

# **RIVER FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT**



# **MONTHLY REPORT**

## **MARCH 2023**



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Matt Walsh  
Interim Village Administrator

FROM: Thomas Gaertner  
Thomas Gaertner  
Fire Chief

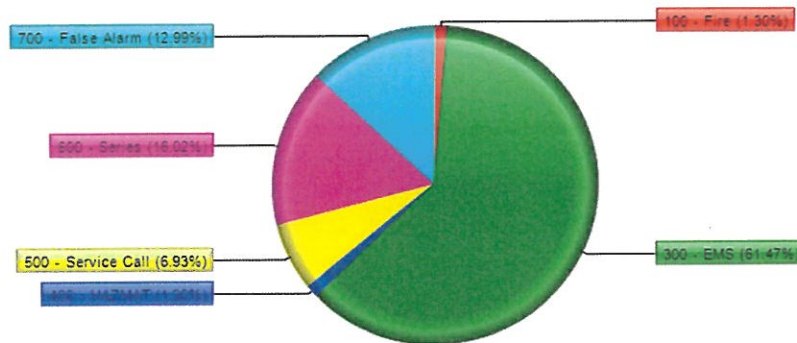
DATE: April 5, 2023

SUBJECT: Monthly Report – March 2023

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The Fire Department responded to 231 calls during the month of March. This is above our average number of calls in comparison to March 2022 where we had 190 calls. Emergency Medical Service calls represent 61.47% of our response activity for the month of March.

Incident Type Group	March 2023
100 - Fire	3
300 - EMS	142
400 - Hazardous Conditions	3
500 - Service Call	16
600 - Good Intent	37
700 - False Alarms	30
<b>Monthly Total</b>	<b>231</b>



### **Chief Gaertner Report**

- Attended monthly RFFD Officers meeting.
- Attended the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association Spring Symposium.
- Attended a meeting with Braniff Communications about the Outdoor Warning Siren.
- Attended the monthly Statewide Terrorism & Intelligence Center (STIC) webinar.
- Attended the monthly MABAS Division 11 Fire Chiefs Meeting.
- Attended the monthly Metro Chiefs Executive Board Meeting.
- Attended a meeting with Zoll Medical Products about Zoll One Program.
- Attended a webinar on Lithium-Ion Battery Fires.
- RFFD hosted two days of Fire Investigator Training for MABAS Division 11.
- RFFD attended the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Concordia University's new Nursing Program. (Photos Attached)

### **FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU**

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

March started off with Daylight Saving where we encouraged all residents to change their clocks as well as change/check their smoke alarms. With the new Smoke Alarm Act that went into effect January 1, 2023, we ramped up our messages in multiple public education formats to get the word out about replacing older alarms with new, 10-year sealed battery alarms. We also got messages out that we have a Smoke Alarm Recycle bin that is located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Village Hall. As of this month, the bin is approximately half filled.

Coming off a busy month of February where I inspected all buildings at the Dominican University campus, in March I performed all first-round inspections of Concordia University. Reinspection's of those buildings will be done in April. The Bureau and the Shifts did 42 Inspections and 14 re-inspections in March.

The 46<sup>th</sup> annual Fire and Life Safety Conference was held over four days in East Peoria, IL. The conference started with a pre-conference training session featuring tricks, tips and ideas to step up our fire and life safety training classes. The next three days were a combination of breakout sessions on fire and life safety issues as well as code related topics. Sessions included updates from various departments within the Office of the State Fire Marshal, to a large discussion on how to prepare for the ever-increasing fire risk problem caused by lithium-ion batteries. All in all, an excellent conference. I was able to attend over 22 hours of public education and code related training sessions.

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.

Miscellaneous activities of note for March:

- Code Review issues to update my Inspection Class for all shifts.
- Gathering of material for the Pub Ed events
- Weekly FPB Paperwork to Laserfiche/LAMA
- After conference paperwork
- I came in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Village Hall Irish Soda Bread Bake-off



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

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES	MONTHLY TOTALS		YTD-YEAR TO DATE	
	Feb-22	Mar-23	2022	2023
**FPB Inspections	23	23	27	51
**Company Inspections	19	17	44	60
FPB Re-Inspections	3	9	3	14
Company Re-Inspections	8	5	39	23
Special Inquiry - B/L Site Inspections	3	0	2	0
Construction Inspections (Rough/Finals)	1	4	3	8
Inspections with Building Department	0	0	2	0
Inspections <b>with/for</b> State Fire Marshal	0	0	1	0
Permit Inspections (tent, hot work, UST)	2	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL INSPECTIONS</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>156</b>
School/Business Emergency Plans/Drills	0	0	0	2
Violation Notices Issued	33	31	40	63
Violations Noted	48	72	80	167
Violations Corrected	15	26	35	54
Permits Issued	2	0	0	0
**Complaints Received & Investigated	0	0	0	0
Meetings/Consultations	14	4	22	20
Training Activities	12	13	1	15
Fire Suppression/Alarm System Tests/Finals	0	0	0	5
Fire Suppression Hydro's	0	1	0	3
**Plan Reviews and Revisions	8	7	16	13
**Average turn around ( <b>Business Days</b> )	2.25 days	7 days	11.25 Days	3.7 days
Public Education Programs	0	2	2	10
Public Education Program Contacts	0	10	18	142
Misc Fire Prev Activities (See Narrative)	8	7	6	21

\*\* Performance Measures for the Chief

Kevin Wiley Fire Marshal

## **Individual Shift Reports**

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

**Activities:** For the month of March the Gold Shift had a total of 72 calls. 28 of the calls were fire related, 39 involved emergency medical services and there were 5 service calls.

**Incidents/Events of Note:** On March 24, Engine 213 responded to a MABAS Box Alarm at 7848 26<sup>th</sup> in North Riverside for the structure fire. Gold shifts crew conducted a search of the building and reunited residents with pets found during the search.

**Training:** Gold shift had 128 hours of training this month, for an average of 21.3 hours per firefighter. Our monthly fire training included trauma care, care and maintenance of equipment, new SCBA compressor training, and Loyola EMS Continuing Education.

**Inspections:** 12 In-Company fire inspections were completed in February.

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

**Activities:** Black Shift had a total of 84 calls. 26 were fire related, 52 were EMS calls, 6 service calls.

**Incidents/Events of Note:** 213 responded to a fire in Oak Park. 213 performed search and then performed overhaul. No injuries to report.

**Shift Training:** Black shift had 176 hours of fire related training this month and 59 hours of EMS training for a total of 235.75 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 39.29 hours per LT and firefighter/paramedics. Hazmat training, Quick drills, driver training, water rescue, various EMS trainings, EKGs, drug abuse, and preplan reviews were done this month.

**Inspections:** 25 of 77 In-company inspections were completed this month.

### **Red Shift Report: Lt. Smith**

**Activities:** For the month of March Red Shift had a total of 81 calls. 22 of the calls were fire related. There were 53 EMS calls and 6 service calls.

**Incidents/Events of Note:** On March 17th, Ambulance 215 responded to Harlem and Grand Ave, Elmwood Park for the car accident. Ambulance 215 worked with Elmwood Park Engine 947 and Chicago Fire Department personnel to manage the patients. Chicago Fire personnel handled the refusals. Ambulance 215 transported to Gottlieb Hospital.

On March 29<sup>th</sup>, Engine 213 responded to the special duty call. Engine 213 responded to the home address for the 1-year-old boy and 3-year-old girl locked inside a bathroom. E213 arrived on

scene and were told the children were inside the bathroom with a bathtub full of water. Engine 213 gained entry to the bathroom quickly and without damage to the door. The children were safely outside the bathtub. The Engine crew fixed the doorknob to prevent another incident.

On March 29<sup>th</sup>, Engine 213 responded to 407 Ashland Ave for the special duty. E213 found an electric wheelchair had the tires caught in a rug. The wheelchair was unable to be moved. E213 lifted the wheelchair back tires to remove the carpet. The hospital bed and furniture were moved to straighten the rug to prevent the issue from reoccurring. The furniture and bed were placed back in their original positions.

**Shift Training:** Red Shift had 176 hours of fire related training this month and 35 hours of EMS training for a total of 211 hours of training. That is an average of 35 hours per firefighter. Shift training for the month included Loyola Continuing Education on Respiratory Emergencies. Shift members continued to train on Fire Rescue 1 and EMS1 Academy classes. Red Shift completed drills on SCBA awareness and RIT pack familiarization. FF Seablom attended a 40-hour Advanced Firefighter Tech class at NIPSTA. FF Seablom attended an 8-hour FSVO class in Romeoville. FF Seablom, FF Basa, and Lt. Smith attended the Division 11 Fire Investigation Team Drill. Lt. Smith attended a two-day IFSI fire training and command event in Plainfield. Lt. Smith attended a 1.5-hour High Rise firefighting tactic class online. Lt. Smith completed a one-hour Zoom class on Initial Size-up Reports.

**Inspections:** 0 In-company fire inspection were conducted in March.

### Training Lt. Carter

For March 2023 the department participated in various training activities such

- Loyola CE was held on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>. Subject was Respiratory Emergencies
- Shifts continued their assigned building inspections.
- Lt. Bochenek attended 4-day Water Ops class in Romeoville.
- Lt's. Bochenek and Howe attended a Step Up and Lead seminar at Harper College in Palatine
- FF/PM Seablom attended Advanced Technician Firefighter class February 27-March 3 in Romeoville
- FF/PM Seablom attended FSVO class on March 31<sup>st</sup> in Romeoville.
- Division 11 TRT drill was held in Cicero on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Subject was Elevator Rescue. The Elevator Rescue System was demonstrated. Lt. Howe and Lt. Carter attended.
- Division 11 Fire Investigator drill was held in River Forest on March 16<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. Subject was Fire Effects and Patterns. Lt's. Carter, Bochenek, and Smith as well as FF's Seablom and Basa attended.

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

In the month of March, RFFD responded for a total of 132 patients. Of the 132 patients, 113 were treated and transported by Ambulance 215, 4 were invalid assists and 15 patients refused care. These 132 patients had various complaints. Below are how the complaints break down:

No complaint – 0  
 Abdominal Pain – 6  
 Allergic Reaction – 1  
 Animal Bite -- 0  
 Assault – 1  
 Breathing Problems – 14  
 Burns -- 0  
 Psychiatric – 7  
 Chest Pain – 11  
 Cardiac/Traumatic/Respiratory Arrest – 0  
 Choking -- 0  
 Diabetic – 0  
 Eye Problem -- 0  
 Fall - 21  
 Headache/Concussion – 0  
 Hemorrhage/Bleeding -- 1  
 Medical Alarm – 0  
 Opiate Overdose -- 2  
 Pain (Back) – 0  
 Pain (General) -- 0  
 Patient Assist – 0  
 Poisoning / Drug Ingestion – 3  
 Seizure – 0  
 Sick Person -- 28  
 Stroke / CVA – 2  
 Traffic Accident -- 9  
 Traumatic Injury – 4  
 Unconscious/Unresponsive – 7  
 Unknown Problems -- 6

The 113 patients who were transported went to the following hospitals:

Gottlieb – 19  
 Hines VA – 0  
 Loyola – 23  
 MacNeal - 0  
 Community First -- 0  
 Rush / Oak Park – 67  
 Resurrection - 0  
 West Suburban – 4

We had 35 calls to other towns for a mutual aid ambulance and received aid from other towns 11 times.



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

**No Report**

**CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY NURSING SCHOOL**  
**RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY**



