



MEMORANDUM

TO: Brian Murphy
Village Administrator

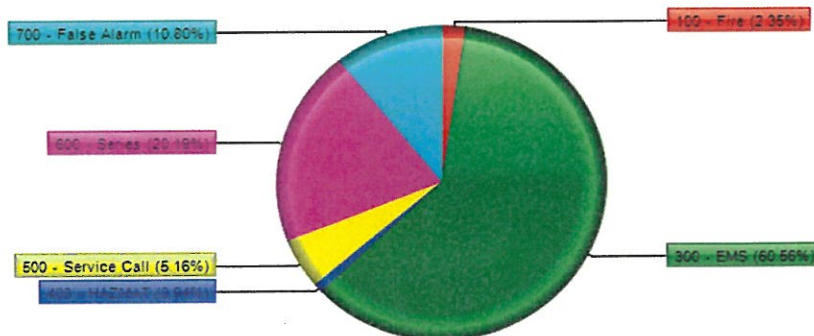
FROM: Thomas Gaertner
Thomas Gaertner
Fire Chief

DATE: May 4, 2022

SUBJECT: Monthly Report – April 2022

The Fire Department responded to 213 calls during the month of April. This is above our average number of calls in comparison to April 2021 where we had 151 calls. We experienced 5 fire related calls for the month. Emergency Medical Service calls represented 60.56% of our response activity for the month of April.

| Incident Type Group | MAR 2022 |
|----------------------------|------------|
| 100 - Fire | 5 |
| 300 - EMS | 129 |
| 400 - Hazardous Conditions | 2 |
| 500 - Service Call | 11 |
| 600 - Good Intent | 43 |
| 700 - False Alarms | 23 |
| Monthly Total | 213 |



Incidents of Interest

At the April 25th Village Board Meeting, members of the Fire Department consisting of Lt. John Carter, FF/PM Chris Doran, FF/PM Adam Howe, FF/PM Adam Seablom, FF/PM Matt Basa and Detective Sergeant Justin LaBriola of the Police Department, were recognized for life saving actions at the residential structure fire located at 805 Franklin Ave.

The Fire Department completed a new Hearing Conservation Program for all employees. New hearing protection was received to comply with this program. This new program makes us compliant under Illinois OSHA requirements and IRMA's recommendations'.

Chief Gaertner

- Attended monthly RFFD Officers meeting.
- Attended the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association Administrative Professionals Luncheon
- Attended the technical review for the remodeling at the River Forest Tennis Club
- Attended the ground breaking ceremony for the Lake St & Lathrop development
- Attended a Zoom meeting with the IRMA Fire Chiefs Steering Committee
- Attended a Zoom planning meeting for a Juneteenth Celebration on June 19, 2022.

Fire Prevention Fire Marshal Wiley

It's hard to believe that 2022 is a quarter of the way over already!

March ended with a house fire at 805 Franklin. The single resident of the home was rescued and spent an amount of time at Loyola Hospital suffering from smoke inhalation. Because of this fire, I created a flyer and the Fire Department went back to the 800 block of Franklin the day after the fire and distributed the flyer to all the homes on the block. We rang every doorbell and talked to a number of residents on the block. We also talked to some residents from other blocks in the area when they saw the fire trucks on the block (see photos). I think it's a good idea that we can continue to do this after any significant event that may happen. I added the flyer to the end of this report.

Tele-communicator's Week was April 10-April 16, 2022. Telecommunicators at the West Suburban Consolidated Dispatch Center (WSCDC) do an awesome job in keeping the fire departments in the Division informed and ultimately safer. They are the first link in the communication chain from the public that culminates with the Fire and Police Departments answering the public's call for service. We owe them a debt of gratitude. For the week, the Fire Department provided a few t-shirts and some glassware as gifts.

If you look at my monthly inspection totals, they may seem down just a bit for the month. However, I spent a large amount of time performing re-inspections at both universities, 37 to be exact. I will catch up to my monthly inspection goal in May. I did however perform all inspections on the District 90 schools and Administration building. The results need to be uploaded to the Office of the State Fire Marshal's portal which ultimately gets back to the school

Superintendent. I do these inspections in April so I can give the building engineers time to get things taken care of before the summer break. Unfortunately, a couple of the building engineers are retiring at the end of this school year so we will need to spend some time with the new engineers when they come on board.

I am very proud of the fact that I am continuing to whittle down my review times for all my plan reviews. As you may remember that number shot up to 15 days on average in January and I have gotten it down to just over three and one half days (3.69) per review.

I received a phone call from the Building Engineer for the 7200 Oak complex that could be considered a complaint in its truest form. He requested a meeting with a Board Member to discuss some damage that happened earlier in the week at a gas leak inside one of the buildings. The board member inquired why we forced the door and damaged the trim on an apartment door. After informing him that it has been the fire industry's training and policy to force the trim work, ultimately making it easier to force the door and do less damage to the more expensive door. He requested that we take the door and try to leave the trim intact. If we destroy the trim, they need to get a specialist in to re-create the plaster wall and that is more expensive than replacing the doors. I told him we would do our best to get the message out to everyone to leave the trim work alone as much as possible.

Gold Shift and I attended a Touch-A-Truck event at Concordia Universities Early Childhood Education site. The event was very well received, despite the cool, dreary weather. During the end of the event the Engine got a call that the kids loved seeing. I rough counted 75 kids but more importantly 125 parents attended as well. We will probably make this an annual event, hopefully with better weather.

The month ended with severe weather affecting the River Forest area. Unfortunately, we discovered the Outdoor Weather Warning Siren located on the roof of the Village Hall did not operate at the time the area was under a Tornado Warning. I got in touch with Brian Staunton from WSCDC and he indicated that he would be in contact with a couple of communication companies to trouble shoot for problems. Ironically, I had just updated the informational flyer on the Outdoor Weather Sirens. That flyer was sent to Elijah for inclusion of information to be added to the Village website.

Miscellaneous events that took place in April:

- I was involved with the new clothing website and reviewing uniform options to add to the site.
- I took photos of all department members for new I.D cards.
- I took photos for the three shifts for training purposes when they had three days of auto-extrication. That training took place in the rear of the Village Garage. A huge Thank You goes out to Public Works for allowing us the space to do that training.

Training Lt. Carter

During the month of April, the fire department participated in various training activities such as:

- Loyola CE was canceled for the month of April
- Shifts continued their assigned building inspections
- Personnel attended a Division 11 combined TRT/Haz Mat drill conducted at Koppers Chemicals in Stickney
- Each shift attended a 4 hour hands on extrication class with Kevin Sears of Genesis Rescue Equipment. Vehicles provided by O'Hare towing
- All personnel attended a Loyola Zoom meeting to be introduced to a new Zoll Patient Care Report writing system that will be starting in May
- All personnel completed a hearing conservation PowerPoint and written test as mandated by IRMA. This will be an annual training.

Outside of Department Training

| <u>Course</u> | <u>Dept. Member</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Hrs</u> |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Haz Mat/ TRT Drill | Bencik, Boyd Buchholz, Carter | 4/12 | 4 |
| | Ercoli, E. Howe McKenna, Zipperich | | 4 |
| | Boyd, Doran, A. Howe, Krall, Viera | 4/13 | 4 |
| | E. Howe, Zipperich, Rouse | 4/14 | 4 |
| Investigator Div Drill | None | | |
| <u>ITTF/OSFM</u> | None | | |

Individual Shift Reports

Gold Shift Report Lt. Howe

Activities: For the month of April, Gold Shift had a total of 79 calls. 29 of the calls were fire related, 46 involved emergency medical services and there were 4 service calls.

Incidents/Events of Note: On April, Gold shift responded to Harlem and Iowa for an MVA involving a school bus. 15 students were evaluated for injuries and none were transported.

Training: Gold shift had 90 hours of fire related training this month, 40 hours of EMS training and 4 hours Hazmat training for an average of 22.3 hours per firefighter. Our monthly fire training included emergency vehicle driver safety, auto extrication, rope rescue, Hazmat Ops, electrical vehicle fires and ladders.

- FF. McKenna completed Fire Service Vehicle Operator in Western Springs
- Lt. Howe and FF's Zipperich, Krall, McKenna and Rouse participated in the Div. 11 TRT drill in Stickney
- Lt. Howe and FF Zipperich participated in the Div. 11 Hazmat drill at Stickney
- FF Zipperich completed one CPR class in February.
- Members of the Gold shift attended Concordia University family day with a Fire safety presentation

Inspections: Gold shift completed 4 company fire inspections in April.

Black Shift Report: Lt. Bochenek

Activities: Black Shift had a total of 71 calls. 30 were fire related, 40 were EMS calls, 1 service calls.

Incidents/Events of note: The department completed the hearing Conservation program for all employees. New hearing protection was received to comply with the program. Department has practiced the new EMS charting to prepare for the software release on 5/9/2022.

Shift Training: Black shift conducted 127.25 hours of fire related training this month and 13.5 hours of EMS training for a total of 140.75 hours of training. Some of the fire training can be considered cross training between fire and EMS, but for categorization purposes it was placed under fire training. That is an average of 28.15 hours per Lieutenant and Firefighter/Paramedics. Black shift conducted company fire inspections, operating directive reviews, forcible entry, EMS charting training, and standpipe operations.

Inspections: Multiple company fire inspections and multiple re-inspections were completed.

Red Shift Report: Lt. Smith

Activities: For the month of April, Red Shift had a total of 71 calls. 22 of the calls were fire related. There were 45 EMS calls and 4 service calls.

Incidents/Events of note: On April 21st, Engine 213 responded to Bonnie Brae Place and Chicago Ave for the child locked inside the vehicle. Engine 213 arrived on scene with the child's distraught mother waving the crew down. The mother had a hammer and wanted the crew to smash out a car window. The toddler could be seen inside the car and was secured inside a child safety seat. The toddler was in no distress. Engine 213 crew used our vehicle lock-out tools to gain entry into the vehicle. The toddler was assessed by the Engine 213 crew and released to the mother.

Shift Training: Red Shift had 101.5 hours of fire related training this month and 23.5 hours of EMS training for a total of 125 hours of training for an average of 20.8 hours per firefighter. Red Shift attended a Zoom class on how to use the new electronic EMS report writing software. As the month of April is Autism Awareness Month, Red Shift viewed several videos on Autism Awareness for First Responders. Red Shift attended a four-hour vehicle extrication drill on the Public works property where we were instructed on different extrication techniques. The Shift practiced these techniques on two vehicles using battery operated Genesis tools. Firefighters Doran, Howe, and Viera attended the Division 11 Hazmat/TRT Drill in Cicero. Lt. Smith attended a Zoom class titled: Aerial Positioning on College Campuses.

Inspections: Performed 2 company fire inspections with 2 violations noted and 6 re-inspections with 4 corrections.

EMS/Paramedic Activity FF/PM Fischer

For the month of April, we had a total of 149 requests for EMS. Of those 149 requests, 142 patients were cared for by RFFD EMS. Of the 142 patients, 42 were ALS, 96 were BLS and 4 were a invalid assist. 37 patients refused treatment and transport. These 142 patients had various complaints. 101 patients were transported to the following hospitals:

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Gottlieb – 21 | Rush/Oak Park - 68 |
| Hines VA – 1 | Resurrection - 0 |
| Loyola – 10 | West Suburban - 1 |
| McNeal – 0 | |
| Community First – 0 | |

RFFD had a total of 21 Mutual Aid calls to other towns and we received Mutual aid from 12 other departments.

Vehicle/Equipment/ Station Maintenance FF Zipperich

Vehicles:

200- Nothing reported

201- Nothing reported

202- Nothing reported

213-Exhaust hanger temporarily repaired; strap ordered from CJC was not appropriate, repaired with thicker strap.

214-Safety Lane completed. VMUX internal battery replaced. Vendor stated the unit will have to be sent in for service, as some of the buttons do not function properly.

215- driver side-front amber marker light replaced.

218- Nothing reported

219- Plymovent exhaust magnet rusted off exhaust. May need to replace part of exhaust as well. PTO assembly leaking oil.

222-Nothing reported

EQUIPMENT

Nozzle repaired for PW/ Halligan bars delivered

Yellow extension cord (219 fan) repaired/ 215 CO detector OOS

DEF delivered

FIRE STATION

Ant problem in Kitchen-Ant Traps have been placed in the kitchen

Oven repaired by ABT/ Oxygen ordered and delivered

Air One- Air compressor service/ Water heater OOS and replaced

New computer in Lt office/ shoreline GFCI above 222 OOS

Roof leaks over Truck 219 bay repaired



After the Fire Safety Tips



A house fire is a devastating experience that nobody ever expects to happen to them. However, it can be an opportunity to remind all residents that there are some safety tips that you can follow to help avoid a house fire.

- ◆ **Smoke Alarms:** Smoke Alarms are a very important safety device that have proven time and time again to Save Lives. Smoke alarms should be mounted inside every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of your home, including the basement.
- ◆ **REPLACE** all Smoke Alarms when they are 10 years old. The manufacture date is on the bottom of the smoke alarm. If your smoke alarm does not have a manufacture date, they may be older than 10 years and should be replaced with smoke alarms that have sealed, extended life batteries. Smoke Alarms are now available that each smoke alarm can be interconnected so if one sounds, they all sound.
- ◆ If you have a new extended life smoke alarm, you still need to test them monthly to ensure they still work. All smoke alarms need occasional cleaning and can be vacuumed to keep dust and dirt away.
- ◆ **Make and Practice Your Home Escape Plan**
Make a home escape plan with the whole family before a fire ever starts. Practice your home escape plan with the whole family twice a year. If you know what to do ahead of time, you have a better chance of escaping from a fire. Does everyone know two ways out of each room? The first way is probably a door and the second way out might be a window or another door.
 - Do all windows and doors needed for escape open easily?
 - Is there something blocking the window such as a dresser or a large fish tank?
 - Have you chosen a family meeting place out in front of your house where everyone will meet? You will want to be able to tell the fire department that everyone is out safely.
 - Go Outside and Stay outside; Don't go back inside a burning building for anything or anyone. Let the fire department do that! They have the training and the protective equipment. Call the fire department from a Cell phone or a neighbor's house.Once prepared. Post it on your refrigerator.
- ◆ **Candles:**
There is a special beauty and tranquility to candles, but a lighted candle is also an open flame, and a potential fire hazard if not carefully monitored. In fact, candles start an estimated 8,200 home fires each year according to the National Fire Protection Association.
Never leave a burning candle unattended.
Never burn a candle on or near anything that might catch fire.
Keep candles out of the reach of children and pets.
Never use candles near a person who is on home oxygen. Oxygen intensifies the burning process, and you may find a larger fire. For emergency lighting, it is best to use flashlights. Make sure you have plenty of flashlights on hand, and check the batteries in them often.

For more safety tips please call the River Forest Fire Prevention Bureau at 708-714-3562.



Severe Weather Warnings



Storm Based Warnings

The National Weather Service (NWS) uses “Storm-based Warnings” also called “threat-based polygon warnings” to provide more specific information about the location of severe weather and the direction it is predicted to move (you may have seen this on your local weather reports). Storm-based warnings show the specific meteorological or hydrological threat area and are not restricted to geopolitical boundaries. By focusing on the threat area, warning polygons improve the NWS warning accuracy and quality. This reduces the likelihood of needlessly alarming those outside the threat area. When describing the threat area, the NWS does not list all cities or towns in that county or area.

The River Forest outdoor warning sirens are only activated for a Tornado Warning that will be affecting River Forest. The Village of River Forest has two outdoor warning sirens. One is located on the roof of the Village Hall and the second is located on a pole at the Pumping Station located at Jackson and Berkshire. The cone of the siren is motorized to rotate so the siren can be heard in all directions. The outdoor warning sirens sound a continuous siren tone and times out after five (5) minutes. If the threat or warning continues, the siren will be reactivated until the Tornado Warning timeframe has expired or is cancelled by the National Weather Service.

Although they have been upgraded and updated through the years, this outdoor warning siren system started out as the system to warn residents of a possible attack from foreign countries during the Cold War era back in the 1950's and 1960's. The outdoor warning sirens are tested on the first Tuesday of each month at 10:00am, unless there is threatening weather in the area.

Severe Weather Warnings

Although we observe Severe Weather Awareness Week in March every year, it's always important to keep an eye to the skies during the spring and summer months. It's also important to know about severe weather and the warnings we can get prior to an actual Severe Weather event. On average, the State of Illinois will see 53 tornadoes each year with nearly 20-percent occurring at night. Perhaps the earliest warning we can get is listening to our daily local weather forecasts. With new radar and weather technologies, local meteorologists can start letting us know multiple days in advance of severe storms that may be coming into the area.



Severe Weather Warnings



Outdoor Weather Warning Sirens

By the name alone, outdoor weather warning sirens are intended to notify people who may be outdoors and it is a signal to stop what they are doing and seek a substantial building to take refuge. Although you may be close enough to the siren location to hear it indoors, Outdoor Weather Warning Sirens are not intended to be heard indoors.

A very important reminder, Outdoor Weather Warning Sirens **WILL NOT** sound an all clear signal. When a severe weather event is occurring, the National Weather Service will issue a weather warning with a general time of the warning expiration. It is best to stay inside, away from windows until that timeframe has passed. If that warning timeframe is extended, the Nation Weather Service will issue another Tornado Warning which would then prompt another activation of the outdoor warning sirens. If there was an “all clear” signal, people could be confused if the second siren was an “all clear” or another warning.

For a number of reasons, tornadoes that occur at night are twice as likely to result in fatalities. The National Weather Service and state and local emergency management officials strongly encourage people to have a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) All Hazards Weather Radio with battery backup. These radios can be programmed to receive alerts for specified counties to keep you and your family aware of impending weather and post-event information for all types of hazards. When an alert is issued for the programmed area, the device will sound a warning alarm tone followed by the essential information such as where to tune for more information. You can get severe weather alerts on your smart phone as well.

Lightning sirens in Parks

The River Forest Park District maintains a series of lightning “predictors” that automatically activate when dangerous conditions exist that could produce lightning. The system will activate one-15 second blast of the horn and the yellow light will begin flashing and stay on indicating that the lightening threat is active. If conditions become safer and there is no active lightening in the area, the siren will activate three (3) -5 second horn blasts and the yellow light will turn off. However, if the lightning threat continues and the yellow light is on, it is NOT safe to use the fields in the parks and you should stay in your shelter. Dugouts are not to be used as shelters. Lightning predictors are located at the Park District offices at 401 Thatcher, Priory Park, Washington Park, Keystone Park, The River Forest Library building and Willard School.

If you are outdoors when the siren is activated, DO NOT seek refuge under a tent or canopy. Winds can turn the tent or canopy into a sail in a matter of moments. Thunderstorms can produce damaging winds, deadly lightning, large hail, flash floods and tornadoes and a tent or canopy is no match for severe weather.

For more information on Severe Weather Preparation please call the River Forest Fire Prevention Bureau at 708-714-3562.