

RIVER FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT

Annual Report

2023





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Message From The Chief

March 25, 2024

To Village President Cathy Adduci and the Board of Trustees,

I am pleased to submit this annual report for the River Forest Fire Department for the year 2023.

This past year we maintained our focus and direction in providing the best possible services for our residents, business owners and guests. I encourage you to take the time to read this report and see exactly what we have accomplished over the past year.

I would like to thank my Administrative Assistant, Renee Morris, for her hard work over this past year and for putting this report together.

Over the past year we responded to 2,862 emergency calls. Of those responses, 1,631 were EMS/Rescue type calls which also included automobile accidents. The remaining 1,231 responses were all fire related emergencies including structure fires, vehicle fires, wildland fires and automatic fire alarms. The River Forest Fire Department is also a member of MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System) Division 11 which is our mutual aid system. During 2023 we received mutual aid 544 times from neighboring communities and responded 1039 times to our neighboring communities and other MABAS Divisions.





Message From The Chief (continued) ...

As you will see by reading this report a large amount of hard work was accomplished over this past year. This work included but was not limited to responding to emergency calls, conducting fire and EMS training, vehicle and station maintenance, fire prevention, public education, fire investigation, hazardous materials, and technical rescue responsibilities. I would like to thank the Officers and Firefighter/Paramedics who take pride in what they do and demonstrate it daily. They are all true professionals.

I would also like to thank Village President Cathy Adduci, and the River Forest Board of Trustees for their continued support throughout the year. They have made a commitment to make the River Forest Fire Department one of the best in this area as well as the State of Illinois.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas D. Gaertner
Fire Chief

About Us

The Fire Department is an all-hazard protection service providing fire suppression, emergency medical services (EMS), hazardous materials and technical rescue response as well as public education, fire prevention, fire investigation, and emergency management services. The Fire Department operates 24 hours a day 365 days a year to limit loss of life, injury and property damage to the residents, businesses, and visitors of River Forest by providing high quality fire protection, advanced life support and emergency services in the most cost-effective manner.

The Fire Department is a member of MABAS Division XI. MABAS, the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System, is a group of seven fire departments in the River Forest region that work together to provide mutual aid for calls which cannot be handled by one department alone.



River Forest Fire Department

Our Vision

The River Forest Fire Department strives for excellence in emergency preparedness and response, to enhance our customer-focused, innovative role as industry leaders, while overcoming expanding risks. Our vision statement is the focal point of the fire department. Through continuous environmental scanning, we will analyze trends, programs, and services to provide our external and internal customers.

Our Mission

- 1** Provide prompt quality services to our stakeholders that promotes safety, security, enhances sustainability, and enriches quality of life through professional development and dedication to service.
- 2** Serve the citizens of River Forest. Ultimately, our customers decide the services we deliver.
- 3** Our personnel have an obligation to provide those services in the most professional and efficient manner.



Our Team

The department employs 19 sworn full-time members out of one station. All firefighters are FF2 or higher, as well as licensed paramedics. The department also employs one Fire Chief, one Deputy Fire Chief, one civilian full-time Fire Prevention Officer and one part-time Administrative Assistant.

Teamwork is expected and all personnel are part of the team. By working in teams, with effective communication, we strive to maximize our capabilities: thus allowing us to provide quality service to each other and fulfill expectations. Quality improvement can only be achieved when it is the goal of all personnel. Active participation and support by all RFFD employees is essential to the successful pursuit of our vision and the successful accomplishment of our mission.

RIVER FOREST 2023



CHIEF
THOMAS GAERTNER



LIEUTENANT
QUENTIN BOYD



LIEUTENANT
JOHN CARTER



DEPUTY CHIEF
DAVID BUCHENEK



LIEUTENANT
EDWARD HOWE



LIEUTENANT
MICHAEL SMITH



FIREFIGHTER
MATTHEW BASA



FIREFIGHTER
JASON BENCK



FIREFIGHTER
JONATHAN BUCHHOLZ



FIREFIGHTER-PARAMEDIC
CHRISTOPHER DODRAN



FIREFIGHTER
JARRETT ERDOLI



FIREFIGHTER-PARAMEDIC
LUCAS FINPROCK



FIREFIGHTER
STEPHEN FISCHER



FIREFIGHTER
ADAM HOWE



ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
RENEE MORRIS



FIREFIGHTER-PARAMEDIC
MATTHEW ADALL



FIREFIGHTER
TIMOTHY KYLES



FIREFIGHTER
BRIAN MCKENNA



FIREFIGHTER
JONATHAN REESE



FIREFIGHTER
ADAM SEABLOOM



FIREFIGHTER
ADAM VIERA



FIREFIGHTER
PAUL ZIPPACHER



FIRE MARSHAL
KEVIN WILLEY

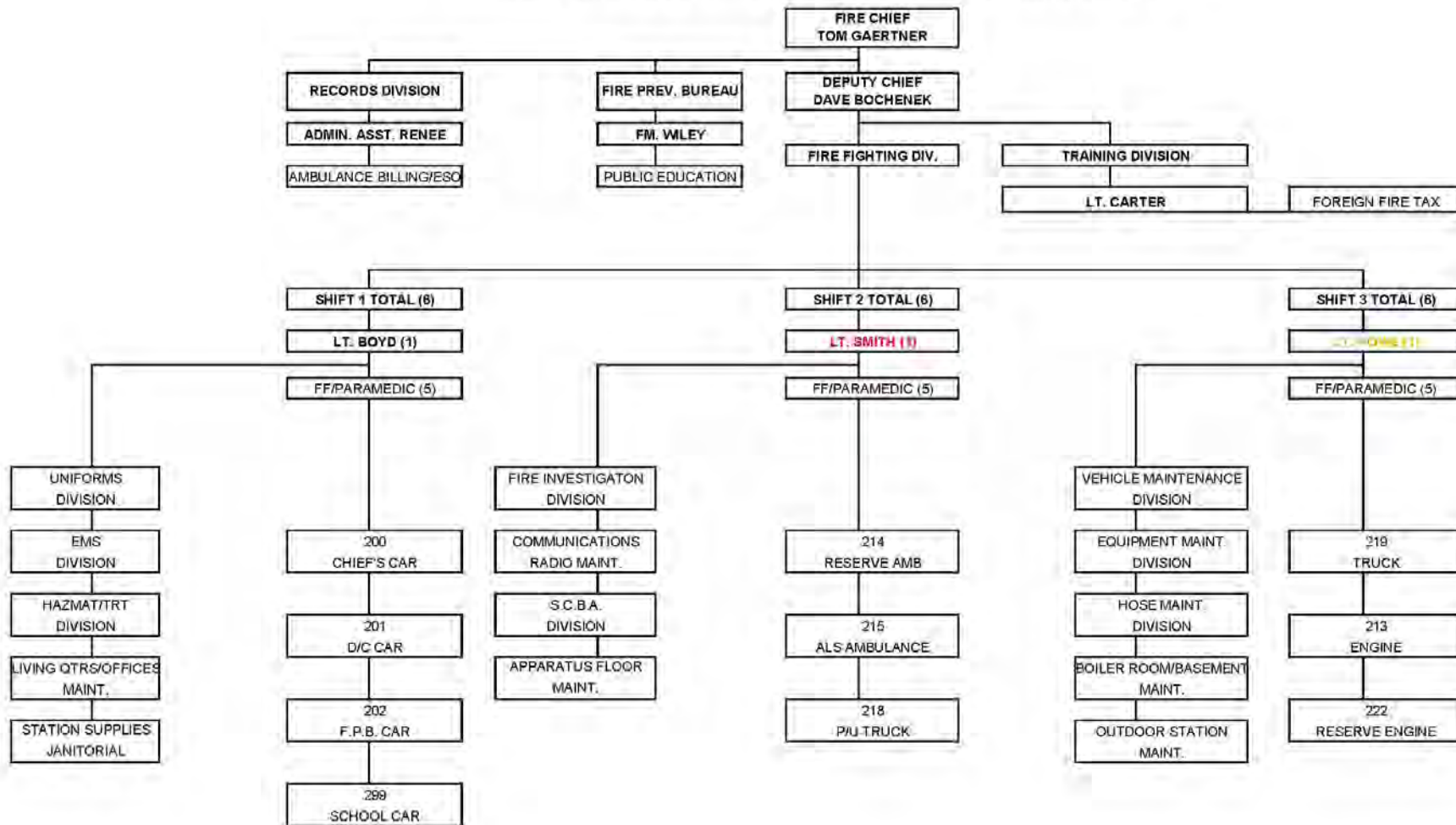
River Forest Fire Department

Department Members / Start Date

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>HIRE DATE</u>
Carter, John	05-01-99
Smith, Michael	12-01-01
Fischer, Stephen	09-01-02
Howe, Edward	02-01-03
Zipperich, Paul	02-16-03
Doran, Chris	07-14-08
Bochenek, David	07-14-08
Viera, Adan	09-28-09
Boyd, Quentin	09-06-11
Finfrock, Lucas	01-03-12
Bencik, Jason	10-27-14
Krall, Matthew	10-27-14
Wiley, Kevin	12-15-14
Howe, Adam	01-05-15
Seablom, Adam	07-15-16
McKenna, Brian	01-09-17
Buchholz, Jonathan	08-21-17
Basa, Matthew	11-13-17
Morris, Renee	2-26-18
Rouse, Jonathan	10-18-19
Ercoli, Jarrett	10-07-20
Gaertner, Thomas	01-17-22
Kyles, Timothy	05-01-24

Organizational Chart

RIVER FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT TABLE OF ORGANIZATION/RESPONSIBILITIES



2023 Objectives

1

Improve fire and safety awareness through public education in the schools and expand public outreach programs, emphasizing programs for the older adult population.

2

Provide added CPR/AED classes for employees, residents and businesses throughout the community.

3

Improve the Village's Emergency Operations Plan by reviewing and updating the plan to meet today's needs.

4

Improve Firefighter Candidate training and evaluation process to ensure quality candidates are attracted and retained.

2023 Notable Accomplishments



TRAINING PROP

The fire department has seen the immense value from the new addition of the training prop recently purchased. The ability to have operational personnel perform their hands-on skills in-house has been an important and meaningful step in the department's increased efficiency on emergent scenes.

CPR LUCAS COMPRESSION DEVICE

The new CPR LUCAS compression device was utilized during 6 saves over the past year. The device allows for more steady and metered compression and takes the human element out of CPR. This also allows staff to move the patient effectively without sacrificing the circulation of the patient.

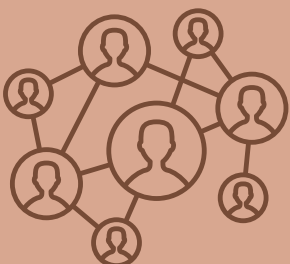
EXPANSION OF CPR TRAINING

Last year the fire department saw an increase of nearly 300% in the number of students in our CPR classes. CPR certification is an important step in getting civilians on the street in the community who can provide lifesaving interventions until paramedics can assume control of the scene. Studies have shown that having a higher population trained in CPR can produce significantly higher save rates in the community.



NETWORKING AND PARTNERSHIPS

Concordia University has provided the department with access to its state-of-the-art training site on campus. The university currently houses manikins that would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to purchase. This new partnership has allowed us access to these facilities at no cost. These facilities will allow our paramedics to get hands-on training in medical situations like stroke care, childbirth, and cardiac events.



2023 Notable Accomplishments

cont'd

PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SHERIDAN

The department hosted our annual fall prevention seminar for seniors. Another successful seminar has led to a partnership between the township, the fire department, and The Sheridan. The next event will be a collaboration from all three organizations to discuss stroke awareness, fall prevention, and a guest speaker from the ELEVATE Physical Therapy facility located in River Forest.



Collaboration with D90

The fire department sent Deputy Fire Chief Bochenek and Fire Marshal Wiley to assist in the advisement of new policies and procedures to help further secure the schools in the village. As a result of the department's participation, D90 is looking at changing their labeling of egress points, and the district is also working to create new policies to ensure that best practices are followed throughout the school district.



Emergency Response Statistics

Call Volume

1/1/2020 to 12/31/2023 showed a **37.36%** increase in total call volume

2020 - 2,085
2023 - 2,864

57%



Emergency
Medical Services

19%



Good Intent

12%



False Alarm

7%



Service

3%



Hazardous

2%



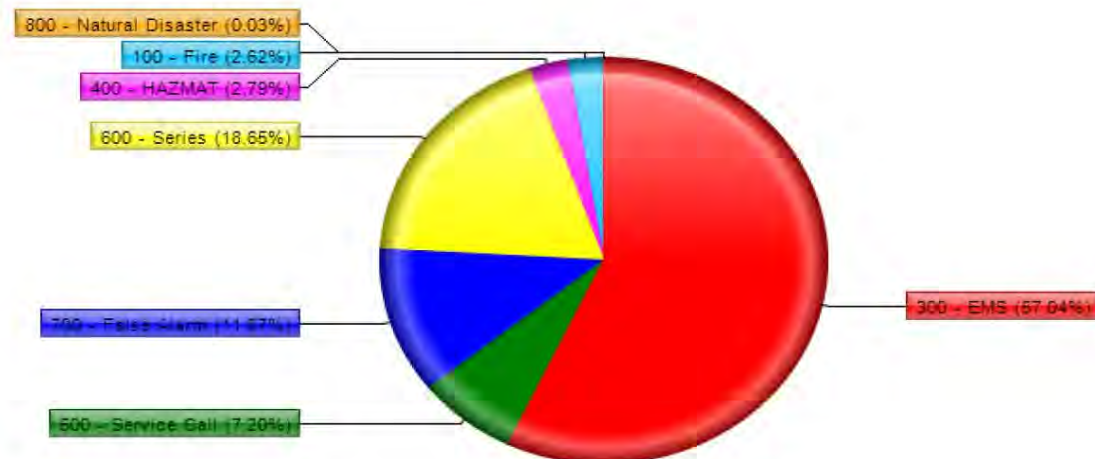
Fire

Emergency Response Statistics

Fire - Incident Types with Monthly and Annual Breakdown

Alarm Date between 2023-01-01 and 2023-12-31

Incident Type Group	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
300 - EMS	104	111	144	139	136	128	150	149	152	138	135	147	1633
500 - Service Call	7	17	17	16	19	16	35	19	10	21	19	10	206
700 - False Alarm	20	22	31	23	33	26	27	30	31	41	27	23	334
600 - Series	32	26	39	35	40	44	50	69	46	58	55	40	534
400 - HAZMAT	6	7	3	2	7	5	14	9	7	8	7	5	80
100 - Fire	4	6	3	7	12	18	6	6	3	3	3	4	75
800 - Natural Disaster	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Monthly Total	173	189	237	223	247	237	282	282	249	269	246	229	2863



Mutual Aid - Given and Received

	FIRE	EMS	OTHER
AUTO AID GIVEN	23	82	347
MUTUAL AID GIVEN	15	260	312
AUTO AID RECEIVED	18	33	244
MUTUAL AID RECEIVED	10	126	113



EMS Billing

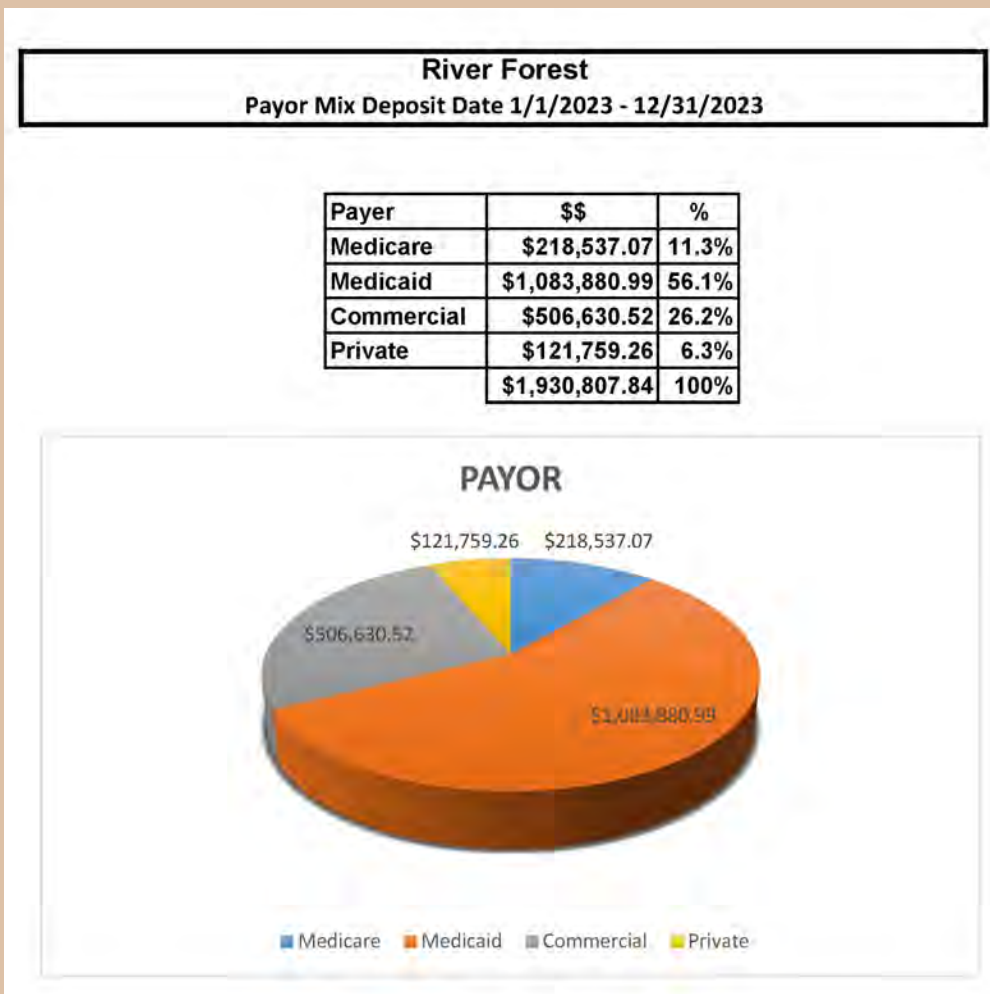
River Forest Fire Department charges for ambulance service that is received by residents and non-residents. River Forest Fire Department also charges non-residents for vehicle fires, gas leaks, and automobile accidents.



Paramedic Billing Services (PBS) located in Elmhurst, Illinois, handles the collections along with the delinquent accounts. \$2,474,704.83 was billed out to insurance companies, Medicaid, and Medicare. \$1,687,440.16 was collected as of 12/31/2023.

River Forest Fire Department also provides Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance service to Loyola University Medical Center, Rush Oak Park, Gottlieb Memorial Hospital, Hines VA Medical Center, West Suburban Medical Center, MacNeal Hospital, and Community First Medical Center.

EMS Coordinator, Lucas Finrock, collaborated with Administrative Assistant, Renee Morris, and PBS to recover uncollected funds. In 2023, this team recovered over \$60,000.00.



Emergency Medical Service/ Paramedic Division



All operational department staff are Certified Paramedics.

There are currently (20) paramedics in the Loyola System. They are listed according to seniority

Department Members

John Carter
Michael Smith
Stephen Fischer
Edward Howe
Paul Zipperich
Chris Doran
David Bochenek
Adan Viera
Quentin Boyd
Lucas Finrock
Jason Bencik
Matthew Krall
Adam Howe
Adam Seablom
Brian McKenna
Jonathan Buchholz
Matthew Basa
Jonathan Rouse
Jarrett Ercoli
Timothy Kyles

Emergency Medical Service/ Paramedic Division

The River Forest Fire Department continues to work with the Loyola EMS system under the Direction of MD Mark Cichon. Our Medics are constantly being educated through CE and direct review of reports by Loyola staff. We have become a completely paperless EMS system. All reports are sent directly into the Loyola computer system as well as saved on Flash drives in the Fire Department. This has cut down on paper cost as well as the need for storage space.

CONTINUING EDUCATION IN EMS

Sonia Winandy, whom is our Loyola Educator, provides active/live continuing education here at the department.

The entire EMS crew is educated once a month in subjects pertaining to new changes within the EMS system. Region eight, which is a collaboration of several local hospitals (Loyola, Good Samaritan, Edwards, and Central DuPage), create PowerPoints as learning tools as well as offering hands on instruction.

All paramedics are educated together and the class is formatted to suit both levels of education.

The 2023 Live CE topics are listed below:

- January — Legal Issues and Ethical Dilemmas
- February—Altered Mental Status, Stroke, and Dementia
- March— Respiratory Emergencies
- April— Cardiac Arrest
- May— Traumatic Injuries
- June— Misc. Medical
- July— OFF
- August— Policy Updates
- September— Pediatric Emergencies
- October— OB Emergencies
- November— Documentation
- December— OFF

We also have added self study EMS. We pick hot topics in the fire service, from safety to extrication that benefit us in the EMS service. If the topic involves hands on training, other departments join us in the drill and also receive credit if they are within the system. Each member usually receives one credit after filling out Loyola paperwork for each study session.

Outside classes include, but are not limited to:

- Tactical Emergency Casualty Care
- CPR
- Lucas Device Training
- Drug Calculations
- Reporting Software
- CPAP and AED Training
- Ambulance Inspections
- COVID-19
- Disinfecting Procedures
- Intubation
- Intraosseous Training
- Cricothyrotomy Training
- Alternative Airways
- National Incident Management Systems
- STOP THE BLEED Instructor Certification

New Items

- FFPM Paul Zipperich, Jon Buchholz, Jon Rouse, and Matthew Basa provide CPR classes to the public.
- STOP THE BLEED certification classes have been added to the department's class offerings.



Training Division

JANUARY

All Division 11 Hazardous Materials, Technical Rescue, and Fire Investigator drills were back to normal operation this January. The month of January is Cancer Awareness month and our staff watched videos and PowerPoints about prevention measures. All shifts continued their assigned building inspections.

- January — Firefighter Cancer Awareness training
- January 4th- Officers' Meeting
- January 2, 3, 4 - All shifts did a pre-plan and tour of Grace Lutheran Church and School
- January 10,11,12 — Electrical Vehicle Emergency Operations Class instructed by Chris Soda from NIPSTA
- January 11 - A representative from Stryker demonstrated their new electric chair stair to the shift
- January 16th, 17th, and 18th - All shifts participated in Loyola Continuing Education. This was done online. Subject was Legal Issues and Ethical Dilemma
- January 23, 24 - Division 11 Hazardous Materials team drill at North Riverside. Subject was gas monitor maintenance & operations, vehicle and trailer inventory
- January 27 - Lt. Carter attended via Zoom Division 11 Training Officer's meeting
- January 30, 31 - Division 11 Fire Investigator team drill at Berwyn. Subject was Fire Investigation methodology and the scientific method. The investigator van was also inventoried

FEBRUARY

- All shifts continued their assigned building inspections
- February 1— Officers' meeting; FF/PM Seablom attended Instructor I at NIPSTA; FireRescue1 Academy EMS assignment was Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm
- February 7, 8, 9 - All shifts completed OSHA mandated Lockout Tagout program on FireRescue Academy1
- February 14, 15, 16 - All shifts completed OSHA mandated Bloodborne Pathogens program on FireRescue1 Academy
- February 16, 17- Division 11 TRT drill was held in Cicero. Subject was confined space. Lt. Howe and FF/PM Zipperich attended
- February 21, 22, 23 - All shifts completed OSHA mandated Global SDS and Hazardous Communications Standard on FireRescue1 Academy
- February 23, 24 - Division 11 Fire Investigator team drill was held in Stickney. Subject was NFPA 1033 requisite knowledge
- February 24 - Lt. Carter attended via Zoom Division 11 Training Officer's meeting

Training Division

MARCH

- All shifts continued their assigned building inspections.
- March 1st — Officer's meeting
- Loyola CE was held on March 7th, 8th & 9th. Subject was Respiratory Emergencies
- March 11,12,19 - Lt. Bochenek attended 4-day Water Ops class in Romeoville
- February 27-March 3 - FF/PM Seablom attended Advanced Technician Firefighter class in Romeoville
- March 22 - Lt's. Bochenek and Howe attended a Step Up and Lead seminar at Harper College in Palatine
- March 23, 24 - Division 11 TRT drill was held in Cicero. Subject was Elevator Rescue. The Elevator Rescue System was demonstrated. Lt. Howe and Lt. Carter attended
- March 16, 21 - Division 11 Fire Investigator drill was held in River Forest. Subject was Fire Effects and Patterns. Lt's. Carter, Bochenek, and Smith as well as FF's Seablom and Basa attended
- March 24 - FF/PM Boyd attended NAEMT's Tactical Combat Casualty Care course conducted by NIPSTA
- March 31 - FF/PM Seablom attended FSVO class in Romeoville

APRIL

- April 5th- Fire Officers' Meeting
- April 10,11,12 - Loyola CE. The subject was Cardiac Arrest
- Shifts continued their assigned building inspections
- Lt. Carter attended a Battery Electric Vehicle First Responder Training presented by GM at the MABAS Readiness Center in Wheeling
- April 2 - FF/PM Fischer attended an IRMA sponsored EMS Safety class in Westmont
- April 3-7 - FM/PM Boyd attended Phase 1 of Company Fire Officer at NIPSTA
- April 7 - Lt's Bochenek and Carter attended a 4-hour OSFM sponsored Public School Inspector class in Burbank
- April 10-14 - FF/PM Boyd attended Fire Service Instructor II
- April 17-21 - FF/PM Boyd attended Incident Safety Officer at North Palos FPD
- April 17-21 - Lt. Smith attended Incident Safety Officer at Romeoville Fire Academy
- April 17 - FF/PM's Basa, Buchholz and Rouse attended American Heart Association CPR Instructor class
- April 25-26 - Chief Gaertner, Lt's Bochenek, Boyd, Carter, E. Howe, Smith, and FM Wiley attended a two-day Active Shooter class taught by IFSI at the RFCC
- April 26-27 - FF/PM Krall attended a Special Needs Child Passenger Safety Training class
- April 27, 28 - Division 11 TRT drill was held in Cicero. Subject was deployment and the 12-man tent was put together. Attended by Lt. Howe and FF/PM Zipperich
- April 27, 28 - Division 11 Haz Mat drill was held in North Riverside on. The subject was monitoring and spill mitigation. Attended by FF/PM's Zipperich and McKenna

Training Division

MAY

River Forest Fire Department gained the Deputy Chief position back.

- May 1 - Lt. Bochenek was promoted to Deputy Chief
- May 1 - FF/PM Quentin Boyd was promoted to Lieutenant
- May 1 - Probationary FF/PM Tim Kyles started
- Exciting news for the River Forest Fire Dept. We now have a training prop where many evolutions can be performed
- Shifts continued their assigned building inspections
- Shifts started going through the zones they were assigned to flow all hydrants and test 1/3 of them
- Shifts began annual fire service hose testing in accordance with NFPA 1962 (2018)
- All shifts reviewed and trained on the new Zoll monitor
- May 1 - Lt. Carter attended via Zoom Division 11 Training Officer's meeting
- May 3 - Officer's meeting
- May 1-5 - Lt. Smith attended Instructor II in Romeoville
- May 8-12 - Lt. Boyd attended Company Fire Officer class
- May 9 - Several members attended a Fall Prevention presentation to the residents of The Sheridan
- May 23-25 - All shifts attended Loyola CE. Subject was Cardiac Arrest
- FM Wiley did the annual Fire Inspection Update class for all 3 shifts
- A representative from Zoll came out and demonstrated new features on the new Zoll cardiac monitors
- May 19 - A Fall Prevention seminar was held at The Sheridan on
- May 24-26 - Representatives from Masimo taught an SpO2 class to all shifts
- May 15-19 - FF/PM Viera attended Vehicle Machinery Technician in Romeoville
- May 23-25 - All shifts attended a live fire training event at Cicero burn tower. Several evolutions were performed, such as live fire extinguishment, forcible entry, search and rescue, vertical ventilation and rapid intervention team

JUNE

- Shifts are becoming acclimated with the new training prop. Several evolutions have been performed, such as Forcible Entry, Search, SCBA maze Vertical Ventilation, Laddering a Window, Entering a Window.
- All shifts continue to test hose and hydrants
- June 1 - FF/PM's Basa and Buchholz taught CPR for the Park District
- June 2 - Lincoln School morning and afternoon Kindergarten class visited the firehouse for a tour and fire safety discussion. Helmets, stickers and coloring books were handed out
- June 8 - Ride to school
- FF/PM Zipperich taught CPR for community members on June 17

Training Division

JULY

- Loyola CE was not presented for the month.
- Shifts continued their assigned building inspections.
- Shifts continued hose and hydrant testing
- July 14 - FF/PM Basa conducted a CPR class at Trinity.
- July 25 - Several members attended a Stop the Bleed Instructor class here at the firehouse.
- Lt Boyd completed a 3-week training of Lieutenant's duties and responsibilities on calls and in the firehouse. He also learned ESO and Tenzinga programs.
- July 25, 26, 27 - All shifts participated in a standpipe operations drill at the Concordia parking garage. Engineer training (hydrant connection, supplying water to standpipe) connecting high-rise hose pack to standpipe, hose deployment and movement. Simulated vehicle fire. Thank you to Concordia University for allowing us this unique opportunity
- July 27 - FF/PM Seablom responded to a Fire Investigator box alarm in Oak Park
- FF/PM Rouse is nearing completion of his new engine driver training.
- July 28 - Lt. Carter attended via Zoom Division 11 Training Officer's meeting

AUGUST

- All shifts continued their assigned building inspections
- August 2nd - Officers' meeting
- Loyola CE was SMO updates that take effect September 1st
- Shifts continued their assigned building inspections
- Shifts continued hose and hydrant testing
- July 31-August 4, August 7-11 - FF/PM Krall attended a 2-week Rope Rescue Technician class at Orland Park. Practical and OSFM written test were passed.
- August 5 - FF/PM Zipperich and Rouse taught a CPR class for RF Tennis Club
- August 14-18 - FF/PM Buchholz attended a 3-day Surface Water Operations class at Romeoville Fire Academy. Practical was passed, waiting to take OSFM exam
- August 18 - FF/PM Krall attended a car seat technician skill building workshop
- August 15, 16, 17 - All shifts attended a Metra Emergency Preparedness class. 2 representatives from Metra taught the class. Members from OPFD and FPDF were also in attendance
- August 14-18 - FF/PM Ercoli attended Fire Apparatus Engineer class at Orland Park. Practical and OSFM written test were passed
- August 24 - FF/PM Viera attended Division 11 Hazardous Materials drill in North Riverside. Subject was updates and tabletop scenarios
- August 29, 30 - Lt's Boyd and Carter attended Division 11 Technical Rescue Team drill at Stickney FD. Subject was concrete cutting and rescue. Concrete saws and jackhammers were reviewed and operated

Training Division

SEPTEMBER

- All shifts continued their assigned building inspections
- September 6 – Officer’s meeting
- Loyola Continuing Education was Pediatric Emergencies
- Shifts continued their assigned building inspections
- Hose testing has almost been completed
- Hydrant testing has almost been completed
- September 20-22 - Lt. Carter attended a 2 day Fire Instructor Conference in East Peoria presented by Illinois Fire Service Instructors and the Office of the State Fire Marshal
- September 10-15 - Lt. Smith attended a weeklong Command and Control of Incident Operations at the National Fire Academy in Emmittsburg, Maryland
- September 25 - FF/PM’s Zipperich and Rouse taught CPR and Stop the Bleed to some members of the River Forest Police Department
- Division 11 Hazardous Materials, TRT and Fire Investigator drills were canceled for the month of September
- Several block parties were attended by shift personnel

OCTOBER

- All shifts continued their assigned building inspections
- All personnel performed semi-annual Check Ride driving program to comply with OSFM, IRMA and ISO
- All personnel were assigned a KnowBe4 Cybersecurity online course
- Touch a Truck at the River Forest Library
- October 4th – Officers’ meeting
- Loyola Continuing Education was OB emergencies
- Hydrant testing has almost been completed
- October 2 - FF/PM’s Basa and Buchholz taught CPR for RFPD personnel.
- October 14 - RFFD personnel hosted the annual Open House
- October 19, 20 – Lt. Boyd, FF/PM’s Viera and Bencik attended Division 11 Hazardous Materials team drill in North Riverside. Meters and monitoring were the subjects
- October 20 – Lt’s Smith, Carter, FF/PM Seablom responded to a Fire Investigator box alarm in Oak Park
- October 23-27 - FF/PM’s Basa and Krall attended Instructor I class in Romeoville
- October 23- Lt Smith attended Division 11 Fire Investigator team drill in River Forest. Explosive Scene Investigation was the subject
- October 29 – Lt. Carter attended via Zoom Division 11 Training Officer’s meeting

Training Division

NOVEMBER

- All shifts continued their assigned building inspections.
- November 1st – Officers’ meeting
- Loyola CE was not held in November.
- All shifts reviewed and practiced EMS report writing on the new Image Trend program
- Some hydrants still need to be tested.
- November 28, 30 - Division 11 Hazardous Materials team drill was in Cicero. The Division Haz Mat rig/trailer was driven through a cone course to certify drivers to be able to drive the rig to calls. There was also discussion about the combined HazMat/TRT drill next month. Carter, Zipperich and Viera attended.
- Division 11 Fire Investigator drill was in Stickney. No members participated.
- No Division 11 TRT drill this month.
- November 4 - FF Basa and FF Buchholz taught CPR at Concordia.
- November 15,16 - FF Basa and FF Buchholz taught CPR at Dominican.
- November 30 - FF Zipperich, FF Buchholz, and FF Rouse taught CPR for NYE Women’s Health Group.

DECEMBER

- All shifts continued their assigned building inspections
- All members renewed CPR certifications
- December 6 - Officers’ meeting
- Loyola CE was not held in December.
- December 6 – Red shift used the prop for the last time outside this year. Vertical ventilation was performed
- Some hydrants still need to be completed.
- December 4-6 - NIPSTA came to River Forest and taught Cardiac Arrest Medical Management for all 3 shifts.
- December 13,14 – FF/PM Krall attended a 2 day Tactical Emergency Casualty Care course in Orland Park
- December 18, 19, 20 - There was a combined Division 11 Haz Mat/TRT drill in Cicero 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 starting in 2024

Fire Prevention Bureau

The Fire Prevention Bureau (FPB) consists of the Fire Chief and the Fire Marshal and managed by the Fire Marshal who coordinates all fire prevention activities. Together they, along with shift personnel, assist residents and building management in risk management and life safety through code compliance and safety education. The primary goal of the Fire Prevention Bureau is to ensure that all buildings and structures are safe for all occupants as well as for emergency responders. To achieve this goal, the Bureau performs plan reviews, performs inspections of new commercial and multi-family residential construction projects, performs annual fire and life safety inspections of existing buildings, follows up on any fire safety complaints, and reviews fire protection system inspection reports. The Bureau's activities also include the enforcement of the adopted international, national and local model building and fire codes and standards. The Fire Prevention Bureau reviews and inspects all projects from simple remodels to new building construction.

The Bureau also uses in-service fire companies to assist with the existing building inspection program. These fire company members help ensure that commercial and residential occupancies get inspected on an annual basis and any fire safety threats within the community gets addressed in a timely manner. This also gives our firefighters an opportunity to go into commercial and residential buildings and become familiar with their layouts and associated risks in case an emergency were to arise there. This process ensures compliance with all adopted codes and applicable standards. Fire company personnel are assigned annual property maintenance inspections for occupancies located in each of three fire prevention inspection zones. These inspections rotate annually between the three shifts allowing shift personnel to get into every building at least every three years.

Fire inspections are split into two categories, Target Hazards and Non-target hazards. Inspections range from two University campuses to small offices and shops. Target Hazard inspections are occupancies designated by the bureau as needing an inspection by a full-time State Certified Fire Inspector. Target inspections are also designated by the nature of their storage or operational activity, which places them in a higher risk classification, such as college resident dormitories, restaurants and auto repair facilities. Another parameter which defines a target hazard occupancy is the life safety factor such as schools and assisted living facilities. A goal for the fire prevention bureau is to inspect "target" occupancies twice a year. In addition, the fire prevention bureau reviews the plans of all new fire protection systems (sprinklers and fire alarms), and the accompanying field inspection of the work while these systems are being installed.

Fire Prevention Bureau



RIVER FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT
 FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU
 MONTHLY REPORT
 December 2023

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

** Performance Measures for the Chief
 Fire Marshal Kevin Wiley

**Adjusted Public Education numbers from ESO for the year

Fire and Life Safety Education

The goal of Fire and Life Safety Education is to educate the community, especially those identified as high risk, in methods of prevention, reaction, and preparedness for fire, injury, and other natural disasters. Any emergency the fire department responds to becomes an area of concern for which the department needs to prepare the community. Each fire and injury prevented also contributes to the safety of department personnel. The River Forest Fire Department's Fire and Life Safety Education programs have been developed to meet nationally recognized efforts in community risk reduction.

All department members educate the public in one way or another in their day-to-day activities. Fire department personnel are the instructors for CPR, child safety seat technicians, giving a fire and life safety talk at a school or block party, or the person giving a station tour of the fire station. Educating the public on the many areas of fire and life safety is important to the fire department. For 2023, a total of 2,483 individuals received some type of education from fire personnel.

Some of the education areas are as follows:

- Station Tours are always popular.
- CPR Classes
- Health Fairs
- Block Parties
- Fire Department Open House
- Touch a Truck events
- ISEARCH Safety Program in all Schools (Pre-K to 4th grades)

ISEARCH

ISEARCH is a collaborative effort between River Forest Fire, Police and WSCDC Dispatch Center to bring Fire and Life Safety Education to all of the elementary schools in River Forest. The lessons are given in an assembly type class for all pre-kindergarten through 4th grade students. We discuss a number of Fire Safety topics that include smoke alarms and what to do when they activate, matches and lighter safety, Stop/Drop and Roll, and establishing Family Meeting Places. Police safety topics include, gun & knife safety and what to do if they come across one in the home as well as on the street, how to call for help without a phone, bike safety and how to wear a helmet safely and how and where to cross the street, whether on foot or on a bike. A WSCDC Dispatcher explains to students how and when to call 911 and what happens when that call is made. We teach each grade level the same topics but expand topics with every grade level to build upon the info that was taught the previous year.

Fire and Life Safety Education

ISEARCH Public Education Safety Assemblies in our schools are live presentations that include a 24-minute video that River Forest Police Officer Ben Ransom put together that covers all the safety lessons that our live presentations cover. We were able to use the video as a pre-test/post-test for the assemblies. 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. The video does not contain all of the material from the live assembly, but we think the kids bought into the material and the exchange was very beneficial. Another benefit of this teaching format was staff were able to utilize videos to during times when assemblies were not a viable option. However, not all teachers had access to the video.

Change Your Clock, Change Your Alarms!

The River Forest Fire Department, in conjunction with the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance would like to inform all residents of the new Illinois Smoke Detector Act. The Act was updated when statistics from around the country indicated that 71% of smoke alarms which failed to operate in residential fires had missing, disconnected, or dead batteries. The Act requires all Illinois residents to replace their old smoke alarms with the type that has a long-term 10-year sealed battery. The new Act was updated to reflect changes in new technologies. At the end of the 10-year life cycle, these new Smoke Alarms will automatically alert the homeowner to replace the alarm. The new act went into effect January 1, 2023.

Smoke Alarm Recycle Program

A new State of Illinois smoke alarm law goes into effect that will make current alarms with replaceable batteries obsolete. With that obsolescence comes the possibility of the disposal of a large number of smoke alarms. We will set up a recycling program, so they do not end up in a landfill. The Village Hall and Fire Station have two large yellow bins that when full will be sent to a recycling facility in New Mexico. Once there, they will disassemble the smoke alarms and recycle up to 92 percent of the material of the smoke alarm.

Fire and Life Safety Education

Open House

The Fire Department Open House is always a resounding success and is very well attended by Village residents. Since the open house is scheduled for the Saturday of Fire Prevention Week, the theme for the Open House always ties into the annual Fire Prevention theme by the NFPA. 2023 was no different. The 2023 theme was “Cooking safety starts with YOU. Pay attention to fire prevention”. We had approximately 75 kids and 150 adults attend.



Block Parties

Block Parties are always a fun time. Who can resist a block party!! The Fire Department attended 9 block parties during the season. When a block representative fills out their block party permit, they can request that the Fire Department stop by sometime during the event. There are some weekends where staff have 4-5 block party requests and attempt to honor all requests. During the block party, Fire Department staff interact with residents by answering safety questions as well as handing out fire and life safety pamphlets. In those 9 block parties we made contact with 225 kids and 121 adults.

Community Events and Public Education



2023 Activities

- Block Parties
- Car Seat Check/Install
- College Talks
- Community Events
- CPR / AED Classes
- Fire and Life Safety Talks
- Fire Truck Rides
- ISEARCH School Assemblies
- Open House
- Preschool Programs
- Smoke Alarm Installs / Visit
- Station Tours
- Touch-A-Truck

Fire Investigation Division



The River Forest Fire Investigation Division consists of four trained fire investigators. The fire investigators respond to structure and vehicle fires to determine the origin, cause, and development of a fire. The fire investigator has many tasks that must be completed to properly process the fire scene. A completed investigation consists of photographs throughout the scene and a sketch of the scene. The investigator must interview witnesses and the property owners. The scene has to be processed by removing fire debris to find the origin of the fire. When necessary, artifacts are collected as evidence. In the case of arson, the investigator works with the Police and State Fire Marshal. When the investigation is completed, a fire report is constructed and becomes a legal document that can be used in a civil or criminal court.

In the last five years, the Fire Investigation Division responded to 25 fire investigations. The twenty-five fire investigations consisted of 16 fires inside the Village of River Forest. The remaining 9 fires were responses to mutual aid towns inside MABAS Division 11.

The four members of the River Forest Fire Investigation Division in 2023:

- D/C Dave Bochenek
- Lt. John Carter
- Lt. Michael Smith
- FFPM Adam Seablom

Fire Investigation Division

The Investigation Division belongs to multiple professional organizations. River Forest is part of the Division 11 Fire Investigation Team. The Division 11 Team provides manpower and expertise for investigations when a fire investigation MABAS box alarm is requested. The Division 11 Team provides educational classes to its members. The Team has an investigation van that carries all the equipment to conduct an investigation. The van is stationed at an Oak Park firehouse.

The Fire Investigation Division are members of the Fire Investigation Strike Force. This is a nonprofit association that provides a current source of training on topics and advancements in the science of fire investigation. This is done through monthly meetings and bi-annual seminars.

River Forest fire investigators are members of the International Association of Arson Investigators and the IAAI Illinois Chapter. These two organizations provide educational opportunities through classes, seminars, online training, and published materials.

Technical Rescue Training (TRT)

River Forest Fire Department is a member of the Division 11 TRT.

Currently four members of the department are part of the TRT team trained to the technician level.

100% of the TRT members are cross-trained as hazardous materials technicians and are part of the state's deployable team.

The 2023 TRT Drills are listed below:

- Equipment maintenance, inventory, and familiarization
- Rope/High Angle Rescue
- Rappelling
- Combined TRT/Hazmat at MOHR concrete
- Confined Space
- Inter-divisional Drill with Division 10 utilizing Cicero water tower to simulate rescue, breaching concrete structures, collapse and shoring techniques, and trench rescue

Oak Park FD currently houses the TRT truck with the rest of the equipment in the trailer at Cicero's FD.

Info/Mission Statement

TRT incidents present a unique challenge, demanding both a highly specialized, yet multidisciplinary approach to mitigate the problems due to the multi-hazard and complexity of the incidents. TRT members are trained in areas of search, rescue, extrication, structural collapse, rope rescue, vehicle extrication, machinery extrication, confined space, cutting (wood, masonry, and steel), shoring, lifting, breaching, and trench. This training allows TRT members to conduct search and rescue operations at incidents where technical expertise and equipment are required.

During a TRT incident, the fastest response of the most appropriate resources will save the most lives, limit suffering, and expedite the transition to recovery. The retirement of four members of the TRT team has placed a hole in an area already in critical need with three of the four current members being eligible for retirement in the next few years. In addition to training new members of the TRT team, additional funds are also necessary to replace aging equipment since much of our equipment has already or will be approaching the end of its service life. This will help the department in being able to stay compliant with NFPA 1951 which is the standard for technical rescue gear.

Hazardous Materials Team



River Forest Fire Department is a member of the Division 11 Hazardous Material Team Co-op. Division 11 is comprised of 7 surrounding towns that provide information, training, and manpower during a Haz-Mat incident. The Division 11 Team remains a highly regarded response team within the State of Illinois. Members of our team have participated in training exercises in downstate Champaign, IL in order to show knowledge and competency. This is known as the Validation process. Teams are given tasks they complete and are graded on.

Firefighter/Paramedic Jason Bencik is the current Haz-Mat Coordinator for our department.

Members keep their skills and knowledge current by attending training drills and schools that are offered throughout the year.

All 19 operations personnel have been trained at the level of Hazardous Materials Operational level per the Office of the State of Fire Marshal.

11 Hazardous Materials Technician

D/C David Bochenek

Lt. Edward Howe

Lt. Michael Smith

Lt. John Carter

Lt. Quentin Boyd

FFPM Paul Zipperich

FFPM Adan Viera

FFPM Brian McKenna

FFPM Stephen Fischer

FFPM Matthew Basa

FFPM Jason Bencik (Department Hazmat Coordinator)

Vehicle / Equipment Maintenance



Vehicle 200—Chief’s Car

- Regularly scheduled maintenance and incidental items (including tire repair, lighting and wiper blade replacement)
- SCBA mount

Vehicle 201— Deputy Fire Chief’s Car

- Regularly scheduled maintenance and incidental items

Vehicle 202— School Car

- Regularly scheduled maintenance and incidental items. TPMS serviced

Vehicle 213—Engine

- Regularly scheduled maintenance and incidentals
- Deck gun repaired
- Discharge #2 valve replaced
- R1 and rear driver’s side door open switches replaced
- Exhaust hanger repaired
- Ladder door switch repaired and sealed
- A/C recharge
- Front tires replaced
- Water tank gauge repaired
- DEF system fault resolved

Vehicle 214—Ambulance

- Regularly scheduled maintenance and incidentals
- Safety Lane
- V-mux battery replaced and screen reset
- Brake service
- Power steering service
- Rear A/C wiring repaired
- Blower motor repaired

Vehicle / Equipment Maintenance

Vehicle 215—Ambulance

- Regularly scheduled maintenance and incidentals
- Safety Lane
- Engine and drawer batteries replaced (March and December)
- Brake service
- A/C repair
- Radio microphone replaced
- 4 rear tires replaced
- Power sled repaired
- Captain's chair and stretcher headrest reupholstered

Vehicle 218 - Utility

- Regularly scheduled maintenance and incidentals
- Brake service

Vehicle 219—Truck

- Regularly scheduled maintenance and incidentals
- Generator replaced
- Outrigger switch replaced
- Plymovent exhaust magnet repaired
- PTO leak repaired
- Engine/pump cooling hoses replaced
- Jockey pump serviced
- Brake service
- Tire replaced
- DEF system parts (tank) remain on-order

Vehicle 222— Engine

- Regularly scheduled maintenance and incidentals
- All six (6) batteries changed
- Tank to pump valve and solenoid replaced
- Left rear discharge valve replaced

Equipment/Station

Regularly scheduled and as needed maintenance for: SCBA compressor and air packs, pantry shelving, Ambulance stretcher, gear washer, heart monitors, stove/oven, gas/ radiation detectors, hose, nozzles, battery tools, hydraulic tools, portable generators, hand tools/flashlights, hydrant hose monster, electric extension cords, air compressor/ lines, floor drains, garage doors, Plymovent system, clothes washer/dryer, sink drains, shorelines, roof HVAC, roof membrane, fire alarm system

River Forest Fire Department



Phone Number

708-366-7629



Email Address

rffire@vrf.us



Website

www.vrf.us

Like and Follow us @riverforestfire

