

# **RIVER FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT**



# **MONTHLY REPORT**

## **DECEMBER 2023**



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Matt Walsh  
Village Administrator

FROM: Thomas Gaertner  
Thomas Gaertner  
Fire Chief

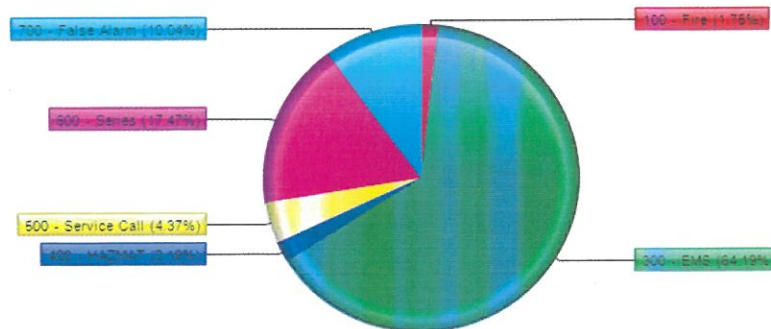
DATE: January 8, 2024

SUBJECT: Monthly Report – December 2023

---

The Fire Department responded to 230 calls during the month of December. This is below our average number of calls in comparison to December 2022 where we had 251 calls. Emergency Medical Service calls represent 64.19% of our response activity for the month of December.

Incident Type Group	December 2023
100 - Fire	4
300 - EMS	147
400 - Hazardous Conditions	5
500 - Service Call	10
600 - Good Intent	40
700 - False Alarms	23
800 - Other	1
<b>Monthly Total</b>	<b>230</b>





Custom ▾

Dec 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023 ▾

36%

FIRE

Percentage of Total Incidents

64%

EMS

Percentage of Total Incidents

230

INCIDENTS

In Selected Time Slice

31

DAYS

In Selected Time Slice



	Counts	% Rows	% Columns	% All										
Week Ending	12/3/23	12/10/23	12/17/23	12/24/23	12/31/23	1/7/24	1/14/24	1/21/24	1/28/24	2/4/24	2/11/24	2/18/24	2/25/24	Total
RIVER FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT	26	55	56	49	44									230
Total	26	55	56	49	44									230

Custom ▾ Jan 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023 ▾

**43%**

**FIRE**  
Percentage of Total Incidents

**57%**

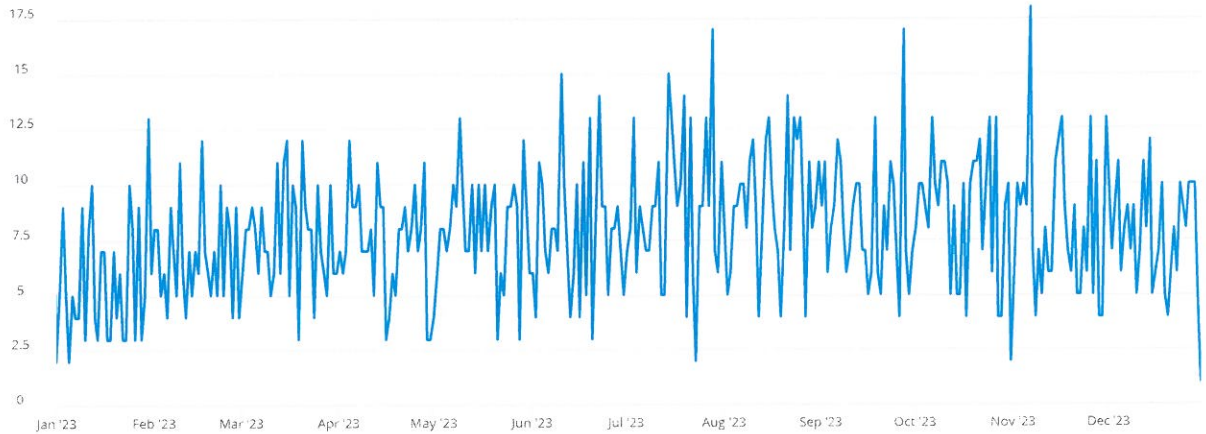
**EMS**  
Percentage of Total Incidents

**2,864**

**INCIDENTS**  
In Selected Time Slice

**365**

**DAYS**  
In Selected Time Slice



	Jan '23	Feb '23	Mar '23	Apr '23	May '23	Jun '23	Jul '23	Aug '23	Sep '23	Oct '23	Nov '23	Dec '23	Jan '24	Total
(11) Structure Fire	4	6	3	7	8	8	3	6	3	3		4		55
(13) Mobile property (vehicle) fire					2		1				1			4
(14) Natural vegetation fire					1	10	1				2			14
(15) Outside rubbish fire					1		1							2
(31) Medical assist							1							1
(32) Emergency medical service (EMS) incident	104	111	144	137	134	127	149	148	151	136	135	148		1,624
(33) Lock-In				1							1			2
(35) Extrication, rescue				1	2			1	1	1				6
(38) Rescue or EMS standby						1								1
(41) Combustible/fl.. spills & leaks	3	5	1	1	5	4	5	4	2	2	4	2		38
(42) Chemical release, reaction, or toxic condition	1	1			1		4	2	1	1	2	3		16
(44) Electrical wiring/equipm. problem	2	1	2	1	1	1	4	2	4	5	1			24
(45) Biological hazard								1						1
(46) Accident, potential accident							1							1
(51) Person in distress	3	5	4	3	2	7	2	5	2	3	4			40

	Jan '23	Feb '23	Mar '23	Apr '23	May '23	Jun '23	Jul '23	Aug '23	Sep '23	Oct '23	Nov '23	Dec '23	Jan '24	Total
(52) Water problem		2	1				4	1			2			10
(53) Smoke, odor problem		1				1	3	2		2	2	1		12
(55) Public service assistance	4	9	12	13	17	8	24	11	8	16	11	9		142
(57) Cover assignment, standby at fire station, move-up							2							2
(61) Dispatched and canceled en route	28	20	34	31	24	36	40	64	36	42	49	34		438
(62) Wrong location, no emergency found	4	5	4	3	16	8	8	5	10	14	5	5		87
(65) Steam, other gas mistaken for smoke		1	1	1			2			2	1	1		9
(71) Malicious, mischievous false alarm				1	1									2
(73) System or detector malfunction	1	2	6	2	2	2	6	3	1	3		4		32
(74) Unintentional system/detect... operation (no fire)	19	20	25	20	30	24	21	27	30	38	27	19		300
UNK				1										1
Total	173	189	237	223	247	237	282	282	249	269	246	230		2,864

### **Fire Chief Gaertner Report**

- Attended monthly RFFD Officers meeting.
- Attended the Weekly Village Administrators Staff Meetings.
- Attended the monthly Statewide Terrorism & Intelligence Center (STIC) webinar.
- Attended the Monthly Village Board of Trustees Meetings.
- Attended the Cook County Emergency Management EOP Kick-Off Meeting.
- Attended the Annual Division 11 Fire Chiefs Holiday Meeting.
- Attended the Annual Division 20 Fire Chiefs Holiday Meeting.
- Attended the 2025 Capital Improvement Plan Meeting.
- Responded to Structure Fires in Berwyn and Cicero.
- Attended the Annual Loyola EMS Fire Chiefs Meeting.
- Attended Zoom Meetings with Lexipol on Fire Department Policy Development.
- Attended a Webinar on the new NIFERS Reporting System Upgrades.

### **FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU**

#### **Fire Marshal Kevin Wiley**

2023 has come to a quick and very busy end!

Included in this month's report is the breakdown of our Public Education contact numbers. We had contact with 2484 children and adults in 56 events and 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 relatively 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 two business days and the YTD number is down to two business days as well.

Various members of the Village's Management Team were assembled for Communication Training by the Village's Communication Consultant. Among the items that we discussed was having communication with the media as soon as possible after an event/incident starts.

As we do at every year's end, the ISEARCH Team met on two occasions to discuss what we did and what we can do better in the coming year. ISEARCH is a safety program run by the Police Department. We teach safety on several subjects that include Fire Safety, Bike Safety, Gun Safety, Crossing the Street Safety Calling for Help etc. ISEARCH is funded by the River Forest Township under a grant. An interesting sidenote to this safety program has spawned some



interest with the District 90 Safety Team. The Committee was interested in our lessons and what we could do to extend our message to the homes of all the students. We had discussions in our committees where the Safety Team will be receiving a vote of confidence from the District 90 Administration to continue the program for the foreseeable future.

The holiday timeframe is also a time for the annual Employee Recognition Luncheon (see pics). Again, 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. The Fire Department had five members recognized for numerous years of service. We also held the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Potluck lunch in December. The “White Elephant” was a very funny event (and very competitive).

Mike Thomasino (Water Department) and John Carter (Fire Department), both won my “It’s A Wonderful Life” Movie Trivia Contest and will share the awarded “Framed” Certificate and NEW traveling trophy for 2023. The winners have the honor of proudly displaying the trophy and certificate in their workspace for six months each during 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.



**RIVER FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT  
FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU  
MONTHLY REPORT  
December 2023**

#VALUEI	MONTHLY TOTALS		YEAR TO DATE	
	Dec-22	Dec-23	2022	2023
**FPB Inspections	7	7	131	<b>141</b>
**Company Inspections	20	7	182	<b>182</b>
FPB Re-Inspections	2	4	57	<b>85</b>
Company Re-Inspections	4	12	107	<b>92</b>
Special Inquiry/B/L Site Inspections	1	3	18	<b>15</b>
Construction Inspections (Rough/Finals)	2	3	29	<b>47</b>
Inspections with Building Department	0	1	6	<b>2</b>
Inspections with/for State Fire Marshal	0	0	9	<b>4</b>
Permit Inspections (tent, hot work, UST)	0	1	30	<b>31</b>
<b>TOTAL INSPECTIONS</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>599</b>
School/Business Emergency Plan/Drills	1	2	14	<b>30</b>
Violation Notices Issued	12	7	186	<b>162</b>
Violations Noted	38	19	520	<b>391</b>
Violations Corrected	16	16	254	<b>249</b>
Permits Issued	0	1	30	<b>33</b>
**Complaints Received & Investigated	0	0	3	<b>3</b>
All Meetings/Consultations	5	9	104	<b>73</b>
Training Activities	0	1	38	<b>31</b>
Fire Suppress/Alarm System Test/Final	0	2	3	<b>14</b>
Fire Suppression Hydro's	0	1	3	<b>6</b>
**Plan Reviews and Revisions	7	12	191	<b>139</b>
**Average turn around (Business Days)	4 days	2.08 days	5.71 days	<b>2.41 days</b>
Public Education Programs	1	3	38	<b>56</b>
Public Education Program Contacts	102	24	3024	<b>**2484</b>
Misc Fire Prev Activities (See Narrative)	7	8	70	<b>89</b>

\*\* Performance Measures for the Chief  
Fire Marshal Kevin Wiley

\*\*Adjusted Public Education numbers from ESO for the year



## **Individual Shift Reports**

### **Gold Shift Report Lt. Howe**

**Activities:** For the month of December, the Gold Shift had a total of 75 calls. 23 of the calls were fire related, 51 involved emergency medical services and there was one service call.

**Incidents/Events of Note:** On December 19<sup>th</sup> Gold shift responded for a battery victim at 7706 Madison St. Crew transported a 10 y/o victim BLS to LUMC. A report was made by Ambulance crew to the Department of Family Services due to suspected child abuse.

**Shift Training:** Gold shift conducted 140 hours of training this month, for an average of 23.3 hours per firefighter. Our monthly training included CPR, care and maintenance of equipment, forcible entry, SCBA training, driver/operator training, and EMS SOP review and report writing.

FF's Zipperich Attended the Div. 11 Hazmat/TRT rodeo as a Hazmat instructor.

FF's Zipperich and Rouse provided Annual CPR Recertification to the shift.

FF Krall completed Tactical casualty care class in Orland.

Members of the Gold shift attended the Div. 11 Hazmat/TRT rodeo in Cicero.

### **Inspections:**

Gold Shift Completed 8 inspections in December. There are 4 additional inspections off the 2023 list that are scheduled to be completed in January, leaving 6 total incomplete out of 77 due to no return on call or emails or no show.

### **Black Shift Report: Lt. Boyd**

**Activities:** Black Shift had a total of 73 calls. 25 were fire related, 46 were EMS calls, and 2 were public service.

**Incidents/Events of note:** No special events/incidents. Black shift was able to complete all the hydrants that were assigned to the shift.

**Shift Training:** Black shift conducted 88 hours of fire related training this month and 57.5 hours of EMS training for a total of 145.5 hours of training. That is an average of 24.25 hours per Lieutenant and firefighter/paramedics. Drivers training, tools & equipment, fire hydrant operations, SCBA, fire extinguisher operation, pre-planning, physical fitness, and pumping operations training were completed this month. This month was heavy on EMS documentation as we are preparing to transition to Image Trend Software next month.

**Inspections:** All assigned inspections were completed, minus a few properties we have not been able to reach for inspection, FM Wiley is aware.

**Red Shift Report: Lt. Smith**

**Activities:** For the month of December, Red Shift responded to a total of 82 calls. 24 of the calls were fire related. There were 51 EMS calls and 7 service calls.

**Incidents/Events of note:** On December 1<sup>st</sup>, Truck 219 responded to the apartment building fire at 5931 16<sup>th</sup> Street in Cicero. Truck 219 raised the aerial ladder and pumped hand lines. The crew of T219 used a 2 ½ hose line to extinguish fire. On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, E213 and T219 responded to 127 Ashland Ave for the stove fire. The crew extinguished the fire and ventilated the home. On December 7<sup>th</sup>, Engine 213 responded to the structure fire at 2916 73<sup>rd</sup> CT, Elmwood Park. The crew performed a primary search. The crew went to the exposure building and found fire extension. E213 extinguished the fire in the exposure building. On December 30<sup>th</sup>, E213 responded to 813 Beloit, Forest Park for the basement fire. After investigation, E401 found it was a dryer fire. E213 used a PPV fan to ventilate the home. FF Doran provided medical standby at the Concordia University Commencement.

**Shift Training:** Red Shift conducted 113 hours of fire related training this month and 32.75 hours of EMS training for a total of 145.75 hours of training. That is an average of 24.3 hours per firefighter. Red Shift continues to train the probationary firefighter. Red Shift trained on vertical ventilation, a SCBA obstacle course and entanglement drill using artificial smoke and the training prop. The Shift performed aerial operations with Truck 219. The Shift attended the Division 11 Hazmat/TRT drill in Cicero. A walk through of Dominican University campus was completed for building familiarization, Knox Box, and fire dept. connection locations. The Knox Boxes were checked with security, new keycards and keys were added. The Shift attended the Cardiac Arrest Medical Management drill. Image Trend documentation was reviewed, and members practiced on the new software. FF Doran installed one car safety seat. The Shift provided two firehouse tours.

**Inspections:** 0 In-company inspections with 0 violations, and 0 Re-inspections with 0 corrections were conducted.

**Department Training Lt. Carter**

For December 2023 the department participated in various training activities such as:

- Loyola CE was not held in December.
- Shifts continued their assigned building inspections.
- Some hydrants still need to be completed.
- NIPSTA came to River Forest and taught Cardiac Arrest Medical Management for all 3 shifts.
- There was a combined Division 11 Haz Mat/TRT drill in Cicero December 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>. Objectives presented for Haz Mat were monitoring, ERG guide, Level B suit donning damming and diking, decontamination. For TRT, members put on harnesses and ascended a rope approximately 20 feet
- FF/PM Seablom attended Division 11 Fire Investigator drill in Berwyn. Subject was Electrical Fires.
- I am finalizing an annual training schedule on the Outlook Calendar

**EMS/Paramedic Activity FF/PM Fischer**

In the month of December, RFFD responded for a total of 158 patients. Of the 158 patients, 106 were treated and transported by Ambulance 215, 5 were invalid assists, 2 were DOA's and 46 patients refused care. These 158 patients had various complaints. Below are how the complaints break down:

No complaint – 0  
 Abdominal Pain – 1  
 Allergic Reaction – 2  
 Altered Mental Status - 1  
 Animal Bite -- 0  
 Assault – 5  
 Breathing Problems – 15  
 Burns -- 0  
 Psychiatric – 5  
 Chest Pain – 6  
 Cardiac/Traumatic/Respiratory Arrest – 2  
 Choking – 0  
 CO Poisoning - 0  
 Diabetic – 0  
 Electrocution - 0  
 Eye Problem -- 0  
 Fall – 19  
 General aches, pain - 1  
 General Injury - 0

Headache/Concussion – 1  
Hemorrhage/Bleeding – 1  
Medical/Inter-Facility Transfer - 0  
Medical Alarm – 0  
Opiate Overdose -- 1  
Pain (Back) – 1  
Pain (General) -- 2  
Patient Assist – 4  
Poisoning / Drug Ingestion – 4  
Pregnancy/Childbirth -- 0  
Seizure – 2  
Sick Person -- 46  
Stroke / CVA – 2  
Special Event Stand-by - 0  
Traffic Accident – 27  
Traumatic Arrest - 0  
Traumatic Injury – 1  
Unconscious/Unresponsive – 2  
Unknown Problems – 4  
Weakness - 4

The 106 patients who were transported went to the following hospitals:

Gottlieb – 17  
Hines VA – 0  
Loyola – 10  
MacNeal -0  
Community First -- 0  
Rush / Oak Park – 77  
Resurrection - 0  
West Suburban – 2

We had 25 calls to other towns for a mutual aid ambulance and received aid from other towns 16 times.

### Vehicle/Station Maintenance    **LT. ED HOWE & FF/PM Zipperich**

Lt Howe and FF Zipperich continued fine tuning vehicle our maintenance program. Below is listed the highlights of maintenance and repairs performed during the year, including any incomplete or pending repairs carried over into 2024 listed in red.

- 200-In service this year. Had 1<sup>st</sup> preventative maintenance preformed in November.
- 201-Scheduled for service in January
- 218-Prevntative maintenance completed. New Battery and Alternator installed in November.
- 213-Preventative Maintenance and pump test complete. Extensive wiring and brake repairs completed. EGR and low coolant light issues repaired. **SRS system needs additional diagnosis (issue almost since new, still unable to correct).Kusmaul charger not working since 12/30.(FSI Replacing charger 1/3/24)**
- 222- Preventative Maintenance and pump test complete.
- 219- Preventative Maintenance and pump test complete. Extensive aerial repairs including repairing broken cat track, lift cylinders and rotation sensor. Pump Valve replacement, DEF system injector.
- 215- Preventative Maintenance completed in September. **Back up camera still needs repair Creak noise from rear suspension and preventative maintenance scheduled for January.**
- 214-Preventative maintenance completed in November, Left inner tie rod replaced. Miscellaneous lights installed in house, V-mux repaired in house. **Exhaust fumes in patient compartment and rear step bumper broken.**

### **EQUIPMENT**

No report.

### **FIRE STATION**

No report.