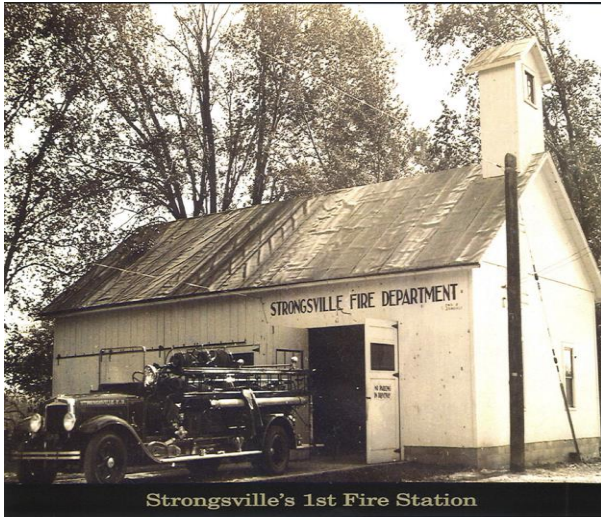


# Strongsville Fire and Emergency Services

Fire-EMS-Tech Rescue-HazMat-Prevention



Strongsville's 1st Fire Station



2022 Annual Report

Fire Chief Jack Draves

Mayor Tom Perciak

Safety Director Charlie Goss

17000 Prospect Road Strongsville, Ohio 44149 440.580.3210 [fire@strongsville.org](mailto:fire@strongsville.org)

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# MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

## JACK DRAVES, FIRE CHIEF



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

In fact, Strongsville Fire and Emergency Services celebrated 100 years as an emergency response organization to the Strongsville community in 2022. It all started in 1922 when a group of township members identified the need for fire protection for the community. The Strongsville Fire Protection Association was formed. These “Minute Men” were on call and dropped whatever they were doing at a moment’s notice to help their neighbors in need. The mission of our Firemedics and our Department has not changed in 100 years—protect the lives, property, and environment of the people that live, work, or travel in Strongsville. I am proud of the service we deliver to the community and the Firemedics who carry out that mission.

I believe the stability and success of the organization rests 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 economic, political, and social controversies. As we look back on 2022 and all the challenges we encountered, the department found ways to overcome these trials and provide quality public safety services.

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 fast 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 2022, the Department logged 6,890 calls for service; this was a 4.5% increase over 2021. 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. Skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, senior housing facilities, and other medical facilities account for approximately 24% 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.

I would like to recognize Lt. David Boyle, Firemedic Patrick Kinyon, and Firemedic Patrick Barrett for receiving the EMS Star of Life Award through the State of Ohio Department of Public Safety for their role in treating and transporting a father and son burned in an accident.

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.



## 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.

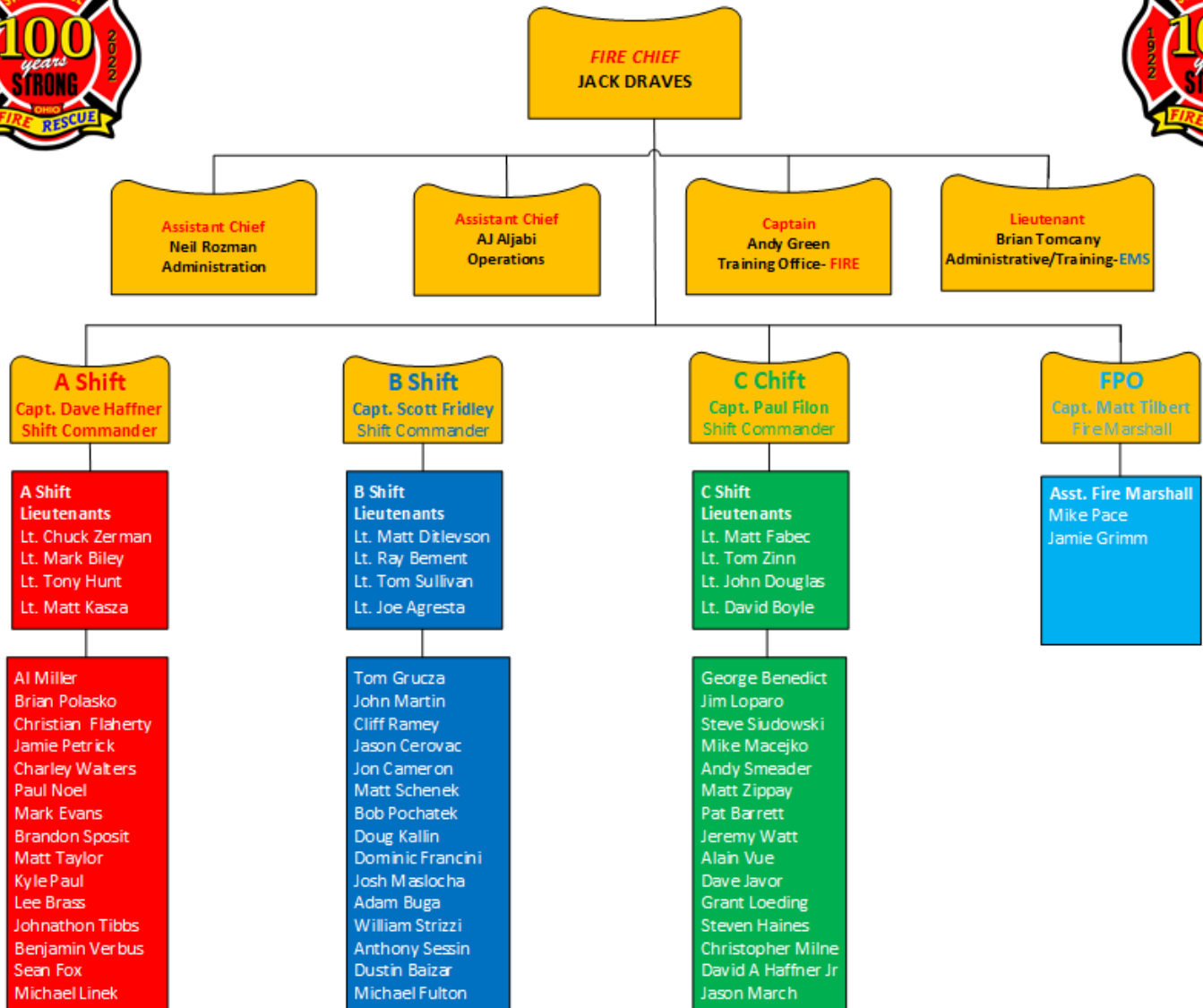
The **VALUES** of Strongsville Fire and Emergency Services are:

- ❖ **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**



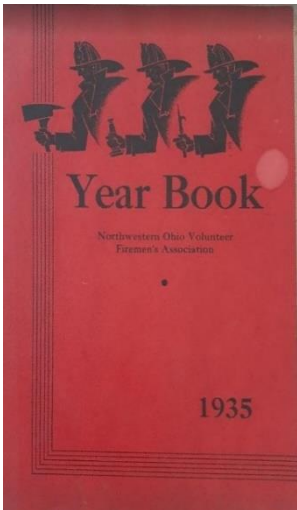


# 2022 STRONGSVILLE FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT



## Four Pillars of Success

# 100 years of dedicated service



Sometime during 1922, the Strongsville Fire Protection Association was formed after prominent township members canvassed the boundaries within Strongsville and received \$712.50. DD Duckett was elected the 1st Fire Chief, L.O.Bean was elected Secretary and GG Atkinson was elected Treasurer. Prior to this, Strongsville relied on the “Bucket Brigade” as their sole source of fire mitigation. Thus, the “Minute Men” were organized. These men lived or worked near the center of town and would drop their work at a moment’s notice and go where called. (The NOVFA sixty-second Annual Convention - Berea, June 18&19, 1935 Convention, pg. 46).



The first fire house was located behind the Old Town Hall, just east of the building. On April 2, 1923, Strongsville Fire Protection

Agency received #70 Obenchain-Boyer Chemical Fire Engine from the Fire Equipment and Marine Supply Company in Cleveland for \$750; this had two 450-gallon tanks. The Township purchased a Model T Ford with 2 chemical tanks and a small hose bed.



The first recorded fire in the Village of Strongsville occurred on December 25, 1820. *“On Christmas day, 1820, Mr. Joseph Wells being absent from home, in the north part of the town, Mrs. Wells took her baby boy in her arms, and walking through the woods where there were wolves, and where the snow was a foot deep, went to the home of a neighbor, Mrs. Hilliard, to a social gathering, to participate in the pleasures and good cheer of Christmas-tide, with its cherished memories of other years. Festivity and merry-making had nearly worn out the day, and nightfall was setting in, when it was found that Mrs. Wells’ log house was on fire. The men ran to the scene only to find that the flames had gained control, and all efforts to put out the fire or save anything were unavailing. This was the first fire in Strongsville. With the assistance of the neighbors, a new house was built very soon. The interest and good-will of the neighbors did not end here, for they bought for the family a barrel of pork, a barrel of flour, and what was considered in those days the staff of life, a barrel of whisky. (History of Strongsville, Oct. 1, 1901, pg. 151)”*



1931 International Harvester 160-gallon booster tank

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



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



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

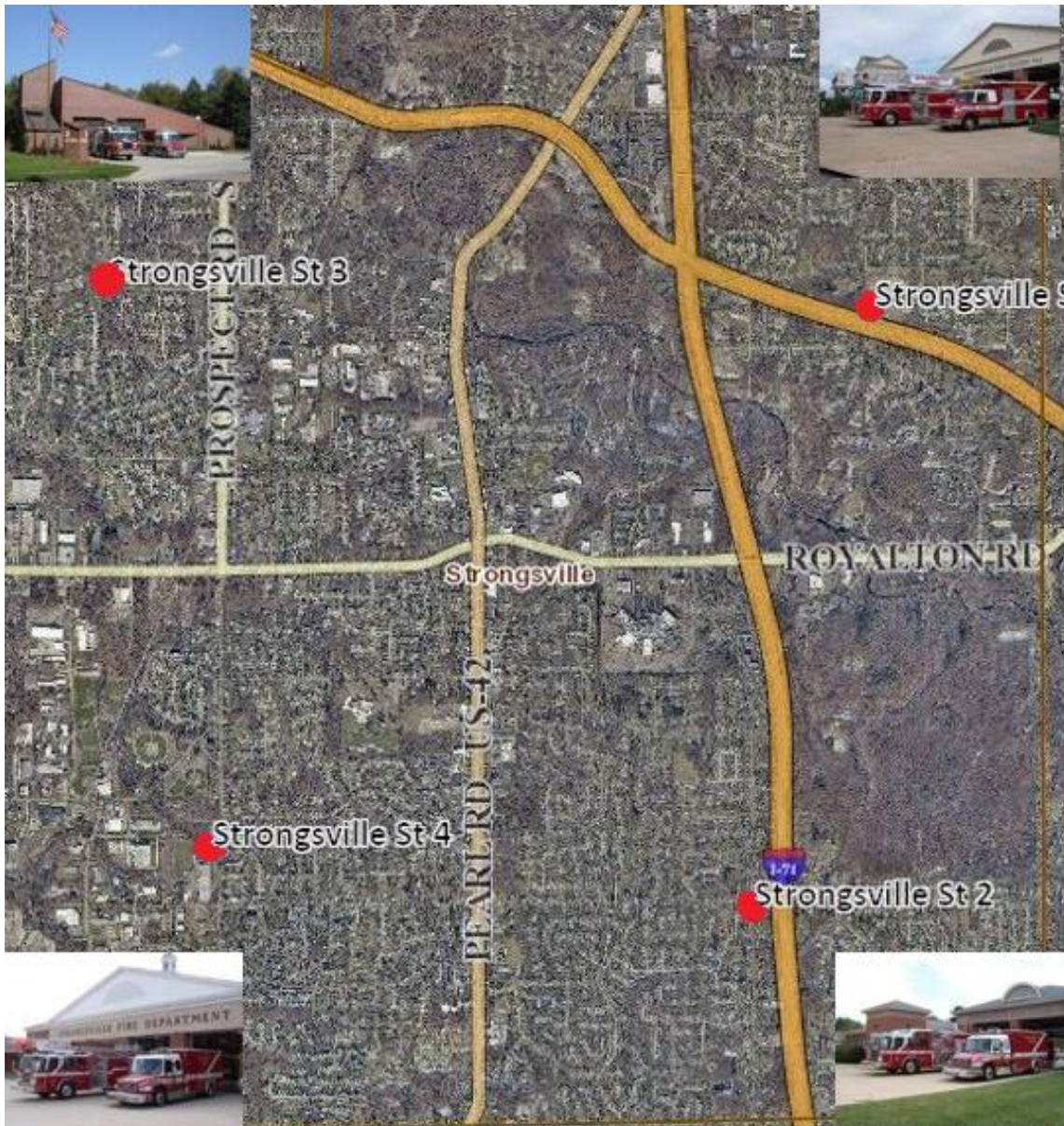




**Ward 4 Fire Station** is located at 17000 Prospect Road. The Fire Department began operations at Station 4 on February 11, 2008. This station serves the southwest quadrant of the city and serves as the Department's Administrative Headquarters. The five and one-half bay station includes a classroom, training tower and the Ward 4 police mini-station. The



station is staffed by a minimum of a Lieutenant, two Firemedics, and a Captain as the Shift Commander. Station 4 is equipped with a 75-foot ladder truck, an ambulance, a pumper, a command vehicle, a reserve ambulance, and several support vehicles. The station is also equipped with SERT Hazardous Materials response vehicle and equipment.



# ASSISTANT CHIEF of ADMINISTRATION

## ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF NEIL ROZMAN



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

### Human Resources

In 2022, SFES hired 3 new Firemedics to replace Firemedics that separated service with the city.

New Members	Separation of Service	Retired
Jason March	Cameron Green	Patrick Kinyon
Michael Linek		John Martin
Christian Eyman		

### Lexipol

SFES began the Lexipol Policy Management implementation process in April, 2022. After several months of extensive editing and training on the Lexipol system, the first batch of policies were published in December 2022. The Chief's goal is to have all policies published and reviewed before the end of 2023, and Capt. Green will be assigning groups of policies each month for all members to review.

Lexipol is a product of Praetorian Digital, the parent company of Fire Rescue 1 and other safety agency training platforms, and is used by many Law Enforcement and Fire/EMS agencies in our area.

### 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.

Major items this past year included the long-awaited elevator repairs at Station 1 (\$25,000), generator repairs at Station 2 (\$10,000), and commercial roof de-icer cables at Station 3 (\$14,000).



## Father Joe Mamich, Chaplain

In addition to being a respected member of Strongsville's inter-faith community, "Chaplain Joe" is an important member of our Safety Forces. Whether it is during his numerous ride-a-longs throughout the year or responding to a scene, his presence, guidance, and follow-up care are key elements of our Health & Wellness program. His work has never been more important than during two tragic events in 2022 - a double-fatal motor vehicle accident and an act of extreme domestic violence. We are fortunate to have him in our department!



Drone picture of Polo Club Fire January 29, 2022





Strongsville Fire and Emergency Services offers a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training program. Under the leadership of Dale Hawk, CERT educates people about disaster preparedness and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue,

and disaster medical operations. The dedicated members of CERT performed 700 hours of community service in 2022. The events ranged from supporting the four fireworks events to helping during severe storms. Most notably, CERT members dedicated 210 hours to providing Stop The Bleed training to employees of the Strongsville School District. This multi-location training initiative had been a long-standing goal of the Department and CERT leaders, but was delayed due to COVID-19.



### 2022 CERT Events and Training

Event	Location	Participants	Hours
4th of July Fireworks	Town Commons	6	15
4th of July Fireworks	Playground-Tennis Courts	14	28
Active Shooter Exercise	Strongsville High School	8	57
Arts at the Chalet	Metroparks Chalet	4	12
Homecoming Festival	Town Commons	31	70.5
Homecoming Fireworks	Tennis Courts	13	26
Memorial Day Parade	Pearl Rd Parade Route	7	10.5
Relay for Life	Middle School	9	20.5
Rib Burnoff	Town Commons	17	36
Rib Burnoff Fireworks	Town Commons	9	18
Rotary Duck Race	Metroparks Chalet	7	15
Weather Event	High wind, wires down	5	2.5
Winter Wonderland Lights & Fireworks	Town Commons	15	34.5
<b>Total for Events</b>		<b>145</b>	<b>346</b>
Meet/Train	Location	Participants	Hours
CERT Monthly Meetings		91	117
CERT Storage Clean-up	SFD Station 4	2	4
Stop the Bleed Preparation	SFD Station 4	57	126.5
Stop the Bleed Preparation	SFD Station 4	1	4.5
Stop the Bleed Preparation	Southwest EMS	2	6
Stop the Bleed Preparation	Olmsted Falls HS	22	32.5
Stop the Bleed Preparation	SFD Station 4	4	18
Stop the Bleed Preparation	Strongsville Middle	3	13.5
SWGC Hybrid CERT Prep	Virtual/Online	1	3
<b>Total Meet and Train</b>		<b>183</b>	<b>325</b>
<b>Grand Total Training and Events</b>		<b>328</b>	<b>671</b>



# 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

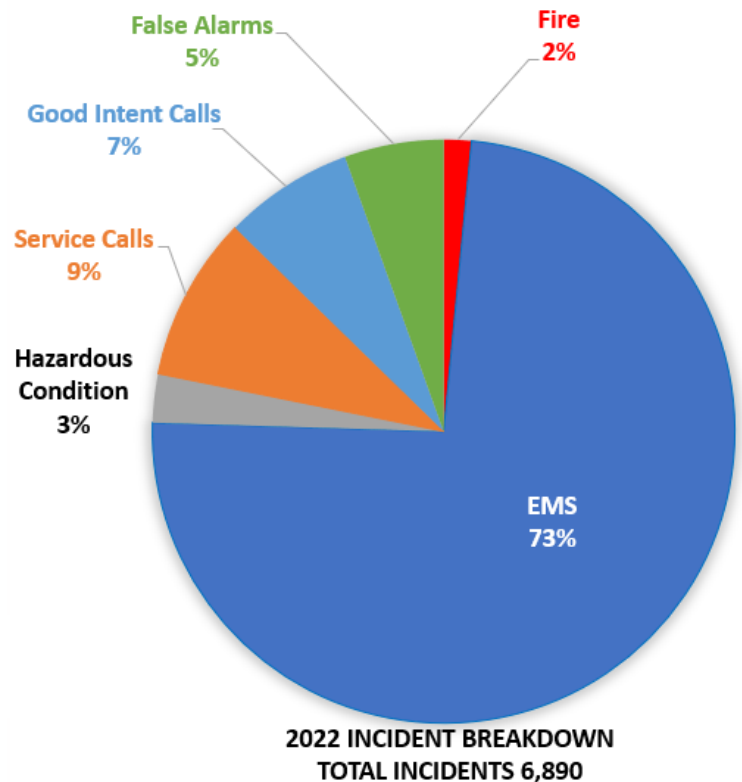
- 60 members on three shifts
- 3 FPO (Captain/Fire Marshal and 2 Inspectors)
- 1 Lieutenant/Administrative Officer/Community Outreach Coordinator
- 1 Captain/Training Officer
- 3 Chief Officers

### ➤ New Equipment

- 525' of assorted hose
- Stihl 462 Rescue chain saw
- 60-minute RIT Cylinder replacements
- Updated seven new Lifepak 15 cardiac monitors for the ambulances
- Replaced 20 Automatic External Defibrillators (AED's) for staff vehicles and public buildings



2022 Operational Summary	
TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE	6,890
EMS Calls	5,078
EMS Transports	4,107
Ambulance Billing Collections	\$1,358,030
Fire & Service Calls	1,897
Total Fire Losses	\$3,200,600
Fires with Property Loss	30
Fires with losses >\$10K	9 structures 4 vehicles
Mutual Aid Given	229
Mutual Aid Received	112



➤ **New to the Fleet**

- 2022 F150 Command Vehicle at a cost of \$59,000
- Lettering, striping, and decals of staff vehicles



**Southwest Emergency Response Team (SERT)**

SERT is comprised of fire rescue professionals from 21 Cuyahoga County communities and organizations that combine their resources for specialized rescue, HazMat, and fire investigations.

The team covers an area of 182 square miles and serves a population of approximately 343,000.

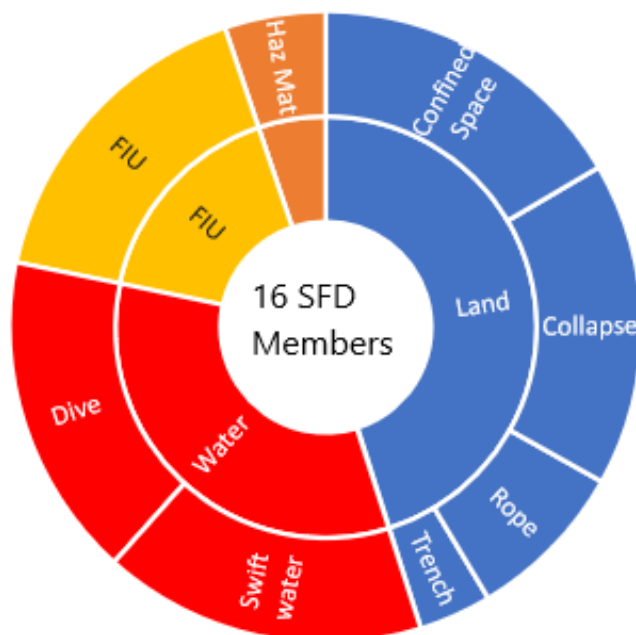


**SERT Team specialties include**

- Fire Investigation Unit
- Hazardous Materials
- Land Based Rescue
- Water based Rescue
- Incident Management System

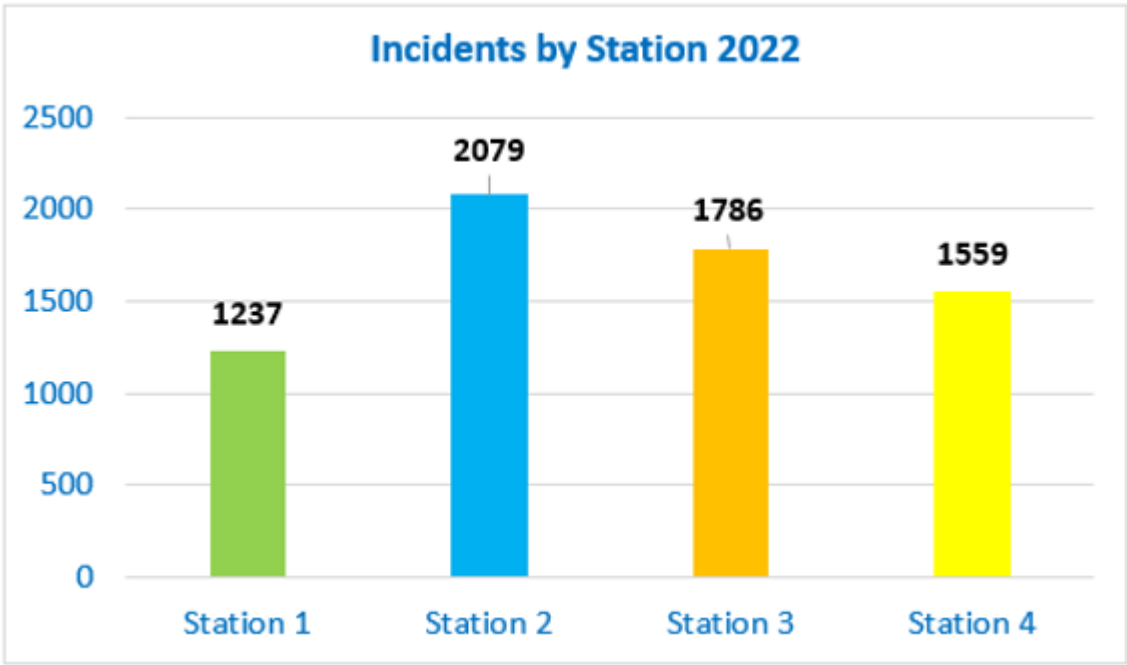
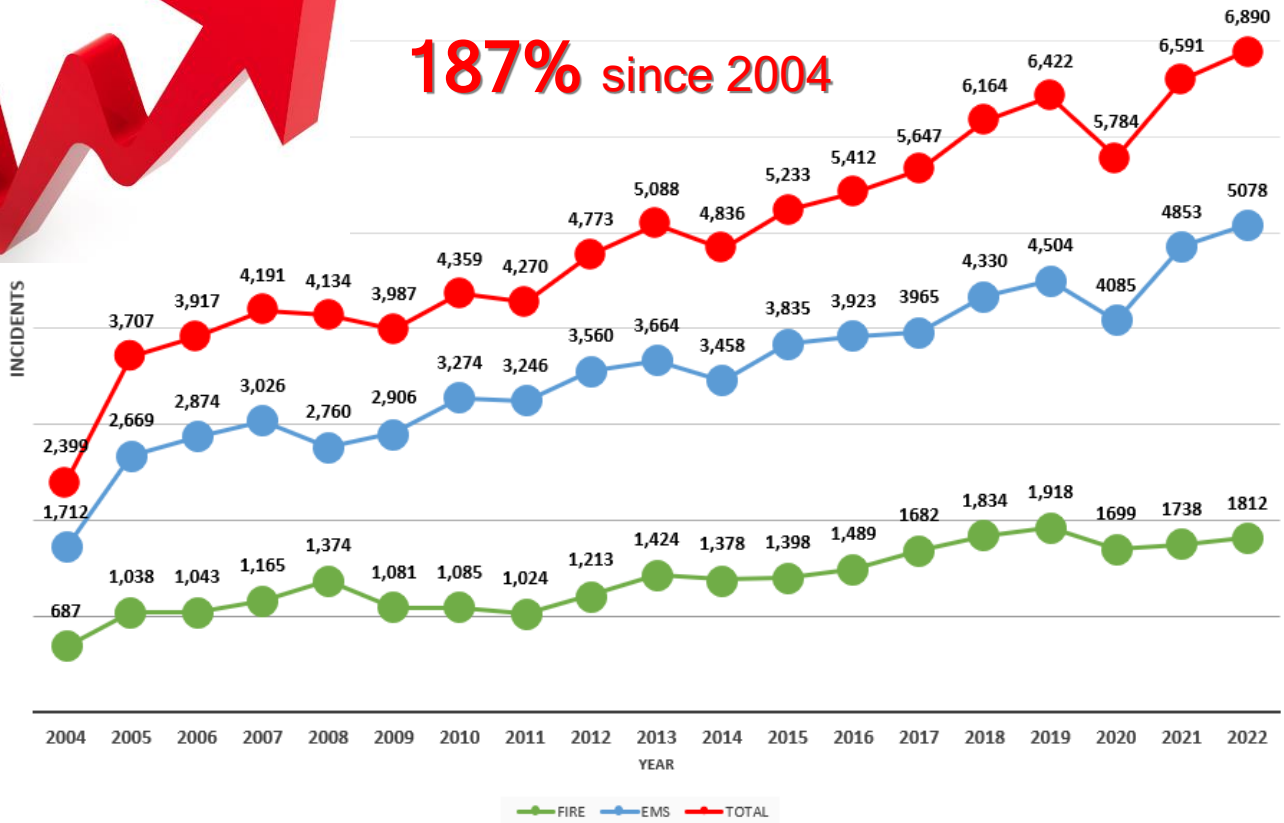
**Regional Teams**

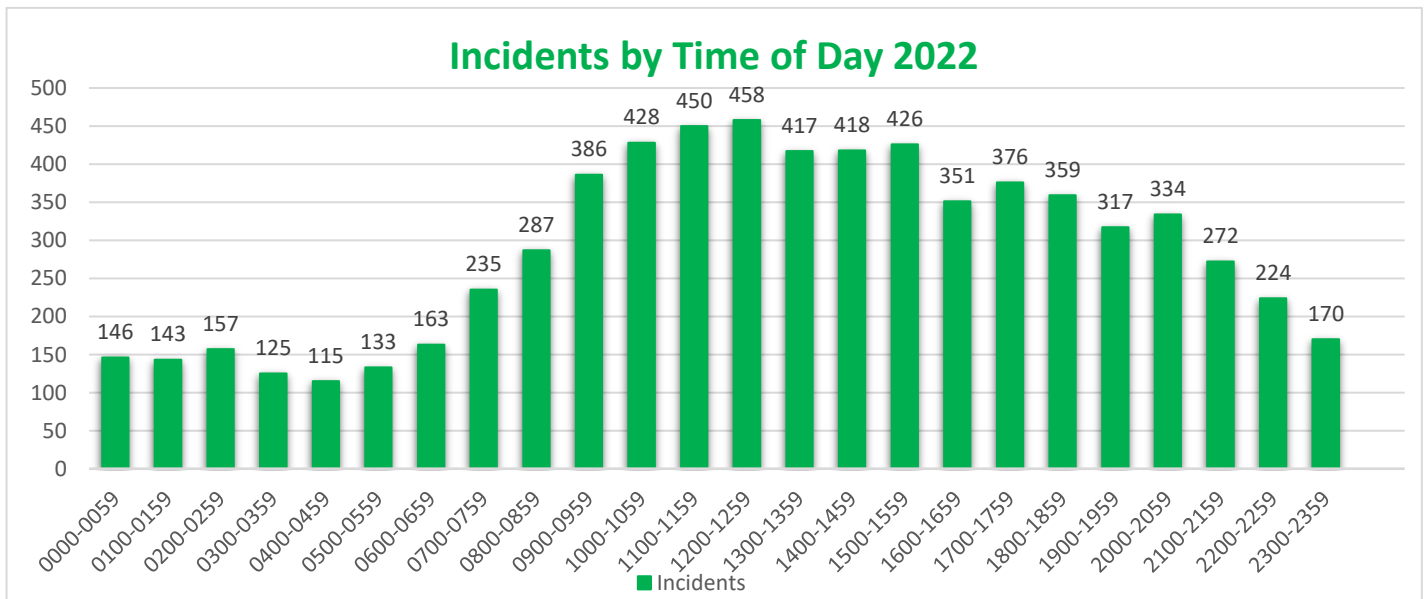
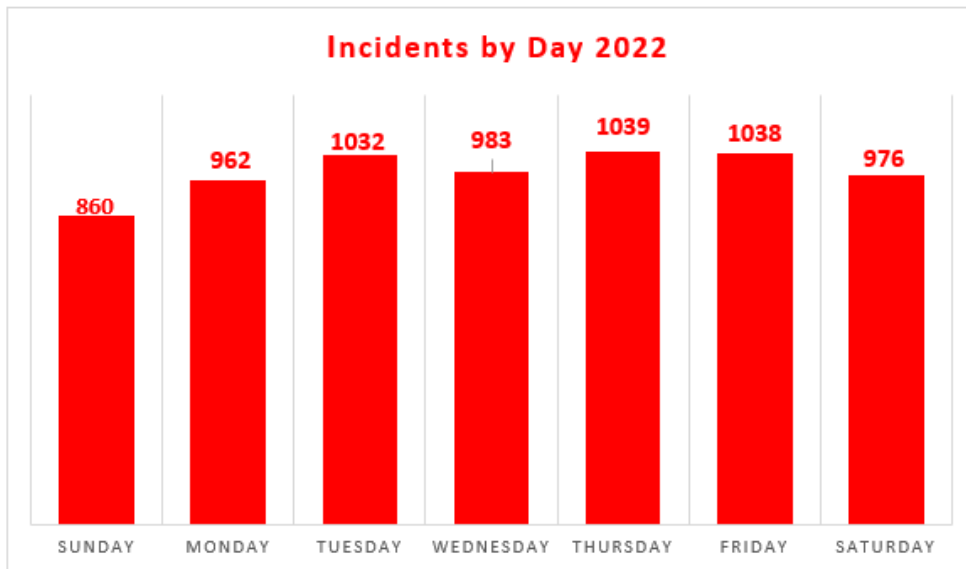
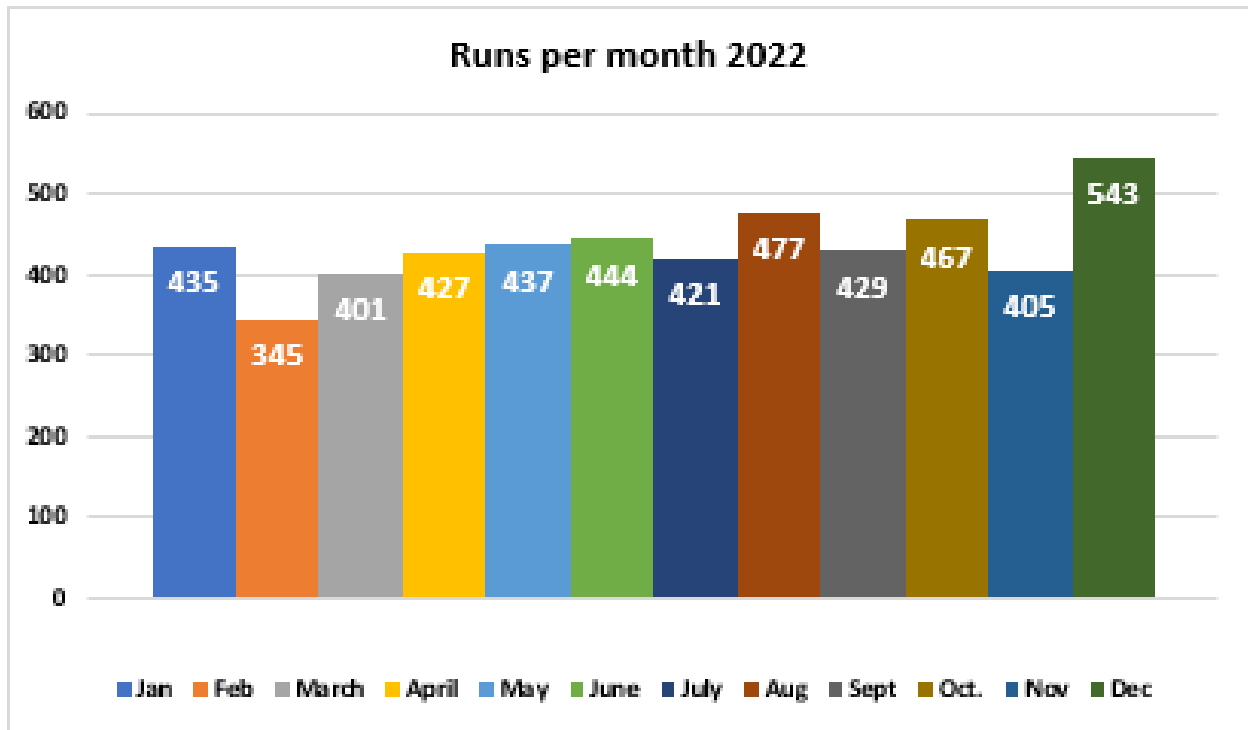
■ Land ■ Haz Mat ■ Water ■ FIU



# Calls skyrocketed

## 187% since 2004







# Maintenance at a Glance

## Annual Preventative Maintenance (PM) Programs

**2022**

- Over 3,500 public/private hydrants
- Powerloads and Cot PM
- Portable Gas Meters PM
- 18,000 feet of Hose tested
- Vehicle fleet biannual PM
- Radio Maintenance
- SCBA Bench Testing
- Stairchairs PM
- Vehicle Extrication Tools
- SCBA Mask Fit Testing
- SCBA Cylinder Hydrostatic testing
- MAKO fill station biannual PM
- Aerial and Ground Ladders PM
- Apparatus pump testing
- Small Engine maintenance
- Life Pack 15 heart monitors PM
- Lucas CPR devices PM
- All City AED's in public buildings and vehicles



**Polo Club January 29, 2022**

# 2022 Major Incidents



January 10, 2022

Location-17179 Ridge Point Circle

Loss \$120,000

Cause- Resistive heating of the electrical wiring in the wall space.

January 29, 2022

Location-14595 Polo Club Drive

Loss-\$1.8M

Cause-State Fire Marshal and SERT FIU were unable to determine a cause.



April 24, 2022

Location-19816 Kensington Ct

Loss-\$15,000

Cause- Undetermined

**May 16, 2022**  
**Location-16049 Prospect Rd.**  
**Loss \$100,000**  
**Cause- Undetermined**



**August 29, 2022**  
**Location-12380 Janette Ave.**  
**Loss- \$258,200**  
**Cause- Accidental related to a hot grill next to structure.**

**September 22, 2022**  
**Location-14364 Fetterman Dr.**  
**Loss-\$60,000**  
**Cause- Resistive heating of the electrical wiring in the wall space.**





December 1, 2022

Location- 13676 Blazey Trail

Loss- \$90,000

Cause- The chimney was in close contact to combustible material.

December 18, 2022

Location- 20270 Royalton Rd.

Loss \$5,000

Cause- Dumpster fire due to arson (Juvenile playing with a lighter)



December 24, 2022

Location 17999 Foltz PKY.

Loss \$16,000

Cause- Undetermined

December 24, 2022

Location-19693 Bennington Dr.

Loss- \$125,000

Cause- Firebox too close to exterior wall framing. The improper use of fireplace conversion kit.

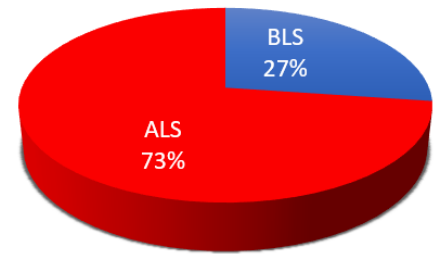
# EMS SERVICES/COMMUNITY OUTREACH

ADMINISTRATIVE LT. BRIAN TOMCANY

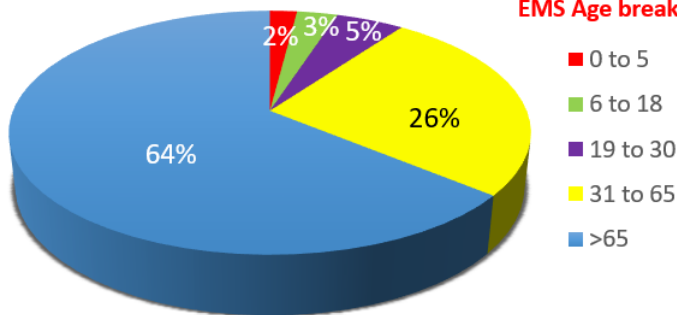


Strongsville Fire and Emergency Services (SFES) continues to serve the community in Fire-EMS-HazMat-and Technical Rescue. The dedicated fire department members continue to demonstrate the *Vision* of being the *finest fire and emergency services* agency in the region.

EMS Calls Level of Care



Today, 66 of our 68 members are paramedics who are responsible for almost 400 pages of protocols and are capable of providing advanced life support interventions to everyone who works, lives and travels throughout our community.



EMS Age breakdown

Senior housing has exploded in Strongsville and has contributed to the overall increase of 32% in EMS runs since 2015. Over 64% of our EMS patients are greater than 65 years old and over 70% of our EMS runs are Advanced Life Support calls with medical, cardiac symptoms and trauma as the top three EMS responses.

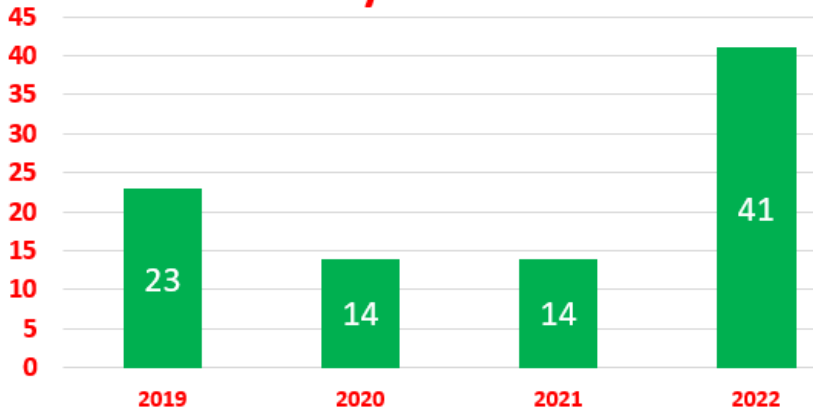
In 2017, the fire department joined the police department and Ohio Guidestone in forming a Quick Response Team (QRT) with the goal of visiting survivors of substance abuse overdoses within 72 hours. A team consisting of a police officer, fire department member and a substance abuse counselor make a home visit to the survivor and their family offering a variety of recovery resources that include direct admit to treatment centers, assessments, and transportation. Since 2017, we have had over 160 overdoses, with 15 overdoses in 2022 that resulted in 218 follow-up calls and visits.



In 2019, Chief Draves expanded the Community Outreach Program to include personnel performing home visits for non-emergency patient follow-ups. Patients are referred to our office for a variety of reasons, such as 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 spend a great deal of time on each referral, researching EMS response history, investigating current living conditions and locating the correct resources for each of these referrals, and developing a plan to address their individual needs.



## Community Outreach Referrals



These residents can be referred to the program from the Recreation Senior Center, Police Department, neighbors, family members, hospitals, or fire department members seeking follow-ups on patients they have engaged with on some of their EMS runs. We respond with a home visit and complete a home safety assessment to understand each person's individual circumstances and identify obstacles

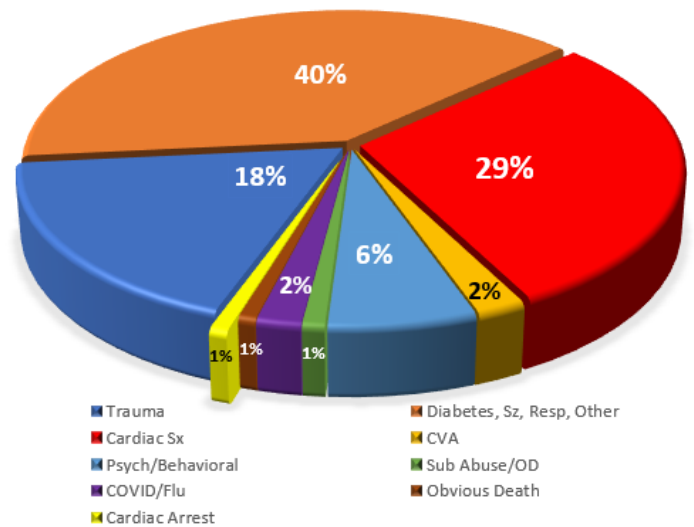
preventing them from living a life of dignity in a safe environment. 2022 was our most successful year with 41 referrals, which resulted in over 160 calls and follow-up visits. We try to engage family, friends and the patients' healthcare provider. We collaborate with the Fire Prevention Office, Building Department, Adult and Child Protective Services, and Social Services. Our efforts have assisted struggling residents to relocate into nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and senior housing centers. Fire Prevention Office has installed Lock Boxes and smoke detectors. We have sign up residents for Meals on Wheels and Senior Wheels. In addition, we have arranged for Home Health Services such as nursing services, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Speech Therapy.

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, UH-Broadview Hts, MetroHealth Medical Center Main Campus, UH-Parma, Metro-Brecksville ED's.

SWGHC is our Medical Control with Dr. Susan Tout as our Medical Director and Jackie Haumschild as our EMS Coordinator. Both serve on the Cuyahoga County EMS Protocol Committee to ensure that 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. Additionally, SWGHC provided guidance and helped us navigate the COVID pandemic.

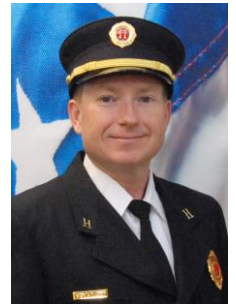
In 2022, SFES collected \$1.36M from EMS transport fees. Monies collected are deposited into the Emergency Vehicle Fund, which is dedicated to purchasing new emergency vehicles.

TYPES OF EMS INCIDENTS  
2022 TOTAL EMS RUNS 5,078



# 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 2,700 children and adults through numerous programs. Some of the programs included Safety Town, Fire Prevention Week for all 3rd grade students, 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.

2022 Fire Prevention Office activities:

- Tests/ inspections-2,614
- New construction/acceptance tests-243
- Commercial/Multifamily preplans drawn-124 (total drawn plus uploaded)-774
- Commercial alarms and follow ups-82
- Residential services-106
- Life Safety education contacts- 2,700





# Public Education

## CPR



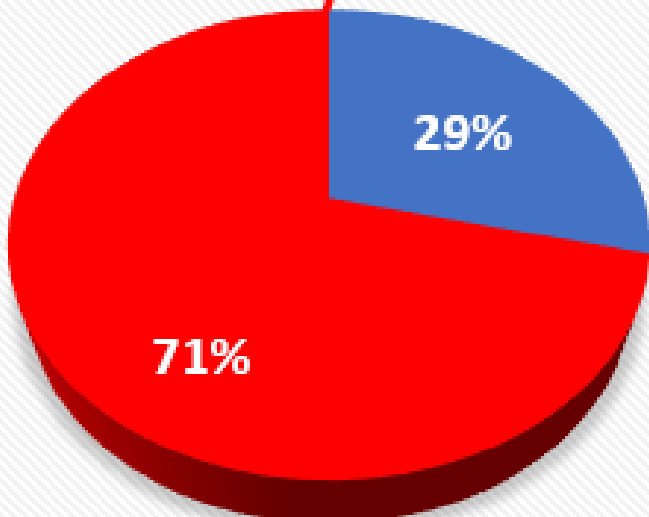
Strongsville Fire and Emergency Services offers a variety of life saving classes to the public. We offer Heart Saver CPR-AED, Heart Saver First Aid, and Healthcare Provider CPR to the public.

Four certified instructors provide American Heart Association training to residents, groups and businesses. Each class is about four hours and takes place at Fire Station 4. In 2022, a total of 108

citizens learned Heart Saver First Aid and or CPR/AED use. 31 of these citizens were cross trained in both skills. In 2022, students from our classes were involved in actual lifesaving interventions in their daily lives which saved the lives of 2 residents in separate incidents.



## Community Education



■ First Aid      ■ CPR/AED



## Strongsville Fire Department Fire Academy for Kids

The Fire Academy for Kids (FAFK) Program was created by FM Matt Schenek in 2016. When his family would visit Matt at the firehouse, he realized that a knowledge gap existed between what the children 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 that is one of the most popular community events every year.



During the FAFK, the 6-10-year-old 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 9-1-1 dispatcher presentation, learn hands-only CPR, and bleeding control while the other group does fire extinguisher training - then they swap.

At noon, the cadets enjoy a pizza lunch and then they're back to work with a victim search evolution using a thermal imager, a disoriented firefighter self-rescue hose evolution, fire pump operations, fire engine ride, rope rescue evolution, and roof ventilation exercise. Then, they're off to the firefighter Combat Challenge. This is a timed obstacle course which simulates many physical actions required to be a firefighter.

To recognize their completion of the Fire Academy for Kids, each child is presented with a certificate and they are served a frozen treat.



Firemedic Schenek coordinates the entire program including registration, advertising, recruiting volunteers, and soliciting donations from local business. Strongsville Firemedics volunteer their time to

be instructors. Matt is touched by the support of his fellow firefighters, "Guys bring their own kids through the Fire Academy for Kids and in a couple years - they're eager to return as volunteers!" This program has been a huge success due to the support and dedication of everyone involved.



# 2022 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 Office 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 2022, the Training Office delivered 9,947 hours of training. This included over 3,900 hours of company fire training and 3,200 hours of EMS training. These training exercises are evaluated through subjective, written, and/or manipulative methods. Continuing education and training is a necessity for members of an "all hazards response agency".



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



Ice Rescue Training at Green Briar Lake February 2022

officers and members by simulating fires in structures throughout the city and how the fire may react to their strategy and tactics.

response to these needs, our training provides fundamental, advanced, and sometimes innovative training on a frequent basis that is consistent with current science, industry Best Practices, and regulatory requirements. The fire department purchased the *Simushare*

software used to train



# Training highlights:

SFES once again completed ice rescue training at Greenbriar Association Lake. This year we were able to utilize our new “RDC” watercraft. Being prepared for ice and water rescue is one of many of the hazards that we



must prepare for.



Auto Extrication Training in 2022 with Richfield, Hinckley, and Bath Fire Departments. Training for auto extrication and rescue is important to maintain a high level of readiness for motor vehicle accidents and entrapments.

Strongsville hosted the regional University Hospital TECC class in 2022. This class was developed by the military and is now being taught to paramedics. The class prepares paramedics to deliver first aid to those who are critically injured in a hostile environment.



Strongsville also hosted the Metro Life Flight landing zone and orientation class in 2022. This class provided information to our members on how to set up landing zones for safe helicopter landings. This class also covered the care that is provided by the Metro Flight Crew.



In May 2022, SFES and Strongsville Police hosted a Communications table top exercise in conjunction with DHS, Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management (CCOEM), Strongsville schools, and many other regional police and fire agencies to identify and demonstrate the communication difficulties during an active shooter incident.





Active Shooter Drill

In August 2022 the SFES took part in a day-long “Active Shooter” and “Rescue Task Force” Drill at the Strongsville High School. This drill included participation from 6 surrounding police and fire departments and the CCOEM. The drill included live role players, students, staff, and school administration. This type of drill helps to prepare members to respond to an active threat incident in our area.



Rescue Task Force

The Training Office also conducted five After Action Reviews (AAR) of major fire incidents that occurred in the City in 2022. 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 AAR is to review the incident and recognize anyway that we can operate more efficient and safer to better serve the public.

## Size up (Water Supply & Street Conditions)

- **Ladder Trucks positioned Alpha and Charlie side.**
- **Hydrants were both buried in large snow piles**
- **Streets were iced over and covered with snow**



## Grants and Donations

February 2022-Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) Priority One EMS- Received \$647.21

September 2022- Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG)- Air Compressor/Cascade/Fill Station (Fixed or Mobile) for filling SCBA-Received \$63,285.49

Swagelok donated \$1,000 for Public Education and Training

## Business Friendly

The city has created a vibrant business-friendly environment. This business-friendly environment inspires the safety forces to offer a number of services to encourage successful safe operations. Business are encouraged to take advantage of the

opportunity to participate in CPR/AED/First Aid training classes, fire extinguisher training, fire suppression inspections, and public relations details with SFES.



Schaeffler Automotive staff

fire

## 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 the July 4<sup>th</sup> Fireworks, Homecoming, Rib Burn-off, Winter Wonderland, Duck Race, Community Band Salute to Heroes and August 2022 Southpark Center Mall “Tour the Trucks”.



## 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the September 11<sup>th</sup> Attacks

The Strongsville Police and Fire Departments recalled the terrorist attacks of 2001 with a ceremony at Fire Station No. 4 on Sept. 11. Fire Chief Jack Draves and Police Chief Mark Fender 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. Assistant Fire Chief AJ Aljabi 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.



## 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 2022 Knights of Columbus Firefighter of the Year Award went to



Firemedic Matt Schenek. Presenting the award is Deputy Grand Knight Jeff Branic. Matt was nominated by Captain Scott Fridley. FM Schenek has served the City of Strongsville for over 15 years and is a highly valued member of the department. His work ethic and leadership abilities are second to none and have made him one of the most dependable and consistent firefighters to work with. FM Schenek possesses the traits all firefighters should have: the ability to stay calm under

pressure, self-motivation, decisiveness, the ability to work well with little supervision and the ability to take charge when needed. Matt has also taken an active role in the training, education, and mentorship of new recruits.

Matt's dedication to the city and its residents led to his creation of the Fire Academy for Kids, a program designed to meet children's interest in firefighters and their jobs by allowing them to participate in hands-on activities. This program has been a huge success in the community, all due to FM Schenek's dedication to the trade.

FM Schenek's efforts, energy, and expertise have increased the departments overall capabilities.



## 2022 Leadership and Service Awards Presentation

### Meritorious Service Award

2022 Meritorious Service Award presented to FM Andy Smeader, FM Mike Macejko, and FM Jeremy Watt for their response and resuscitation attempts at a multi-victim drowning in Berea.



## Community Service Award

2022 Community Service Award Presented to Lt. Mark Baltakis, North Royalton Fire Department for his efforts in rescuing a resident involved in a Lyon Lane house fire on August 23, 2021.

## Leadership Award

2022 Leadership Award presented to Captain Dave Haffner for managing a multi-alarm response to a structure fire at the Polo Club Apartments during zero-degree temperatures on January 29, 2022.



The **EMS Star of Life Awards** recognize outstanding achievements and honor those in Ohio's EMS system whose accomplishments rise above the day-to-day excellence of the system. Each day in Ohio, EMS providers save lives and perform countless noteworthy acts of caring, kindness, and service to their community. On May 18, 2022, Lieutenant Boyle, Firemedic Pat Kinyon, and Firemedic Patrick Barrett were recognized as co-recipients of the 2022 EMS Star of Life Award for their role in treating and transporting a father and son burned in an accident in Columbia Station.



Captain Paul Filon-FM Pat Barrett-Lieutenant Dave Boyle  
Not pictured-FM Pat Kinyon

