



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Brian Murphy  
Village Administrator

FROM: Thomas Gaertner  
Thomas Gaertner  
Fire Chief

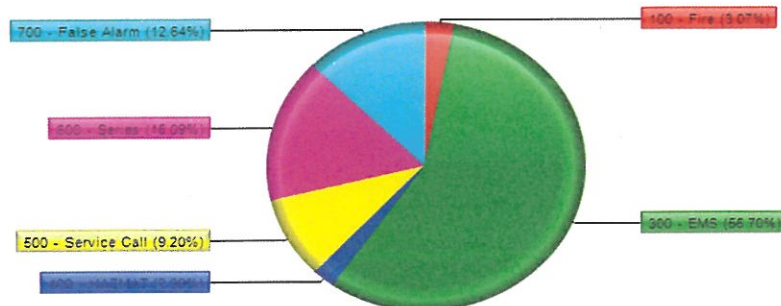
DATE: November 9, 2022

SUBJECT: Monthly Report – October 2022

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The Fire Department responded to 261 calls during the month of October. This is above our average number of calls in comparison to October 2021 where we had 221 calls. Emergency Medical Service calls represented 56.7% of our response activity for the month of October.

| Incident Type Group        | October 2022 |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| 100 - Fire                 | 8            |
| 300 - EMS                  | 148          |
| 400 - Hazardous Conditions | 6            |
| 500 - Service Call         | 24           |
| 600 - Good Intent          | 42           |
| 700 - False Alarms         | 33           |
| <b>Monthly Total</b>       | <b>261</b>   |



**Incident of Interest:** On Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> RFFD conducted our annual Open House at the fire station. We had a great turn out of residents with over 300 attending. We had an array of fire prevention exhibits, fire safety materials, displays and hands-on interaction. River Forest Police and Public Works Departments and West Suburban Consolidated Dispatch Center also had displays and plenty of interaction with the attendees. Refreshments were served including juice, coffee, hot chocolate and popcorn! A great time was had by all.

### **Chief Gaertner Report**

- Attended monthly RFFD Officers meeting
- Oversaw the Insurance Services Office (ISO) Review
- Celebrated Fire Prevention Week (Oct 9-15)
- Attended the Fire Department Open House on October 15<sup>th</sup>
- Attended various ESO (Fire Reporting) Training Sessions
- Attended the monthly Metro Chiefs Executive Board Meeting
- Attended the monthly Statewide Terrorism & Intelligence Center (STIC) webinar
- Attended the Annual Illinois Fire Chiefs Conference held in Peoria, Illinois
- Attended a meeting with officials from Broadview, Maywood, River Forest, Forest Park, Oak Park and WSCDC Dispatch Center. Discussion on the possibility of Broadview and Maywood joining WSCDC
- Attended the Semi-Annual MABAS Executive Board Meeting held in Peoria, Illinois

## **FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU**

### **Fire Marshal Kevin Wiley**

October started with our Insurance Services Office (ISO) evaluation interview. As you may know, ISO evaluates the Fire Department, Water Department and Dispatch and Communications capabilities on a five/six-year rotation. The Fire Department is evaluated on manpower, apparatus and equipment carried on each, response times, fire flow in the hydrant system, auto and mutual aid agreements, training and our efforts on Community Risk Reduction (CRR). The Water Department/Public Works is evaluated on average daily consumption of water and the associated records for that consumption. They are also rated on the water storage facilities the village has as well as the water pump capacities. The West Suburban Consolidated Dispatch Center (WSCDC) is the dispatch center for River Forest. They are evaluated on their staffing for 911 calls and how fast they are handled, how up-to-date their phone and radio equipment is, as well as the emergency power to all telephone circuits coming into the Village Hall. The ISO rating scale is from 1 to 10 and River Forest has a current ISO rating of 3.

To cap off Fire Prevention Week, the Fire Department held its annual Open House on Saturday October 15. This year, the weather cooperated and we had one of the best attended Open Houses in quite a few years. The Open House was billed as a "Touch a Truck" event and the kids (and a few adults) loved it! To gauge the attendance, I use the VERY Scientific calculations of how many fire hats we give away. This year we gave away over 200 hats, but there were a few kids

who did not take one. When it was all said and done, we estimated we had nearly 200 children and 150 adults come through the firehouse. An Open House wouldn't be the same without the help and cooperation of the River Forest Police Department, Public Works Department, and West Suburban Consolidated Dispatch Center (WSCDC). A good time was had by all.

All Village employees were required to attend a Harassment Prevention training class sponsored by the Human Resources Department.

I was contacted by Bennett Wogan, a student from Dominican University about participating in a class project. The project had the student perform a 30-minute interview and complete a job analysis to analyze the tasks, knowledge, skills, and other abilities that are part of a specific job the student is interested in. Bennett is interested in becoming a wildland firefighter after he graduates. Bennett chose me for the many fire helmets I have had on my head over my varied career. I will be very interested in his final paper.

October is the month we start our annual ISEARCH Safety Assemblies in the grammar schools. We go into all the Kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes in each of the public and private schools and teach Fire Safety, Gun Safety, Street Crossing Safety, Bike Riding Safety as well as talk about Community Helpers who the students can rely upon for help if needed. The assemblies are very fun to present and the students love to have that LIVE interaction between all the presenters. During COVID, Officer Ben Ransom produced a Safety Video that was put on thumb drives and distributed to all the classes in all the schools. It was so well received that the schools still show it before they have us come in and do the live assembly which in turn doubles our retention of the material.

As in every October, the month ended with Halloween. I spent some time putting Halloween Safety Flyers together for the Village Hall lobby as well as the monthly E-Newsletter and Village website.

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.



RIVER FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT  
 FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU  
 MONTHLY REPORT  
 October 2022

| MONTHLY ACTIVITIES                            | MONTHLY TOTALS |           | YEAR TO DATE |            |
|---|----------------|-----------|--------------|------------|
|   | Oct-21         | Oct-22    | 2021         | 2022       |
| **FPB Inspections                             | 16             | 7         | 92           | 117        |
| **Company Inspections                         | 28             | 25        | 167          | 149        |
| FPB Re-Inspections                            | 14             | 3         | 16           | 53         |
| Company Re-Inspections                        | 9              | 10        | 76           | 98         |
| Special Inquiry - B/L Site Inspections        | 1              | 3         | 5            | 17         |
| Construction Inspections (Rough/Finals)       | 1              | 4         | 45           | 27         |
| Inspections with Building Department          | 3              | 0         | 13           | 6          |
| Inspections with/for State Fire Marshal       | 0              | 0         | 4            | 9          |
| Permit Inspections (tent, hot work, UST)      | 0              | 4         | 31           | 30         |
| <b>TOTAL INSPECTIONS</b>                      | <b>72</b>      | <b>56</b> | <b>449</b>   | <b>506</b> |
| School/Business Emergency Plans/Drills        | 0              | 1         | 21           | 13         |
| Violation Notices Issued                      | 28             | 18        | 157          | 163        |
| Violations Noted                              | 48             | 49        | 364          | 452        |
| Violations Corrected                          | 39             | 23        | 179          | 222        |
| Permits Issued                                | 0              | 4         | 20           | 30         |
| **Complaints Received & Investigated          | 0              | 0         | 2            | 3          |
| Meetings/Consultations                        | 6              | 6         | 22           | 95         |
| Training Activities                           | 0              | 3         | 37           | 37         |
| Fire Suppression/Alarm System Tests/Finals    | 0              | 2         | 2            | 3          |
| Fire Suppression Hydro's                      | 0              | 0         | 3            | 3          |
| **Plan Reviews and Revisions                  | 12             | 19        | 136          | 183        |
| **Average turnaround ( <b>Business Days</b> ) | 11.3 days      | 3.68      | 5.49 days    | 5.45       |
| Public Education Programs                     | 10             | 5         | 40           | 33         |
| Public Education Program Contacts             | 272            | 1396      | 2350         | 2385       |
| Misc Fire Prev Activities (See Narrative)     | 5              | 7         | 62           | 57         |

\*\* Performance Measures for the Chief

Kevin Wiley Fire Marshal

## **Individual Shift Reports**

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

**Activities:** For the month of October, Gold Shift had a total of 93 calls. 28 of the calls were fire related, 58 involved emergency medical services and there were 7 service calls.

**Incidents/Events of Note:** On October 14, The Gold shift responded to an apartment building fire in North Riverside. Engine 213 crew assisted in search and overhaul.

**Training:** Gold shift had 90 hours of fire related training this month, 40 hours of EMS training and for an average of 21.6 hours per firefighter.

- Lt. Howe attended Division 11 TRT drill on trench rescue in Cicero
- Gold shift completed Hose testing on Truck 219

**Inspections:** Gold shift completed 12 company fire inspections in September.

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

**Activities:** Black Shift had a total of 95 calls. 35 were fire related, 55 were EMS calls, 5 service calls.

**Incidents/Events of Note:** Black shift responded to an accident with entrapment. Crew quickly freed the patient using extrication tools.

**Shift Training:** Black shift had 184.25 hours of fire related training this month and 18 hours of EMS training for a total of 202.25 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 33.71 hours per Lieutenant and firefighter/paramedics.

Harassment training, hazmat training, fire investigation class, quick drills, driver training, SCBA donning and doffing, and preplan reviews were all conducted this month. FF Boyd completed the HAZMAT tech series as outlined by the OSFM.

**Inspections:** Several inspections and multiple re-inspections were completed. 5 initial inspections remain, and 3 have been scheduled. 2 Letters for inspection have been posted at the remaining residences. Crew attended several block parties.

**Red Shift Report: Lt. Smith**

**Activities:** For the month of October, Red Shift had a total of 82 calls. 29 of the calls were fire related. There were 46 EMS calls and 7 service calls.

**Incidents/Events of Note:** On October 6th, Engine 213 responded to 7776 Central Ave for the gas leak inside the building. Engine 213 investigated with meters and found high levels of natural gas throughout the building. The source of the gas leak was an uncapped pipe in the basement. Engine 213 contained the leak to the basement and began ventilating the structure using a battery-operated PPV fan. E213 found natural gas in the hallways of 7772 Central Ave. Truck 219 arrived on scene and was sent to 7772 Central Ave and began ventilating that structure with a PPV fan. River Forest Fire units were able to clear the natural gas from all areas of the structure except the area of the leak. NICOR gas arrived on scene and repaired the pipe.

On October 12<sup>th</sup>, Ambulance 215 responded to a structure fire at 201 Lake Street, Oak Park.

Red Shift had two separate incidents where bicyclists suffered severe injuries when struck by vehicles. The injured bicyclists were transported by Ambulance 215 to Loyola Trauma Center.

**Shift Training:** Red Shift had 190.25 hours of fire related training this month and 33.75 hours of EMS training for a total of 224 hours of training. That is an average of 37.3 hours per firefighter.

Red shift participated in Loyola Continuing Education on Pediatric Head Injuries. Shift worked the Fire Department Open House on October 15<sup>th</sup>. The Shift attended the Village's Harassment Training on October 19<sup>th</sup>. The Shift had a hands-on EMS drill using a medical mannequin. The drill covered childbirth emergencies. Red Shift performed hose deployment drills at the Pumping Station and Constitution Park. FF Basa trained on aerial operations placing Truck 219 in different locations and the aerial ladder was raised to targets at different heights. FF Viera attended the Division 11 Hazmat Drill and FF Seablom attended a Fire Investigator Seminar in Rosemont. Lt. Smith attended a Zoom class on Officer Development hosted by Fire Engineering.

**Inspections:** Shift personnel conducted 5 In-Company Fire Inspections with 19 violations, and 4 re-inspections with 6 corrections.

**Training Lt. Carter**

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

- Shifts continued their assigned building inspections
- Loyola CE for October was Pediatric Medical Emergencies and Seizures
- Lt. Bochenek and FF/PM Seablom attended a one-day Fire Investigator seminar in Rosemont on October 12<sup>th</sup>
- Fire safety education was taught at the Open House and at numerous block parties throughout the month
- FF/PM Boyd attended an 80 hr Hazardous Materials Technician course at NIPSTA
- Most personnel attended the IRMA Harassment training on October 19<sup>th</sup>
- Lt. Howe and FF/PM Boyd attended Division 11 TRT drill. Subject was Trench and a vacuum truck was demonstrated

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

In the month of October, RFFD responded for a total of 149 patients. Of the 149 patients, 109 were treated and transported by Ambulance 215, 2 were invalid assists, 1 was a DOA and 37 patients refused care. These 149 patients had various complaints. Below are how the complaints break down:

No complaint – 0  
 Abdominal Pain – 1  
 Allergic Reaction – 3  
 Animal Bite -- 0  
 Assault – 2  
 Hemorrhage/Bleeding -- 0  
 Breathing Problems – 8  
 Burns -- 1  
 Psychiatric – 8  
 Cardiac -- 3  
 Chest Pain – 7  
 Cardiac/Traumatic/Respiratory Arrest – 0  
 Choking -- 1  
 Diabetic – 3  
 Eye Problem -- 1  
 Fall - 22  
 Headache/Concussion – 1  
 Medical Alarm – 1  
 Opiate Overdose -- 2  
 Pain (Back) – 2  
 Pain (General) -- 0  
 Patient Assist – 2  
 Poisoning / Drug Ingestion – 3  
 Seizure – 2  
 Sick Person -- 37  
 Stroke / CVA – 2

Traffic Accident -- 26  
Traumatic Injury -- 5  
Unconscious/Unresponsive -- 5  
Unknown Problems -- 4

The 109 patients who were transported went to the following hospitals:

Gottlieb -- 8  
Hines VA -- 0  
Loyola -- 22  
MacNeal -1  
Community First -- 0  
Rush / Oak Park -- 77  
Resurrection - 0  
West Suburban -- 1

We had 34 calls to other towns for a mutual aid ambulance and received aid from other towns 15 times.



**RIVER FOREST FIRE  
DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE  
OCTOBER 15, 2022**



