

RIVER FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT



MONTHLY REPORT

January 2024



MEMORANDUM

TO: Matt Walsh
Village Administrator

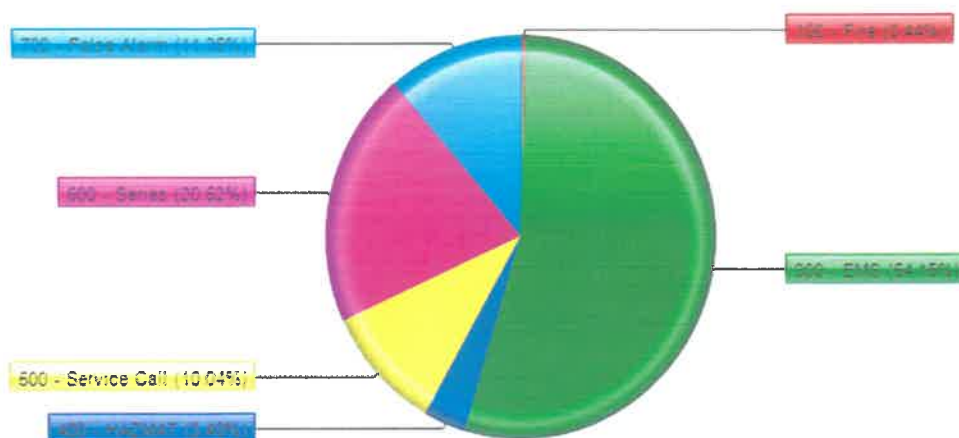
FROM: *Thomas Gaertner*
Thomas Gaertner
Fire Chief

DATE: February 12, 2024

SUBJECT: Monthly Report – January 2024

The Fire Department responded to 241 calls during the month of January. This is above our average number of calls in comparison to January 2023 where we had 173 calls. Emergency Medical Service calls represent 54.15% of our response activity for the month of January.

Incident Type Group	January 2024
100 - Fire	1
300 - EMS	130
400 - Hazardous Conditions	8
500 - Service Call	23
600 - Good Intent	48
700 - False Alarms	29
800 - Other	1
Monthly Total	241





eso



Station Report

46%

FIRE

54%

EMTs

241

INCIDENTS

31

DAYS



Sep '23

Oct '23

Nov '23

Dec '23



Week Ending

1/7/24 1/14/24 1/21/24 1/28/24 2/4/24 2/11/24 2/18/24 2/25/24 3/3/24 3/10/24 3/17/24 3/24/24 3/31/24 Total

RIVER FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT

35 65 58 55 28

241

Total

35 65 58 55 28

241

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 KMS System Training.
- Attended a meeting with Matt Walsh & Trish Ivansek on upcoming Union Negotiations.
- Attended the Monthly Division 11 Fire Chiefs Meeting.
- Attended a WebEx Meeting with Elmhurst Occupational Health to discuss upcoming Triannual Physicals.
- Attended the Monthly Metro Chiefs Executive Board Meeting.
- Attended the Monthly Loyola EMS Fire Chiefs Meeting.
- Attended Zoom Meetings with Lexipol on Fire Department Policy Development.
- Attended a Phone Meeting with IRMA regarding upcoming policy review.
- Attended the Annual 2% Foreign Fire Tax Meeting.

Deputy Fire Chief Bochenek Report

- Attended monthly RFFD Officers' meeting.
- Attended the Cook County Emergency Management KMS System Training.
- Attended a meeting with Matt Walsh & Trish Ivansek on upcoming Union Negotiations.
- Attended the Monthly Division 11 Fire Chiefs Meeting.
- Attended multiple WebEx meetings with Elmhurst Occupational Health to discuss upcoming Triannual Physicals.
- Attended the Annual Departmental vision and planning meeting for personnel.
- Attended the quarterly safety committee meeting.
- Attended multiple meetings for the development and integration of a web-based platform for the use of persons seeking CPR and Stop the Bleed instruction from the department.
- Attended Zoom meetings with Lexipol on Fire Department Policy Development.
- Attended a phone meeting with IRMA regarding upcoming policy review.
- Attended the Annual 2% Foreign Fire Tax Meeting.
- Attended the Chief Fire Officer class held by the University of Illinois Fire Service Institute.
- Attended community cooperative meeting with Concordia University's director of nursing for partnership planning.
- Attended the planning and development meeting with a fire apparatus vendor.
- Attended several meetings with the training and EMS departments to streamline training and EMS training opportunities.
- Attended online NFIRS meeting to prepare and inform departments about the upcoming updates as we transition to NERIS.
- Attended bi-weekly IT meetings to explore technological enhancements for the department to better streamline services.



FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

Fire Marshal Kevin Wiley



Fire Prevention Bureau January 2024

Welcome to January and the new year, 2024. January is always busy getting out new Inspection lists, wrapping up any outstanding inspections and re-inspections from the previous year, and starting new inspections. With that in mind, Chief Gaertner asked if I could take on some additional inspections and take some of the burden off the shifts. If I was able to remove a few Company Inspections and reduce the overall number that the shifts had to do, it would allow more time for the shifts to do more training and other projects in and out of the station. I was able to take on all the inspections associated with Town Center I and II. I recalculated all the Inspection Zones and re-distributed the workload for the shifts. Because that took me some time, the shifts did not get their annual Inspection Lists until the end of January. Therefore, there were no Company Inspections in January. I have started my Target Hazard inspections.

Each year we continue the "Keep the Wreath RED" Fire Safety campaign, and the campaign usually runs into the first full week of January when a few residents start taking down their holiday decorations. I am proud to say that River Forest had another Fire Safe holiday season in 2023 and did NOT experience any fires due to holiday decorations. Chief Gaertner will be compiling a 2023 Fire Department Annual Report and I spent time gathering information and photos for that 2023 report.

As part of the new Training Calendar, all department members (including me) will now be doing the annual training mandated by OSHA/IDOL. Even though I didn't do it at the same time the shifts did, it was very easy to find on the calendar and I was able to catch up to the shifts. I also attended a virtual training session sponsored by the Illinois Fire Inspector's Association on NFPA 72, the Fire Alarm Code. Chief Gaertner and Deputy Chief Bochenek held a Fire Department Team Meeting where the Chiefs went over some of the many goals and objectives for 2023 as well as the department outlook for 2024. It was nice to see 19 department members there as well.

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

Individual Shift Reports

Black Shift Report- Lieutenant Q. Boyd

Activities: For the month of January, Black Shift had a total of 83 calls. 35 were fire-related, 47 were EMS calls, and 1 was for public service.

Incidents/Events of note: Lt. Boyd and EMS Coordinator Fischer attended a meeting with the Director of Nursing from Concordia to discuss training opportunities with Deputy Chief Bochenek.

Shift Training: Driver training, blood-borne pathogens, hearing protection, SCBA, tools, sexual harassment, extinguishers, physical fitness, Loyola monthly CE, compartments review, asthma, anti-harassment, donning and doffing, global SDS and hazard communication, LODD review, ropes and knots, and burns were completed this month.

Benchmarks: Black shift had 103.5 hours of fire-related training this month and 38 hours of EMS training for a total of 141.5 hours of training. That is an average of 23.5 hours per LT and firefighter/paramedics. Additionally, FF Seablom had an extra 104 hours of training himself since he took company fire officer.

Departmental Goals: No inspections have been completed yet for the year.

Hydrants flow tested: 0/80
Hydrants flushed: 0/102
Hose testing: Not started.
Inspections: 0/61 complete

Red Shift Report- Lieutenant M. Smith

Activities: For the month of January, Red Shift had a total of 84 calls. 29 of the calls were fire-related. There were 43 EMS calls and 12 service calls.

Incidents/Events of note: On January 12th, 218 responded to 2107 ½ Oak Park Ave, Berwyn for the HAZMAT Box. 218 was assigned science research during the hazardous material incident. On January 26th, Truck 219 responded to 1427 Forest Ave for a possible gas leak. Truck 219 was investigated and found natural gas and CO in the basement. An investigation found that the water heater was malfunctioning. T219 shut off the gas to the water heater and ventilated the home. On January 30th, Engine 213 responded to a MABAS Box alarm at 1404 S. 20th Ave, Maywood. The alarm was for a single-family home with a basement fire. Engine 213 assisted Maywood firefighters with manpower.

Shift Training: Loyola CE for January was on Cardiac. Red Shift completed Anti-Harassment and Sexual Harassment training. The Shift completed online courses on SDS and Blood Borne Pathogens. Red Shift viewed a presentation on Hearing Protection. Red Shift attended two online EMS courses: Asthma and Burns. The Shift completed online training on ropes and knots. The Shift completed the practical portion of ropes and knots. Red Shift continues to review the new Fire Department Policies. FF Doran installed one car safety seat.

Benchmarks: Red Shift had 76.25 hours of fire-related training this month and 68 hours of EMS training for a total of 144.25 hours of training. That is an average of 24.04 hours per firefighter.

Departmental Goals: Inspections: 0/81 Hydrant Flow Test: 0/82 Hydrant Flushed: 0/54

Gold Shift Report - Lieutenant E. Howe

Activities:

For the month of January, Gold Shift had a total of 75 calls. 30 calls were fire-related, 39 involved emergency medical services, and 6 were service calls.

Incidents/Events of Note:

On January 12th, Ambulance 215 and Engine 213 responded to a car into a pole on the 700 block of Harlem. Ambulance 215 provided ALS care and transported one patient to Rush Oak Park Hospital in stable condition. Public works notified of damage to the streetlight and fire hydrant.

Shift Training:

Our monthly fire included CPR, care and maintenance of equipment, Forcible entry, SCBA training, driver/operator training, EMS SOP review, and report writing.

Benchmarks:

Gold shift had 140 hours of training this month, for an average of 23.3 hours per firefighter.

FF Zipperich attended Company Officer training in Romeoville.

LT Howe attended the Div. 11 TRT drill in Cicero

LT Howe Attended Winter Fire School (Leadership Resiliency) in Champaign.

FF Krall installed one car seat.

Inspections: 2024 inspections received from fire prevention.

Department Training Lt. Carter

For January 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 on December 18th, 19th, and 20th. Objectives presented for Haz Mat were monitoring, ERG guide, Level B suit donning damming and diking, and decontamination. For TRT, members put on harnesses and ascended a rope approximately 20 feet
- FF/PM Seablom attended the Division 11 Fire Investigator drill in Berwyn. The subject was Electrical Fires.
- I am finalizing an annual training schedule on the Outlook Calendar

EMS/Paramedic Activity FF/PM Fischer

Due to the changeover from the old EMS reporting system, the breakdown of calls is not currently available. We are working with the new software company to get a more granular and consumer-friendly tracking system. In the month of January, RFFD responded to a TOTAL of 115 patients. Of those patients, Ambulance 215 treated and transported 100, while 12 patients refused further treatment/transport from the fire department. In addition, crews responded to 3 patients for a lift assist. The 100 patients were transported to the following hospitals:

Loyola University Medical Center- 13

Rush Oak Park Hospital- 70

Gottlieb Memorial Hospital- 16

West Suburban Hospital- 1

Hines VA- 0

MacNeal- 0

800 N. Harlem- 15 patients

Mutual Aid from A215- 24 times

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

Lt Howe and FF Zipperich continued fine-tuning vehicle our maintenance program. Below are 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 service this year. Had 1st preventative maintenance performed in November.
- 201- Up to date on maintenance.
- 218-Prevtative maintenance completed.
- 213-Preventative Maintenance and pump test complete. Extensive wiring and brake repairs were completed. EGR and low coolant light issues were repaired. The **SRS system needs additional diagnosis (issue almost since new, still unable to correct). (FSI Replaced 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 is due in February. **The backup camera still needs repair Creak noise from the rear suspension and preventative maintenance was not completed in January because of 214 repairs.**
- 214-Preventative maintenance completed in November, left inner tie rod replaced. Miscellaneous lights were installed in the house; V-mux was repaired in-house. Exhaust fumes in patient compartment issue were corrected and the rear step bumper has been corrected.

EQUIPMENT

No report.

FIRE STATION

No report.

Thomas Gaertner

From: Ann Feeney <ann.feeney@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 18, 2024 2:47 PM
To: Thomas Gaertner
Subject: [External] Kudos to your team members

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

This morning around 8:30 or 9:00, I had to call paramedics to help my mother to get up from the toilet. The two gentlemen who showed up could not have been kinder, more reassuring, gentler, or more respectful of her dignity. The address was 221 North Kenilworth in Oak Park.

I believe that they came from your office, but wasn't able to confirm that yet because the reports weren't fully in when I called to ask how to say thank you.

I greatly appreciate their kindness and everything that they did for her.

If this was by some chance not people on your team could you let me know, so I can track down the right people and deliver my thanks?

Again, thanks to you and to these very kind people on your team.