

RIVER FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT



MONTHLY REPORT

DECEMBER 2022



MEMORANDUM

TO: Brian Murphy
Village Administrator

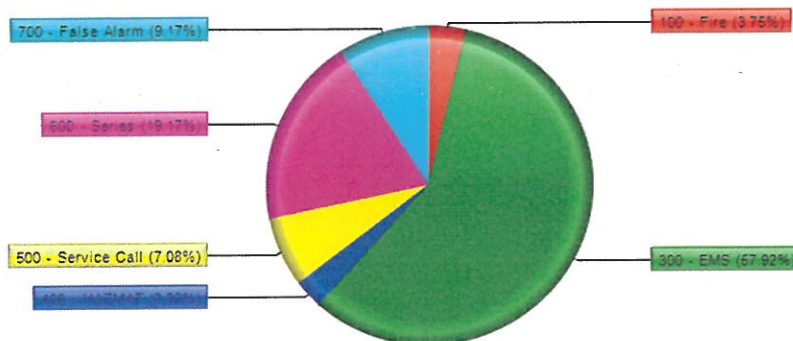
FROM: Thomas Gaertner
Thomas Gaertner
Fire Chief

DATE: January 4, 2023

SUBJECT: Monthly Report – December 2022

The Fire Department responded to 240 calls during the month of December. This is above our average number of calls in comparison to December 2021 where we had 222 calls. Emergency Medical Service calls represent 57.92% of our response activity for the month of December.

Incident Type Group	December 2022
100 - Fire	9
300 - EMS	139
400 - Hazardous Conditions	7
500 - Service Call	17
600 - Good Intent	46
700 - False Alarms	22
Monthly Total	240



Incident of Interest: With the extreme cold weather we experienced in the later part of the month, our fire activity increased. The River Forest FD responded to five extra alarm fires in six days. Luckily there were no injuries or fatalities at any of these fires. A very busy month for the department.

Chief Gaertner Report

- Attended monthly RFFD Officers meeting
- Attended the Semi-Annual 2% Foreign Fire Tax Board Meeting
- Attended the Monthly Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association Meeting
- Attended the Division 20 Annual Christmas Luncheon
- Attended the monthly Metro Chiefs Executive Board Meeting
- Attended the monthly Statewide Terrorism & Intelligence Center (STIC) webinar
- Attended the monthly MABAS Division 11 Fire Chiefs Meeting
- Attended a meeting with Zoll Corporation regarding leasing our cardiac monitors
- Attended a Zoom Meeting regarding Medicare Ground Ambulance Data Collection
- Attended the Annual Loyola Hospital EMS Christmas Luncheon
- Responded to a Box Alarm in Stickney

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU **December 2022 and YTD**

As we have talked about in several monthly reports, December was the last ISEARCH Assemblies for 2022. 2022 was the best of two worlds when it came to our Public Education Safety Assemblies. We were able to use the video that Ben Ransom put together as a pre-test/post-test for the assembly. Some of the teachers would show the video as much as two weeks prior to our live assembly. We would then come in and see how much they retained and could come up with some correct answers. Now, the video does not contain all of the material from the live assembly, but we think the kids bought in to the material and the exchange between all of us was very beneficial. Another offshoot to this way of teaching was we were able to use the video to enhance the learning and comprehension of the material at times when we were not available to do live assemblies. We will be making sure that all schools and all classes have the video in 2023.

Included in this month's report are the breakdown of our Public Education contact numbers. We had contact with 2256 children and 768 adults in the various programs that the Fire Department is all involved.

The December report is also the Year End Report of our Fire Prevention activities. Looking at the numbers it really is amazing how the year-to-year numbers are close in comparison to other years. The numbers fluctuate from year to year for a variety of reasons but for the over-all

numbers, they stay close. A marked improvement and a major goal of mine was to reduce the over-all turnaround of plan reviews. My review numbers for December are down to 4 business days and the YTD number is under 6 business days.

The holiday timeframe is also a time for the annual Employee Recognition Luncheon (see pics). This year we held the event inside the Fire Station. This allows us to honor some social distancing while still maintaining the closeness of other staff departments that make River Forest a great place to work. We also held the 2nd floor Potluck lunch in December. The “White Elephant” was a very funny event. Mike Thomasino from the Water Department won my “Die Hard” Trivia Contest and was awarded the Certificate and NEW traveling trophy for 2022. The winner has the honor of proudly displaying the trophy and certificate in their workspace for the next year. The end of year is also the time when I take some time to be with my family and enjoy the spirit of the holidays.

The last item in my monthly report is a summary of activities that do not fit in any other category such as, hydrant flows for sprinkler companies, servicing a Knox Box, public education flyers, and picking up and/or dropping off vehicles for service among others. These activities may not be difficult but do take up time that I like to account for.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Wiley
Fire Marshal



RIVER FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT
 FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU
 MONTHLY REPORT
 December 2021

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES	MONTHLY TOTALS		YEAR TO DATE	
	Dec-21	Dec-22	2021 Year End	2022 year end
**FPB Inspections	7	7	113	131
**Company Inspections	15	20	196	182
FPB Re-Inspections	2	2	35	57
Company Re-Inspections	16	4	99	107
Special Inquiry/B/L Site Inspections	11	1	18	18
Construction Inspections (Rough/Finals)	1	2	46	29
Inspections with Building Department	0	0	13	6
Inspections with/for State Fire Marshal	0	0	4	9
Permit Inspections (tent, hot work, UST)	2	0	33	30
TOTAL INSPECTIONS	54	36	557	569
School/Business Emergency Plan/Drills	0	1	21	14
Violation Notices Issued	8	12	182	186
Violations Noted	20	38	425	520
Violations Corrected	21	16	236	254
Permits Issued	0	0	20	30
**Complaints Received & Investigated	0	0	2	3
All Meetings/Consultations	5	5	29	104
Training Activities	0	0	37	38
Fire Suppress/Alarm System Test/Final	0	0	2	3
Fire Suppression Hydro's	0	0	3	3
**Plan Reviews and Revisions	9	7	150	191
**Average turn around (Business Days)	11.8 days	4 days	6.21 days	5.71 days
Public Education Programs	3	1	45	38
Public Education Program Contacts	87	102	2495	3024
Misc Fire Prev Activities (See Narrative)	7	7	73	70

** Performance Measures for the Chief

Kevin Wiley
 Fire Marshal

2022 Year End Report

River Forest FD				
Annual Public Education Activity Totals				
Year	2022			
			KIDS	ADULTS
Scouts			7	7
Station Tours			65	12
Preschool Program			28	4
Senior Citizen Talks				36
Fire/Life Safety Talks			17	16
College Talks				30
Fire Extinguisher Training			0	0
CPR/AED				17
Health Fair/ Booth Displays			0	45
Open House			200	150
ISEARCH School Assemblies			1536	109
Block Parties			363	322
Birthday Parade			40	20
		Sub Total	2256	768
		Total 3024		

Individual Shift Reports

Gold Shift Report Lt. Howe

Activities: For the month of December, Gold Shift responded to a total of 89 calls. 17 of the calls were fire related, 60 involved emergency medical services and there were 3 service calls.

Incidents/Events of Note: On December 10th, Gold shift responded to Harlem and North Avenues for a gunshot victim. Ambulance 213 provided advanced life support and transported victim in serious condition to Loyola Medical center.

On December 18, Gold shift responded to the Forest Preserve for a fight in progress that resulted in a 59-year-old woman being run over by a vehicle four times. Ambulance 213 provided advanced life support and transported victim in serious condition to Loyola Medical center.

On December 24th members of the gold shift responded to a structure fire on 77th Ave in Elmwood Park. Crew assisted in doing a primary search and assisted in overhaul and extinguishment.

Training: Gold shift had 80 hours of fire related training this month, 9 hours of EMS training for an average of 17.8 hours per firefighter. Our monthly fire training included Emergency Vehicle driver safety, AHA CPR refresher, SCBA and Responding to Electrical Emergencies.

Outside of Department Training

- FF Paul Zipperich recertified all three shifts in CPR.
- LT Howe attended Div. 11 TRT drill on confined space in Oak Park.

Inspections: Gold shift completed 3 company fire inspections in December.

Black Shift Report: Lt. Bochenek

Activities: Black Shift had a total of 99 calls. 43 were fire related, 51 were EMS calls, 5 service call.

Incidents/Events of Note: Engine 213 responded to change of quarters in Maywood for a second extra alarm church fire.

Shift Training: Black shift conducted 193.5 hours of fire related training this month and 12 hours of EMS training for a total of 205.5 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 34.25 hours per LT and firefighter/paramedics. Hazmat training, Quick drills, driver training, SCBA maze, and preplan reviews were conducted this month. 4 of 6 Black shifters attended the TECC class in Orland Park. This class provided 2 days of training for managing and providing care in an active shooter situation.

Inspections: Several inspections and multiple re-inspections were completed. 1 initial inspection remains.

Red Shift Report: Lt. Smith

Activities: For the month of December, Red Shift had a total of 63 calls. 26 of the calls were fire related. There were 31 EMS calls and 6 service calls.

Incidents/Events of Note: On December 20th, Red Shift responded to the structure fire at 7212 Oak Ave. Dispatch reported that the caller sees smoke on the 4th floor. River Forest units arrived on scene investigated and found smoke in the 4th floor hallway. The engine company went up a ladder onto the roof to inspect the elevator room and found a burnt elevator motor. The elevator was shut down while the positive pressure ventilation fan was used to ventilate smoke from the building.

On December 26th, Red Shift responded to a structure fire at 1642 S. 15th Ave, Maywood. Engine 213 arrived on scene and was given the assignment to conduct a primary search in the basement of a two-story church, heavily involved in fire. Engine 213 was conducting the primary search when they observed fire at the ceiling in the northwest corner of the basement just as Maywood Command reported all interior crews to evacuate the building. Engine 213 crew left the building to find the first floor with heavy smoke and fire conditions. Engine 213 was then assigned to supply water to Maywood Truck 502 for the duration of the incident.

On December 30th, Red Shift responded to a structure fire at 400 N. 5th Ave, Maywood. E213 arrived on scene and was assigned to overhaul of the smoke-filled basement ceiling of another large two-story church. E213 used pike poles to pull ceiling to look for fire extension.

Shift Training: Red Shift had 111.50 hours of fire related training this month and 38 hours of EMS training for a total of 149.50 hours of training. That is an average of 24.9 hours per firefighter.

Shift members completed quarterly adult and pediatric intubations training sessions. Shift members attended a CPR refresher course taught by FF Zipperich. Red Shift used structure fire videos to work on scene size-up, tactics, and firefighter safety. The Shift went to 7200-7214 Oak Ave to record hose deployment measurements from Harlem Ave to the front of each building on the property and also reviewed tactics and strategies to be used. Red Shift attended a tour of Grace Lutheran School and Church. Firefighter Doran attended Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC) class in Orland Park. The 16-hour class provided paramedics skills to be used in an active shooter response. Firefighter Viera attended a 4-hour Division 11 Hazmat Drill in North Riverside.

Inspections: 4 In-Company Inspections were conducted with 6 violations noted, and 5 Re-inspections with 8 corrections noted.

Training Lt. Carter

This month the department participated in various training activities such as:

- Shifts continued their assigned building inspections
- There was no Loyola Continuing Education for December
- Several members attended a TECC (Tactical Emergency Casualty Care) class in Orland Park December 7th-8th
- There was a combined Division 11 Hazardous Material / TRT drill at the old Mohr Ready-Mix plant in Oak Park. Haz Mat monitoring and sampling was done. TRT Training was confined space and patient packaging
- Shifts performed a Pre-plan / building familiarization at Grace Lutheran Church and School

EMS/Paramedic Activity FF/PM Fischer

During the month of December, RFFD had patient contact with 147 patients. Of the 147 patients, 115 were treated and transported by Ambulance 215, 6 were invalid assists, 26 patients refused care. These 147 patients had various complaints. Below is a breakdown of the complaints:

No complaint – 0
 Abdominal Pain – 4
 Allergic Reaction – 1
 Animal Bite -- 0
 Assault – 4
 Breathing Problems – 13
 Burns -- 0
 Psychiatric – 10
 Chest Pain – 2
 Cardiac/Traumatic/Respiratory Arrest – 1
 Choking -- 0
 Diabetic – 2
 Eye Problem -- 0
 Fall - 16
 Headache/Concussion – 0
 Hemorrhage/Bleeding -- 2
 Medical Alarm – 2
 Opiate Overdose -- 2
 Pain (Back) – 2
 Pain (General) -- 2
 Patient Assist – 0
 Poisoning / Drug Ingestion – 0
 Seizure – 2
 Sick Person -- 36
 Stroke / CVA – 1
 Traffic Accident -- 22
 Traumatic Injury – 5
 Unconscious/Unresponsive – 6
 Unknown Problems -- 9

The 115 patients who were transported went to the following hospitals:

Gottlieb – 19
 Hines VA – 0
 Loyola – 10
 MacNeal - 2
 Community First -- 0
 Rush / Oak Park – 83
 Resurrection - 0
 West Suburban – 1

We had 34 calls to other towns for a mutual aid ambulance and received aid from other towns 9 times.

Vehicle/Station Maintenance FF/PM Zipperich

Vehicles

- 200- Replaced SCBA retaining strap
- 201- Nothing reported
- 202- Nothing reported
- 213- Nothing reported
- 214- Current registration and insurance in glove box
- 215-Safety Lane passed/ 2 new batteries installed/ radio not transmitting, console removed, fuses checked, reinstalled and now working/ current registration and insurance in glove box
- 218- Nothing reported
- 219- Nothing reported
- 222- Nothing reported

EQUIPMENT

- 3 flashlight batteries replaced
- Motorola package to Chief
- Scoop stretcher repaired
- 213 Sensit OOS
- LDH hose #452 tested/passed due to car running over hose at Maywood fire

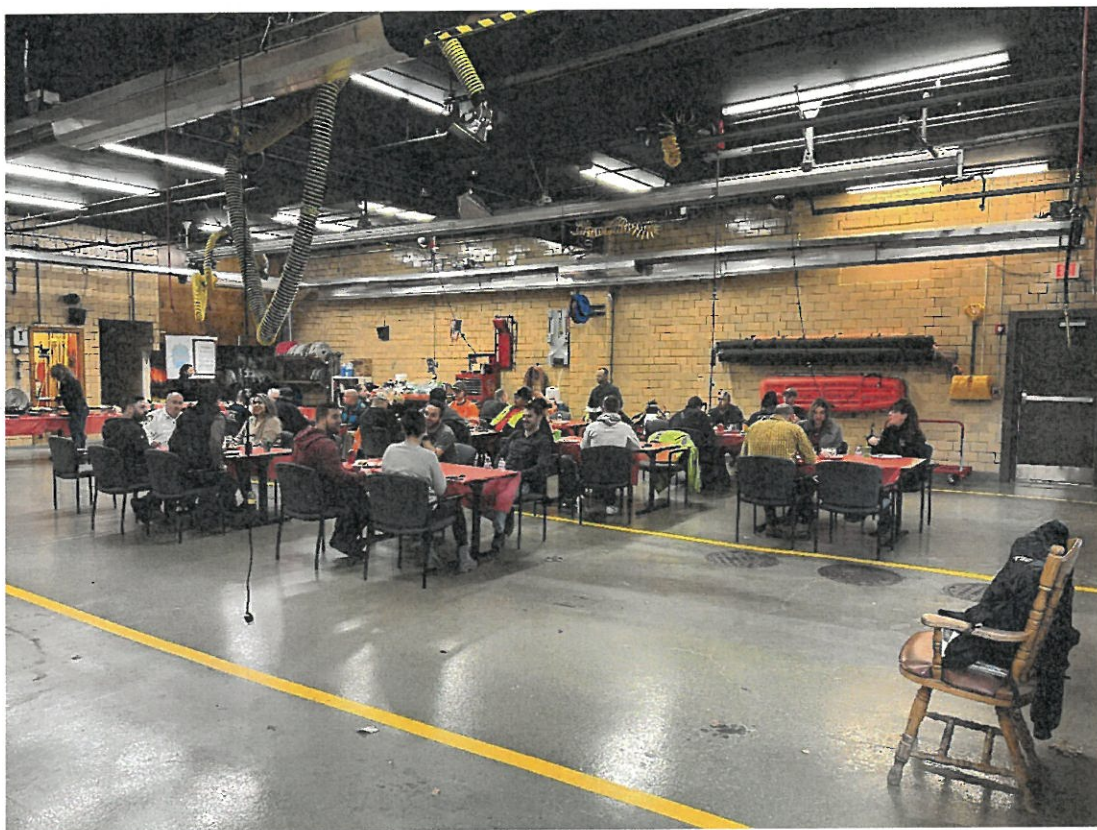
STATION

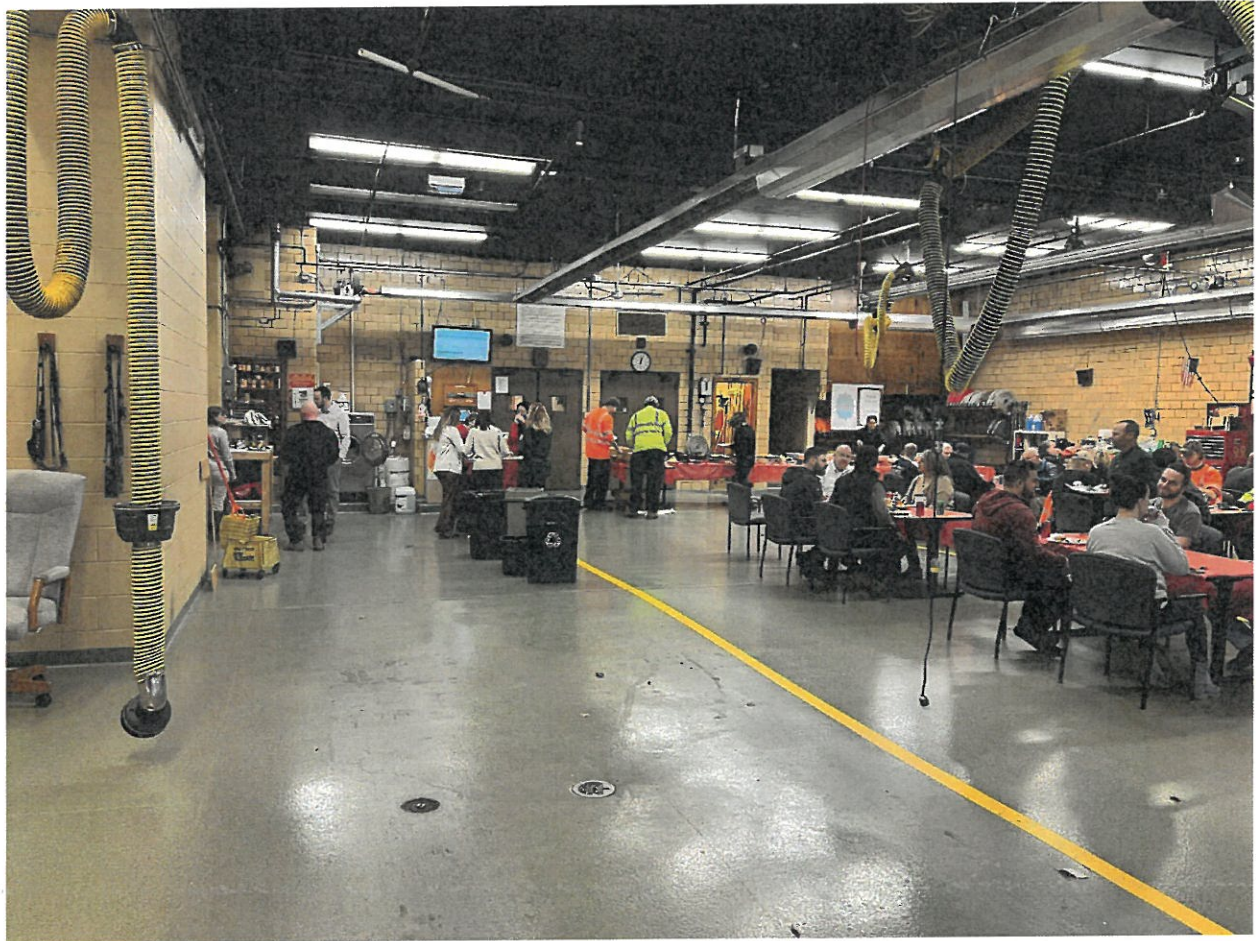
- Oil dry delivered
- Salt delivered
- Copier toner delivered

VILLAGE EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION LUNCHEON
&
CHRISTMAS MOVIE TRIVIA WINNER









LETTERS OF RECOGNITION



**Loyola
University
Medical
Center**

November 8th, 2022

Chief Thomas Gaertner
River Forest Fire Department
400 Park Ave.
River Forest, IL 60305

Chief Kelly:

The Loyola EMS Office would like to formally recognize the excellent pre-hospital care provided by Adam Seablom, Christopher Doran, and Matthew Basa on October 24th, 2022 (Run Number 22-2223).

The call involved an 11-year-old female who was struck by a car while she was riding on a bicycle. At the time of their arrival, the crew found the patient laying in the street and poorly responsive, presenting with an obvious head injury. The crew promptly implemented spinal precautions, performed a thorough and highly accurate assessment, and initiated transport to a Level I Trauma Center. The crew transferred care to the Trauma team a mere 21 minutes after the injury occurred, and very shortly thereafter bleeding in the patient's brain was identified and successfully intervened upon. The patient regained consciousness during her hospital admission and, with the exception of some minor vision problems, has completely intact neurological function.

Mr. Seablom, Mr. Doran, and Mr. Basa demonstrated proficiency and clinical excellence in their care of this patient, and it is because of their efforts that the patient is alive and well today.

The Loyola EMS Office recognizes these individuals for their delivery of exemplary care.

Respectfully,

Mark Cichon, D.O., FACEP, FACOEP (dist)
Professor and Chair
Department of Emergency Medicine
Medical Director of EMS and Aeromedical Services
Loyola University Chicago-Stritch School of Medicine

Robert Franciere, DNP, RN, CEN, TNS, PHRN
Manager
EMS System Coordinator
Emergency Medical Services
Loyola University Health System

A Heartfelt 'Thank You' to River Forest's Finest

River Forest resident Bushra ElSaffar, along with her American and Iraqi families, want to publicly thank the members of the River Forest Fire and Police Departments for their heroic efforts at saving Bushra's life after a terrible fire.

On the morning of March 31, 2022, Bushra was awakened by a cracking noise. She left her bedroom to investigate and found thick smoke and a raging fire in the hallway. The heat and smoke made it nearly impossible for her to breathe, but she somehow managed to move from the hallway into an adjoining room that had a landline phone. From there she called 911 but could only say a few words about the nature of the emergency. Then she lost consciousness.

The 911 dispatcher was not certain if the emergency was a fire or a burglary, so River Forest's police and fire departments were both sent to the house. The first to arrive was a police officer who had to force open a door to gain access to the locked house. Since the officer was responding to a possible burglary, he was not wearing protective breathing equipment. As a result, he inhaled some smoke from the fire for which he was briefly hospitalized.

When it became clear that the emergency was a fire, personnel from fire departments in Forest Park, Oak Park, Elmwood Park, River Grove, North Riverside, Berwyn, Cicero, and Maywood came to the scene. But the members of the River Forest Fire Department were the first to enter the house.

It is hard to imagine the difficulties and dangers the firefighters faced upon entry. The heat of the fire was so intense that the house's windows had begun to crack and were on the verge of exploding. The smoke was so thick that the light-colored interior walls were covered with what appeared to be a coat of pitch-black paint.

Despite extremely hazardous conditions and a lack of familiarity with the house, the firefighters had to search the premises because they knew that at least one person was trapped inside. And they had to act quickly, as a delay could mean the difference between life and death.

Bushra was barely breathing when the firefighters found her, and they quickly took her out of the toxic atmosphere inside the house. Once outside, however, the trauma from her exposure to smoke and heat took its toll. She stopped breathing.

Fortunately, the highly trained personnel on the scene were able to rapidly administer a variety of advanced life-saving techniques. After a few minutes, Bushra regained the ability to breathe on her own.

Once stabilized, Bushra was transported to Loyola Hospital's Burn Unit, where she was diagnosed with severe smoke inhalation. She spent two and a half weeks in intensive care at the burn unit, breathing with the help of a machine for ten days. After being released from intensive care she spent another week in a rehabilitation facility and then spent many months recovering on an outpatient basis.

Now, nearly nine months after the fire, we are pleased to report that Bushra's recovery from her harrowing experience is nearly complete. She has resumed her normal activities and hopes to return to her rebuilt home soon.

In the United States, expressions of appreciation for the work of first responders is so common that it is almost routine. But the actions of the emergency responders from River Forest and nearby suburbs were hardly routine.

Exhibiting great skill, professionalism, and bravery, a group of people who had never met Bushra put themselves at risk in order to save her life. We are fortunate to have such professionals serving the people of River Forest, and we are profoundly grateful for their efforts.

Bushra ElSaffar

Step-children: Ali ElSaffar; Dena El Saffar and her husband Tim Moore; Amir ElSaffar and his partner Zahra Ali; Azhaar El-Saffar; Nadia El-Saffar.

Step-grandchildren: Jamil Moore; Layla Moore.

Siblings: Ali al-Kurwi; Alia al-Kurwi; Hussein al-Kurwi; Yusra al-Kurwi.

Other friends and family: Thuraia and Faiq al-Bazzaz; Rafet Ramadan; Julia Snodgrass.