

STRONGSVILLE

FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

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ANNUAL REPORT

17000 Prospect Road
Strongsville, Ohio

MAYOR
TOM PERCIAK

FIRE CHIEF
JACK DRAVES

SAFETY DIRECTOR
CHARLIE GOSS



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Strongsville Fire and Emergency Services is committed to excellence in service, leadership, and community.

Thank you for allowing us to serve you.



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

JACK DRAVES, FIRE CHIEF

It is my honor and privilege to serve the residents, businesses, and visitors of the Strongsville community alongside the dedicated members of Strongsville Fire and Emergency Services. Every day, our Firemedics and Officers respond to emergencies with professionalism, compassion, competence, and pride – the four pillars that continue to define our organization and guide our mission.



Strongsville Fire and Emergency Services is an all-hazards emergency response agency prepared to respond to fires, medical emergencies, motor vehicle accidents, hazardous materials incidents, technical rescues, and countless other calls for assistance. Regardless of the nature of the emergency, our commitment remains the same: delivering exceptional service while protecting the lives and property of those we serve.

As our community continues to grow and evolve, so too does the demand placed upon the department. In 2025, the department responded to 7,299 calls for service, representing a 1.5% increase over the previous year. Emergency Medical Services continued to account for nearly 70% of all incidents, while approximately 70% of emergency calls occurred simultaneously with another active incident somewhere else within the city. Despite increasing operational demands, the department maintained an average first-unit response time of six minutes and fifty-five seconds.

These numbers represent far more than statistics. They reflect thousands of moments where firefighters, paramedics, dispatchers, and officers answered the call to help others during some of the most difficult moments of their lives. Whether responding to a structure fire in the middle of the night, providing life-saving medical care, assisting during severe weather, or supporting residents through difficult personal circumstances, our personnel remain committed to serving with excellence.

Safety continues to remain our highest priority. That commitment extends beyond emergency response and includes fire prevention, code enforcement, public education, training, and community outreach initiatives. Throughout the year, department personnel engaged thousands of residents and workers through fire inspections, CPR and first aid training, fire extinguisher education, smoke detector installation programs, residential lock box installations, health and wellness events, school fire safety education, and outreach efforts through our Quick Response Team. These proactive initiatives strengthen community partnerships while helping prevent emergencies before they occur.

The City of Strongsville continued to make significant investments in public safety throughout 2025. One of the most important milestones was the continued development of the city's fifth fire station, strategically located along Royalton Road west of Pearl Road. This 15,000-square-foot facility will enhance service delivery, improve response coverage, and support the growing needs of our community for decades to come. Designed to accommodate up to seven firefighters, the station will include three drive-through apparatus bays, training space, and fitness facilities to support operational readiness and firefighter wellness.

In addition to facility expansion, the city invested in critical apparatus, communications equipment, and life-saving technology, including a new fire engine, replacement portable radios, and updated LUCAS CPR assist devices. Equally important was the continued investment in our personnel. Throughout 2025, officers and firefighters advanced their professional development



through Fire Officer training, instructor certifications, fire investigation programs, and specialized leadership development workshops designed to strengthen the future leadership of the department.

The fire service continues to face evolving challenges, increasing service demands, and changing community expectations. However, I remain confident in the exceptional firefighters, paramedics, officers, and support personnel who serve this department every day. Their dedication, resilience, and unwavering commitment to public service continue to position Strongsville Fire and Emergency Services among the finest organizations in the region.

On behalf of the entire department, thank you to the Strongsville community for your continued trust, partnership, and support. It is because of that support that we are able to continue building a safer, stronger, and more prepared community for future generations.

Respectfully,

Jack Draves
Fire Chief

The Department extends its appreciation to **Alert 2 Photography** for providing professional imagery used throughout this report.

www.alert2photography.com

Honor | Duty | Legacy



COMING SOON

THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRE STATION NUMBER 5



RFC
CONTRACTING

DSA
DS ARCHITECTURE

K2M
DESIGN

OSBORN
ENGINEERING



OUR FOUNDATION. OUR COMMITMENT. OUR COMMUNITY.

Strongsville Fire and Emergency Services is built on core principles that guide our actions, shape our decisions, and strengthen our commitment to the community we are honored to serve.



OUR VISION

To remain one of the finest fire and emergency service organizations possible through professional development, responsible stewardship of resources, and a continued commitment to meeting the evolving needs of the Strongsville community.



OUR MISSION

To protect the lives, property, and environment of those who live, work, and travel within the City of Strongsville.



OUR VALUES

Strongsville Fire and Emergency Services is committed to a culture built upon professionalism, accountability, integrity, and service. These values guide our decision-making, shape our organizational culture, and strengthen our commitment to the community we proudly serve.

THE FOUR PILLARS OF SUCCESS

PROFESSIONALISM



We conduct ourselves with the highest standards of integrity, respect, and accountability.

COMPETENCE



We commit to ongoing training, education, and preparation to perform at the highest level.

COMPASSION



We serve with empathy, care, and respect for those in our community during their most difficult moments.

PRIDE



We take pride in our department, our profession, and the community that trusts us every day.

OUR CORE VALUES



HUMAN LIFE

Our highest priority



SERVICE

Our reason for existence



EXCELLENCE

Our professional standard



INTEGRITY

The foundation of trust



ACCOUNTABILITY

Personal and professional responsibility



INNOVATION

Creative problem solving and continuous improvement

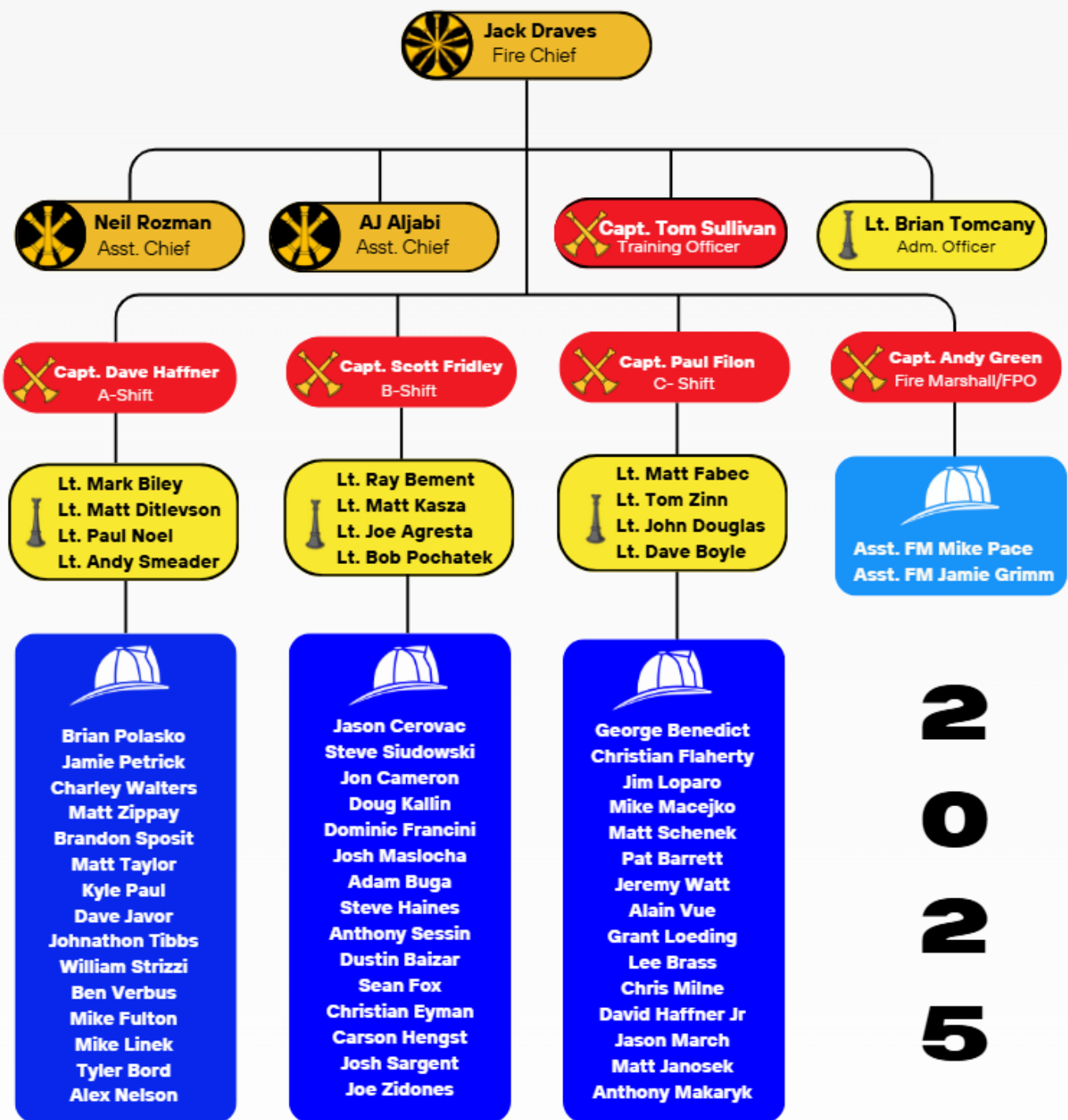


EDUCATION

For growth



These values are more than words—they are the standard we live by and the promise we make to every person who calls Strongsville home.





Ward 1 Fire Station 11297 Webster Road

The station opened in April 2001 with 10,651sq. ft 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 2 Fire Station 15939 Drake Road

The station opened in April 1997 with 5,745sq. ft 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 3 Fire Station 22000 Albion Road

The station opened in March 1981 with 8,360sq. ft 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 17000 Prospect Road

Station 4 opened in 2008 with 36,194sq. ft 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 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. This station is also equipped with SERT's HM1 response vehicle and equipment.



ASSISTANT CHIEF 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).



Administration- The City of Strongsville and the Strongsville Firefighters Association Local 2882 negotiated a three-year collective bargaining agreement, 2025-2027, with wage increases of 3.5% each year.

Personnel- separation of employment of one personnel.

Facilities Management

- Station 1- community room had drywall repair and was repainted for \$5,000.
- Station 4- Painting the second-floor administration offices and classroom \$14,100, carpet replacement on the second floor \$11,500, and shower repairs in the main locker room for \$5,450.

Lighting upgrades as part of a city-wide energy conservation project costs as follows:

- Station 1- \$24,287
- Station 2- \$6,964
- Station 4- \$77,648

All four fire stations received annual maintenance on building systems and equipment including HVAC, emergency generators, and apparatus bay air compressors.

Health, Wellness and Fitness Committee

SFES continues to support and enhance the health, safety, and overall well-being of department members through education, resources, and wellness initiatives. SFES embraces 4 key objectives:

- **Promote Physical Fitness**: Encourage regular exercise and physical health maintenance tailored to the demands of firefighting. This includes the use of modern cardio and physical strength training equipment.
- **Support Mental Health**: Provide resources for stress management, peer support, and access to mental health professionals.
- **Prevent Injury and Illness**: Implement programs to reduce workplace injuries and promote healthy lifestyle habits.
- **Monitor Occupational Health Risks**: Address risks such as cardiovascular disease, cancer, and PTSD.

Activities include annual health screenings, fitness testing, and access to Health and Wellness Coaches. In addition, the department provides two sets of turn out gear, washing machine extractors at each station, and NFPA compliant SOPs.

Separation of Employment

FM Carson
Hengst



Carson was appointed in 2023. He returned to Columbia Station Fire Department on June 28, 2025.



Safety Forces Chaplain



Tim Canitia signed on as a volunteer Safety Forces Chaplain in 2025. Although he remains an Elder at the Strongsville Bible Fellowship on Prospect Road, he finds time to visit all fire stations and shadow our crews. He participated in over 40 hours of ride-along in 2025 and remains committed to being available anytime for any reason to all department members.



In addition, Reverend Joe Mamich, continues to serve as a Safety Forces Chaplain in addition to serving as Pastor of Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist. He is still engaged as a Safety Forces Chaplain and he logged in 52 hours with the Fire Department.





Strongsville Fire and Emergency Services Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) continues to be a very valuable resource to the City of Strongsville and all of the surrounding communities. 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 Ohio Community Emergency Response Team recognized several members of our Strongsville CERT in the areas of Volunteerism and Leadership services.

2025 Ohio EMA Awards

- Exceptional Leadership Award - Dale Hawk
- Volunteer Service Hours: Don Rohde (294 hours), Dale Hawk (140 hours)

The dedicated members of CERT performed almost 1100 hours of community service in 2025. They participated in over 25 events and helped make Strongsville a safer place. The events included all 12 of our community events, in addition to serving on storm watch for severe weather alerts. CERT also participated in "Stop the Bleed" and CPR/First Aid training to new CERT recruits.

CERT actively participates at the following community events:

- Summer Music Concerts
- 4th of July Fireworks
- Harvest Festival
- Homecoming Fireworks
- Memorial Day Parade
- Rib Burn-off Fireworks
- Rotary Duck Race
- Solar Eclipse City Coverage
- Winter Wonderland Lighting Ceremony & Fireworks.

CERT has taught several classes which included, but not limited to:

- Active Shooter Training for new CERT recruits
- BLS Provider Renewal
- Basic Life Support (BLS)
- Heart Saver (HS) CPR/AED/First Aid Training
- CERT Basic Training and CERT Basic Training Prep



ASSISTANT CHIEF OPERATIONS

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF AJ ALJABI



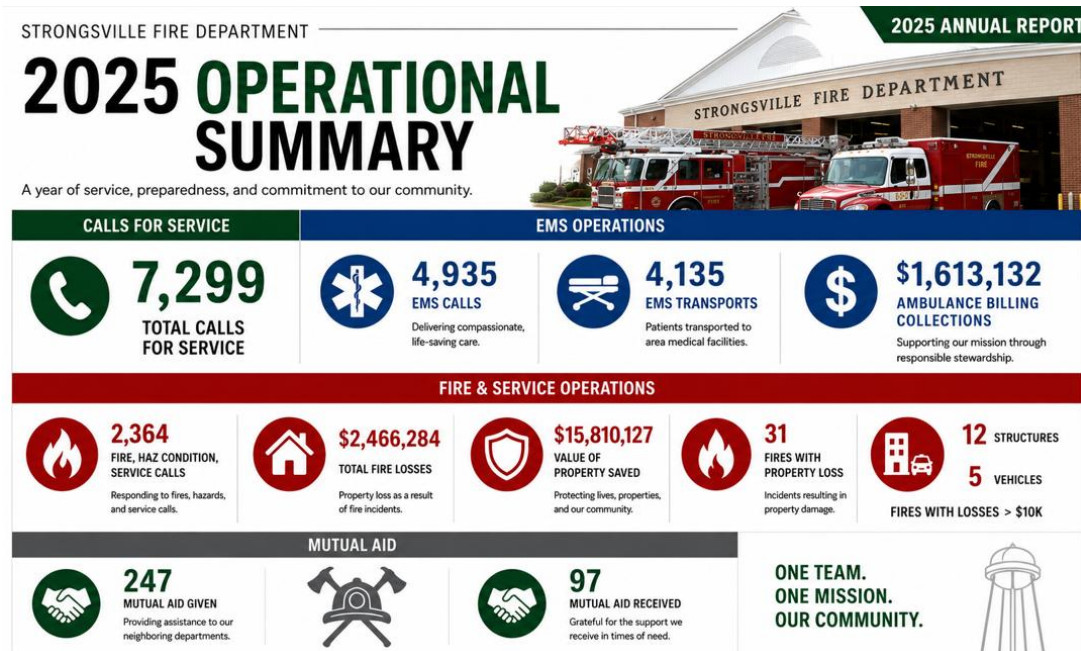
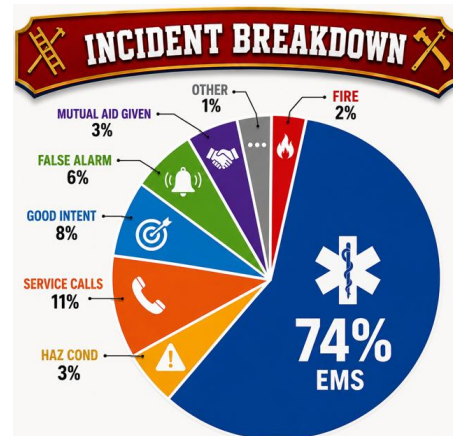
The Assistant Fire Chief of Operations is responsible for coordinating the daily operations of the department, training oversight, liaison with Southwest Emergency Dispatch (SWEDC), vehicle and equipment maintenance, and purchasing.

➤ Staffing

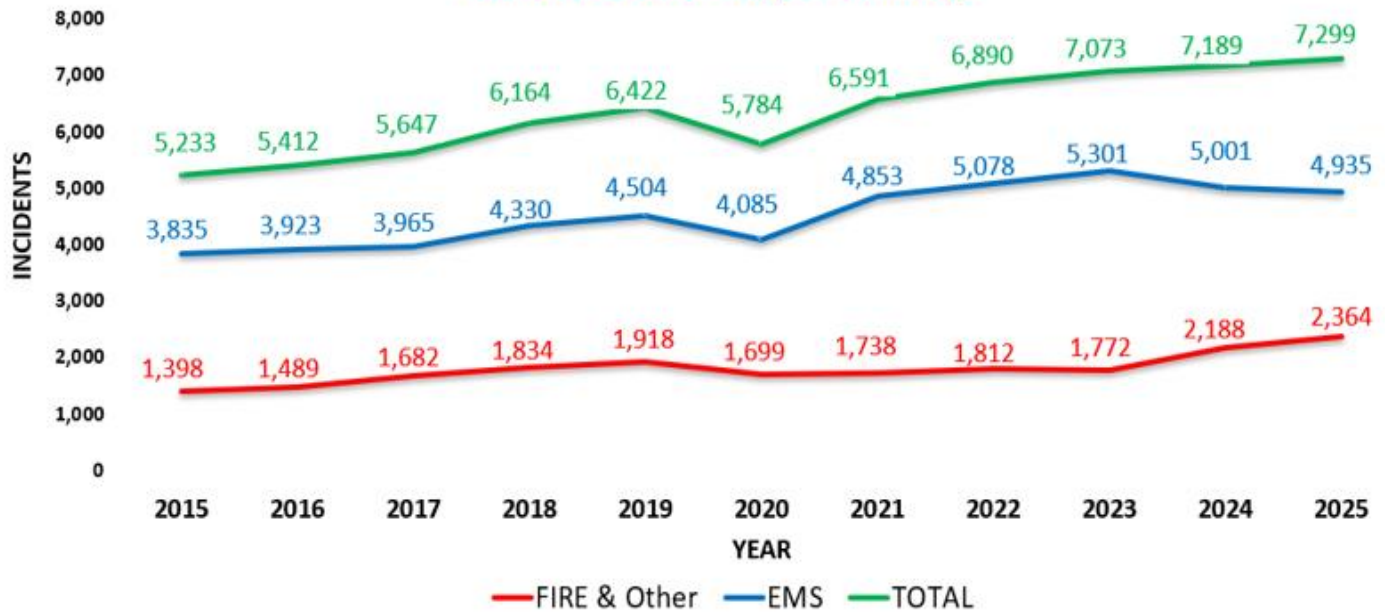
- 1 Fire Chief
- 2 Assistant Fire Chiefs
- 1 Captain Training Officer
- 3 FPO (Captain Fire Marshal and 2 Inspectors)
- 1 Administrative Lieutenant/Community Outreach
- 60 members on three shifts (3 Captains, 12 Lieutenants, 45 Firemedics)

➤ Equipment

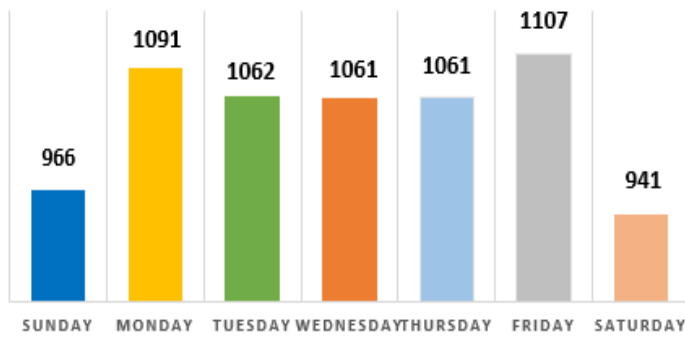
- Rope rescue equipment \$12,183
- Took delivery of a 2025 Sutphen Fire Engine (Engine 5) in anticipation of the construction and staffing of the new fire station
- Purchased hose, extrication tools, air bags, rescue struts, various power equipment and hand tools for Engine 5 at a cost of \$218,000
- All personnel were in-serviced on the new engine and Engine 5 was placed in-service as a back-up fire engine until the new station opens
- Water and Ice rescue equipment \$9,200
- Upgraded the four LUCAS CPR assist devices, \$68,066
- 70 Motorola portable radios and accessories placed in service \$665,002



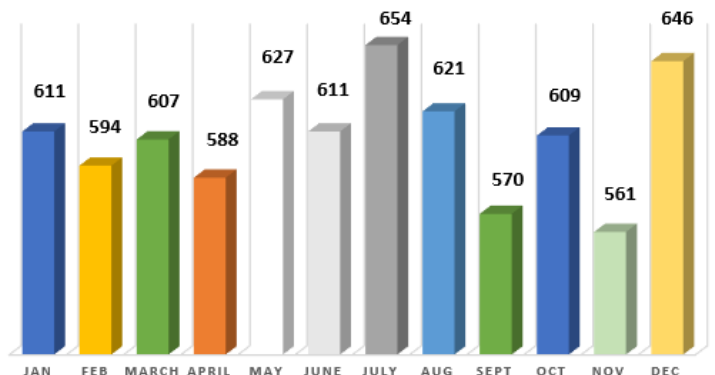
Calls for Service 10-year tracking



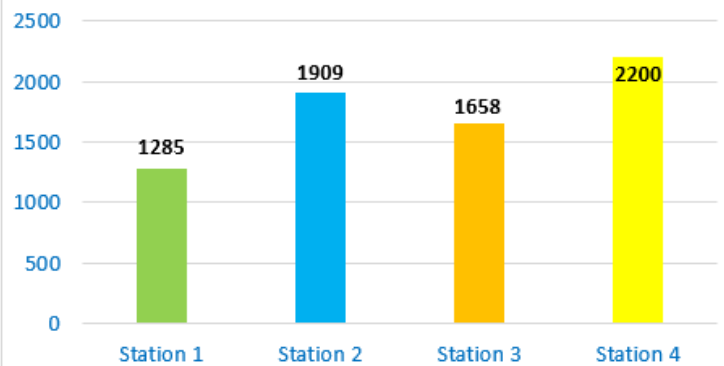
Incidents by Day 2025

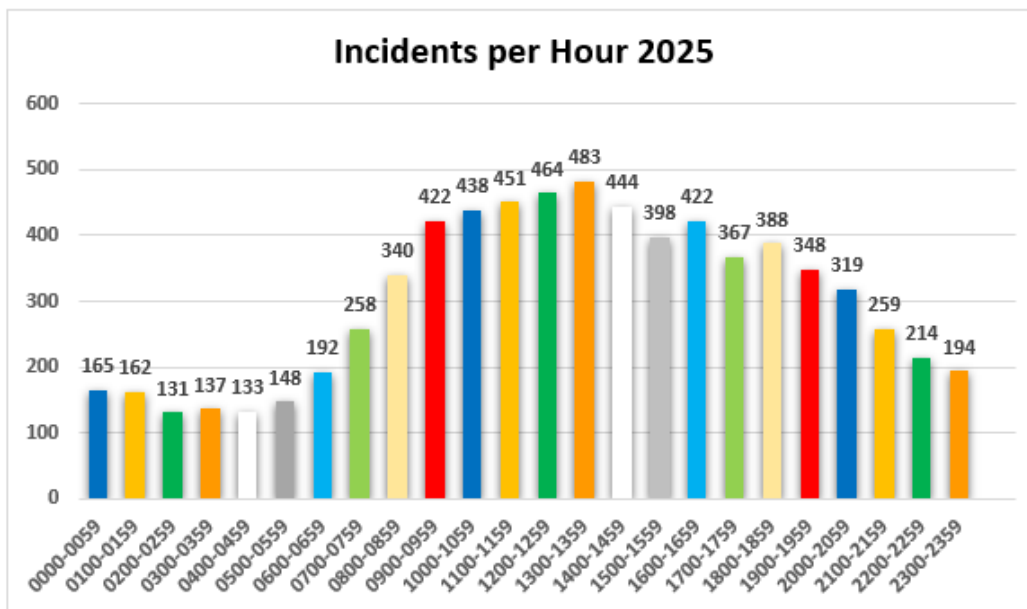


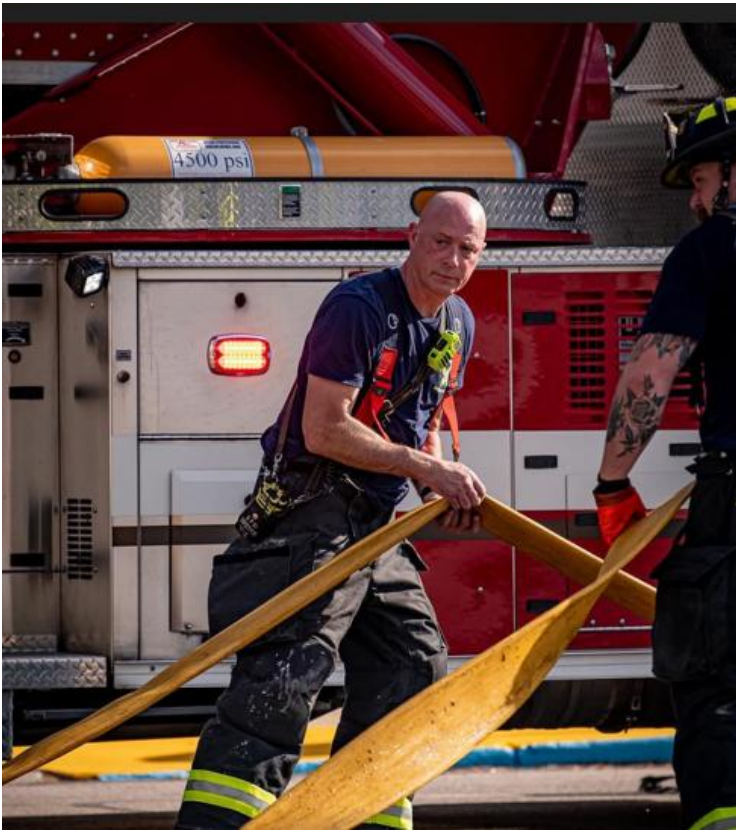
2025 CALLS BY MONTH



Incidents by Station 2025







SERT

Southwest Emergency Response Team (SERT) is comprised of fire service professionals from 19 Cuyahoga County, Ohio communities and organizations that combine their resources for specialized Land Rescue, Water Rescue, Haz Mat, and Fire Investigations.



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



SERT Hazmat (HM)



In 2025, the SERT Hazmat Team had 10 calls and 5 consults. The team participated in 33 trainings consisting of CBRNE training with the 52nd CST, a radiation refresher with Cleveland State University, Modern Day Decon from Bad Day Training, All Hazards Risk-Based Modular Decon from Hazard 3, and many others. The team also placed in service a new 908 Devices Threat ID Portable FTIR, Ludlum Radiation Frisker, and laptop computer. HM 2 vehicle is assigned to Independence Fire Department and HM 1 assigned at Strongsville Station 4, which is the SERT Hazmat HQ.



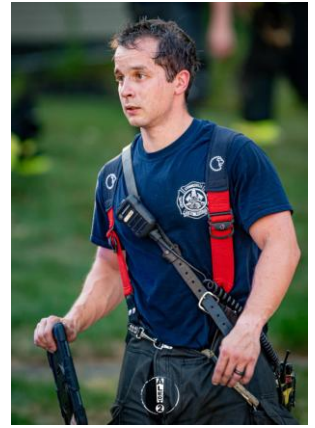
SERT FIU

Responded to 48 investigations in 2025, with Strongsville FIU members involved with thirteen of the investigations.

SERT Technical Rescue (Tech Rescue)

Tech Rescue is broken down into two disciplines, Water-Based and Land-Based. Disciplines include: Trench Rescue, Confined Space, Wide Area Search, Structural Collapse and High-Angle Rope Rescue. The Water discipline includes Dive Rescue and Swift Water Rescue. Tech Rescue has 55 members, 30 on Land and 25 on Water. Strongsville has five (5) members on Tech Rescue, three Land based and two water based.

In 2025, Tech Rescue conducted monthly trainings including joint trainings with regional technical rescue teams. This team responded to nine “call outs”, including October 13, where the rope team rescued two victims under the I-80 bridge after being struck by a semi-truck. In 2025, SERT formed the Unmanned Aerial System (UAS), (Drone Team). There are a total of 8 members who participated in over 42 hours of training. UAS were activated for 10 calls for service, particularly in FIU and tech rescue operations.



2025 Preventative Maintenance Program

Apparatus	SCBA/Gas	Medical	Facilities/Equipment	Inventory
Fleet PM	Mask Fit Testing	LP15 Cardiac Monitors	O2 fill stations	3,300 Hydrants
Pump Testing	Cylinder Testing	Lucas Devices	Small Engines	19,000' hose testing
Aerial Ladder Testing	Bench Testing	AED Units	Radio PM	
Ground Ladder Testing	Gas Meters	Stair Chairs	Back-up Generators	
Pump Maintenance		Powerload PM	Maintenance	
Aerial Maintenance		Cot PM		

Strongsville Fire and Emergency Services (SFES) maintains a comprehensive and robust Preventative Maintenance Program across all operational areas to ensure readiness, reliability, and safety. This program encompasses apparatus and fleet maintenance, SCBA and gas equipment testing, critical medical equipment upkeep, facility systems, and essential inventory such as hydrants and hose. Through scheduled inspections, testing, and servicing, SFES ensures that all equipment and Apparatus perform at the highest level when called upon. This proactive approach minimizes downtime, extends equipment life, and supports the department's commitment to delivering exceptional emergency services to the community.

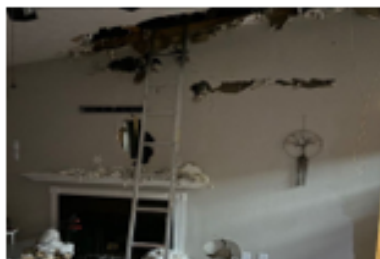
Hydrants

Hydrant flushing started on April 7, 2025 and was completed on August 29, 2025. SFD inspected and flushed 3,306 hydrants and found that 53 hydrants 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 2026. We used the new gate valves to flush hydrants to minimize the possibility of creating a water hammer and any water main breaks.



2025 HIGH PROFILE INCIDENTS



1/05/2025

14400 Howe Rd. Bldg. 9

Cause- Unintentional - fire started in the wood burning fireplace on the first floor and extended to the attic of the building.

Loss- \$150,000.00



1/19/2025

20792 Sandalwood Ln

Cause- Accidental. Use of gasoline in an indoor fireplace to light wet wood.

Loss- Fatality. \$380,000.00

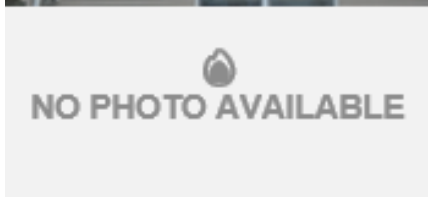


2/24/2025

10632 Lake Meadows Dr.

Cause- Undetermined- Fire located in the Master Bath. Investigators were unable to rule out many of the sources or origin.

Loss- \$208,000.00



3/02/2025

16073 Fox Hunt Dr. Bldg. 11

Cause- Accidental. Combustible material left on top of the stove.

Loss- \$90,000.00



05/14/2025

17555 SouthPark Center Kohl's Store

Cause- Undetermined. Failure in the Solar Panel.

Loss- \$1,500,000.00



10/17/2025

17246 Park Ln Dr.

Cause- Undetermined. Failure in the ceiling fan in the bathroom which melted the plastic housing and dripped into the wastebasket below.

Loss- \$50,000.00



12/25/2025

22342 Rock Creek Circle

Cause- Accidental. Failure in the fire place.

Loss- \$150,000.00



EMS SERVICES/COMMUNITY OUTREACH

ADMINISTRATIVE LT. BRIAN TOMCANY



Emergency Medical Services Overview

Strongsville Fire and Emergency Services (SFES) remains committed to delivering high-quality Fire, EMS, Hazardous Materials, and Technical Rescue services. Our team of 68 highly trained professionals—including 67 paramedics—continues to uphold the department’s vision of providing the highest level of emergency response services in the region. SFES personnel operate under nearly 400 pages of Advanced Life Support (ALS) protocols and administer a wide range of critical medications, reflecting the complexity and sophistication of modern prehospital care. Personnel receive ongoing education in EMS documentation, compliance, and patient care standards to ensure accountability and quality service delivery.

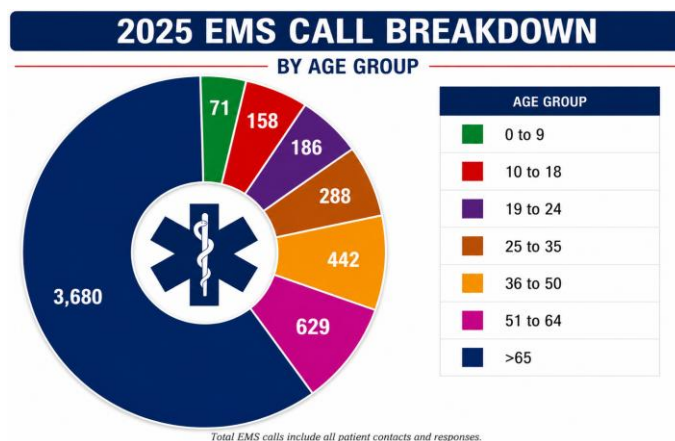
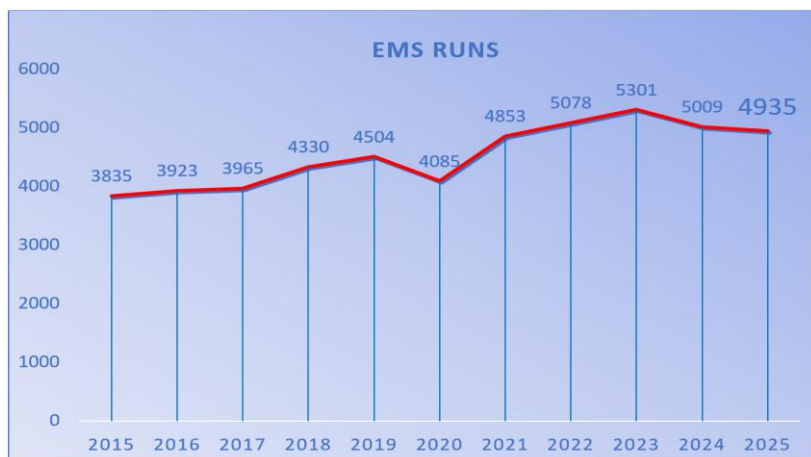


In 2025, SFES was honored to receive the [American Heart Association’s Mission: Lifeline® EMS Gold Award](#), along with the [Target: Stroke Honor Roll](#) and [Target: Heart Attack Honor Roll](#). This recognition marks the eleventh consecutive year that SFES has been

acknowledged for sustained excellence in cardiac and stroke care.

Community Demographics and System Impact

National projections indicate that the population aged 65 and older will increase by 14.2%, growing from 62.7 million in 2025 to 71.6 million by 2030, making it the fastest-growing demographic in the United States. This trend presents significant operational challenges, placing increased physical, emotional, and logistical demands on emergency responders. Over the past decade, SFES has experienced a 29% increase in EMS call volume. Notably, 75% of EMS patients are aged 65 and older, with 43% of these calls originating from 14 senior residential facilities, including Independent Living (IL), Assisted Living (AL), Memory Care (MC), Rehabilitation (RH), and Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF).



Strategic Response and System Management

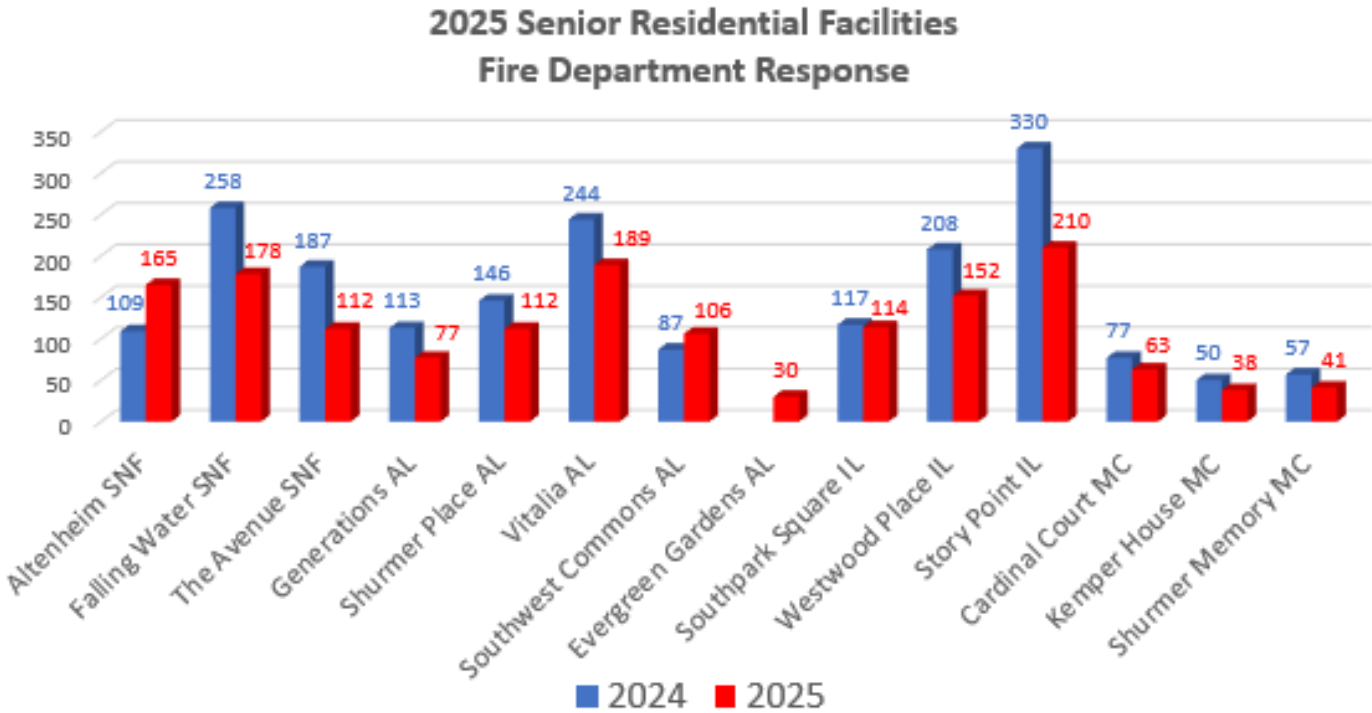
SFES continues to meet these increasing demands through strategic planning, resource management, and ongoing evaluation of staffing and support systems. A key component of this strategy involves proactive engagement with senior residential facilities.

SFES is actively collaborating with facility administrators and staff to:

- Educate on appropriate utilization of 911 services
- Encourage the use of private ambulance services for non-emergency transports
- Promote in-house medical treatment for non-emergent conditions
- Encourage facility training on proper patient lifting and injury prevention techniques

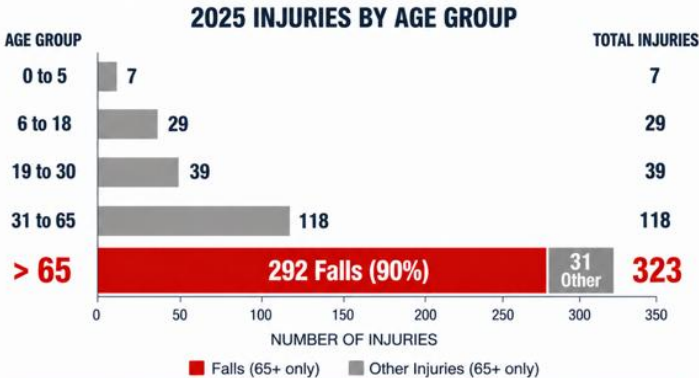


These initiatives reduce unnecessary emergency department transports, which can expose residents to hospital-acquired infections and increase the risk of transmission within residential facilities. As a result of these targeted efforts, EMS call volume from senior facilities has decreased by 20% (1,983 in 2024 to 1,587 in 2025) over the past two years, demonstrating measurable success in system management and community partnership.



Strongsville Senior Residential Housing			
Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF)	Assisted Living (AL)	Independent Living (IL)	Memory Care (MC)
Altenheim	Generations	Southpark Square	Cardinal Court
Falling Water	Shurmer Place	Westwood Place	Kemper House
The Avenue	Vitalia	Story Point	Shurmer Memory Care
	Southwest Commons		
	Evergreen Gardens		

Patient Trends and Clinical Observations- Falls remain the leading mechanism of injury among the elderly population. For patients over the age of 65, falls account for approximately **90% of injury-related incidents**, followed by medical conditions and cardiac events. This trend highlights the importance of continued fall prevention education and intervention strategies within the community.



NEARLY 9 OUT OF 10 INJURIES IN RESIDENTS 65+ ARE CAUSED BY FALLS.

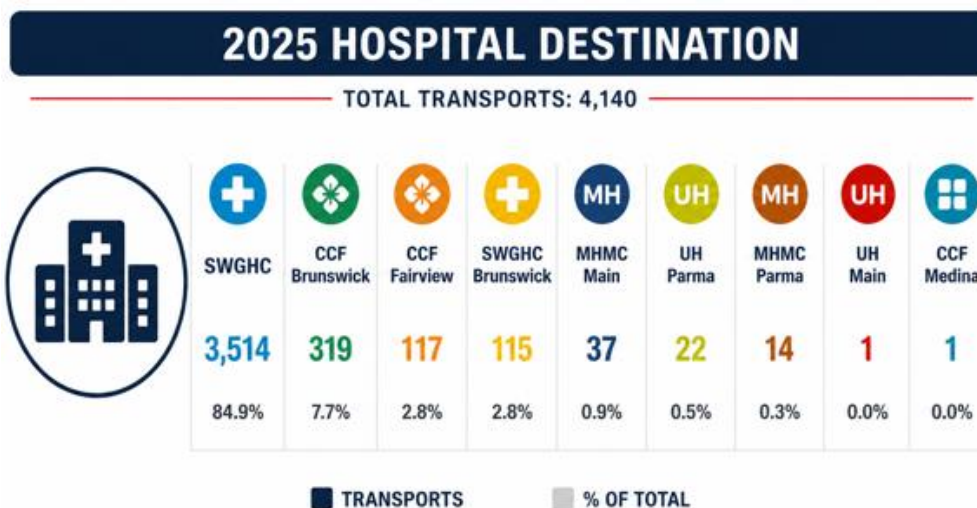
Source: Strongsville EMS Injury Data 2025



Transport Destinations and Medical Oversight

SFES primarily transports patients to Southwest General Health Center (SWGHC) and the SWGHC Brunswick Emergency Department, which together account for approximately **87% of all transports**. When clinically appropriate, patients may also be transported to:

- Cleveland Clinic Main Campus, Brunswick ED, Fairview, and Medina
- University Hospitals Main Campus and UH Parma Medical Center
- MHMC Main Campus, Brecksville, and Parma Campuses



SWGHC serves as SFES's Medical Control. Dr. Katie Imhoff serves as EMS Medical Director, and Lisa Kingsley served as EMS Clinical Manager. Kady Ward RN took over the responsibilities of EMS Clinical Manager in late 2025. All are active members of the Cuyahoga County EMS Protocol Committee, contributing to the development and oversight of regional prehospital care standards.

They also provide a wide range of continuing education opportunities, including quarterly training sessions, professional conferences, and FireRescue1 online coursework to ensure that SFES personnel maintain the highest levels of clinical competency.

Financial Summary

In 2025, SFES collected **\$1,613,132** in EMS reimbursements. These funds are allocated to the Emergency Vehicle Fund, which supports the ongoing replacement and acquisition of police and fire emergency vehicles, ensuring the departments remain equipped with modern, reliable apparatus.



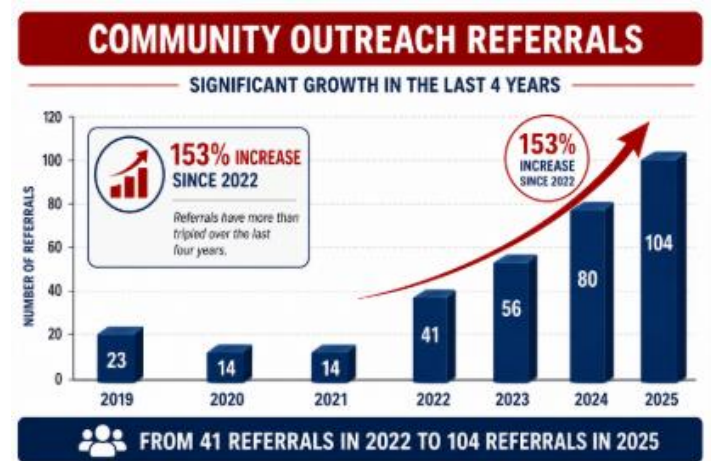
COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS

PATIENT FOLLOW UP AND REFERRALS

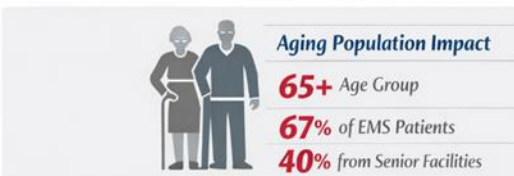
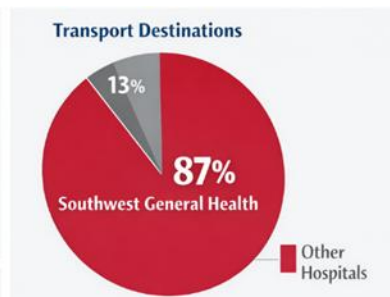
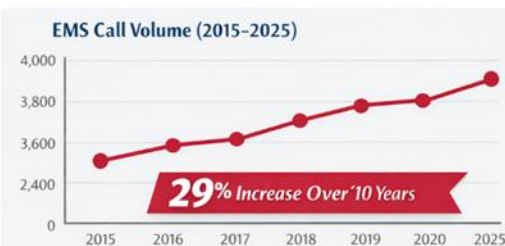
In response to a sustained rise in non-emergent EMS calls, Strongsville Fire and Emergency Services (SFES) launched a proactive Community Outreach Program in 2019, focused on structured patient follow-ups and long-term problem solving. What began as a targeted initiative has evolved into a critical component of service delivery—expanding by more than 452% in referrals since inception (23 in 2019 to 104 in 2025).

The program is guided by a clear mission: to prevent injuries and exacerbations of illness, promote long-term stability, and help residents maintain a plateau of health whenever possible. Much like SFES's longstanding commitment to fire prevention, this initiative emphasizes healthy habits, compliance with chronic illness management with their PCP, and injury prevention. At its core, the program seeks to preserve senior independence in a safe and sustainable manner, while promoting overall well-being throughout the community.

After a temporary decline during the COVID-19 period, referrals have steadily increased each year since 2021—demonstrating both renewed community engagement and growing trust in the program. Referrals have increased 30% from 2024.



Referrals originate primarily from SFES personnel, but also come from the Senior Recreation Center, Police Department, hospitals, and concerned neighbors or family members. These cases often involve residents experiencing unsafe living conditions, chronic medical or mental health challenges, substance use disorders, neglect, or social isolation—many of whom are frequent users of 911 services.



20% REDUCTION
in EMS Calls from Senior Facilities
Over the Last 2 Years



Each referral initiates a follow-up, often including a home visit and safety assessment. SFES personnel work to understand each resident's unique circumstances and connect them with appropriate agencies and resources that can meet their needs. The program is designed to fill gaps within the existing healthcare model, ensuring residents do not fall through the cracks.

This collaborative approach includes partnerships with organizations such as Southwest General Health Center (SWGHC),

Visiting Angels, Veterans Administration (VA), and many other home health agencies, public health services, and hospice providers. Efforts frequently re-engage family members and primary care providers while incorporating services such as case management, physical and occupational therapy, and home health nursing. When appropriate, Fire Prevention and Adult and Child Protective Services are also involved.

The program continues to demonstrate measurable impact. In 2024, 80 referrals resulted in 240 service calls, reflecting the time-intensive and personalized nature of these interventions. In 2025, 104 referrals generated more than 250 service calls, further illustrating both increased demand and the depth of engagement required to effectively support vulnerable residents.

Through this initiative, SFES has strengthened its role beyond emergency response—serving as a vital connector of care, addressing systemic gaps, and proactively improving the safety, health, and quality of life for Strongsville residents.

CPR



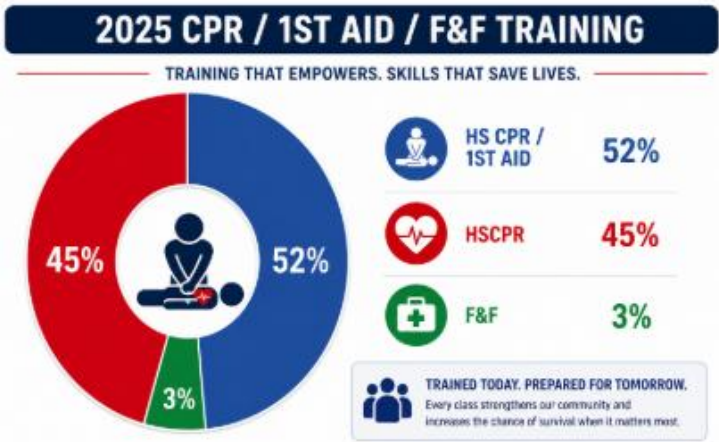
Strongsville Fire and Emergency Services, in partnership with Southwest General Health Center, continues to provide a wide range of life-saving training programs to residents, businesses, and community organizations. These programs are designed to equip participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to act confidently during emergencies and serve as a critical link in the Chain of Survival. SFES offers American Heart Association courses including Heartsaver CPR/AED, Heartsaver First Aid, and Heartsaver Friends & Family CPR. These classes are available to the general public as well as to local businesses and organizations seeking to enhance workplace safety and preparedness.



Training is conducted at Station 4, which serves as the department’s primary training facility. A team of seven certified instructors delivers high-quality instruction to a diverse audience, including residents, city employees, and private sector groups.

In 2025, the program experienced significant demand, with over 328 individuals certified. This included 140 public safety and community personnel, such as police officers, correction officers, dispatchers, and recreation center staff—further strengthening the city’s overall emergency readiness.

SFES remains committed to empowering the community through education and encourages all residents to take advantage of these valuable training opportunities. Class schedules, registration, and payment options are available online through the department’s website.



QUICK RESPONSE TEAM

In 2017, Strongsville Fire and Emergency Services, in partnership with the Police Department and certified substance abuse counselors from Ohio Guidestone, established the **Quick Response Team (QRT)** to provide a coordinated, proactive response to individuals struggling with substance use disorders.

The QRT meets twice weekly and is committed to supporting individuals and their families throughout every stage of recovery—from initial crisis through long-term stabilization. The program takes a compassionate, outreach-based approach, recognizing that early intervention and consistent follow-up are critical to successful outcomes.

Following any overdose within the community, QRT conducts a follow-up visit within 72 hours to engage the individual and offer immediate support. These visits focus on connecting residents to appropriate resources, including clinical assessments and counseling, intensive outpatient programs, medication-assisted treatment (MAT), and residential treatment options.

In addition to overdose follow-ups, QRT accepts referrals from public safety personnel, healthcare providers, and community members. This allows the team to intervene earlier and assist individuals who may be at risk, but have not yet experienced a critical event.

In 2025, the department responded to 11 overdose incidents. During that same period, QRT generated 55 new referrals and completed 302 service contacts, reflecting the program's sustained engagement and commitment to individualized care.

Through strong interagency collaboration and a focus on timely, compassionate intervention, the QRT continues to play a vital role in supporting recovery, reducing repeat incidents, and improving the overall health and safety of the Strongsville community.



Fire Academy for Kids (FAFK)

The **Fire Academy for Kids (FAFK)** was created in 2016 by Firemedic Matt Schenek. Recognizing a gap between what children in the community perceive firefighters do and the realities of daily Firemedic operations. Schenek developed a unique, hands-on experience designed to educate, engage, and inspire.

Each academy session begins with cadets arriving at the fire station and taking an official Oath of Office, administered by Mayor Perciak. Throughout the morning, participants are introduced to turnout gear, safety equipment, and fire apparatus. Groups are initially split into two groups of cadets. Dispatchers and police officers speak about how they interact with the fire dept on calls. One of the groups are being instructed by Firefighters who lead the hands-only CPR and bleeding control. The second group is having fire extinguisher training.

Following a pizza lunch generously donated by Marco's Pizza, cadets return to a full afternoon of hands-on evolutions. These

include victim search operations utilizing a thermal imager, forcible entry training, fire pump operations, aerial apparatus rides, rope rescue scenarios, and roof ventilation exercises.

In 2025, FAFK welcomed **84 recruits**. Expanded evolutions included Ladder Company operations, where participants safely ascended in the bucket of Ladder 5. Cadets also completed the Firefighter Combat Challenge—a timed obstacle course simulating the physical demands of the profession.

After a challenging four-day academy, all 84 recruits graduated in a formal ceremony, receiving certificates and celebrating with frozen treats donated by Kona Ice.

Firemedic Schenek oversees all aspects of the program, including registration, outreach, volunteer coordination, and community partnerships. Donations from local businesses and organizations have enabled the purchase of lighter, safer forcible entry tools made from composite materials, enhancing both safety and realism during training.

Strongsville Firemedics generously volunteer their time as instructors, demonstrating a deep commitment to community engagement. As Schenek notes, *"Firefighters bring their own children through the program, and in just a few years, those same kids are eager to return as volunteers."*



CLISE

BEFORE YOU DOZE

Special thanks to our valued supporters, including **Marco's Pizza of Strongsville**, **Lowe's of Strongsville**, **Kona Ice**, and the **Moms Group of North Royalton**, whose contributions help make this program possible.

Looking forward to 2026 FAFK, Firemedic Matt Schenek continues to find ways to improve the Academy. This year he is introducing the importance of **"Close before you Dose"**, highlighting the importance of sleeping with your bedroom door closed.



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**FIND A KONA
ICE LOCATION**

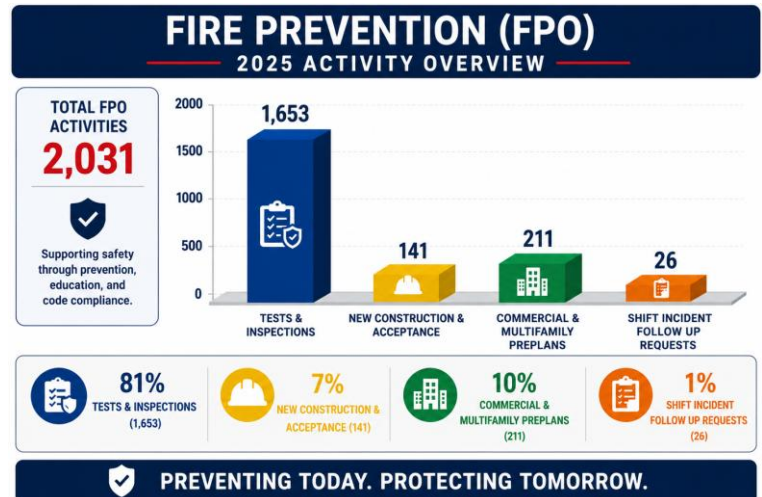
FIRE PREVENTION OFFICE (FPO)

CAPTAIN ANDREW GREEN- FIRE MARSHAL



The Fire Prevention Office (FPO) continued to play a critical role in protecting the Strongsville community through a balanced approach of education, inspection, and proactive risk reduction. In 2025, the office conducted more than 1,650 inspections and life safety tests, while reaching nearly 2,820 residents through a variety of public education initiatives. These efforts reflect the department's ongoing commitment to preventing emergencies before they occur and ensuring that both residents and businesses remain prepared when they do.

Operating with a staff of one Fire Marshal and two Assistant Fire Marshals, the FPO oversees a wide range of responsibilities that extend well beyond traditional inspections. The team is actively engaged in new construction plan review, life safety system testing, and final acceptance inspections, while also maintaining code enforcement across commercial, industrial, healthcare, educational, and specialized residential occupancies. This includes facilities such as daycares, foster care homes, and assisted living environments, where compliance and preparedness are especially critical.



Inspection activity remained strong throughout the year, with 1,653 total inspections and tests completed, including 141 new construction and acceptance tests. In addition, the office developed or updated 211 commercial and multifamily pre-incident plans in CAD, ensuring that responding crews have immediate access to critical building information during emergencies. Another 26 follow-up inspections were generated directly from emergency response activity, reinforcing the department's commitment to continuous improvement and accountability.



Public education remains one of the most effective tools in reducing fire risk, and the FPO continues to invest heavily in community outreach. In 2025, nearly 2,820 children and adults participated in programs such as Safety Town, Fire Prevention Week activities, CPR and First Aid training, and fire extinguisher classes conducted for local businesses. The office also reintroduced the 3rd Grade Fire Safety Trailer Program, reaching approximately 400 students across six schools. These hands-on experiences help reinforce fire safety behaviors at an early age. Additional engagement through station tours, Touch-A-Truck events, and community expos continues to strengthen the relationship between the department and the residents it serves.

At the residential level, the FPO expanded its risk-reduction efforts through targeted programs designed to improve safety and emergency access. In partnership with the American Red Cross, the department installed 56 smoke detectors in local homes as part of the ***“Sound the Alarm. Save a Life.”*** initiative. These efforts directly support national data showing that working smoke alarms can reduce the risk of fire-related death by nearly half. Additionally, 46 residential lock boxes were installed and integrated into First Due software, allowing emergency responders rapid access to homes when needed.



“Home fires claim seven lives every day, but having working smoke alarms can cut the risk of death by half.” -American Red Cross

Commercial risk reduction remains equally important, with programs such as the Knox Box system providing secure, damage-free access to Businesses for emergency personnel. The continued development of pre-incident plans ensures that high-risk and high-occupancy buildings are well documented and accessible during emergencies. The FPO also maintains a comprehensive database of commercial occupancies, including those with extremely hazardous materials, further enhancing responder safety and operational efficiency.



The impact of these combined efforts is measurable. The FPO successfully expanded public education opportunities, strengthened community partnerships, and improved access to critical emergency information. The reinstatement of key programs, along with continued collaboration with organizations such as the American Red Cross and local businesses, highlights the office’s commitment to innovation and community engagement.

Looking ahead to 2026, the Fire Prevention Office will continue to build on this momentum by increasing inspection activity, expanding educational outreach, and further developing pre-incident planning capabilities. Continued collaboration with community partners will remain a priority as the department works to enhance residential safety and preparedness across all demographics.

The Fire Prevention Office remains dedicated to creating a safer Strongsville through prevention, education, and enforcement, ensuring that both residents and businesses are protected today and prepared for tomorrow.





TRAINING OFFICE

CAPTAIN TOM SULLIVAN- TRAINING OFFICER

The Strongsville Fire Department Training Office continued to play a critical role in maintaining operational readiness and ensuring personnel are prepared to safely, professionally, and effectively respond to all-hazards emergencies. In 2025, department members completed a total of **4,724 documented training entries**, representing **8,309 hours** of training across key operational disciplines. These efforts included fire suppression, hazardous materials response, driver/operator development, technical rescue, EMS continuing education, rescue task force operations, and officer development, reflecting the department's ongoing commitment to preparedness and performance.



Training activities remained heavily focused on hands-on, scenario-based evolutions. Personnel regularly utilized the Station 4 training facility to conduct core fireground training, including hose advancement, search operations, and multi-company coordinated drills designed to enhance communication, teamwork, and overall operational effectiveness. Newly hired personnel completed a structured onboarding process consisting of hands-on operational training under the direction of Training Office staff, ensuring a consistent foundation of skills and expectations early in their careers.

Regional collaboration continued to be an important component of training in 2025. Strongsville firefighters participated in multiple days of training in Brunswick at an acquired commercial structure, where crews practiced fireground operations including hose advancement, VEIS (Vent-Enter-Isolate-Search), and truck company tactics. Additional joint training was conducted with the Parma Fire Department and Citizens First Fire Training at Rich's Towing, focusing on vehicle extrication and scenario-based rescue operations, further strengthening coordination with mutual aid partners.



Live fire training remained a priority, with members attending multiple training opportunities through the University of Akron to reinforce safe and effective fire attack principles in controlled environments. Personnel also participated in Rescue Task Force training hosted by the Cuyahoga County Emergency Management Agency, ensuring continued preparedness for coordinated response to high-risk incidents. Seasonal and specialty training included hands-on ice rescue operations early in the year, as well as completion of Emergency Vehicle Operator Course (EVOC) training in the fourth quarter, supporting safe apparatus operation and risk reduction during emergency response.



In addition to in-house training, several members pursued professional education and certification opportunities through regional and statewide institutions, including Auburn Career Center, Bowling Green State University Fire School, Cleveland State University, Cuyahoga Community College, the Ohio Fire Academy, and the University of Akron. Officer development remained a priority, with the department hosting a company officer workshop and supporting advanced coursework in fire officer leadership, fire instruction, fire inspection, and fire investigation. Several members assigned to the Southwest Emergency Response Team (SERT) also completed additional specialized training in hazardous materials, technical rescue, and fire investigation. EMS training remained a critical component of overall readiness. Personnel continued to maintain a high standard of EMS





proficiency through comprehensive continuing education covering adult and pediatric emergencies, trauma care, and geriatric considerations.

Training was delivered through in-person instruction at Southwest General Health Center and supplemented by offsite and online programs. All members successfully completed their biennial recertifications in American Heart Association Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), with additional continuing education obtained through the S.A.F.E.S. EMS Educational Conference.

The Training Office also played a key role in advancing department infrastructure and technology. In 2025, the department implemented First Due software as a platform to assign, document, and track training activities, improving accountability and record management. Additionally, the department completed the replacement of its portable radio fleet with Motorola APX NEXT radios, ensuring continued reliability and interoperability of communications equipment. The Training Division coordinated training and familiarization associated with this transition, supporting firefighter safety and operational readiness.

Looking ahead, the Training Office will continue to expand opportunities and strengthen operational performance in 2026. Focus areas include increased officer development, continued improvement in EMS documentation practices, expanded training with mutual aid partners, and participation in scheduled engine and truck company programs through the Ohio Fire Academy. A major upcoming initiative is the hosting of a Company Officer Academy through Columbia Southern University at the Strongsville Recreation Center featuring National renown speakers Chief Rick Lasky and Chief John Salka. This regional training opportunity will provide leadership development for current and future officers and is expected to draw strong participation from surrounding agencies.



Through a combination of in-house instruction, regional partnerships, and continued professional development, the Strongsville Fire Department Training Office remains committed to ensuring personnel are prepared to meet the evolving demands of emergency response while maintaining a high standard of safety, professionalism, and service to the community.



Grants and Donations

July 2025- Ohio Department of Public Safety Priority One EMS received-\$2,707.74

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, and the Winter Wonderland.



24th 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



spoke briefly about the attacks and the heroic efforts of the New York safety forces and citizens that day. Fr. Joe Mamich, who serves as Chaplain for Strongsville's Safety Forces, led the crowd in a prayer. Captain Andy Green presided over the tolling of the bell, the method used to mark the death of firefighters -- a bagpiper played "Amazing Grace" and a bugler who played "Taps."



WE CARE

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

STRONGSVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL

On April 23, 2025, Fire Prevention visited the middle school introducing foreign exchange students the American fire safety and extinguisher training.



Literacy on the Lawn



Leadership and Service Awards

2025 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.

Lt. Mark Biley exemplifies the highest ideals of the fire service through his tireless work ethic, steady leadership, and genuine care for both his crew and the community. Serving at Strongsville's busiest station, he leads by example every day—consistently first to work, last to finish, and never asking more of others than he gives himself. His calm command under pressure, notably during the Polo

Club fire, his unwavering

commitment to patient care, and his ability to sustain morale through humility and humor have earned him the deep respect of those he leads.

At age 62, Lt. Biley continues to challenge himself physically and professionally, recently completing the firefighter combat challenge in under four minutes and continuing to test for promotions even after more than 30 years of service. In addition to managing department-wide responsibilities, he extends his service beyond the firehouse through volunteer work at the Strongsville Food Bank. His leadership has shaped careers, strengthened resilience, and fostered a sense of family among those he leads, making his dedication, selflessness, and lasting impact truly deserving of the 2025 Knights of Columbus Firefighter of the Year award.



2025 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.

SFES is a part of an elite group of prehospital providers recognized by the American Heart Association for our 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 with Target: Stroke Honor Roll and Target: Heart Attack Honor Roll

