

RIVER FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT



MONTHLY REPORT

DECEMBER 2024



MEMORANDUM

TO: Matt Walsh
Village Administrator

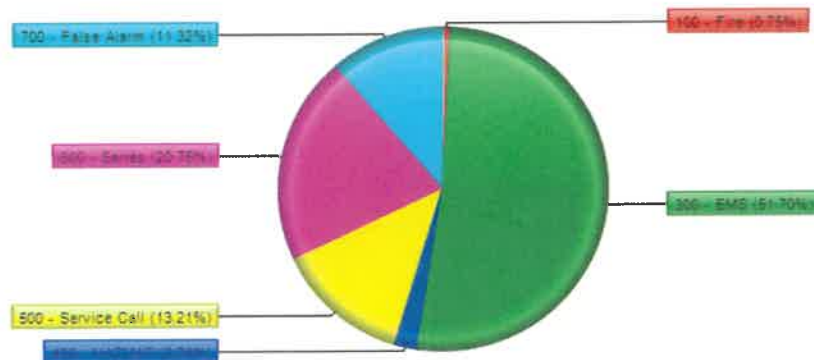
FROM: Thomas Gaertner
Thomas Gaertner
Fire Chief

DATE: January 13, 2025

SUBJECT: Monthly Report – December 2025

The Fire Department responded to 267 calls during the month of December. This is lower than our average number of calls in comparison to December 2023, when we had 230 calls. Emergency Medical Service calls represent 51% of our response activity for the month of December.

Incident Type Group	December 2024
100 - Fire	2
300 - EMS	137
400 - Hazardous Conditions	6
500 - Service Call	35
600 - Good Intent	57
700 - False Alarms	30
900 - Special Incident	0
Monthly Total	267



Custom ▾ Dec 1, 2024 - Dec 31, 2024 ▾

49%

FIRE
Percentage of Total Incidents

51%

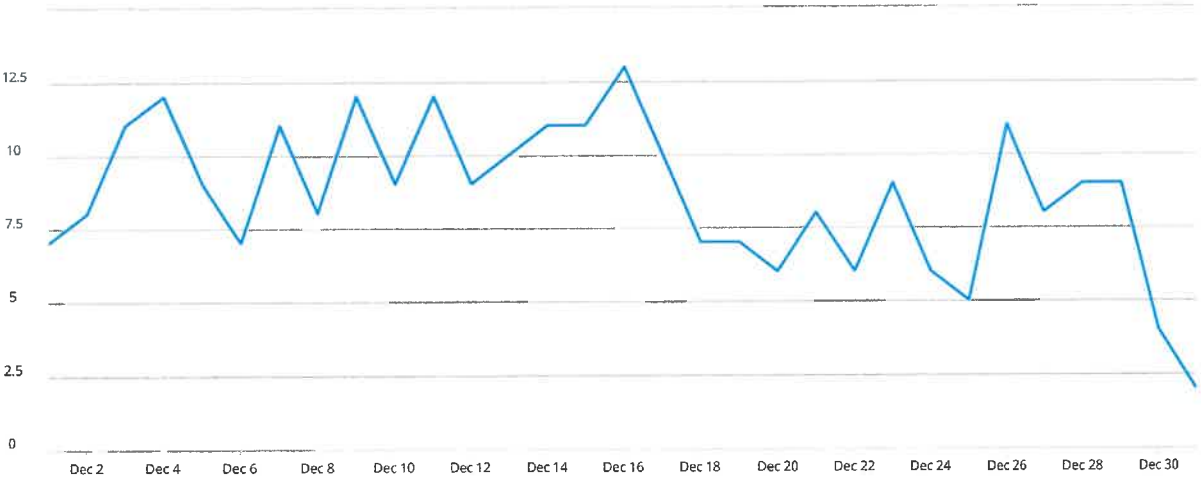
EMS
Percentage of Total Incidents

267

INCIDENTS
In Selected Time Slice

31

DAYS
In Selected Time Slice



Counts	% Rows	% Columns	% All											
Week Ending	12/1/24	12/8/24	12/15/24	12/22/24	12/29/24	1/5/25	1/12/25	1/19/25	1/26/25	2/2/25	2/9/25	2/16/25	2/23/25	Total
RIVER FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT	7	66	74	57	57	6								267
Total	7	66	74	57	57	6								267



Custom ▾

Jan 1, 2024 - Dec 31, 2024 ▾

43%

FIRE
Percentage of Total Incidents

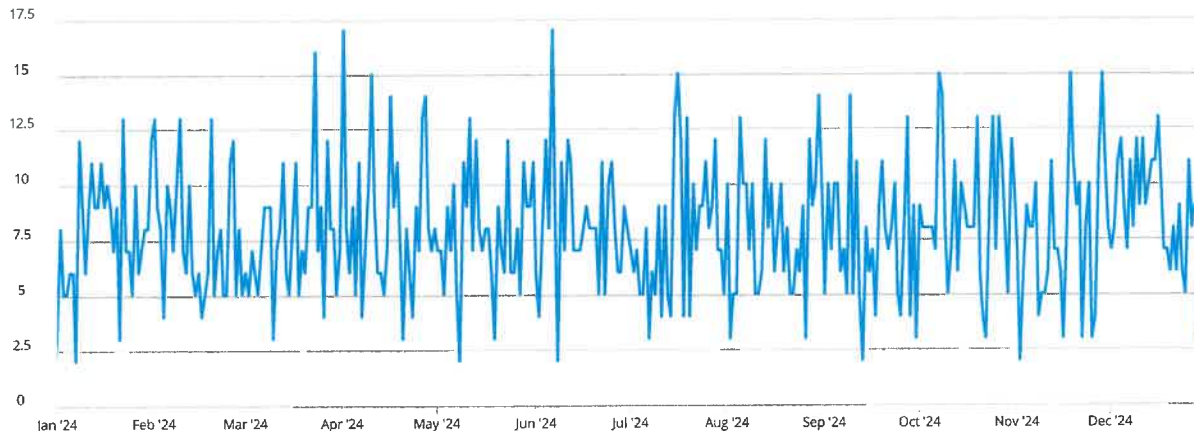
57%

EMS
Percentage of Total Incidents

2,915

INCIDENTS
In Selected Time Slice

366

DAYS
In Selected Time Slice

Counts

% Rows

% Columns

% All

	Jan '24	Feb '24	Mar '24	Apr '24	May '24	Jun '24	Jul '24	Aug '24	Sep '24	Oct '24	Nov '24	Dec '24	Jan '25	Total
(11) Structure Fire	1	3	5	4	3	2	2	5	8	1	1	2		37
(13) Mobile property (vehicle) fire		1								1	1			3
(14) Natural vegetation fire		2	1								1			4
(15) Outside rubbish fire			1			1	1		1		1			5
(16) Special outside fire						1					1			2
(21) Overpressure rupture from steam (no ensuing fire)		1												1
(25) Excessive heat, scorch burns with no ignition				1										1
(32) Emergency medical service (EMS) incident	130	124	143	142	158	139	148	142	132	154	114	136		1,662
(33) Lock-In	2						2			1				5
(35) Extrication, rescue		3	1		1		1	2		3	3	2		16
(38) Rescue or EMS standby		1			1									2
(41) Combustible/f. spills & leaks	3	2	2	1	2	3		3		1	2	5		24
(42) Chemical release, reaction, or toxic condition	1	1	1		3	1	3	2		1	4			17
(44) Electrical wiring/equipm. problem	4		4		5	5	3	4	2	4	2			33

	Jan '24	Feb '24	Mar '24	Apr '24	May '24	Jun '24	Jul '24	Aug '24	Sep '24	Oct '24	Nov '24	Dec '24	Jan '25	Total
(46) Accident, potential accident							1				1	1		3
(51) Person in distress	7	3	6	2	1	2		3	4	2	1	2		33
(52) Water problem	6	2	1		1	1	2	2	2	2		5		24
(53) Smoke, odor problem		1			3		1	3	1	2	1			12
(54) Animal problem or rescue					1				1	1				3
(55) Public service assistance	10	8	10	6	8	12	11	8	7	22	14	28		144
(56) Unauthorized burning							1				1			2
(57) Cover assignment, standby at fire station, move-up				1						1				2
(61) Dispatched and canceled en route	38	34	35	54	29	49	29	29	32	31	39	47		446
(62) Wrong location, no emergency found	9	5	4	9	5	7	6	11	3	8	9	5		81
(65) Steam, other gas mistaken for smoke	1	1		1	1				1	1	2	2		10
(67) HazMat release investigation w/no HazMat												1		1
(71) Malicious, mischievous false alarm										2				2
(73) System or detector malfunction	3	1		5	5	3	2	1	1			1		22
(74) Unintentional system/detect... operation (no fire)	26	29	20	27	16	22	24	32	25	33	32	30		316
(90) Special type of incident, other							1		1					2
Total	241	222	234	253	243	248	238	247	221	271	230	267		2,915

Fire Chief Gaertner Report

- Attended the Weekly Village Administrators Staff Meetings.
- Attended our Monthly Officers Meeting.
- Attended the Monthly Statewide Terrorism & Intelligence Center (STIC) webinar.
- Attended the Monthly Metro Chiefs Executive Board Meeting.
- Attended a Zoom Meeting with First Due (RMS System) for our onboarding introduction.
- Attended the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association Installation Luncheon.
- Attended the Monthly MABAS Division 11 Fire Chiefs Meeting.
- Attended the Loyola EMS Holiday Luncheon.
- Attended the Paramedic Billing Services Holiday Dinner.
- Attended a meeting with HR, PD, and PW regarding the workers' compensation process with Eagle One.

Deputy Fire Chief Bochenek Report

- Attended the Weekly Village Administrators Staff Meetings.
- Attended the Village Board Meeting.
- Attended the Chief Fire Officer class held by the University of Illinois Fire Service Institute on MABAS assets and Emergency Planning.
- Attended our Monthly Officers Meeting.
- Attended meeting to transition to (IROL).
- Attended a meeting on transitioning to a new RMS system, First Due.
- Ensured the new monthly policy compliance surveys were rolled out and completed.
- Attended a meeting with HR, PD, and PW regarding the workers' compensation process with Eagle One.
- Attended the Loyola EMS Holiday Luncheon.
- Attended the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association Installation Luncheon.
- Met with contractors on rehabbing the fire department offices.

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU**Fire Marshal Kevin Wiley**

2024 has come to a quick and very busy end!

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. As you may know, there are five statistical categories that are designated as performance measures that we strive to maintain year by year. Those are Fire Prevention and Company Fire Inspections, complaints, plan reviews and the average turn-around for the plan reviews. The numbers fluctuate from year to year for a variety of reasons but for the overall numbers, they stay relatively close.

Included in this month's report is the breakdown of our Public Education contact numbers. We had contact with 3691 children and adults in 67 events and various programs that the Fire Department is all involved. Some for the first time. Please see that separate report.

As we do at every year's end, the River Forest Community Safety Team (RFCST) met to discuss what we did and what we can do better in the coming year. RFCST is a safety program originated by the Police Department and includes the Fire Department and a representative from The West Suburban Consolidated Dispatch Center. We teach safety on several subjects including Fire Safety, Scene Safety, Bike Safety, Gun Safety, Crossing the Street, and Safely Calling 911 for Help among others. The RFCST is funded by the River Forest Township under a grant. We had contact with 1084 students and 98 staff members in all the public and private schools in town and that program accounts for nearly one-third of contacts.

We tried something new with the Open House this year. Instead of holding the event during Fire Prevention Week, we moved the event up one month to the middle of September. As a result, we had one of the best Open Houses as far as attendance in concerned. We had 150 children, and 50 adults came through the fire station in the 4 hours of the event.

Deputy Chief Bochenek and Lieutenant Boyd teamed up with Oak Park Education Foundation and Concordia University to help teach at their week-long Medical Career Camp in June. Deputy Chief Bochenek, with the assistance from Lieutenant Quentin Boyd and other department members presented several classes such as patient assessment, performing vital signs in a stressful situation, patient packaging and the transport of sick and injured patients over the five days of the camp as well as scenarios to reenforce the close working relationships Paramedics have with the area hospital nurses and emergency room staffs. The students were also offered a down and dirty CPR and Stop the Bleed class, as well as a demonstration of an auto accident and extrication scenario. Despite a week of rain and hot weather, the camp was a HUGE success, and the reviews of the camp, as well as the Fire Department were extremely high. We think this may be the beginning of a grassroots campaign to attract young people into the Firefighter/Paramedic programs, as well as Nursing programs.

This was the first time that we have been involved with this and from the feedback from the kids, we will be doing this again.

Fire Truck rides to schools are quickly becoming the ticket to bid on!! A number of school PTA/PTO's have asked for this raffle/auction event as a way to raise funds for their associations. We usually pick the kids, along with their parents up, at their homes and drive them to school with lights and sirens blaring. We have been consistently the highest bid for those organizations.

We held several Touch-A-Truck events throughout the year, and they have become one of our favorite events. We had 563 children, and 230 parents attend the various events, much to the delight of the kids and parents!

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 six members recognized for numerous years of service. We also held the 2nd floor Potluck lunch in December. The “White Elephant” was a very funny event (and very competitive).

Mike Thomasino (Water Department) and Jessica Spencer (Administration), both won my “White Christmas” Movie Trivia Contest and will share the awarded “Framed” Certificate and NEW traveling trophy for 2024. 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 2024**

Monthly Activities	Monthly Totals		YTD-Year to Date	
	Dec-23	Dec-24	2023	2024
**FPB Inspections	7	8	141	158
**Company Inspections	7	7	182	210
FPB Re-Inspections	4	1	85	89
Company Re-Inspections	12	14	92	103
Special Inquiry/B/L Site Inspections	3	2	15	18
Construction Inspections (Rough/Finals)	3	2	47	39
Inspections with Building Department	1	0	2	4
Inspections with/for State Fire Marshal	0	0	4	4
Permit Inspections (tent, hot work, UST)	1	0	31	33
TOTAL INSPECTIONS	38	34	599	658
School/Business Emergency Plan/Drills	2	0	30	17
Violation Notices Issued	7	6	162	203
Violations Noted	19	20	391	431
Violations Corrected	16	23	249	231
Permits Issued	1	0	33	34
**Complaints Received & Investigated	0	0	3	2
All Meetings/Consultations	9	4	73	51
Training Activities	1	0	31	31
Fire Suppress/Alarm System Test/Final	2	0	14	6
Fire Suppression Hydro's	1	0	6	0
**Plan Reviews and Revisions	12	7	139	157
**Average turn around (Business Days)	2.08 days	5.28 days	2.41 days	4.21 days
Public Education Programs	3	4	56	67
Public Education Program Contacts	24	14	2484	3691
Misc Fire Prev Activities (See Narrative)	8	8	89	107

** Performance Measures for the Chief
Fire Marshal Kevin Wiley

2024 Year End Report

River Forest FD				
Annual Public Education Activity Totals				
Year	2024			
		KIDS	ADULTS	
Scouts		8	8	
Station Tours		123	61	
Carseat Installs			9	
Senior Citizen Talks			29	
Fire/Life Safety Talks		574	126	
College Talks			40	
Smoke Alarm Installs			17	
CPR/AED		19	48	
Community Events		90	202	
Open House		150	50	
ISEARCH School Assemblies		1084	98	
Block Parties		111	26	
Touch a Truck		563	230	
Fire Truck to School		10	15	
		Sub Total	2732	959
		Total 3691		

Training Division: Lt. John Carter

For December 2024 the department participated in various training activities such as:

- There was no Loyola CE for the month of December
- All members were recertified in CPR by instructors on their shifts
- Lt. Boyd attended 80 hr. Advanced Fire Officer class in Romeoville 12/2-12/6 and 12/9-12/13, 2024. He also passed the OSFM written exam
- FF/PM Finfrock attended 40-hour Company Fire Officer phase 3 class in Romeoville
- Lt. Boyd and FF/PM Zipperich took and passed OSFM Confined Space Technician written exam
- All shifts did a preplan and tour of Lincoln School
- All shifts did a preplan and tour of Trinity High School
- All shifts did a preplan and tour of Grace Lutheran Church
- All shifts viewed and discussed a FireRescue-1 Academy webinar on Firefighter PTSD
- The Division 11 Technical Rescue Team did not hold a drill in December
- The Division 11 Hazardous Materials Team did not hold a drill in December
- The Division 11 Fire Investigation Team did not hold a drill in December

Individual Shift Reports

Black Shift Report- Lieutenant Q. Boyd

Calls For Service: Black Shift responded to a total of 93 calls. 42 were fire related, 51 were EMS calls

Incidents/Events of note: Ambulance inspection was completed

Public Service & Community Outreach: None

Shift Training and Hours:

Fire: 67.5 hours

EMS: 28 hours

Specialty: LT Boyd passed his ADFO exam and also obtained certification for confined space tech

Departmental Goals & Benchmarks:

See Excel spreadsheet.

Inspections: 59/61

Hydrants: Flushing and hose monster completed

Hose Testing: Completed

Red Shift Report- Lieutenant E. Howe

Calls For Service: Red Shift responded to a total of 93 calls. 34 were fire related, 45 were EMS calls, 14 service calls.

Incidents/Events of note: On December 4th red shift responded to assist police at 344 Lathrop with a car into building. On arrival crew assessed damage to building and evaluated structural collapse risk. It was determined that structural collapse was not imminent. Crews remained on scene to assist towing company with extracting vehicle from building.

Public Service & Community Outreach:**Shift Training and Hours:**

Fire: 130

EMS: 60

Specialty: 2

Live Training or Evolutions: Building/campus preplans

Departmental Goals & Benchmarks:

Inspections: 79/81

Hydrants: Completed

Hose Testing: Completed

FF. Doran continued to work on his Officer Task Book.

FF Howe Continued to familiarize himself with Truck 219 and Truck operations

FF Doran installed one Car Seat

Gold Shift Report – Lieutenant M. Smith

Calls For Service: Gold Shift had responded to a total of 83 calls. 34 fire related, 40 were EMS calls, 9 service calls.

Incidents/Events of note: On December 1st, Gold Shift responded to 415 Franklin Ave for the person in the stalled elevator. Engine 213 reset the elevator from the elevator room. The passenger and their pet were removed from the elevator. On December 16th, Gold Shift responded to 1201 Jackson Ave for the CO alarm activation. Dispatch contacted E213 and reported the alarm company talked with the homeowner. The homeowner reported false activation. E213 arrived on scene and received permission from the homeowner to investigate the home with CO and natural gas detectors. No CO was found, but a natural gas leak was found in the basement. NICOR was notified and E213 monitored until the gas company arrived on scene.

Public Service & Community Outreach:

Firehouse Tours 0 0 visitors
CPR Classes 0 0 students
Car Seat Install 2
Smoke Alarm Install 0

Shift Training and Hours:

Fire: 95.25
EMS: 36
Specialty 0

Departmental Goals & Benchmarks:

Inspections: 83/83
Hydrants: Completed
Hose Testing: Completed

EMS/Paramedic Activity FF/PM Finfrock**EMS/Paramedic Activity: FF/PM Luke Finfrock**

RFFD responded for a TOTAL of 142 patients in December. Of those patients Ambulance 214 treated and transported 100, while 23 patients refused further treatment/transport from the fire department. In addition, crews responded to 19 patients for a lift assist. The 100 patients were transported to the following hospitals:

Loyola University Medical Center- 14

Rush Oak Park Hospital- 69

Gottlieb Memorial Hospital- 15

West Suburban Hospital- 2

Hines VA- 0

MacNeal- 0

800 N. Harlem- 16 patients

7617 North Ave- 12

Mutual Aid from A215- 9 times

Abdominal Pain- 2

Adult Respiratory Distress- 6

Allergic Reaction- 2

Altered Mental Status- 1

Animal Bite- 0

Assault/Battery- 0

Behavioral/Psych- 8

Burns- 0

Chest Pain- 8

Cardiac Arrest- 0

Choking- 2

CO Poisoning- 0

Diabetic Problems- 1

Electrocution- 0

ETOH- 2

Eye Problems- 1

Fall- 22

General Aches/pain- 3

Hemorrhage/Bleeding- 5

Medical Alarm- 0

No Complaint- 18

Opioid Overdose- 0

Peds Respiratory Distress- 1

Pregnancy- 2

Sick Person- 27

Traffic Accident- 13

Traumatic Arrest- 0

Traumatic Injury- 3

Unconscious/Unresponsive- 6

Unknown Problems- 3

Weakness- 6

Vehicle/Station Maintenance LT. E. Howe & FF/PM Chris Doran

Maintenance:

- 200- Needed to reschedule maintenance
- 202- **Waiting for info on new car**
- 201- Nothing to report, zero issues
- 218- Nothing to report, zero issues.
- 213- Nothing to report, zero issues
- 222- Nothing to report, zero issues
- 219- PM completed, Scheduled repair of check engine light
- 214 No Issues
- 215 PM Completed

HOLIDAY/EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION LUNCH







