

# DISTRICT PROFILE



*Sidney FPD Leadership: left to right: Tim Maupin President of Trustees, Rachael Pacey Treasurer, Chief Donnie Happ and Bruce Smith VP and Board Secretary of the trustees.*



## **DISTRICT:**

Sidney Fire Protection District

## **LOCATION:**

Sidney, Illinois  
Champaign County

## **TRUSTEES:**

President:

Tim Maupin

Vice President and Secretary:

Bruce Smith

Treasurer:

Rachael Pacey

## **FIRE CHIEF:**

Donnie Happ

## **DISTRICT BACKGROUND:**

The Sidney Fire Protection District (hereinafter the "SFPD" or the "District") has a long history of protecting the citizens and visitors of Sidney Township, located in rural east central, Illinois. The SFPD was first organized in 1938 which made it the first fire protection district in Champaign County, Illinois. The SFPD is responsible for providing services that include fire suppression, first response emergency medical services, rescue services, fire safety education, and training.

The SFPD is led by a board of three trustees that are appointed by the Sidney Township Board. The Fire Chief, who serves at the pleasure of the board of trustees, oversees the day-to-day operations of the District. The organizational structure of the SFPD is made up of the Fire Chief, an Assistant Chief, a Captain, a Fire Lieutenant, an EMS Lieutenant, firefighters, and a clerk. The largest contingent of personnel in the SFPD is comprised of the volunteer company-level officers and volunteer firefighters.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- Firefighter Excellence Unit Citation presented in 2021-Saved a ladies life in a house fire.
- Improved ISO rating from 8 down to 5.
- 1<sup>st</sup> fire district to submit the Decennial Committee Report for Champaign County.
- Chief Happ nominated and won Hometown Hero's recognition from local radio station.
- The district outsourced the accounting and payroll function, improving financial accuracy and timeliness of fiscal reporting.
- Outsourced SOG's to provide up to date operational guidelines.
- Restructured/streamlined leadership of the association to improve communication and teamwork.
- Retired Trustee Bill Hensch, received Trustees' Outstanding Service Award from IAFFD in 2021.
- Work with the Homer FPD, St. Joseph/Stanton FPD on hose testing, ladder testing and procurement opportunities.
- Coordinate house burn training between local districts.
- Intergovernmental agreement with Homer Fire Protection District to utilize their Fire Chief.
- Intergovernmental agreement with the Village of Sidney to manage the ESDA function.
- The district purchased an old home located next to the fire station and use it for training.



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- 2018 tax referendum to increase fire district revenues passed on 1<sup>st</sup> attempt.
- 2022-worked with Homer FPD and St. Joseph-Stanton FPD to bring full service ambulance service to the area.

### PERSONNEL:

The SFPD is comprised of fourteen (14) men and women who voluntarily devote their time to serve the District as firefighters and emergency medical service providers. They provide these services out of one station that is located in the Village of Sidney. Fire suppression, first response emergency medical services, rescue services, and fire safety education is provided by the members of the SFPD to 1,719 residents of the 36.44 square miles of Sidney Township. The members of the SFPD also provide automatic mutual aid support to the 1,533 residents of the 52 square miles of the Homer Fire Protection District. and they provide other mutual aid support

The members of the SFPD also provide other mutual aid support through the District's proud membership in the Illinois Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) Division 28. MABAS Division 28 is made up of the other fire protection districts located within Champaign County, as well as the districts located in the south-east portion of Ford County and the east-half of Piatt County making it encompass more than 1,000 square miles. As a member of the state's Mutual Aid Box Alarm System, the members of the SFPD are subject to be dispatched to incidents that not only occur within Division 28, but they can also be dispatched to incidents throughout the 102 counties within the state of Illinois and nationally, if additional services are needed.

The SFPD responded to the calls for service as follows:

Year	Number of Calls
2020	285
2021	301
2022	307
2023	370



### FACILITIES & APPARATUS:

One Firehouse located in Sidney, IL with 3 bays. The SFPD currently operates a fleet of front-line fire apparatus:

- Engine 1852 - Spartan Gladiator Classic (2006/17)
- Engine 1851 - Pierce Saber (2009/14)
- Brush Truck 1884 - Ford F550 (2013/10)

The SFPD board just approved the purchase of a new 2024 Alexis Mini Pumper and will be selling the 2006 Spartan Gladiator Classic.

### DISTRICT FACTS:

Size: 36 square miles with the Village of Sidney as the only village/city in the district.

Day Population: 1,533

Property Value: \$60,192,134

Fiscal cost of Service: Budget \$157,500

Appropriation \$241,400.00

Annual Calls: 370

### EMERGENCY SERVICES:

Fire, MABAS and Automatic -NTS

Sidney Fire Protection District is dedicated to promotion by performance and training, high respect for everyone and excellent teamwork. Our department believes in a great attitude and a culture that recognizes and rewards excellence!

### NEW STATION, NEW EQUIPMENT:

The board just approved the purchase of a new mini-pumper and will be selling an older 2006 pumper.

No plans to upgrade the facilities at this time.

### ANY ADVICE FOR SIMILAR DISTRICTS:

Start looking at consolidations that make sense for your district.

Attend the IAFFPD conferences and training sessions.

Be aware of legislation that impacts your district-unfunded mandates.

Get trained or be ready for the EV, Solar and Wind impact on your fire department.

### WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOUR DISTRICT:

Solar panel farms are being built in our district so we are meeting with the solar farm company and will be developing and starting a training program to address solar panel incidents.

Fire District consolidation is an ongoing discussion as the number of volunteers continue to drop in the fire district.

Succession planning as leadership on the fire department as well as in the trustee ranks are nearing retirement. ■

