

# **RIVER FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT**



# **MONTHLY REPORT**

## **JUNE 2023**



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Matt Walsh  
Village Administrator

FROM: Thomas Gaertner  
Thomas Gaertner  
Fire Chief

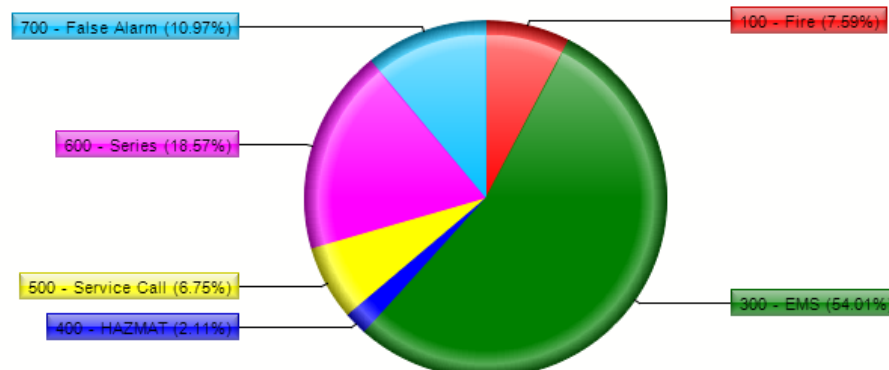
DATE: July 1, 2023

SUBJECT: Monthly Report – June 2023

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The Fire Department responded to 237 calls during the month of June. This is above our average number of calls in comparison to June 2022 where we had 225 calls. Emergency Medical Service calls represent 54.01% of our response activity for the month of June.

Incident Type Group	June 2023
100 - Fire	18
300 - EMS	128
400 - Hazardous Conditions	5
500 - Service Call	16
600 - Good Intent	44
700 - False Alarms	26
800 - Natural Disasters	0
<b>Monthly Total</b>	<b>237</b>





Custom v Jan 1, 2023 - Jun 30, 2023 v

42%

FIRE  
Percentage of Total Incidents

58%

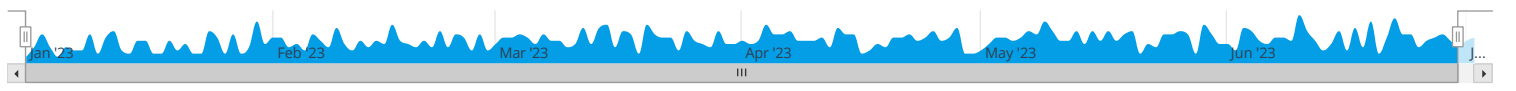
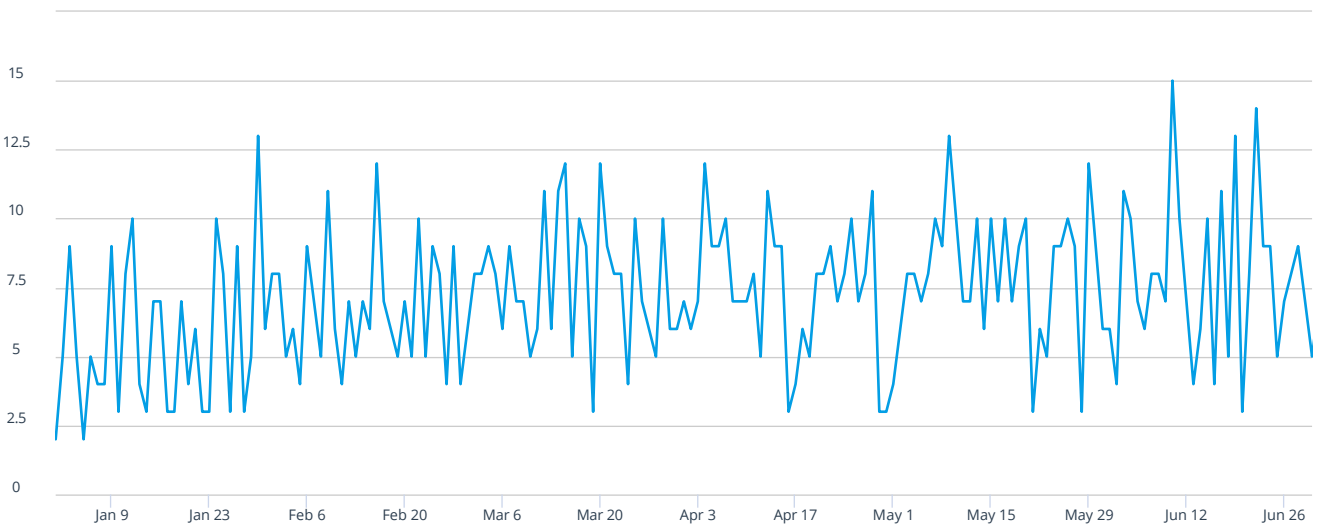
EMS  
Percentage of Total Incidents

1,305

INCIDENTS  
In Selected Time Slice

181

DAYS  
In Selected Time Slice



- Counts
- % Rows
- % Columns
- % All

	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
RIVER FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT	173	189	237	223	247	236								1,305
Total	173	189	237	223	247	236								1,305

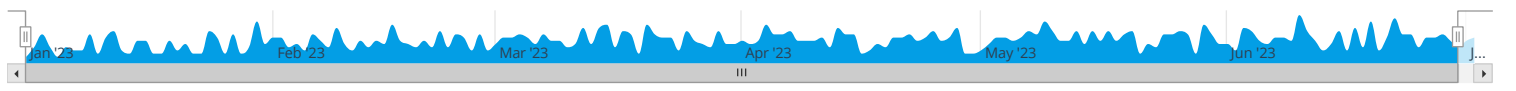
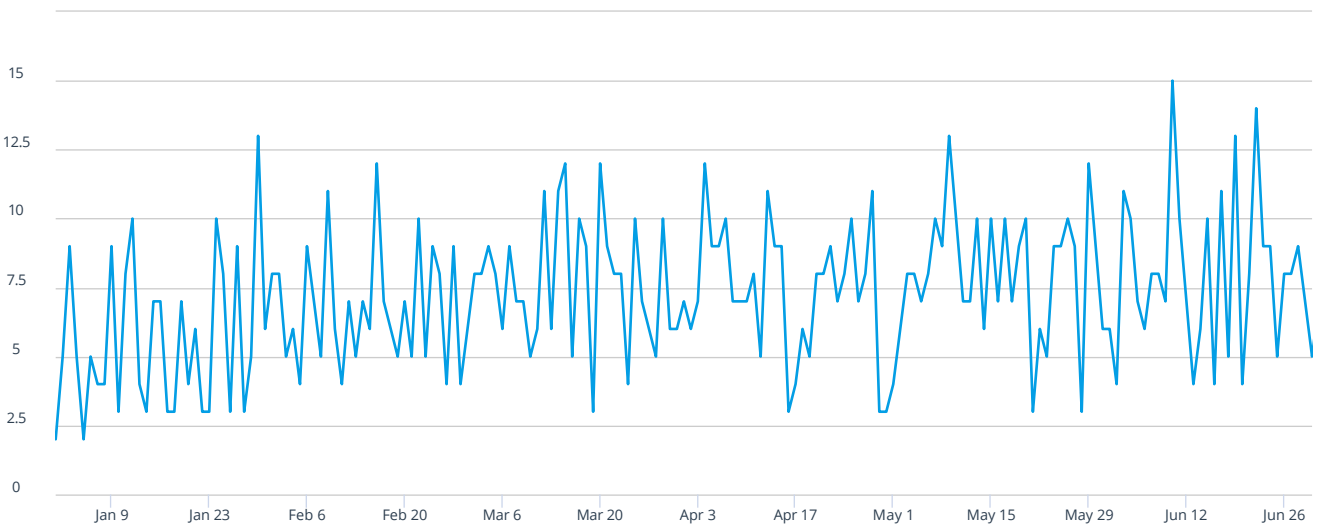
Custom ▾ Jan 1, 2023 - Jun 30, 2023 ▾

**42%**  
**FIRE**  
 Percentage of Total Incidents

**58%**  
**EMS**  
 Percentage of Total Incidents

**1,307**  
**INCIDENTS**  
 In Selected Time Slice

**181**  
**DAYS**  
 In Selected Time Slice



**Counts** | % Rows | % Columns | % All

	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								36
(13) Mobile property (vehicle) fire					2									2
(14) Natural vegetation fire					1	10								11
(15) Outside rubbish fire					1									1
(32) Emergency medical service (EMS) incident	104	111	144	137	134	127								757
(33) Lock-In				1										1
(35) Extrication, rescue				1	2									3
(38) Rescue or EMS standby						1								1
(41) Combustible/f... spills & leaks	3	5	1	1	5	4								19
(42) Chemical release, reaction, or toxic condition	1	1			1									3
(44) Electrical wiring/equipm. problem	2	1	2	1	1	1								8
(51) Person in distress	3	5	4	3	2	7								24
(52) Water problem		2	1											3
(53) Smoke, odor problem		1					1							2
(55) Public service assistance	4	9	12	13	17	8								63

	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
(61) Dispatched and canceled en route	28	20	34	31	24	36								173
(62) Wrong location, no emergency found	4	5	4	3	16	8								40
(65) Steam, other gas mistaken for smoke		1	1	1										3
(71) Malicious, mischievous false alarm				1	1									2
(73) System or detector malfunction	1	2	6	2	2	2								15
(74) Unintentional system/detect... operation (no fire)	19	20	25	20	30	24								138
NULL						1								1
UNK				1										1
Total	173	189	237	223	247	238								1,307

## **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 Metro Chiefs Executive Board Meeting.
- Attended the Juneteenth Flag Raising at the River Forest Public Library.
- Attended a meeting with Lexipol on Policy Development.
- Attended the Speaker Chris Welch Juneteenth Celebration in Hillside.
- Conducted my Quarterly Meetings with all three Shifts.
- Attended the Wounded Warrior Ride at Chicago and Thatcher Woods.
- Participated in hosting the villages employee luncheon.
- Attended Webinar Training on our Tenzinga Employee Performance Evaluation System.
- Attended the Celebration of Life Services for Retired Fire Chief Russ Nummer.
- Participated with Fire and Police Commissioner Mellman on Fire Department Orientation.
- Attended the monthly Village Board Meeting.

## **FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU**

### **Fire Marshal Kevin Wiley**

Welcome to June 2023 and the realization that 2023 is now half over!! Time sure is moving fast!

I performed 10 Target Hazard Inspections and the Shifts performed six Company Inspections. That may not seem like a lot of inspections but as I have discussed in past reports, the Shift Commanders often do more than the average inspections in the cooler months thus allowing for more outdoor training and activities during the warmer summer months. Overall, we are right in line with the inspection totals for the first six months of 2022.

In conjunction with the Village's insurance carrier IRMA, we held a Fire Drill at the Village Hall. All departments and staff participated in the drill. When the alarm sounded, everyone exited the building and assembled in front of the Village Hall for accountability purposes. There were a couple of citizens who were also ushered out of the building by staff at the front counter. The only staff that were made aware prior to the drill were the dispatchers at WSCDC and on-duty fire personnel. Fire Deputy Chief Bochenek and I met with Trish Ivansek (HR) before and after the drill to review the drill procedures and the post-drill numbers. All in all, the drill was a success. We have plans to do more fire drills in the future.

With the end of the school year comes requests for last minute tours and public education programs. The fire department had our annual visit from 64 kindergartners from Lincoln School who spent time on a tour of the Fire Station and Police Station side of the Village Hall. The tour highlighted all the rooms of the fire station as well as some of the equipment firefighters work

with. The fire department also visited the preschoolers at the West Suburban Temple Har Zion where we discussed firefighter familiarity and showed the kids the fire trucks.

The Fire Department was involved with the auction of a Fire Truck Ride to School from the PTO at Willard School. Both the Fire and Police gave the winning families rides to school on the last day of school. What a way to end the school year. With Willard School, the ride started on Franklin Avenue and came all the way around the long 1200 blocks of Franklin Avenue and Ashland Avenue with lights and sirens blaring. All the other students on the playground were able to see them coming from around the block. Once we dropped off the winners, we had an impromptu Touch a Truck event where a lot of the arriving students stood in line to see the fire trucks. Every time we have participated in these auctions, I have been told that this is their highest bidding prize, sometimes with a bidding war!! (see photos) While doing an inspection of the River Forest Methodist Church, all the kids from Mosaic Academy came out for another impromptu event.

I spent several hours assisting with the NEW Outdoor Warning Sirens and witnessing that they were indeed working on several occasions. I will describe the new system in my July 2023 report.

I participated in a pre-course training and test for the “Stop the Bleed” course coming in July. It was a very good test.

The Fire Department played host to all Village employees for a Summer BBQ. This lunch is part of series of lunch events that have been planned by the Human Resource Department for Village Staff to come together, relax, and have some fun while all the while, eating a good meal. (see photos)

Last but certainly not least, I was on the winning side of this new CUBS – Sox rivalry that you may have heard about for the last 100 years. Whatever team had the better winning record for the month, the other team had to provide a baseball related snack... affectionately called the “Snacks of Shame”. My team won in April but lost in May with the payoff in June. As you can see by the photos, my baseball themed snacks were Peanuts, Cracker Jacks, and Big Chew Bubble Gum .....get it? A good time was had by all... oh, by the way, My team won in June!!





Students at West Suburban Temple Har Zion

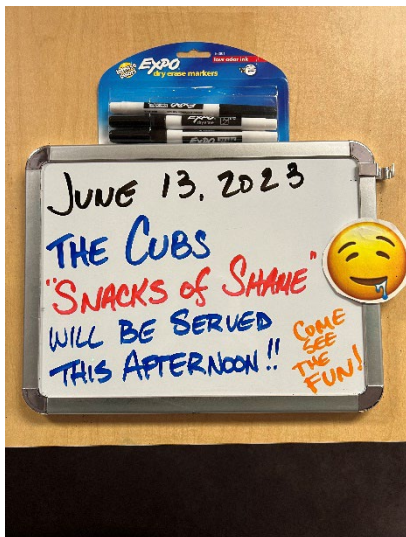


Fire Truck Ride to School





Village Staff BBQ



Cubs "Snack of Shame" for May



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

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES	MONTHLY TOTALS		YTD-YEAR TO DATE	
	Jun-22	Jun-23	2022	2023
**FPB Inspections	10	10	71	89
**Company Inspections	6	4	84	79
FPB Re-Inspections	3	0	44	41
Company Re-Inspections	12	1	58	43
Special Inquiry - B/L Site Inspections	1	0	8	2
Construction Inspections (Rough/Finals)	5	5	10	23
Inspections with Building Department	2	0	3	1
Inspections <b>with/for</b> State Fire Marshal	4	0	5	4
Permit Inspections (tent, hot work, UST)	3	2	5	2
<b>TOTAL INSPECTIONS</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>284</b>
School/Business Emergency Plans/Drills	1	7	2	13
Violation Notices Issued	12	4	99	82
Violations Noted	25	15	193	223
Violations Corrected	23	2	145	120
Permits Issued	3	2	5	3
**Complaints Received & Investigated	1	1	2	1
Meetings/Consultations	6	6	59	36
Training Activities	4	1	14	21
Fire Suppression/Alarm System Tests/Finals	1	0	0	8
Fire Suppression Hydro's	0	0	1	3
**Plan Reviews and Revisions	18	15	54	41
**Average turn around ( <b>Business Days</b> )	4.5 days	1.26 days	7.18 days	3.12 days
Public Education Programs	5	7	9	19
Public Education Program Contacts	118	166	420	332
Misc Fire Prev Activities (See Narrative)	8	7	26	44

\*\* Performance Measures for the Chief

Kevin Wiley    Fire Marshal

## **Individual Shift Reports**

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

**Activities:** For the month of June the Gold Shift responded to a total of 75 calls. 40 of the calls were fire related, 32 involved emergency medical services and there were 3 service calls.

**Incidents/Events of Note:** On June 10th, the Gold Shift responded multiple times for fires in the forest preserve at Oak and Edgewood. Engine 222 used foam and extinguished multiple fires that were within reach of houselines from the street. Engine 222 responded for additional calls from residents concerned about other spot fires further into the woods. Crews reassured residents that fires would not be allowed to threaten their homes even if some areas were allowed to burn themselves out.

Members of the Gold Shift attended memorial services for retired Fire Chief and Village Trustee Nummer.

**Shift Training:** Gold shift had 138 hours of training this month, for an average of 27.6 hours per firefighter. Gold shift completed hose testing on Engine 222 and completed 1/3 of assigned hydrant testing. Gold shift members participated in The Wounded Warrior ride through town. FF Rouse had additional Engineer/Driver training in preparation for an Engine assignment in August. Our monthly fire training included water supply, hose testing care and maintenance of equipment, hose deployment, SCBA training, and driver operator training.

**Inspections:** 0 In-company fire inspections were completed in June.

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

**Activities:** Black Shift had a total of 67 calls. 18 were fire related, 49 were EMS calls.

**Incidents/Events of note:** On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, students and teachers at Lincoln School were provided a station tour and fire safety talk. Black Shift had a forest fire at Edgewood and Oak on June 5<sup>th</sup>. On the morning of June 8<sup>th</sup>, crew gave a student a ride to Willard School. Went to Stickney on a 3rd alarm MABAS incident for a forest fire on June 8<sup>th</sup>. Natural gas line ruptured at 505 River Oaks on June 17<sup>th</sup>. Quarterly meeting with Chief and Deputy Chief on June 20<sup>th</sup>. Oven fire at 122 Forest on June 20<sup>th</sup>. Retrieved a vehicle key fob that fell into a sewer at Jewel on June 20<sup>th</sup>. 2 small fires on tracks south of firehouse on June 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Shift Training:** Black Shift has begun putting the training prop in service. The walls for the Denver drill have been installed. Crew went to Forest Park FD to see a Tempest battery operated saw in action. All ladders were tested on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Training hours are down this month due to an abnormally high call volume on Black shift this month. Black Shift had 123.5 hours of fire related training this month and 24 hours of EMS training for a total of 147.5 hours of training. Some of the fire training can be considered cross training between fire and EMS, but for categorization purposes it was placed under fire training. That is an average of 24.6 hours per Lieutenant and firefighter/paramedics.

**Inspections:** 3 In-company fire inspections and 2 re-inspections were completed in June..

**Red Shift Report: Lt. Smith**

**Activities:** For the month of June, Red Shift had 90 calls. 35 of the calls were fire related. There were 51 EMS calls and 4 service calls.

**Incidents/Events of note:** On June 7<sup>th</sup>, Red Shift responded to 430 S. Taylor Ave, Oak Park for a structure fire. The crew performed a primary search on the second floor, ventilated, deployed hose lines, and extinguished fire. The crew was on scene for 5 ½ hours. On June 24<sup>th</sup>, Red Shift responded to 2225 S. Harvey, Berwyn. The fire consisted of four homes. The crew performed overhaul in the B2 exposure looking for fire extension. Overhaul was performed on the first and second floors. The crew investigated the B1 exposure for fire extension.

**Shift Training:** Red Shift tested three-inch fire hoses. Red Shift continued to train on various topics with FF Kyles. Red Shift trained on the aerial ladder at the Priory property. The shift raised the aerial ladder and flowed water through the master stream. The crew had FF Kyles climb the ladder and operate the master stream nozzle. FF Kyles connected a supply line from the hydrant to the truck. FF Kyles deployed a hand line from the truck. FF Kyles was involved in an entanglement drill. FF Kyles had to cut himself out of a simulated ceiling collapse scenario. FF Basa taught CPR to the Park District.

**Benchmarks:** Red Shift had 120.75 hours of fire related training this month and 2.75 hours of EMS training for a total of 123.50 hours of training. That is an average of 20.6 hours per firefighter.

**Inspections:** 5 In-company fire inspections with 6 violations, and 1 re-inspection with 2 corrections were completed in June.

**Department Training Lt. Carter**

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

- Shifts continued their assigned building inspections.
- Shifts are becoming acclimated with the new training prop. Several evolutions have been performed.
- FF/PM's Basa and Buchholz taught CPR for the Park District on June 1.
- FF/PM Zipperich taught CPR for community members on June 17.

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

During the month of June, RFFD responded for a total of 132 patients. Of the 132 patients, 95 were treated and transported by Ambulance 215, 2 were invalid assists and 30 patients refused care. These 132 patients had various complaints. Below are how the complaints break down:

- No complaint – 0
- Abdominal Pain – 2
- Allergic Reaction – 0
- Altered Mental Status - 1
- Animal Bite -- 0
- Assault – 1
- Breathing Problems – 9
- Burns -- 0
- Psychiatric – 6
- Chest Pain – 8
- Cardiac/Traumatic/Respiratory Arrest – 1
- Choking -- 1
- Diabetic – 0
- Eye Problem -- 0
- Fall – 23
- General Injury - 1
- Headache/Concussion – 2
- Hemorrhage/Bleeding -- 1
- Medical Alarm – 1
- Opiate Overdose -- 1
- Pain (Back) – 0
- Pain (General) -- 0
- Patient Assist – 0
- Poisoning / Drug Ingestion – 1
- Seizure – 1
- Sick Person -- 29
- Stroke / CVA – 2
- Special Event Stand-by - 0
- Traffic Accident -- 8
- Traumatic Injury – 1
- Unconscious/Unresponsive – 10
- Unknown Problems – 4
- Weakness - 0

The 95 patients who were transported went to the following hospitals:

- Gottlieb – 6
- Hines VA – 1
- Loyola – 11
- MacNeal - 1
- Community First -- 0
- Rush / Oak Park – 75
- Resurrection - 0
- West Suburban – 1

We had 11 calls to other towns for a mutual aid ambulance and received aid from other towns 8 times.

**Vehicle/Station Maintenance    FF/PM Zipperich**

**VEHICLES**

- 200 - Nothing reported
- 201 - Nothing reported
- 202 - Serviced at Pete's. Frame issues reported
- 299 - Blower motor repaired. Radio handset removed
- 213 - OOS. Waiting on OEM harness
- 214 - Fail Safe emergency switch found in "on" position, driver's side inner rear tire repaired
- 215 - Radio handset changed
- 218 - Radio handset changed
- 219 - Tank to pump valve may be leaking
- 222 - Nothing reported

**EQUIPMENT**

- All ladders tested and serviced
- STIHL ignition control module replaced and will not run. Taken for service/Russo power equipment
- Floor fan repaired
- 219 - 5 gas monitor OOS

**FIRE STATION**

- Fredrickson inspected extinguishers
- UPS package to chief
- ABT called and performed oven service

**WOUNDED WARRIOR RIDE 2023**



