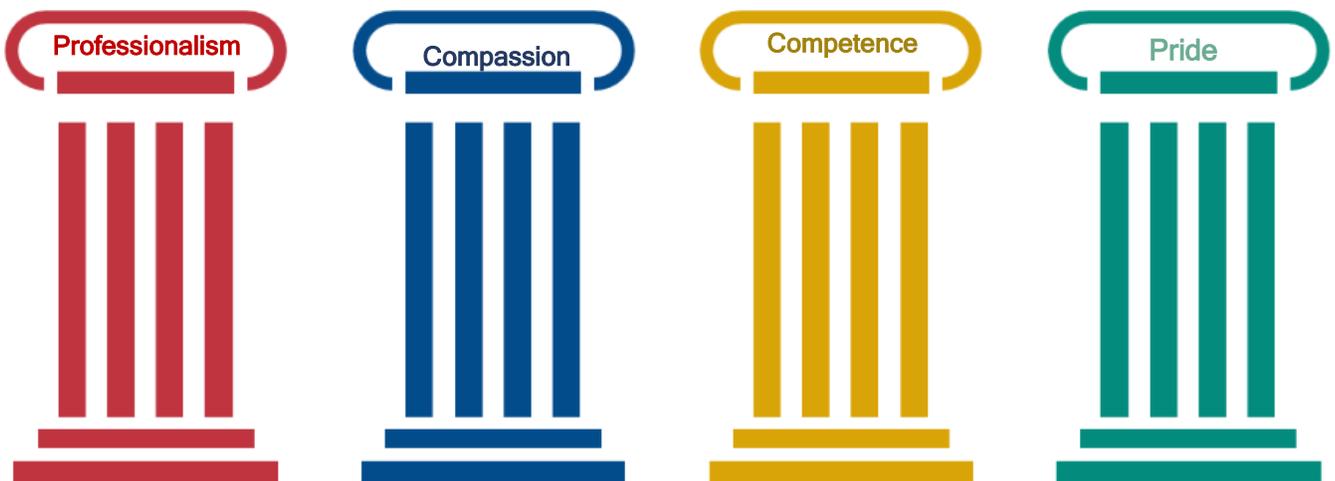
Our MISSION is to protect the lives, property, and environment of the people who live, work, or travel in Strongsville.

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**



Four Pillars of Success

2023 STRONGSVILLE FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT



FIRE CHIEF
JACK DRAVES

Assistant Chief
NEIL ROZMAN
Administration

Assistant Chief
AJ Aljabi
Operations

Captain
Andy Green
Training Office- FIRE

Lieutenant
Brian Tomcany
Administrative/Training-EMS

A Shift
Capt. Dave Haffner
Shift Commander

B Shift
Capt. Scott Fridley
Shift Commander

C Shift
Capt. Paul Filon
Shift Commander

FPO
Capt. Matt Tilbert
Fire Marshall

A Shift
Lieutenants
Lt. Chuck Zerman
Lt. Mark Biley
Lt. Tony Hunt
Lt. Matt Kasza

B Shift
Lieutenants
Lt. Matt Ditlevson
Lt. Ray Bement
Lt. Tom Sullivan
Lt. Joe Agresta

C Shift
Lieutenants
Lt. Matt Fabec
Lt. Tom Zinn
Lt. John Douglas
Lt. David Boyle

Asst. Fire Marshall
Mike Pace
Jamie Grimm

Al Miller
Brian Polasko
Jamie Petrick
Charley Walters
Paul Noel
Matt Zippay
Mark Evans
Brandon Sposit
Matt Taylor
Kyle Paul
Dave Javor
Johnathon Tibbs
Benjamin Verbus
Michael Fulton
Michael Linek

Tom Gruzca
Jason Cerovac
Steve Siudowski
Jon Cameron
Bob Pochatek
Doug Kallin
Dominic Francini
Josh Maslocha
Adam Buga
Anthony Sessin
Steven Haines
Dustin Baizar
Sean Fox
Christian Eyman
Carson Hengst

George Benedict
Christian Flaherty
Jim Loparo
Mike Macejko
Andy Smeader
Matt Schenek
Pat Barrett
Jeremy Watt
Alain Vue
Grant Loeding
Lee Brass
William Strizzi
Christopher Milne
David A Haffner Jr
Jason March





Ward 1 Fire Station 11297 Webster Road.

Opened in April 2001 and serves the northeast quadrant of the city. The 2 ½ bay station 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 3 Fire Station 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. The Station 3 is equipped with a pumper truck and an ambulance. It also houses a reserve ambulance and pumper truck.



Ward 2 Fire Station 15939 Drake Road

The station opened in April 1997 and serves the southeast quadrant of the city. The 1 ½ 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 4 Fire Station 17000 Prospect Road

Station 4 opened on February 11, 2008 and serves the southwest quadrant of the city. This station is the Department's Administrative Headquarters and has 5 ½ bays which include 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 100' aerial platform, 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

In 2023, an ordinance was changed to allow the department to replace someone up to six months before their retirement date. This additional time allows a new Firemedic to be hired, oriented, and assigned to shift, making the transition smoother and reducing the risk of mandated overtime. With a number of retirements in 2023, additional FM candidates will go thru the civil service hiring process and they are expected to be on the job in the first half of 2024.

RETIRED	RETIRED	RETIRED	PROMOTED	APPOINTED
				
FM Cliff Ramey	FM Allen Miller	Lt. Chuck Zerman	Lt. Paul Noel	FM Carson Hengst
FM Cliff Ramey retired in May 2023. He started in May of 1998 and has served 25 years, always filling any roles requested by the administration.	FM Allen Miller retired in December 2023. He also served 25 years of dedicated service.	Lt. Zerman was hired 1993. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 2008 and was honored by the Knight of Columbus receiving the Firefighter of the Year award in 2017.	On December 28, 2023, FM Paul (PJ) Noel was sworn into the position of Lieutenant starting January 1, 2024.	Carson Hengst was born and raised in Brunswick, graduating HS in 2019. He received his FF, EMT, and Paramedic from Tri C and brings experience from Columbia Twp. and Brecksville Fire Departments.

Lexipol

SFES began the Lexipol Policy Management implementation process in April, 2022. With the exception of a few “stragglers”, we accomplished the goal of having the Policies reviewed, updated, and issued by the end of 2023. The last step will be to review, edit and issue the Procedures. The Procedures are meant to explain in detail how certain Policies are to be accomplished, such as a Fire Watch or Unsafe Residence checklist. The goal for 2024 is for all policies and procedures to be issued, and the implementation of the Daily Training Bulletins.



Facilities Management

Keeping our fire stations in excellent condition is a time-consuming and expensive aspect of the administration's work; fortunately, this work is made much easier by the diligence of the station crews in basic building maintenance and notifying us when there are issues with a station's structure or systems.

Fortunately, there were no major facility problems in 2023, and HVAC continues to be the main source of maintenance issues. A partial replacement of the radiant tube system at Station 2 was done, and the remaining original tubes are planned for replacement in the near future.

Father Joe Mamich, Chaplain



Father Joe has been the pastor at St. Joseph Catholic Church since 2011. He was raised in Strongsville and pursued his passion of working with First Responders. He joined the rank and file in 2014 when he became our Safety Forces Chaplain. He volunteers time for ride-a-longs with both Police and Fire, responding to calls and providing emotional and spiritual support to our residents and the Safety Forces and their families. He is also available on call 24/7/365 to respond to any incident. He offers all of the emotional, spiritual and bereavement counseling resources



and follow up from St. Joseph Catholic Church.

His loyalty to the faith community and the safety forces has been recognized by the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland. In early 2023, Bishop Malesic asked him to consider serving the Diocese of Cleveland as the next Secretary and Vicar for Clergy and Religious. Father Joe accepted and moved into his new role in toward the end of 2023, residing at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist. He still remains our Safety Forces Chaplain; however, he will have a more limited role as he pursues other interests.





Strongsville Fire and Emergency Services offers a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training program. Under the leadership of Dale Hawk and Don Rohde, 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. The dedicated members of CERT performed over 1000 hours of community service in 2023. The events ranged from supporting all 12 of our community events and storm watch for severe weather alerts to educating the community. CERT members remained very active in providing Stop The Bleed training to Strongsville and surrounding school districts.



Strongsville CERT 2023 Events and Training			
Events	Location	Participants	Hours
4th of July Fireworks	Town Commons	11	22.5
4th of July Fireworks	Playground-Tennis Courts	8	13
A Day at the Chalet	Metroparks Chalet	5	13.5
CERT Equipment Preparation	SFD Station #4	4	7
Harvest Festival	Historical Society	9	18
Homecoming Festival	Town Commons	34	83.75
Homecoming Fireworks	Playground-Tennis Courts	10	16
Memorial Day Parade	Pearl Rd Parade Route	8	17
Rib Burnoff	Town Commons	24	47.5
Rib Burnoff Fireworks	Playground-Tennis Courts	10	29
Rotary Duck Race	Metroparks Chalet	7	23.5
StrongFest-Rotary	Strongsville Rec. Center	11	24.5
Winter Wonderland Fireworks	Town Commons	16	47
Total Event Service		157	362.25
Meeting and Training	Location	Participants	Hours
BLS CPR/AED/1st Aid Instruction	Southwest General EMS	6	25.5
BLS CPR/AED/1st Aid Instruction	SFD Station #4	19	74.5
BLS CPR/AED/1st Aid Instruction	Strongsville UCC	4	8
BLS Provider Renewal	SFD Station #4	7	22.75
CERT Basic Training	SFD Station #4	34	126.5
CERT Monthly Meetings	SFD Station #4	138	175.75
EMA Training Class	Independence Fire Dept.	3	18
Heart Saver CPR/AED	SFD Station #4	23	78
Heart Saver First Aid	SFD Station #4	23	65.75
Hybrid CERT Development	SFD Station #4	8	17.75
Hybrid CERT Development	Southwest General EMS	21	69
Stop the Bleed Training	Berea-Midpark H.S.	3	15.5
Stop the Bleed Training	Strongsville High School	4	15
Stop the Bleed Training	Strongsville High School	2	5
Totals for Meeting/Training		295	717
Grand totals for events and training in 2023		452	1079.25

ASSISTANT CHIEF of OPERATIONS

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF AJ ALJABI



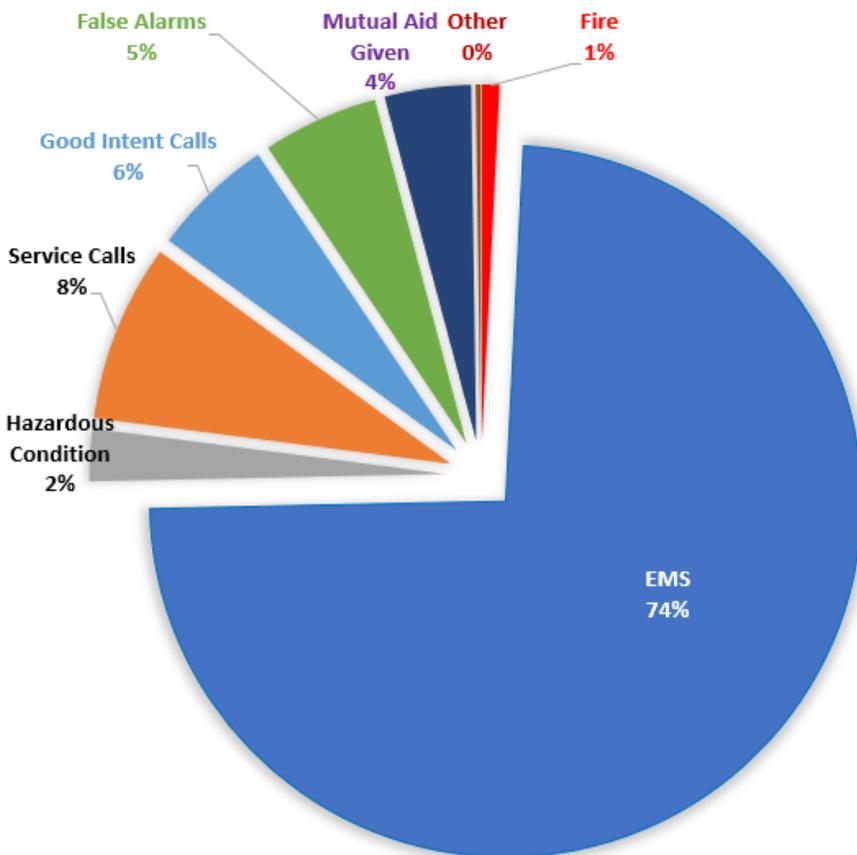
The Assistant Fire Chief of Operations is responsible for coordinating the daily operations of the department, training oversight, liaison with Southwest Emergency Dispatch (SWEDC), vehicle and equipment maintenance, and purchasing.

➤ Staffing

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

➤ New Equipment

- 3 new 17-C Combination Tools & special RIT tips for forcible entry for \$46,260.
- M28 batteries for Genesis tools for \$615.
- 12 portable radio batteries replaced \$0 per service plan as well as 12 more ordered in December to be under the 2023 service plan.
- 3 remote speaker mics replaced at \$0 per service plan.
- Step cribbing purchased for L1 and L4 for \$968.
- 575 feet Hose-\$5500.
- Roll N Rack “Power Roller” and “Go Pack”-\$10,000.
- Forcible Entry door Trainer-\$9,100.



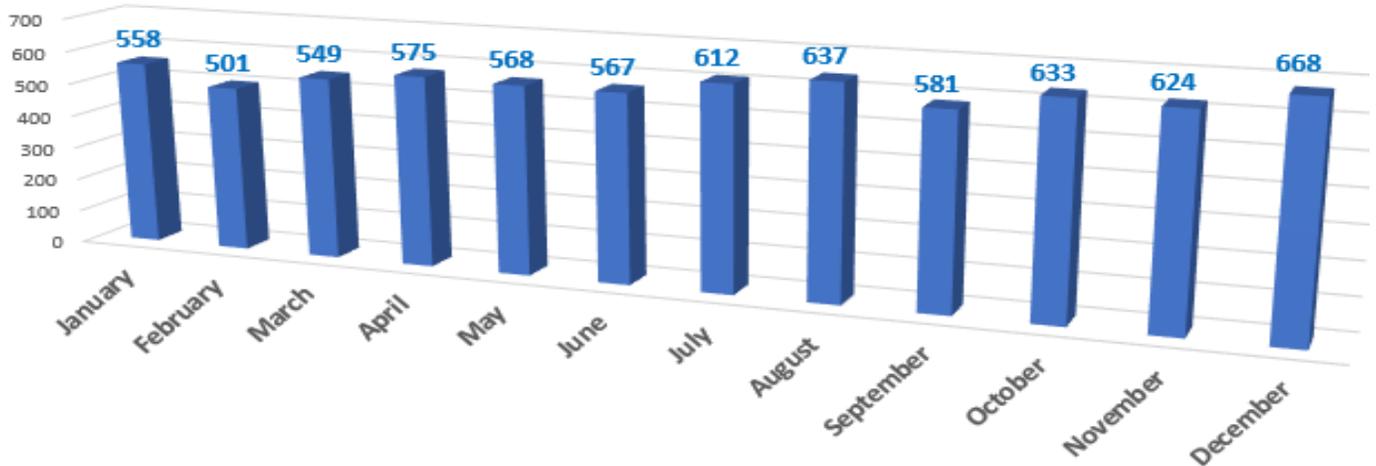
2023 Operational Summary

TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE	7073
EMS Calls	5301
EMS Transports	4141
Ambulance Billing Collections	\$1,540,639
Fire, Haz condition, Service Calls	1571
Total Fire Losses	\$1,447,935
Value of property saved	\$13,986,100
Fires with Property Loss	19
Fires with losses >\$10K	9 structures 3 vehicles
Mutual Aid Given	277
Mutual Aid Received	64

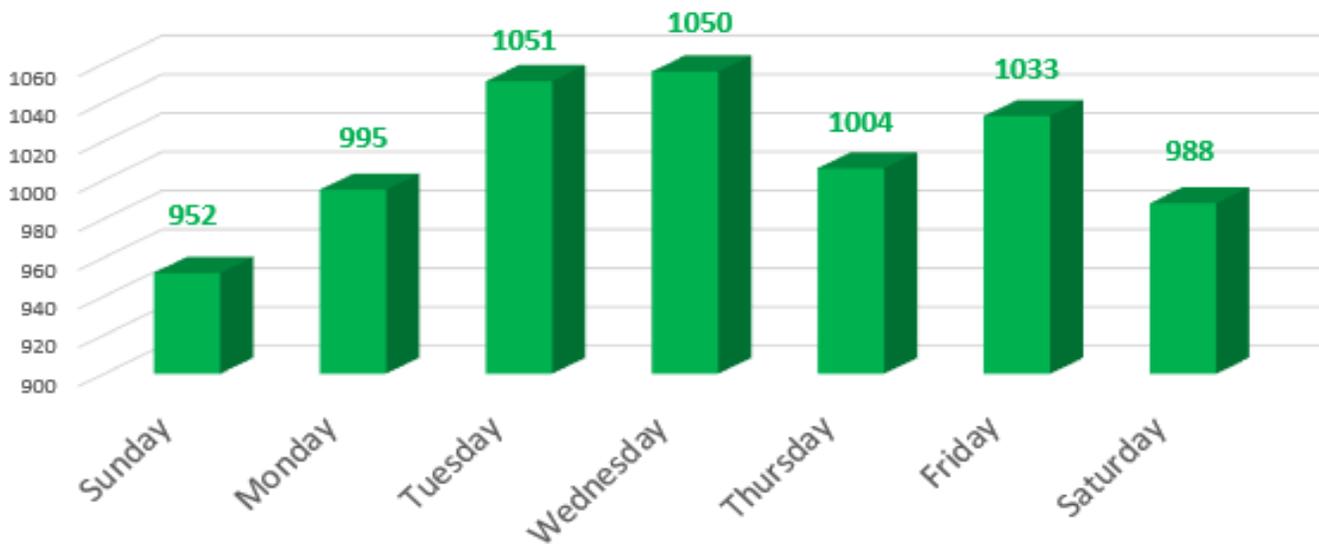
Calls for service up 195% since 2004



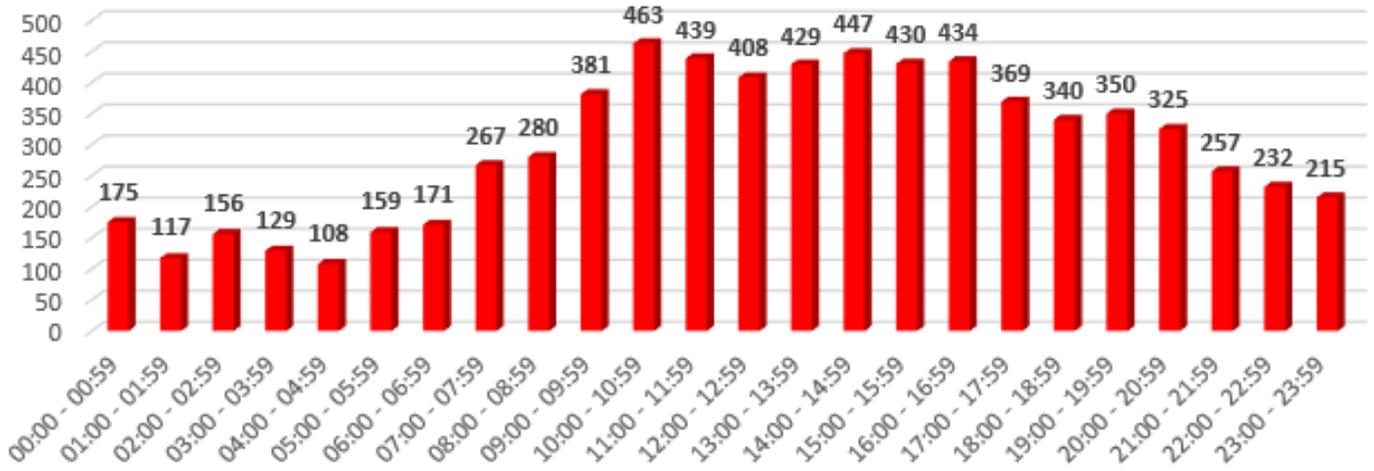
2023 Incidents per Month



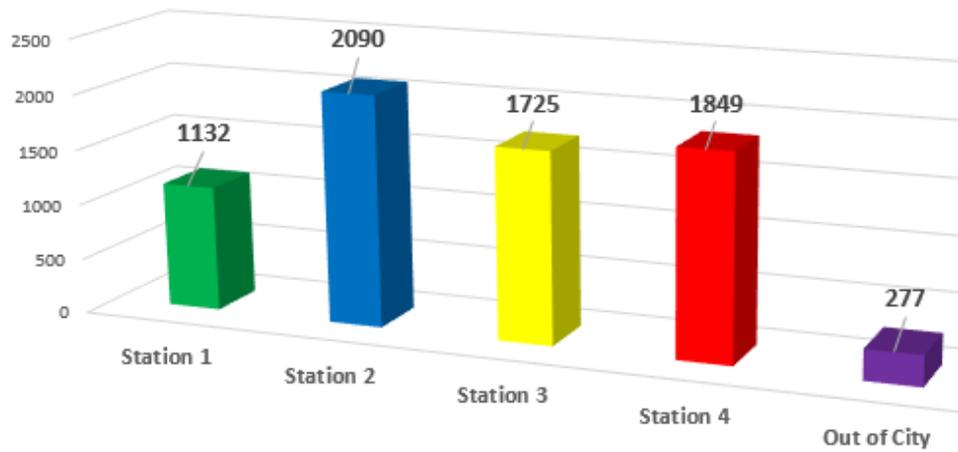
2023 Incidents by Day of the Week



2023 Incidents per Hour



2023 Incidents by Response District



SERT



Southwest Emergency Response Team (SERT) is comprised of fire service professionals from 20 Cuyahoga County, Ohio communities and organizations that combine their resources for specialized **Land Rescue**, **Water Rescue**, **Haz Mat**, and **Fire Investigations**.

The teams cover 182 square miles and serves a population of 343,000. Strongsville has 21 members serving on the SERT Teams.

SERT purchased a new 2023 SERT **HM2** vehicle. This was placed into service on February 20, 2024 and is housed at Independence Fire Department. HM 1 remains at Strongsville Station 4, which is the SERT Hazmat HQ.

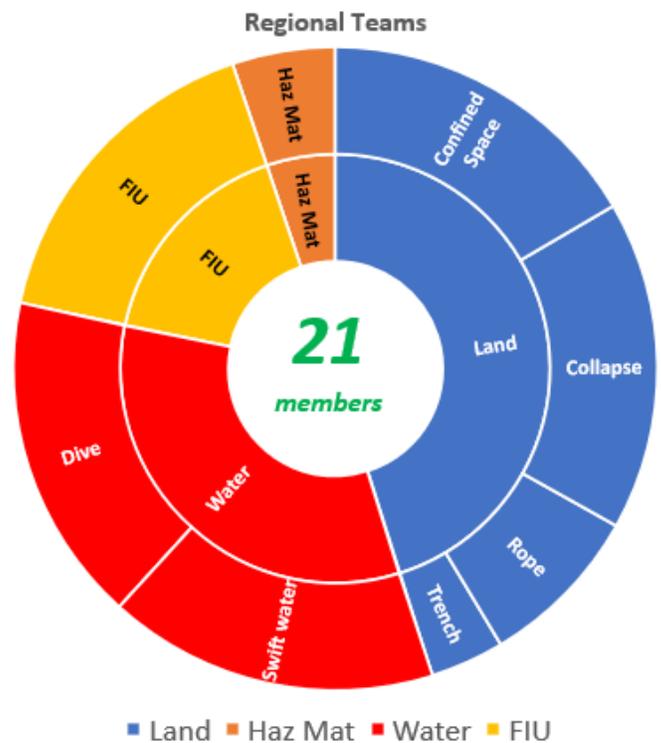
Haz Mat Director Lt. Sullivan and Deputy Director Captain Green hosted several local and regional training sessions and classes at SERT HM HQ throughout 2023. Those included

- Multiple SERT trainings in 2023 provided through grant monies from PUCO and LEPC.
- SFD/SERT HM and Cuyahoga County EMA hosted a 3-day propane flaring class “Emergency Response to Propane Incidents”. Hazmat team members and firefighters from all over the county attended.
- SFD/SERT HM hosted a Cleveland State University Hazmat Technician Radiation Refresher Feb15-17th 2023 provided through a PUCO grant at Strongsville Station 4.

SERT MEMBERS

FC. Jack Draves SERT EXECUTIVE BOARD

Lt. Tom Sullivan- Director	HazMat
CPT. Andrew Green- Deputy Director	HazMat
Lt. Mark Biley	HazMat
CPT. Paul Filon	HazMat
FM. Robert Pochatek	HazMat
CPT. Matthew Tilbert	HazMat
FM. Kyle Paul	HazMat
Lt. Paul Noel	HazMat
FM. Steve Haines	HazMat
FM. Brandon Sposit- Deputy Director	FIU
AC. AJ Aljabi	FIU
FM. Patrick Barrett	FIU
Lt. David Boyle	FIU
FM. Matt Taylor	FIU
FM. Jamie Grimm	FIU
FM. Douglas Kallin	Tech Rescue
FM. Steve Siudowski	Tech Rescue
FM Josh Maslocha	Tech Rescue
Lt. Tom Zinn	Dive
Lt. Joe Agresta	Dive



Participating SERT Communities

Berea	Brooklyn Heights	North Royalton	Seven Hills
Brecksville	Cuyahoga Heights	Olmsted Falls	Strongsville
Broadview Heights	Independence	Olmsted Township	Valley View
Brook Park	Middleburgh Heights	Parma	Metro Parks
Brooklyn	Newburgh Heights	Parma Heights	NO Ohio Regional Sewer District



Maintenance at a Glance

2023 Annual Preventative Maintenance (PM) Program

3306 Hydrants	SCBA Mask fit testing
Powerload, Cots, Stair Chairs PM	SCBA Cylinder Hydrostatic testing PM
Cots PM	Bauer & MAKO fill station biannual PM
Stair Chair PM	Aerial and Ground ladder PM
Portable Gas Meter PM	Apparatus Pump testing
19,000 feet of hose testing	Small engine maintenance
Vehicle Fleet biannual PM	LP 15 Heart Monitor PM
Radio Maintenance PM	Lucas CPR Devices PM
SCBA Bench Testing PM	AED's in city buildings and fire staff vehicles



Hydrant flushing started in April, 2023 and were completed at the end of August. SFD inspected and flushed 3,306 hydrants, fifty-two were marked out of service (OOS) for various reasons. The OOS hydrants were forwarded to the Service Department, which will coordinate with Cleveland Water Department to make repairs in 2024.



2023 Major Incidents



March 3, 2023
Single family residential structure fire
Location- 17607 Marks Road
Loss-\$165,000
Cause-Undetermined

March 22, 2023
Commercial building, machine on fire
11792 Alameda Drive
Loss-\$20,000
Cause- Fire in a machine



April 11, 2023
Single family residential basement fire
Location-17017 Lanier
Loss \$400,000
Cause- Accidental

May 27, 2023
Single family residential fire-FATALITY
Location- 14905 Sherwood Drive
Loss-\$200,000
Cause-Smoking while on oxygen



June 2, 2023
2 story residential exterior fire
Location- 16675 Prospect Rd
Loss-\$70,000
Cause-Accidental

No Image

June 4, 2023
2 car detached garage fire with home exposure
Location-19024 West 130th
Loss- \$95,000
Cause- Overloaded electrical cords and outlets



2023 Major Incidents



June 13, 2023
2 story residential oven fire with extension.
Location-21176 Hickory Branch Trail
Loss-\$105,000
Cause-Accidental

June 21, 2023
Single family residential fire
Location 17784 Blazing Star
Loss- \$150,000
Cause-Accidental



September 18, 2023
2 car MVA with one -FATALITY
Location-Darice Parkway and Royalton Road

October 12, 2023
Single family residential kitchen fire
Location-21989 Jonathan Drive
Loss-\$40,000
Cause-Accidental



November 11, 2023
Vehicles on fire
Location- 8810 Pearl Road Village Motel
Loss-\$9,000
Cause- Undetermined



EMS SERVICES/COMMUNITY OUTREACH

ADMINISTRATIVE LT. BRIAN TOMCANY

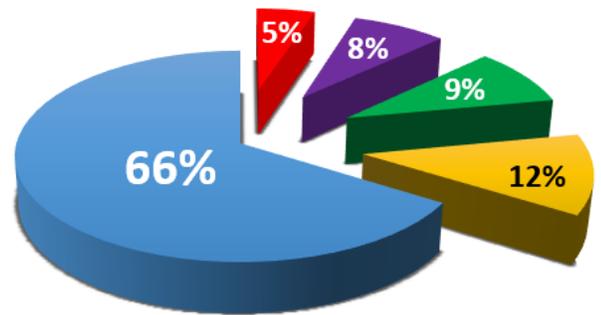


Strongsville Fire and Emergency Services (SFES) continues to serve the community in Fire-EMS-HazMat-and Technical Rescue. The dedicated fire department members continue to demonstrate the Vision of providing the finest fire and emergency services in the region. Today, 66 of our 68 members are paramedics who are responsible for almost 400 pages of protocols capable of providing advanced life support interventions to the residents who work, live or travel in our community.

2023 marked the 9th year that our department was recognized by the American Heart Association 2023 Mission Lifeline Award, achieving the Gold Status Heart Attack Honor Roll.

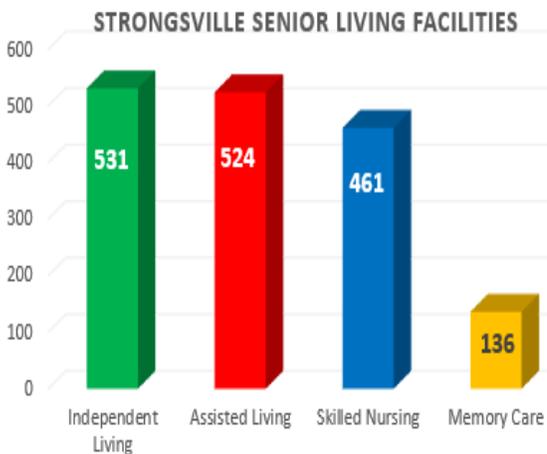
Since 2020, EMS volume has increased 30%. This increase is predominately due to a dramatic increase in the senior population. Falls are the leading cause of EMS and are one of the reasons traumas has increased over 10% since last year.

EMS Age breakdown

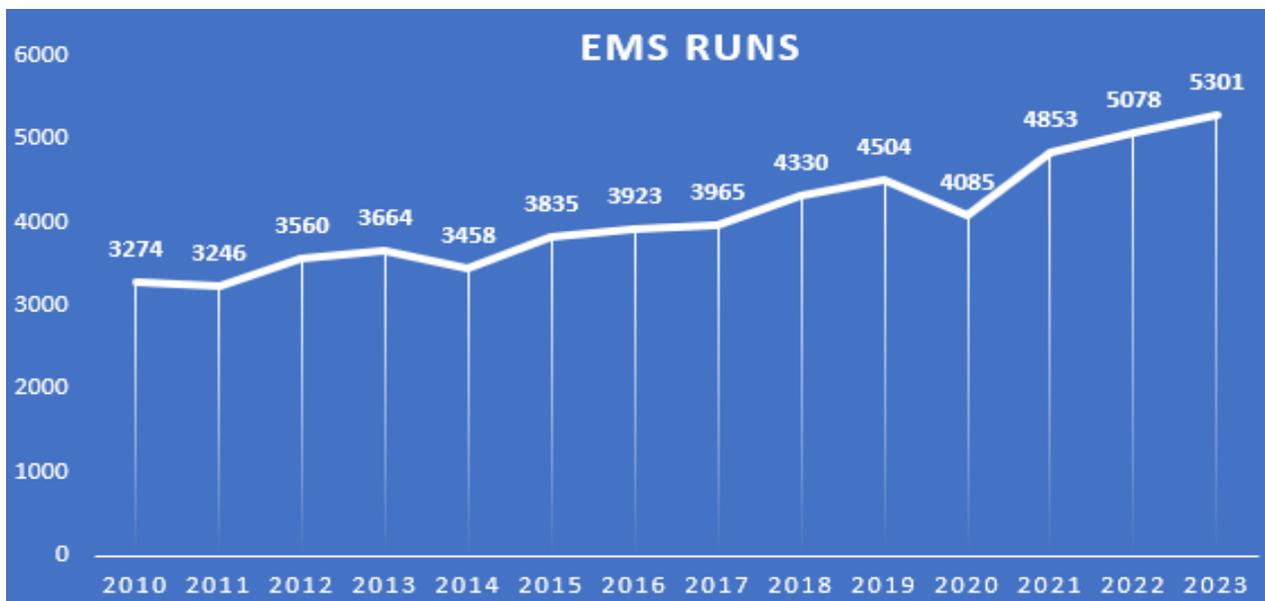


0 to 18 19 to 35 36 to 50 51 to 64 65 or >

Senior housing has exploded in Strongsville and has contributed to the overall increase of 62% in EMS runs since 2010. A variety of Independent Living, Assisted Living, Memory Care, Rehab and Skilled nursing facilities have significantly contributed to this increase in run volume. Over 66% of our EMS patients are greater than 65 years old with medical, cardiac symptoms and trauma as the top three EMS responses.



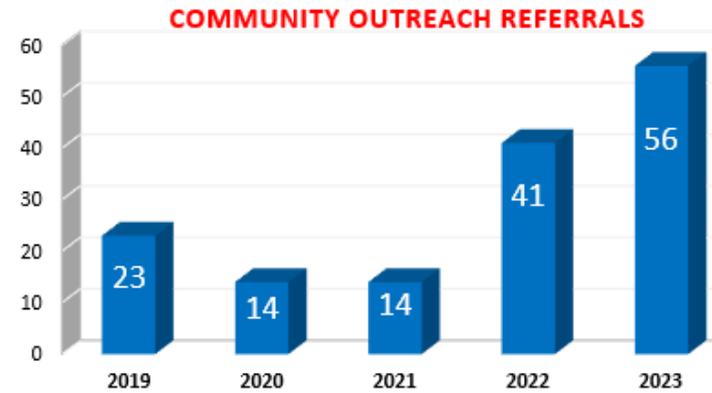
As healthcare continues to evolve, trending statistics show less emergent calls and more non-emergency calls. This data supports a more active Community Outreach effort which focuses on non-emergency, non-traditional fire department responses and interventions by establishing more partnerships with local resources.



PATIENT FOLLOW UP AND REFERRALS

In an attempt to become more proactive in caring for our community, Chief Draves started expanding the Community Outreach Program to include personnel to perform patient follow ups. Since 2019, referrals have increased 243% to 56 in 2023.

Referrals to the program are received from the Recreation Senior Center, Police Department, neighbors, family members, hospitals and fire department members seeking follow ups on patients they have engaged with on some of their EMS runs. There are a variety of reasons, which include but are not limited to potential unsafe living conditions, medical and mental health concerns, addictions, neglect and isolation. The majority of these patients are also high utilizers of 911.



We follow up with these referrals with a non-emergent home visit and complete a home safety 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. Once we understand each resident's unique struggle, we collaborate with a number of

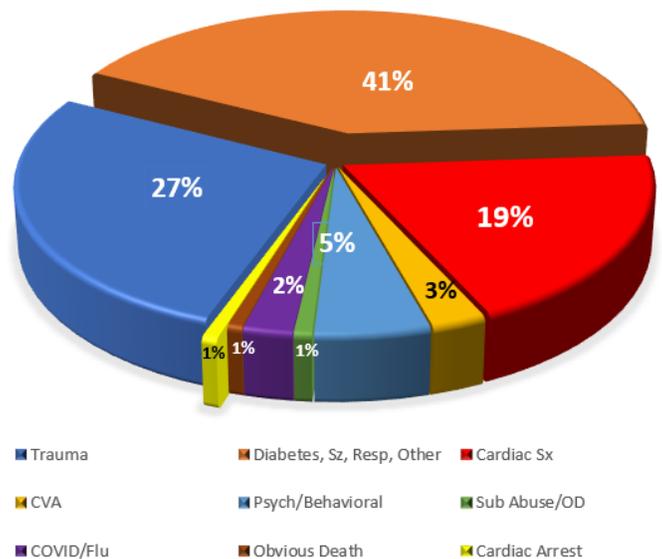
organizations and individuals that include, but not limited to APS/CPS, social work, and the healthcare team to help bridge the gap by expanding the fire department role.

We try to engage family, friends and the patients' healthcare provider. We collaborate with FPO, building department and Social Services. Our efforts have assisted struggling residents to move into nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and other senior resources.

FPO has been referred to install Lock Boxes and smoke detectors. We have been able to sign residents up for Meals on Wheels and Senior Wheels transportation. In addition, we have been able to set residents up with Home Health Services to include Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Speech Therapy. Most referrals consume a lot of time and effort to help meet the needs of our residents. It is not unusual to spend hours throughout each case. Last year's 56 referrals resulted in 180 calls for service.

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 certain circumstances, SFES also transports to The Cleveland Clinic Main Campus, Brunswick ED, Fairview, Medina; University Hospitals Main Campus, Parma Medical Center and UH-Broadview Hts; MetroHealth Medical Center Main Campus, UH-Parma, and Brecksville ED's. SWGHC serves as our Medical Control. Dr. Susan Tout and Dr. Katie Imhoff serve as our Medical Directors and Lisa Kingsley is our EMS Clinical Manager. All 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.

TYPES OF EMS INCIDENTS
2023 TOTAL EMS RUNS 5,301



In 2023, SFES collected \$1.54M from EMS reimbursements. Monies collected are deposited into the Emergency Vehicle Fund, which is dedicated to purchasing new emergency vehicles.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Strongsville Fire and Emergency Services is dedicated to keeping its residents and visitors safe. Through educational programs and community outreach, firefighters and civilian personnel strive to increase awareness making for a safer and healthier community. We accomplish this through hosting several events throughout the year designed to assist and inspire residents in Strongsville.

CPR

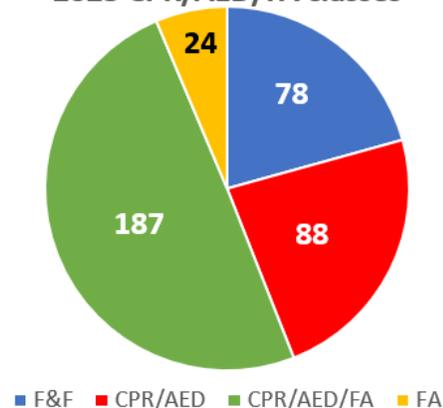


Strongsville Fire and Emergency Services offers a variety of life saving classes to the public. We offer Heart Saver CPR/AED, Heart Saver First Aid (FA), and Friends and Family (F&F) CPR to the public. Seven certified instructors provide American Heart Association training to residents, groups, city

employees and businesses. Each class is about four hours and takes place at Fire Station 4.

In 2023, a total of 377 students became empowered to perform the lifesaving interventions of CPR/AED and First Aid. We also instructed over 150 police, dispatchers, correction officers, service department personnel and recreational center employees.

2023 CPR/AED/FA classes



QUICK RESPONSE TEAM

In 2017, the fire department, police department and certified substance abuse counselors from Ohio Guidestone created the Quick Response Team (QRT). The team meets twice a week to meet with those that are struggling with all types of addiction. When someone overdoses within our city, they will receive a visit from QRT within 72 hours to provide access to treatment and ongoing support for both the resident and their family.

In 2023, there were a total of 18 reported overdoses. Nine were Strongsville residents. The team made 215 follow-up visits and calls with all individuals who had overdosed. Eight individuals received treatment for their addiction.



Strongsville Fire Department Fire Academy for Kids



The Fire Academy for Kids Program was created by FM Matt Schenek in 2016. Recognizing that a knowledge gap existed between what the children of our community believe firefighters do on the job and the reality of a normal day at the firehouse truly is, Matt designed an unforgettable and unique Fire Academy for Kids.

During the FAFK, 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 donated by Marco's Pizza 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. In 2023, FM Schenek added the Tower evolution, allowing the recruits to safely go up in the bucket of Ladder 4. 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 frozen treats donated by Kona Ice.



Firemedic Schenek coordinates the entire program including registration, advertising, recruiting volunteers, and soliciting donations from local business. Because of



the generous financial donations from the "Moms Club of North Royalton", FM Schenek was able to purchase lighter, safer Halligans and axes made from a dense composite material for the forcible entry evolutions with our door props.

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.

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 and complete a wide 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, the inspection and code enforcement of commercial and industrial facilities, educational occupancies, healthcare facilities and specialized home inspections related to adoption, foster care and daycare.

Delivering the high level of service to the community has not changed even after the pandemic and has actually led to an increase in community events and overall life safety education. The increase in outdoor dining and mobile food trucks has also brought a new inspection responsibility to the office.

Life safety education and public relations activities hit an all-time high of approximately 2,200 children and adults through numerous programs. Some of the programs included Safety Town, Fire Prevention Week, Stop the Bleed training for school staff, fire extinguisher training for local businesses and CPR and first aid training for the community. Public relations activities included all community events, fire station tours, Touch-A-Truck events, and business and health fair expositions.



The FPO is involved with other community risk reduction activities including the management of a computer business database, updating business information into the computer aided dispatch system, drawing and updating all preplans and making them accessible to responding fire personnel during an emergency, and cataloging all extremely hazardous facilities.

The Office also manages the commercial Knox Box program which facilitates emergency crews entering businesses after hours in a fast and efficient manner, and without causing damage that would otherwise happen when having to “force” or break down a door to gain entry. Residential risk-reducing activities include residential lock box installation and management for all residents, smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector installation, and general home fire safety assessments, which make homes a safer place to live.

2023 Fire Prevention Office activities:

- Tests/ inspections-2,136
- New construction/acceptance tests- 152
- Commercial/Multifamily preplans drawn/updated in CAD-166
- Commercial alarms and follow ups-66
- Residential services-170
- Life Safety education contacts-2,178



TRAINING OFFICE

CAPTAIN ANDREW GREEN-TRAINING OFFICE



Training is an essential part of being prepared for both Fire and EMS emergencies. The mission of the Strongsville Fire Department's Training Division is to provide the education and training necessary for the Department's emergency responders to safely and professionally respond to all calls for service. In 2023, the Training Division delivered 8,487 hours of training. This included over 3,623 hours of company fire training and 2,038



hours of EMS training. These training exercises are evaluated through subjective, written, and/or manipulative methods.

Continuing education and training is a necessity as members of an "all hazards department". Our Firemedics respond to a wide variety of emergencies, many of which occur in hazardous and sometimes harsh environments. These include residential and commercial structure fires, hazardous material releases, technical rescues, motor vehicle accidents, and medical emergencies. 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 standards, and regulatory requirements.

Training highlights:

In **January** 2023 firefighters began training in the 7 houses that were on Royalton Road (now Camden Woods). Firefighters completed search and rescue training, ventilation, and forcible entry.



In **February** the Illuminating company brought the "Live Wire Safety Trailer" and completed demonstrations to help educate fire and police about the potential dangers of energized electrical equipment.



In **March** some members took part in Ladder Company Operations training in conjunction with the State Fire Academy and many of our regional mutual aid partners. We also introduced and trained on the new RAM XD hose appliance. This appliance uses one 2.5-inch hose line to generate a flow of up to 500 gpm.



In **May**, department members took part in two weeks of hands on fire training at the old Akzo Nobel building on Sprague Road. The focus of this training was forcible entry, hose line advancement, and search and rescue.

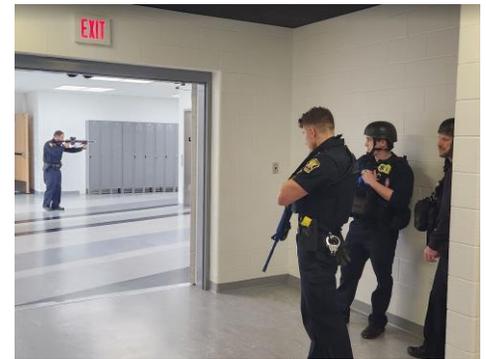
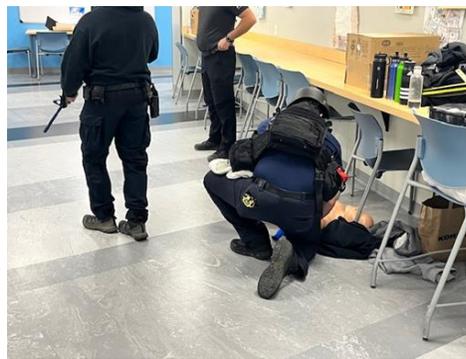




Also, in **May**, Strongsville Fire partnered up with Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management, Cuyahoga County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and Victory Propane to host a 3-day Propane Awareness Course class at our firehouse. There were over 90 First Responders trained at this event

In **October** firefighters completed hands on extrication training. They were able to utilize both our traditional extrication tools and the new Genesis Combi tools.

Training wrapped up in **December** with Rescue Task Force training with Strongsville Police at the Strongsville Middle School. Crews had the opportunity to work with the police in multiple MCI scenarios over a three day period.



The Training Division also conducted five After Action Reviews of major fire/EMS incidents that occurred in the City in 2023. These After Action Reviews allow fire crews to review the radio traffic, assignments, conditions, and command decisions that took place during the incident. The goal of these reviews is to review the incident and recognize anyway that we can improve operations to be safer and better serve the public.

Size up (Water Supply & Street Conditions)

Approximate locations



Grants and Donations

July 2023- Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) Priority One EMS- Received-\$2,975.04

December 2023- Ohio Ambulance Transportation Program Grant-Received \$20,000

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 Fireworks, Homecoming, Rib Burn-off, Winter Wonderland, Duck Race, and Community Band Salute to Heroes.

22nd Anniversary of the September 11th Attacks



The Strongsville police and fire departments recalled the terrorist attacks of 2001 with a ceremony at Fire Station 4 on Sept. 11. Fire Chief Jack Draves and Police Chief Tom O’Deens both spoke about the deaths of 2,977 people that day, including 343 firefighters and 73 law enforcement officers.

Fr. Joe Mamich of St. Joseph Church, who serves as chaplain for the safety forces, offered a prayer. FM Johnathan Tibbs presided over the tolling of the bell, the method used years ago to announce and mark the death of a firefighter in the line of duty.



WE CARE

In December, SFD partnered with We Care Ministry to sponsor a Coat Drive Donation for the children of West Virginia.



Shopping with kids



Strongsville
Police Qtrmster.
Michael Graziani

Strongsville Safety Forces combined efforts to a family in need for a little extra holiday cheer and lift their spirits. This year, they chose to support the family of a member of the Strongsville Police Department, who passed away suddenly in September of 2023. Both Police and Fire shared the day with the family and took the family for lunch, shopping, and for a ride in safety vehicles.



In December Strongsville Middle School hosted an administrative team and student leader breakfast.



Leadership and Service Awards Presentation

2023 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 George Benedict who was nominated by Captain Paul Filon. George joined the Strongsville Fire Department in 1994. Below are comments from Captain Filon's nomination letter.

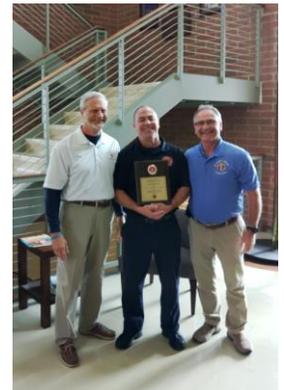
George is well respected by both his fellow officers and his subordinates. George's efforts, energy, and expertise have increased the departments overall capabilities. He is an exceptional representative of our department, and is well respected throughout the Southwest Cuyahoga County region that we serve.

FF. Benedict is one of the hardest working and most competent members of the department. George provides exemplary customer service to the public that he serves, whether providing care to a patient during an emergency or teaching a class on cardiopulmonary resuscitation to a community group. His enthusiasm and professionalism are infectious, and he leads by example.

Whenever I assign him a task, I know that it will be completed and exceed my expectations without the need to look over his shoulder. He is a role model for junior and future firefighters and emergency medical workers.

Public service runs in the Benedict family as his father is a retired Parma firefighter and his uncle is a retired Middleburg Heights Fire Chief. I have known George for over 28 years and watched him grow throughout his entire career.

Captain Filon is his Shift Commander and describes George is the consummate professional on and off duty. The public he serves receives his best effort every time. He treats this job as a both a career and a passion. He is widely considered to be the unofficial "morale officer" as he constantly projects positivity and good will. While George is not the type of firefighter who seeks out recognition or applause, he is certainly deserving of such. Exemplifying selflessness and a caring image that the public associates with members of the fire service, I cannot think of a better representative for our department to receive the Firefighter of the Year Award.



2023 Company Citation Award

Acting Lt. Sposit and FM Petrick and Verbus received the Company Citation Awards for their efforts in a fatal MVA on Progress Drive in 2022. Their quick action and critical thinking were instrumental in the execution of additional responding units and the survival of one of the victims.



2023 Community Service Award



On Nov. 5, 2023, the Strongsville Fire Department presented Sue Hamm and Maggie Cunningham the 2022 Community Service Awards. Their heroic efforts on September 24, 2022 saved the life of Sue's husband Paul at First Baptist Church on Drake Road. Their fast action, early 911 notification and critical defibrillation intervention made the difference between life and death. Following this incident, First Baptist Church contacted the fire department and coordinated CPR and AED training to empower more of their parishioners.

2023 Commendation Award

Presented to Assistant Fire Marshall Jamie Grimm for his off-duty actions at a serious MVA in Columbia Station to take charge of the scene, manage on-scene and responding resources, provide trauma care, and oversee transport of the patient and crew to the trauma center.



2023 American Heart Association Mission: Lifeline EMS GOLD



Mission: Lifeline EMS recognition is a program designed to showcase Emergency Medical Service organizations across the nation for excellent STEMI care. Prehospital personnel are the first providers of care to patients suffering from cardiac emergencies. The role of EMS in the system-of-care for these

patients is crucial and often sets the course for the patient's outcome. The Mission: Lifeline EMS recognition program launched in 2014 and continues to celebrate the achievement of the pre-hospital providers and their collaboration with each other and destination hospitals specific to STEMI patient care.

Your agency is a part of an elite group of prehospital providers recognized by the American Heart Association for your commitment and success in implementing a higher standard of care, by ensuring that every STEMI patient receives treatment according to nationally accepted evidence-based guideline recommendations and standards.

Mission: Lifeline® EMS Gold
Target: Heart Attack Honor Roll

