

RIVER FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT



MONTHLY REPORT

NOVEMBER 2024



MEMORANDUM

TO: Matt Walsh
Village Administrator

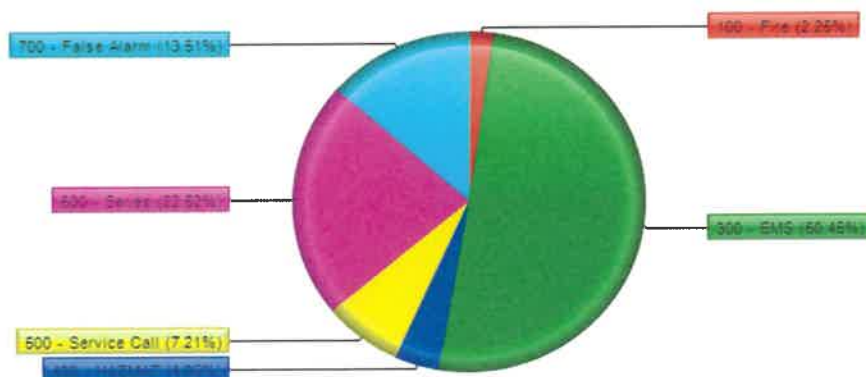
FROM: Thomas Gaertner
Thomas Gaertner
Fire Chief

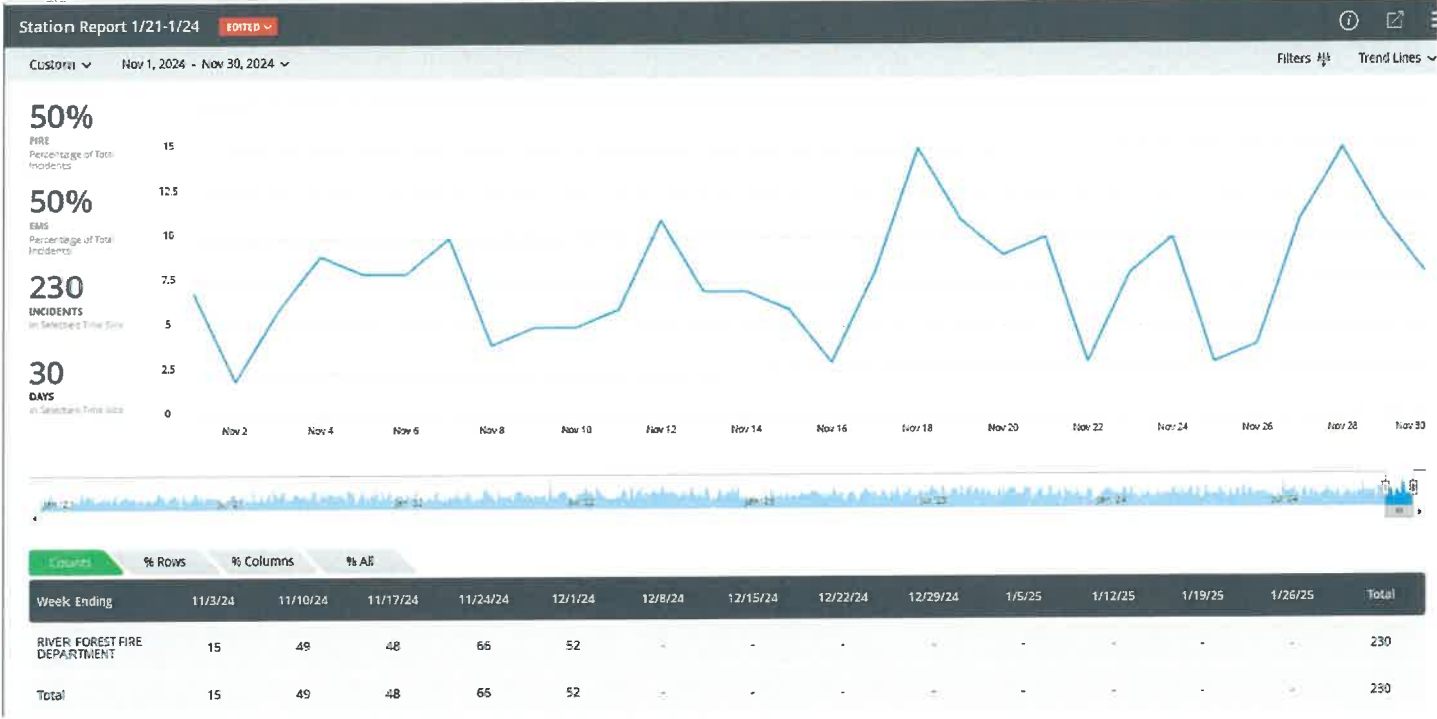
DATE: December 16, 2024

SUBJECT: Monthly Report – November 2024

The Fire Department responded to 230 calls during the month of November. This is 6.9% lower than our average number of calls in comparison to November 2023, when we had 246 calls. Emergency Medical Service calls represent 50% of our response activity for the month of November.

Incident Type Group	November 2024
100 - Fire	5
300 - EMS	112
400 - Hazardous Conditions	9
500 - Service Call	16
600 - Good Intent	50
700 - False Alarms	30
900 - Special Incident	8
Monthly Total	230





Total Record Volume By Incident Type

EDITED

Custom: Jan 1, 2024 - Nov 30, 2024

Filters 44 Trend Lines

42%

FIRE
Percentage of Total
Incidents

58%

EMS
Percentage of Total
Incidents

2,650

INCIDENTS
in Selected Time Size

335

DAYS
in Selected Time Size

17.5

15

12.5

10

7.5

5

2.5

0

Jan '24

Feb '24

Mar '24

Apr '24

May '24

Jun '24

Jul '24

Aug '24

Sep '24

Oct '24

Nov '24



	% Rows	% Columns	% All											
	Jan '24	Feb '24	Mar '24	Apr '24	May '24	Jun '24	Jul '24	Aug '24	Sep '24	Oct '24	Nov '24	Dec '24	Jan '25	Total
(11) Structure Fire	1	3	5	4	3	2	2	5	8	1	1	-	-	35
(13) Mobile property (vehicle) fire	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	3
(14) Natural vegetation fire	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	4
(15) Outside rubbish fire	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	5
(16) Special outside fire	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
(21) Overpressure rupture from steam (no ensuing fire)	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
(25) Excessive heat, scorch burns with no ignition	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
(32) Emergency medical service (EMS) incident	130	124	143	142	158	139	148	142	132	154	114	-	-	1,526
(33) Lock-In	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	5
(35) Extrication, rescue	-	3	1	-	1	-	1	2	-	3	3	-	-	14
(38) Rescue or EMS standby	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
(41) Combustible/flammable spills & leaks	3	2	2	1	2	3	-	3	-	1	2	-	-	19
(42) Chemical release, reaction, or toxic condition	1	1	1	-	3	1	3	2	-	1	4	-	-	17
(44) Electrical wiring/equipment problem	4	-	4	-	5	5	3	4	2	4	2	-	-	33
(46) Accident, potential accident	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
(51) Person in distress	7	3	6	2	1	2	-	3	4	2	1	-	-	31
(52) Water problem	6	2	1	-	1	1	2	2	2	2	-	-	-	19

(53) Smoke, odor problem	-	1	-	-	3	-	1	3	1	2	1	-	-	12
(54) Animal problem or rescue	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	3
(55) Public service assistance	10	8	10	6	8	12	11	8	7	22	14	-	-	116
(56) Unauthorized burning	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
(57) Cover assignment, standby at fire station, move-up	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
(61) Dispatched and canceled en route	38	34	35	54	29	48	29	29	32	31	39	-	-	398
(62) Wrong location, no emergency found	9	5	4	9	5	7	6	11	3	8	9	-	-	76
(65) Steam, other gas mistaken for smoke	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	8
(71) Malicious, mischievous false alarm	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
(73) System or detector malfunction	3	1	-	5	5	3	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	21
(74) Unintentional system/detector operation (no fire)	26	29	20	27	16	22	24	32	25	33	32	-	-	286
(90) Special type of incident, other	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
NULL	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3
Total	241	222	234	253	243	249	238	247	221	271	231	-	-	2,650

Fire Chief Gaertner Report

- Attended the Weekly Village Administrators Staff Meetings.
- Attended our Monthly Officers Meeting.
- Attended the Monthly Statewide Terrorism & Intelligence Center (STIC) webinar.
- Attended the Community Risk Reduction Seminar at the Illinois Fire Service Institute.
- Attended the IRMA Fire Chiefs Steering Committee Meeting.
- Attended the WSCDC CAD Project Meeting.
- Attended the Monthly Metro Chiefs Executive Board Meeting.
- Attended a Zoom Meeting with First Due on possibly upgrading our current fire reporting system.
- Attended the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association General Meeting.
- Attended the Monthly MABAS Division 11 Fire Chiefs Meeting.
- Attended the IFCA Blood drive held at our fire station.
- Attended the Paramedic Billing Services Annual Seminar in Elmhurst, IL.
- Participated in delivering Santa Claus to the Annual Tree Decorating host by the RF Park District.

Deputy Fire Chief Bochenek Report

- Attended the Weekly Village Administrators Staff Meetings.
- Attended the Village Board Meeting.
- Attended the Chief Fire Officer class held by the University of Illinois Fire Service Institute on Emergency Management.
- Attended our Monthly Officers Meeting.
- Attended the Monthly Statewide Terrorism & Intelligence Center (STIC) webinar.
- Attended a Demo for a potential new compliance company (IROL).
- Attended and Hosted a Blood Drive.
- Attended a meeting on upgrading our RMS system to First Due.
- Attended a meeting with the Township and the Library to discuss coordinating services through each organization.
- Attended the WSCDC CAD Project Meeting.
- Ensured the new monthly policy compliance surveys were rolled out and completed.
- Attended a D90 monthly safety meeting at the D90 headquarters.
- Attended and presented at the Oak Park Julian Middle School STEM Fair with LT Boyd.
- Attended the Metro Chiefs meeting.
- Attended a Community Risk Reduction Conference in Champaign about the new federal reporting platform (NERIS) and other community outreach programs throughout the state.
- Attended a meeting about the department's personnel evaluation software.
- Attended the IRMA Chief's steering committee meeting.

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

Fire Marshal Kevin Wiley

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 my annual inspections as well. That allows me to use some well-earned days off between vacation and holidays.

Each year around this time some of our businesses start displaying natural Christmas trees in front of their stores for sale. This year we have three locations in town. I stop by and discuss the storage and display of the trees with the store manager. I 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 also make sure that any bailing operation is not blocking the sidewalks as well.

During the holiday season, fire departments are asked to hang a holiday wreath containing red lights in a conspicuous spot, easily seen by the public. The wreath will be hung at the River Forest Fire Station at 400 Park Av. The wreath will be illuminated constantly and if a fire occurs anywhere in the village that is directly caused by holiday decorations (trees, lights, cords, candles, burning wrapping paper in fireplaces, etc.), the red bulb(s) will be changed to white bulb(s). The **“Keep the Wreath Red”** fire safety program was designed to alert residents of fires caused by holiday-related decorations. The wreath will hopefully serve as a visual reminder to all River Forest residents to take additional safety precautions during the holiday season to make them happy and safe. This year, the **“Keep the Wreath Red”** fire safety program will run from Thanksgiving Day (Thursday, November 28, 2024) through Saturday January 10, 2025. We have done several social media posts on our Facebook, Instagram, village website and E-Newsletter explaining this program.



With the dramatic increase in fires associated with Lithium-Ion batteries across the country, fact sheets and training programs are just starting to come out identifying the risks and possible procedures to handle the fires. One such program, called Take Charge of Battery Safety, is co-sponsored by Underwriters Laboratories and the Fire Safety Research Institute. The name of the program is an acronym where the word CHARGE is the beginning of safety measures and tips to avoid the possibility of a fire. I was able to participate in a webinar this past month.

The River Forest Fire Department has been associated with a Smoke Alarm give-away program for the last 18 months. In that time, we have provided and installed 48, 10-year smoke alarms to the residents of River Forest. The program entitled, Be Alarmed! Smoke Alarm Program is co-sponsored by the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance and the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal. The program is funded by a State Grant and I have just ordered our third round of smoke alarms.

The Smoke Alarm Recycling program is doing well. So well in fact that I will be sending our first shipment of old and expired smoke alarms in to be recycled after January 1, 2025. The facility, located in Albuquerque New Mexico, will recycle 98% of each alarm.

The December 2024 report will have all the year-end and year-to-date numbers for all Fire Prevention activities.

The last item in my monthly report is a summary of activities that don't 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.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Wiley
Fire Marshal



**RIVER FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU
MONTHLY REPORT
November 2024**

Monthly Activities	Monthly Totals		YTD-Year to Date	
	Nov-23	Nov-24	2023	2024
**FPB Inspections	7	14	134	150
**Company Inspections	24	13	175	203
FPB Re-Inspections	4	4	81	88
Company Re-Inspections	9	22	80	89
Special Inquiry/B/L Site Inspections	2	0	12	16
Construction Inspections (Rough/Finals)	0	4	44	37
Inspections with Building Department	0	1	1	4
Inspections with/for State Fire Marshal	0	0	4	4
Permit Inspections (tent, hot work, UST)	0	0	30	33
TOTAL INSPECTIONS	46	58	561	624
School/Business Emergency Plan/Drills	2	1	28	17
Violation Notices Issued	7	14	155	197
Violations Noted	11	32	372	411
Violations Corrected	17	26	233	208
Permits Issued	1	0	32	34
**Complaints Received & Investigated	0	0	3	2
All Meetings/Consultations	7	4	64	47
Training Activities	2	1	30	31
Fire Suppress/Alarm System Test/Final	0	0	12	6
Fire Suppression Hydro's	0	0	5	0
**Plan Reviews and Revisions	12	4	139	150
**Average turn around (Business Days)	1.41 days	2.75 days	2.43 days	4.16 days
Public Education Programs	5	6	62	63
Public Education Program Contacts	36	288	2267	3677
Misc Fire Prev Activities (See Narrative)	6	10	81	99

** Performance Measures for the Chief
Fire Marshal Kevin Wiley

Training Division: Lt. John Carter

For November 2024 the department participated in various training activities such as:

- There was no Loyola CE for the month of November
- FF/PM Fischer completed OSFM Company Fire Officer class
- FF/PM's Doran and Finfrock completed OSFM Company Fire Officer class. Doran attended at NIPSTA and Finfrock at Romeoville
- FF/PM Rouse was able to complete 2 NFPA 1410 evolutions as part of the new Engineer Task Book
- All shifts performed vertical ventilation on a pitched roof scenario using the training prop
- All shifts performed forcible entry on inward and outward swinging doors using the training prop
- All shifts viewed the Fire Rescue 1 webinar on Incident and Crew Management
- Division 11 Hazardous Materials drill was held in Cicero on November 12th and 14th. Annual drivers training with the squad and trailer, familiarization with the grounding and bonding kit that was provided by MABAS were the subjects
- There was no Division 11 Technical Rescue Team drill in November

Individual Shift Reports

Black Shift Report- Lieutenant Q. Boyd

Calls For Service: Black Shift had a total of 70 calls. 33 were fire-related, 37 were EMS calls

Incidents/Events of note: Ambulance inspection was completed

Public Service & Community Outreach:

- i. LT Boyd assisted DC Bochenek with a STEM presentation at an OP school

Shift Training and Hours:

Fire: 83 hours

EMS: 15 hours

Specialty: LT Boyd had an additional 40 hours of training for a week of ADFO class. LT Boyd attended the monthly ILTF training.

Departmental Goals & Benchmarks:

See Excel spreadsheet.

Inspections: 58/61

Hydrants: Flushing and hose monster completed

Hose Testing: Completed

Red Shift Report- Lieutenant E. Howe

Calls For Service: Red Shift had a total of 84 calls. 39 were fire related, 40 were EMS calls, 5 service calls.

Incidents/Events of note: On November 12 Engine 213 responded for a truck fire at Central & Ashland. On arrival found a railroad maintenance truck with an electrical fire caused by diesel generator/welder. Fire was extinguished using dry chemical fire extinguisher and power to unit disconnected.

Public Service & Community Outreach:

Santa ride to park

Shift Training and Hours:

Fire: 160

EMS: 10

Specialty: Div 11 Drill North Riverside

Chris Doran completed COFO

Live Training or Evolutions: November Training included Drivers training, Ventilation, Forcible entry, Cardiac review and Building/campus preplans

Departmental Goals & Benchmarks:

Inspections: 73/81

Hydrants: Completed

Hose Testing: Completed

FF. Doran continued to work on his Officer Task Book.

FF Howe Continued to familiarize himself with Truck 219 and Truck operations

FF Basa Annual Evaluation completed

Gold Shift Report – Lieutenant M. Smith

Calls For Service: Gold Shift had a total of 75 calls. 33 fire related, 37 were EMS calls, 5 service calls.

Incidents/Events of note: On November 4th, Gold Shift responded to 1507 Forest Ave for the transformer fire. COMED shut the power off, and Engine 213 used a hose line to extinguish the fire. On November 17th, Gold Shift responded to 7201 North Ave for the vehicle leaking gas. Engine 213 arrived and found a vehicle parked near the pumps, leaking fuel from a damaged gas tank. E213 used loose absorbent to make a well to collect the fuel. The vehicle was towed, and the soiled absorbent was removed. Gold Shift installed five smoke detectors at 935 Forest Ave. FF Finrock attended phase 2 of Company Fire Officer in Romeoville.

Public Service & Community Outreach:

Firehouse Tours 0 0 visitors

CPR Classes 0 0 students

Car Seat Install 2

Smoke Alarm Install 5

Shift Training and Hours:

Fire: 113.5

EMS: 28

Specialty 0

Departmental Goals & Benchmarks:

Inspections: 79/83

Hydrants: Completed

Hose Testing: Completed

EMS/Paramedic Activity FF/PM Finfrock**EMS/Paramedic Activity: FF/PM Luke Finfrock**

RFFD responded to a TOTAL of 109 patients in November. Of those patients, Ambulance 214 treated and transported 84 patients, while 18 patients refused further treatment/transport from the fire department. In addition, crews responded to 7 patients for a lift assist. The 109 patients were transported to the following hospitals:

Loyola University Medical Center- 10
 Rush Oak Park Hospital- 58
 Gottlieb Memorial Hospital- 15
 West Suburban Hospital- 1
 Hines VA- 0
 MacNeal- 0

800 N. Harlem- 14 patients
 7617 North Ave- 11
 Mutual Aid from A215- 8 times
 Abdominal Pain- 1
 Adult Respiratory Distress- 9
 Allergic Reaction- 1
 Altered Mental Status- 2
 Animal Bite- 0
 Assault/Battery- 1
 Behavioral/Psych- 8
 Burns- 0
 Chest Pain- 4
 Cardiac Arrest- 0
 Choking- 0
 CO Poisoning- 0
 Diabetic Problems- 0
 Electrocution- 0
 ETOH- 0
 Eye Problems- 0
 Fall- 20
 General Aches/pain- 1
 Hemorrhage/Bleeding- 0
 Medical Alarm- 0
 No Complaint- 7
 Opioid Overdose- 3
 Peds Respiratory Distress- 1
 Pregnancy- 0
 Sick Person- 22
 Traffic Accident- 10
 Traumatic Arrest- 0
 Traumatic Injury- 4
 Unconscious/Unresponsive- 11

Vehicle/Station Maintenance LT. E. Howe & FF/PM Chris Doran

Maintenance:

- 200- Needed to reschedule maintenance
- 202- **Waiting for info on new car**
- 201- Nothing to report, zero issues
- 218- Nothing to report, zero issues.
- 213- Nothing to report, zero issues
- 222- Nothing to report, zero issues
- 219- PM completed, Scheduled repair of check engine light
- 214 No Issues
- 215 PM Completed

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Blood Drive 11/14/2024

We collected 32 registration donors, 14 first-time donors, and 27 units. The department's efforts could help 81 patients needing life-saving blood products. Vitalant was genuinely grateful for the dedication and support from the River Forest Community.

Santa Ride 11/22/2024

The Fire Department provided a stylish ride for Santa to get to Memorial Park on behalf of the park district.







Julian Middle School STEM Fair 11/16/2024

River Forest Fire Department and Concordia University Nursing presented a lecture and demonstration on Fire and Smoke Dynamics. Multiple science experiments and bun care management were discussed.











THANK YOU LETTERS

Dear Firemen who
helped me October 31 -
on Thatcher Avenue
by the railroad Tracks
south of Division ST.:

Thank you for your
professional actions and
your kindness in handling
the incident when I was
"run off the road" (almost).

You're in my
prayers.

Sincerely,
Barbara Rigney



Jerry Manne

Nov 30, 2024

Chief Tom Gartner -

I fell in my house on Sept 11, 2024
River Forest Fire Men got me up and
to Rush/Oak Park Hospital in an
excellent professional manner. I am
most grateful and hope the men of
the Dept. have a little fun.

Sincerely, Jerry Manne