

Hudson Fire Department

INTERNAL FACTORS

STRENGTHS (+)

Experienced/cross-trained/diverse skill set staff with low turnover
 Dedicated, highly-motivated members that are personally vested in Hudson
 Exceptional firefighting, driver/operator, technical rescue and Haz Mat training program
 Respected leadership team – having the right people in the right roles at the right time
 High-quality, strategically-purchased, new and refurbished apparatus and equipment
 Quality customer service has earned the trust, respect and support of the community

WEAKNESSES (-)

Frequently pulled away from scheduled daily tasks to help others - emergencies
 Keeping skills sharp – Low frequency of live fire or significant rescue incidents
 Aging membership – Challenges associated with finding younger volunteers
 Limited use of HFD & City website/social media for sharing public information
 Firefighting and technical rescue training locations within the City of Hudson
 Keeping up with increasing training and education requirements by certifying agencies

EXTERNAL FACTORS

OPPORTUNITIES (+)

Create a multi-agency, citywide senior citizen risk reduction and support system
 Improve our fire and safety information sharing with the local businesses and residents
 HFD training facility included in Safety Center improvements or Public Works facility
 Facilitate improved fire protection systems in the Main Street historic shopping district
 Continue to partner with federal, state and county agencies as well as private entities to supply high-quality training opportunities to our officers and firefighters

THREATS (-)

Large-loss incident or fatal fire damaging the public image, trust and support for HFD
 New construction techniques that create significant hazards during structural firefighting
 Limited support from Summit Co. Division of Building Standards (SCDBS) and (SFM)
 Potential failure of the EMS model requiring a change to a fulltime/merged EMS/HFD
 Loss of support for the “volunteer model” due to political or City administrative changes
 Significant “terrorism” type of incident that overwhelms our ability to manage locally

ANALYSIS SUMMARY

We believe that the current “volunteer model” is the best, most fiscally responsible method to continue to supply the high-quality firefighting and rescue services that the citizens of Hudson have come to expect. To maintain this level of customer service the Hudson Fire Department must continue to focus our efforts in the following areas:

Personnel: The life blood of our organization is our people. We are fortunate to have dedicated, motivated, well trained members that believe in the mission of HFD. They trust and support each other while voluntarily risking their lives for others. The Officer Corps is a group of well-respected leaders that have earned the trust of the membership. The diversity of the knowledge and skills of our firefighters allows HFD to excel at resolving the many unique and challenging situations that we respond to.

Training: Significant effort is put into training our personnel. Last year we completed over 3000 hours of training. That is an average of over 72 hours per FF/year. The State of Ohio only requires 18 hours per FF/year. We partner with outside agencies and send our members to numerous outside training/educational opportunities at the federal, state and county level. This extensive training has allowed numerous HFD personnel to become key, active members of the Summit County Technical Rescue and Haz Mat teams.

Apparatus & Equipment: HFD has up-to-date apparatus and equipment. We work hard to plan for our future needs and we outfit our firefighters and apparatus with safe high-quality equipment. We have a mix of new and refurbished equipment that we maintain and operate for the safety of our citizens and personnel. Through agency partnerships, at minimal cost we recently added Haz Mat and Technical Rescue trailers as well as an off road ATV unit to the inventory maintained at HFD.

Fire Prevention & Education: The Fire Prevention Bureau focuses on meeting the “non-emergency” needs of our citizens and business partners. The Fire Marshal and Fire Inspectors provide fire safety education, juvenile fire setter education, routine inspections, new development and commercial building plans review & inspections, fire/arson investigation, car seat and food truck inspections, special event safety review and inspection along with many other types of assistance. The Fire Prevention team is the public face of HFD on a daily basis and does an excellent job of helping to keep Hudson a safe place to live and work.