

# **RIVER FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT**



# **MONTHLY REPORT**

## **NOVEMBER 2022**



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Brian Murphy  
Village Administrator

FROM: Thomas Gaertner  
Thomas Gaertner  
Fire Chief

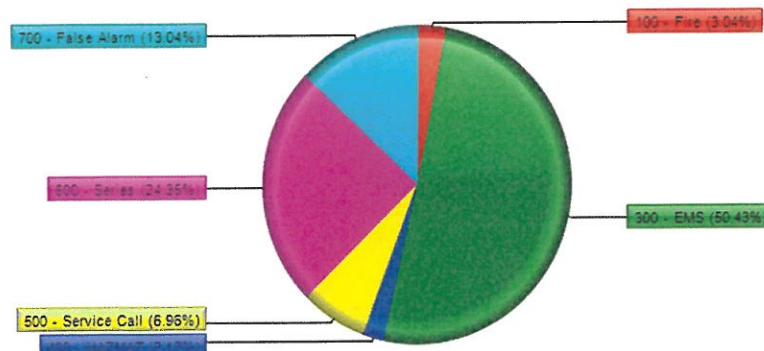
DATE: December 6, 2022

SUBJECT: Monthly Report – November 2022

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The Fire Department responded to 230 calls during the month of November. This is above our average number of calls in comparison to November 2021 where we had 210 calls. Emergency Medical Service calls represented 50.43% of our response activity for the month of November.

Incident Type Group	November 2022
100 - Fire	7
300 - EMS	116
400 - Hazardous Conditions	5
500 - Service Call	16
600 - Good Intent	56
700 - False Alarms	30
<b>Monthly Total</b>	<b>230</b>



**Incident of Interest:** On November 14<sup>th</sup>, Berwyn Fire Department responded to a car into a building. Once on scene a MABAS Division 11 Technical Rescue Team Box was struck for 7001 Roosevelt Road. Once on the scene it was determined the building was in need of being shored up to prevent further collapse. River Forest Chief 200 responded and was an advisor at the scene.

### **Chief Gaertner Report**

- Attended monthly RFFD Officers meeting
- Conducted Quarterly Meetings with each Shift
- Met with Braniff Communications about Outdoor Warning Siren Refurbishment
- Attended the monthly Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association Meeting
- Attended the New Firefighter Orientation at Concordia University
- Attended the monthly Metro Chiefs Executive Board Meeting
- Attended the monthly Statewide Terrorism & Intelligence Center (STIC) webinar
- Attended the monthly MABAS Division 11 Fire Chiefs Meeting
- Attended a meeting on cancer risks from using AFFF Firefighting Foams
- Attended the IRMA Fire Chiefs Steering Committee Meeting
- Participated in the Villages Annual Wellness Event
- Attended IAFC Zoom Meeting on MedicAid EMS Funding
- Attended a meeting with WSCDC Dispatch members relating to StarComm switch over

## **FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU**

### **Fire Marshal Kevin Wiley**

As I have written about in previous reports, ISEARCH is a collaborative safety effort on behalf of the Fire Department and Police Department and the WSCDC 911 Dispatch to deliver safety messages in school assemblies in all grammar schools in River Forest. We have been doing these assemblies for many years now. Some of the messages that we discuss are fire safety, smoke alarms, matches and lighters, actions to take if a gun is discovered by the student, bike safety and how to ride a bike correctly, how to call for help and what to say when you call 911, among others. We discuss the same subject for all classes but we step up the learning with each grade level. We have three established programs for Pre-K and Kindergartens, First and Second grades and then round it out with an interactive class for Third and Fourth grades. We have a tremendous response to our classes and the students and teachers love our approach. During COVID, Officer Ben Ransom put together a 25-minute video featuring all of the lessons of our classes. Many of the teachers show the video a few days before our assembly. The video not only gets the kids thinking about the message but we come in and reinforce the message for a two in one learning approach. We have one more set of assemblies to do in December.

November is not that busy of a month Inspection-wise. Most of the shifts have completed most of the Company Inspections and I am winding down as well. That allows me to use some days off between vacation and holidays. Unfortunately, my turn-around on plan reviews are effected and that has increased just a bit this month. The year-to-date numbers are still very good.

Each year around this time some of our businesses start displaying natural Christmas trees in front of their stores. We have four locations here I town. I stop by and discuss the storage of the trees with the store manager. I also drive by the locations on a weekly basis to make sure the displays are allowing a clear path in and out of the stores. I make sure that the operation is not blocking the sidewalks 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 for the lobby as well as the monthly E-Newsletter, 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  
 November 2022

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES	MONTHLY TOTALS		YEAR TO DATE	
	Nov-21	Nov-22	2021	2022
**FPB Inspections	14	7	106	124
**Company Inspections	14	13	181	162
FPB Re-Inspections	17	2	33	55
Company Re-Inspections	7	5	83	103
Special Inquiry - B/L Site Inspections	2	0	7	17
Construction Inspections (Rough/Finals)	0	0	45	27
Inspections with Building Department	0	0	13	6
Inspections <b>with/for</b> State Fire Marshal	0	0	4	9
Permit Inspections (tent, hot work, UST)	0	0	31	30
<b>TOTAL INSPECTIONS</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>533</b>
School/Business Emergency Plans/Drills	0	0	21	13
Violation Notices Issued	17	11	174	174
Violations Noted	41	30	405	482
Violations Corrected	36	16	215	238
Permits Issued	0	0	20	30
**Complaints Received & Investigated	0	0	2	3
Meetings/Consultations	2	4	24	99
Training Activities	0	1	37	38
Fire Suppression/Alarm System Tests/Finals	0	0	2	3
Fire Suppression Hydro's	0	0	3	3
**Plan Reviews and Revisions	5	5	141	188
**Average turnaround ( <b>Business Days</b> )	15 Days	13 days	5.8 days	5.66 days
Public Education Programs	2	4	42	37
Public Education Program Contacts	58	537	2408	2922
Misc Fire Prev Activities (See Narrative)	4	6	66	63

\*\* Performance Measures for the Chief

Kevin Wiley Fire Marshal

## **Individual Shift Reports**

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

**Activities:** For the month of November, Gold Shift had a total of 74 calls. 34 of the calls were fire related, 37 involved emergency medical services and there were 3 service calls.

**Incidents/Events of Note:** On November 28th, Gold shift responded to a Carbon Monoxide Alarm at 417 Edgewood. On arrival crew immediately found a presence of Carbon Monoxide throughout house. Through investigation it was determined that source of CO was the use of a liner placed on the bottom of the gas oven, blocking adequate combustion air to burner. Crew ventilated the home until Co levels were in safe range and educated resident on safe and proper use of gas range.

**Training:** Gold shift completed 90 hours of fire related training this month, 40 hours of EMS training for an average of 21.6 hours per firefighter. Topics of training included: Engine operations, Areal operations, Water Supply, Tactics and Strategy, ICS, diver safety and building familiarization. Emergency Medical Services Training included a review Ambulance Box and mass casualty & Loyola mandated Continuing Education.

### **Outside of Department Training**

- Lt. Howe attended ILL. Tactical Officers Association Response to Mass casualty/active shooter class.
- FF Krall completed 2 car seat installs.
- FF Zipperich completed 1 CPR class

**Inspections:** Gold shift completed 3 company fire inspections in November.

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

**Activities:** Black Shift had a total of 91 calls. 37 were fire related, 50 were EMS calls and 4 were service calls.

**Incidents/Events of Note:** Shift provided a station tour for a local girl scout troop.

**Shift Training:** Black shift conducted 148 hours of fire related training this month and 15.25 hours of EMS training for a total of 164 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 27.3 hours per Lieutenant and firefighter/paramedics.

Topics included the SCBA Maze, driver training, the reading of smoke, building construction, and quick drills

**Inspections:** In-company inspections and multiple re-inspections were completed.



**Red Shift Report: Lt. Smith**

**Activities:** For the month of November, Red Shift had a total of 73 calls. 33 of the calls were fire related. There were 34 EMS calls and 6 service calls.

**Incidents/Events of Note:** On November 17<sup>th</sup>, Truck 219 was performing an annual fire inspection at 630 Harlem Ave, Chase Bank. Truck 219 witnessed a vehicle back out of the ATM lane and strike a sign and a stationary pylon. The vehicle continued in reverse, going over a large curb and striking a vehicle in the McDonald's parking lot. Truck 219 immediately assessed the patients while securing the vehicles and requested River Forest Police to the scene. Truck 219 obtained refusals on the two patients involved.

**Shift Training:** Red Shift had 129.5 hours of fire related training this month and 18.75 hours of EMS training for a total of 148.25 hours of training. That is an average of 24.7 hours per firefighter.

Red Shift attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Midwest EMSC Pediatric Champion/PECC virtual symposium. The symposium topics included: pediatric assessment, pediatric penetrating trauma, and emergency care for pediatric patients with medical complexities. Red Shift provided a firehouse tour and demonstration to a Cub Scout group. The Shift went to The Christopher Center at Concordia University to give a talk about firefighters to a preschool class. Red Shift continued to test hose and conducted apparatus check-rides. SCBA donning/doffing training was also completed. FF Doran performed three child safety car seat installations. Lt. Smith attended a 1.5 hour online TRANSCAER Hazmat class: Flammable Liquids Safety Training.

**Inspections:** 11 In-company inspections were conducted with 21 violations, and 2 re-inspections with 1 correction.

**Training Lt. Carter**

This month the department participated in various training activities such as:

- Shifts continued their assigned building inspections
- There was no Loyola CE for November
- Hose testing was completed
- Lt. Howe attended an active shooter class in Buffalo Grove on November 3
- FF/PM Zipperich taught CPR for WSCDC on November 16
- Lt. Bochenek attended a 40-hour Incident Safety Officer class at Pleasantview FPD November 14-18.

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

For the month of November, RFFD responded for a total of 125 patients. Of the 125 patients, 97 were treated and transported by Ambulance 215, 4 were invalid assists, 1 was a DOA and 24 patients refused care. These 125 patients had various complaints. Below are how the complaints break down:

- No complaint – 0
- Abdominal Pain – 3
- Allergic Reaction – 1
- Animal Bite -- 1
- Assault – 0
- Hemorrhage/Bleeding -- 0
- Breathing Problems – 12
- Burns -- 0
- Psychiatric – 5
- Cardiac -- 2
- Chest Pain – 3
- Cardiac/Traumatic/Respiratory Arrest – 1
- Choking -- 0
- Diabetic – 1
- Eye Problem -- 0
- Fall - 23
- Headache/Concussion – 1
- Hemorrhage/Bleeding -- 2
- Medical Alarm – 0
- Opiate Overdose -- 2
- Pain (Back) – 1
- Pain (General) -- 0
- Patient Assist – 0
- Poisoning / Drug Ingestion – 2
- Seizure – 0
- Sick Person -- 36
- Stroke / CVA – 2
- Traffic Accident -- 3
- Traumatic Injury – 1
- Unconscious/Unresponsive – 7
- Unknown Problems -- 6



The 97 patients who were transported went to the following hospitals:

Gottlieb – 2  
Hines VA – 0  
Loyola – 7  
MacNeal -0  
Community First -- 0  
Rush / Oak Park – 76  
Resurrection - 0  
West Suburban – 2

We had 30 calls to other towns for a mutual aid ambulance and received aid from other towns 5 times.

## Thomas Gaertner

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**From:** John OHara <wohara1055@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 7, 2022 1:20 PM  
**To:** Thomas Gaertner; Kevin Wiley  
**Cc:** Mary Swindal  
**Subject:** Fire Dept Response - 407-415 Franklin Ave

Hello Chief Gaertner and Fire Marshall Wiley,

I am the President of the Greathouse Condo Association where our fire department responded to an alarm this afternoon. I would like to thank the crew that came and let you know how professional and courteous they all were. Lt Howe took me to the side and said that an alarm was triggered under the 407 elevator. He explained what we needed to do next regarding having the elevator serviced and the alarm restored. He also suggested some options for those in our building that are unable to exit the building. I very much appreciated his thoughts.

I have asked our property manager, Mary Swindal at Monroe Property Management to contact both the alarm and elevator and service companies.

I have also asked the Board to create a fire safety committee among our unit owners to develop recommendations along Lt Howe's suggestions.

Again, many thanks to your fantastic fire department for keeping our Greathouse residents safe and secure..

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Best Regards,

John

John O'Hara  
(8) 800-7