

**RIVER FOREST  
FIRE DEPARTMENT**



**MONTHLY REPORT  
OCTOBER 2023**



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Matt Walsh  
Village Administrator

FROM: Thomas Gaertner  
Thomas Gaertner  
Fire Chief

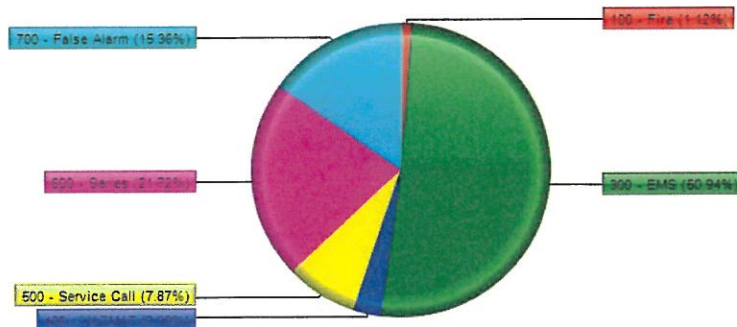
DATE: November 13, 2023

SUBJECT: Monthly Report – October 2023

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The Fire Department responded to 268 calls during the month of October. This is below our average number of calls in comparison to October 2022 where we had 272 calls. Emergency Medical Service calls represent 50.00% of our response activity for the month of October.

Incident Type Group	October 2023
100 - Fire	1
300 - EMS	136
400 - Hazardous Conditions	8
500 - Service Call	21
600 - Good Intent	58
700 - False Alarms	41
800 - Other	1
<b>Monthly Total</b>	<b>268</b>





Custom ▾ Oct 1, 2023 - Oct 31, 2023 ▾

50%

**FIRE**  
Percentage of Total Incidents

50%

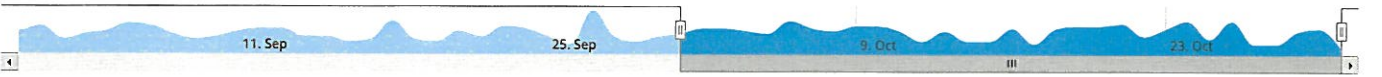
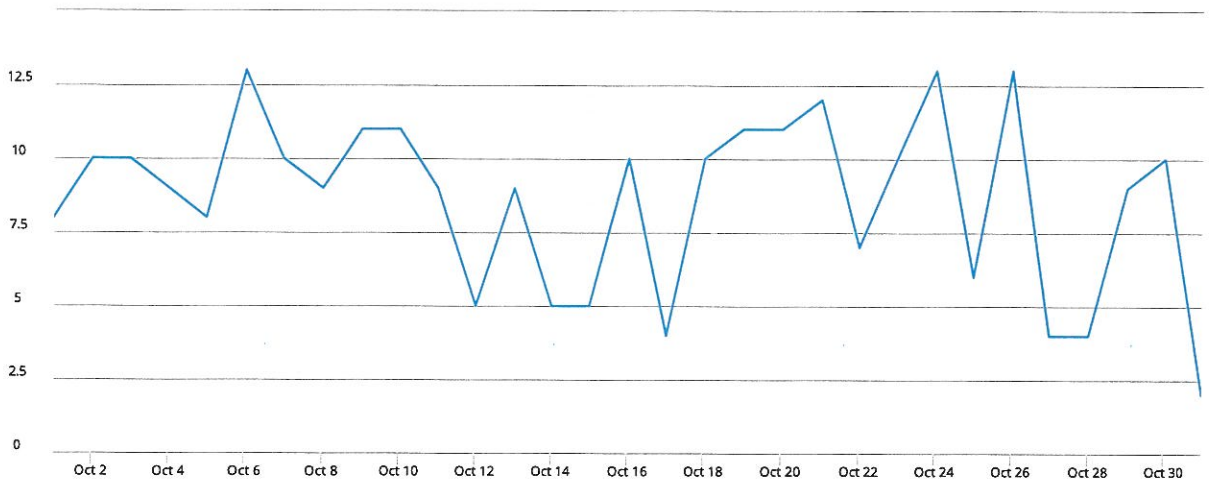
**EMS**  
Percentage of Total Incidents

268

**INCIDENTS**  
In Selected Time Slice

31

**DAYS**  
In Selected Time Slice



Week Ending	10/1/23	10/8/23	10/15/23	10/22/23	10/29/23	11/5/23	11/12/23	11/19/23	11/26/23	12/3/23	12/10/23	12/17/23	12/24/23	Total
RIVER FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT	8	69	55	65	59	12								268
Total	8	69	55	65	59	12								268





Custom v Jan 1, 2023 - Oct 31, 2023 v

44%

**FIRE**  
Percentage of Total Incidents

56%

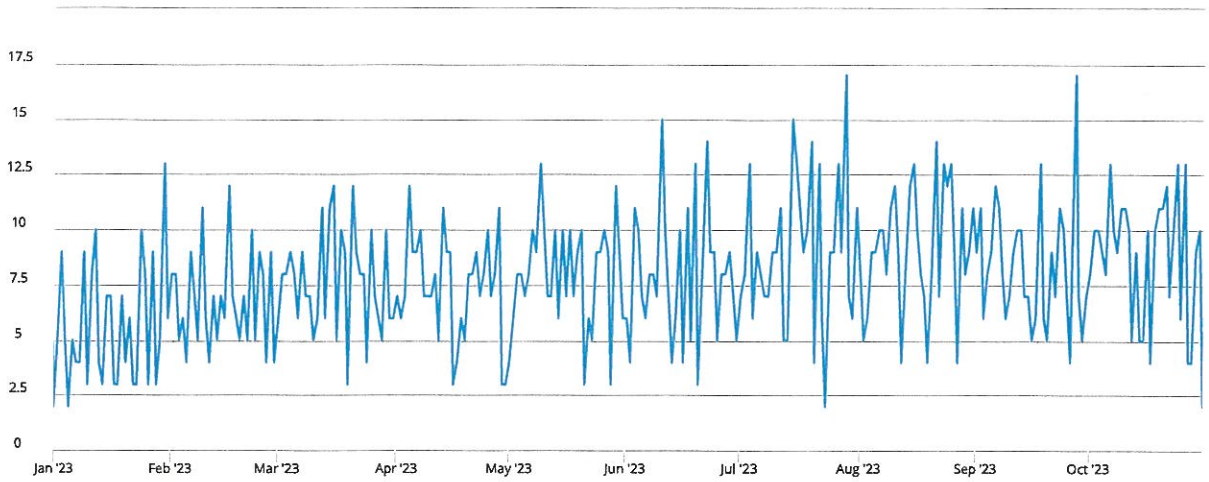
**EMS**  
Percentage of Total Incidents

2,388

**INCIDENTS**  
In Selected Time Slice

304

**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	3	6	3	3				51
(13) Mobile property (vehicle) fire					2		1							3
(14) Natural vegetation fire					1	10	1							12
(15) Outside rubbish fire					1		1							2
(31) Medical assist							1							1
(32) Emergency medical service (EMS) incident	104	111	144	137	134	127	149	148	151	136				1,341
(33) Lock-In				1							1			2
(35) Extrication, rescue				1	2			1	1	1				6
(38) Rescue or EMS standby						1								1
(41) Combustible/f.. spills & leaks	3	5	1	1	5	4	5	4	2	2				32
(42) Chemical release, reaction, or toxic condition	1	1			1		4	2	1	1				11
(44) Electrical wiring/equipm. problem	2	1	2	1	1	1	4	2	4	5				23
(45) Biological hazard								1						1
(46) Accident, potential accident							1							1
(51) Person in distress	3	5	4	3	2	7	2	5	2	3				36

	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
(52) Water problem		2	1				4	1						8
(53) Smoke, odor problem		1				1	3	2		2				9
(55) Public service assistance	4	9	12	13	17	8	24	11	8	16				122
(57) Cover assignment, standby at fire station, move-up							2							2
(61) Dispatched and canceled en route	28	20	34	31	24	36	40	64	36	42				355
(62) Wrong location, no emergency found	4	5	4	3	16	8	8	5	10	14				77
(65) Steam, other gas mistaken for smoke		1	1	1			2			2				7
(71) Malicious, mischievous false alarm				1	1									2
(73) System or detector malfunction	1	2	6	2	2	2	6	3	1	3				28
(74) Unintentional system/detect... operation (no fire)	19	20	25	20	30	24	21	27	30	38				254
UNK				1										1
Total	173	189	237	223	247	237	282	282	249	269				2,388

## **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.
- Attending a meeting with Braniff Communications in reference to Federal Signals Commander One Platform.
- Attended the Touch-A-Truck Event at the River Forest Library.
- Attended the Annual IFSA Fire Prevention Week Awards Luncheon.
- Attended the Annual RFFD Fire Prevention Week Open House.
- Attended the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association Annual Symposium in East Peoria.
- Attended Zoom Meetings with Lexipol on Fire Department Policy Development.
- Attended the US Fire Administration Administrative Summit Zoom meeting.
- Conducted my Quarterly Fire Chiefs Meeting with all three shifts’.

## **FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU**

### **Fire Marshal Kevin Wiley**

October is always one of the busiest months for the Fire Prevention Bureau and this October lived up to that billing. The month started off with the testing of the Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system on all cell phones in the country. The purpose of the test is to ensure that the systems continue to be effective means of warning the public about emergencies, particularly those on the national level. I had supplied Luke with several notifications for the E-Newsletter and other social media formats through the month of September in preparation of the test.

Fire Prevention Week occurred from October 8, through October 14, 2023 and to cap off Fire Prevention Week, the Fire Department held its annual Open House on Saturday October 14. This year, the weather was cool and sunny and overall, cooperated and we had a moderately attended Open House. The Open House was billed as a “Touch a Truck” event and the kids (and a few adults) loved it! Unfortunately, the cool weather did not allow for any training demonstrations with our new Training Prop. To gauge the attendance, I use the VERY Scientific calculations of how many fire hats we give away. This year we gave away over 75 hats, but there were a few kids who did not take one. When it was all said and done, we estimated we had nearly 75 children and 75 adults come through the firehouse. An Open House wouldn’t be the same without the help and cooperation of the River Forest Police Department, River Forest Public Works Department, The River Forest Township, and this year we had help from the Nursing Program at Concordia University. A good time was had by all.

As mentioned in last month’s report, I was again successful in obtaining a grant from State Farm Insurance for a 2023 Fire Prevention Week kit. This is the second time I was successful in getting this grant. State Farm Insurance, in partnership with the National Fire Protection



Association (NFPA) awards this grant on an annual basis. The kit contains enough safety material for 100 people that we used to pass out to all attendees of the Open House. The kit also contained a Fire Prevention themed banner that we” hoisted up to the rafters” of the firehouse. I must admit it wasn’t to the pomp and circumstance of the Blackhawks “Raising of the Banner”, but I did have a few comments on the banner. We received the kit right before Fire Prevention Week.

Chief Gaertner, Deputy Chief Bochenek, Renee and I attended the annual Fire Prevention Luncheon sponsored by The Illinois Fire Safety Alliance (IFSA). Awards were presented to several recipients who excelled in their fire prevention efforts during the last year. The IFSA sponsors the annual Burn Camp for children who have received burns and spent at least one week in a burn unit in Illinois.

October is the month we wrap up our annual ISEARCH Safety Assemblies in the elementary 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 in all the schools. In all, we presented safety information to 861 contacts on various safety topics in all the schools.

I was able to attend the U.S. Fire Administrators Summit on Fire Prevention and Control 2023. The summit was held LIVE at the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, Maryland. This was a day long virtual seminar that included live, round table listening sessions as well as a visit from President Joe Biden. Some of the topics that were discussed were the state of science of fire and the fire problem around the country and the proliferation of fires due to lithium-ion batteries, as well as the attracting and retention of new, younger firefighters. There is no “One Answer” to any of these issues.

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 2023

#VALUE!	MONTHLY TOTALS		YEAR TO DATE	
	Oct-22	Oct-23	2022	2023
**FPB Inspections	7	7	117	127
**Company Inspections	25	35	149	151
FPB Re-Inspections	3	10	53	77
Company Re-Inspections	10	15	98	71
Special Inquiry/B/L Site Inspections	3	3	17	10
Construction Inspections (Rough/Finals)	4	0	27	44
Inspections with Building Department	0	0	6	1
Inspections with/for State Fire Marshal	0	0	9	4
Permit Inspections (tent, hot work, UST)	4	0	30	30
<b>TOTAL INSPECTIONS</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>515</b>
School/Business Emergency Plan/Drills	1	2	13	26
Violation Notices Issued	18	19	163	148
Violations Noted	49	43	452	361
Violations Corrected	23	31	222	216
Permits Issued	4	0	30	31
**Complaints Received & Investigated	0	0	3	3
All Meetings/Consultations	6	5	95	57
Training Activities	3	1	37	28
Fire Suppress/Alarm System Test/Final	2	0	3	12
Fire Suppression Hydro's	0	0	3	5
**Plan Reviews and Revisions	19	20	183	127
**Average turn around (Business Days)	3.68	1.95 days	5.45	2.53 days
Public Education Programs	5	12	33	57
Public Education Program Contacts	1396	967	2385	2231
Misc Fire Prev Activities (See Narrative)	7	6	57	75

\*\* Performance Measures for the Chief  
 Fire Marshal Kevin Wiley



## **Individual Shift Reports**

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

**Activities:** For the month of September, Gold Shift had a total of 85 calls. 33 of the calls were fire related, 47 involved emergency medical services and there were 5 service calls.

**Incidents/Events of Note:** On October 21<sup>st</sup> Gold shift responded to a fire alarm at Dominican University. On arrival crews found basement hallway in Lewis Hall charged with smoke. A refrigerated water fountain that was previously out of service was found to have an electrical fire. Crews disconnected power and extinguished.

**Shift Training:** Gold shift had 144 hours of training this month, for an average of 24 hours per firefighter. Our monthly fire included water supply, care and maintenance of equipment, hose deployment, SCBA training, and driver/operator training, and Loyola mandated continuing education on OB and care of the newborn emergencies.

FF's Zipperich and Rouse instructed AHA CPR class for members of the West Suburban Dispatch Center and the River Forest Police Department.

FF Krall completed Fire Instructor 1 at Romeoville Fire Academy.

FF Rouse had additional engineer/driver training in preparation for an engine driver assignment.

Members of the Gold shift participated in the annual Fire Department Open House.

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

**Activities:** Black Shift had a total of 93 calls. 45 were fire related, 41 were EMS calls, and 7 were public service.

**Incidents/Events of note:** None

**Shift Training:** Black shift had 101 hours of fire related training this month and 31 hours of EMS training for a total of 132 hours of training. That is an average of 22 hours per Lieutenant and firefighter/paramedics. Driver's training, tools, hydrants, SCBA, fire extinguishers, pre-planning, public education, building familiarization, fire investigation, Stryker stair chair, and pumping operations training were completed this month. LUMC CE was completed this month as well.

**Inspections:** 12 inspections were completed this month and 2 re-inspections. A few properties we have not been able to reach, FM Wiley is aware.

**Red Shift Report: Lt. Smith**

**Activities:** For the month of October, Red Shift had a total of 90 calls. 42 of the calls were fire related. There were 43 EMS calls and 5 service calls.

**Incidents/Events of note:** On October 16th, Red Shift responded to a person stuck in a stalled elevator. E213 and Truck 219 arrived on scene and found the elevator stuck on the first floor with one occupant inside. The doors would not open. E213 went to the exterior elevator room and attempted to reset the elevator. The elevator did not reset. E213 shut off the power to the elevator while T219 used elevator keys to open the elevator doors. The occupant, a pregnant woman, was safely removed from the elevator. On October 19<sup>th</sup>, Red Shift responded to 1557 Monroe for the fire alarm. While investigating the alarm, a person was shot across the street at 7438 North Ave. Engine 213 responded with medical bags and administer first aid to the gunshot victim until an ambulance from Elmwood Park Fire Department arrived on scene. On October 20<sup>th</sup>, Engine 213 responded to 234 Maple, Oak Park for the structure fire. E213 was assigned water supply, primary, and secondary searches. On October 20<sup>th</sup>, Lt. Smith responded to the Division 11 Fire Investigation Box at 234 Maples, Oak Park. Lt. Smith was assigned the task of fire scene sketches. The Shift attended two block parties. The Shift installed four smoke detectors at 7919 North Ave.

**Shift Training:** Red Shift conducted 176 hours of fire related training this month and 33.5 hours of EMS training for a total of 209.5 hours of training. That is an average of 35 hours per firefighter. Red Shift training for the month included Loyola Continuing Education – OB Emergencies. Red Shift continues to train the probationary firefighter. Red Shift tested hydrants in District C. Red Shift conducted a drill's on using the MSA thermal imaging camera, forcible entry and roof cuts using the new training prop. FF Basa taught a CPR class to members of the River Forest Police Department. FF Basa and FF Viera participated in the Fire Department Open House. FF Basa attended a forty-hour Instructor I class in Romeoville. FF Viera attended the Division 11 HazMat Team drill in North Riverside. Lt. Smith attended the Division 11 Fire Investigator Team drill in River Forest.

**Inspections:** 3 In-company inspections with 2 violations, and 0 Re-inspections with 0 corrections were conducted.

**Department Training Lt. Carter**

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

- Loyola Continuing Education was OB emergencies.
- Shifts continued their assigned building inspections.
- Hydrant testing has almost been completed.
- RFFD personnel hosted the annual Open House.
- FF/PM's Basa and Buchholz taught CPR for RFPD personnel.
- FF/PM's Basa and Krall attended Instructor I class in Romeoville.
- Division 11 Hazardous Materials team drill was in North Riverside. Meters and monitoring were the subjects.
- Division 11 Fire Investigator team drill was in River Forest. Explosive Scene Investigation was the subject.
- Several block parties were attended by shift personnel.

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

In the month of October, RFFD responded for a total of 150 patients. Of the 150 patients, 98 were treated and transported by Ambulance 215, 7 were invalid assists, 4 were DOA's and 41 patients refused care. These 150 patients had various complaints. Below are how the complaints break down:

No complaint – 0  
 Abdominal Pain – 2  
 Allergic Reaction – 1  
 Altered Mental Status - 0  
 Animal Bite -- 0  
 Assault – 4  
 Breathing Problems – 5  
 Burns -- 0  
 Psychiatric – 8  
 Chest Pain – 6  
 Cardiac/Traumatic/Respiratory Arrest – 4  
 Choking – 0  
 CO Poisoning - 0  
 Diabetic – 2  
 Electrocutation - 0  
 Eye Problem -- 0  
 Fall – 23  
 General aches, pain - 0  
 General Injury - 0  
 Headache/Concussion – 0  
 Hemorrhage/Bleeding – 2  
 Medical/Inter-Facility Transfer - 0



Medical Alarm – 0  
Opiate Overdose -- 1  
Pain (Back) – 0  
Pain (General) -- 3  
Patient Assist – 3  
Poisoning / Drug Ingestion – 1  
Pregnancy/Childbirth -- 0  
Seizure – 4  
Sick Person -- 37  
Stroke / CVA – 1  
Special Event Stand-by - 0  
Traffic Accident – 10  
Traumatic Arrest - 0  
Traumatic Injury – 2  
Unconscious/Unresponsive – 9  
Unknown Problems – 6  
Weakness - 4

The 98 patients who were transported went to the following hospitals:

Gottlieb – 11  
Hines VA – 1  
Loyola – 9  
MacNeal -0  
Community First -- 0  
Rush / Oak Park – 74  
Resurrection - 0  
West Suburban – 3

We had 45 calls to other towns for a mutual aid ambulance and received aid from other towns 9 times.

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

Lt Howe began exploring ESO for use as a maintenance scheduler/tracker. All vehicles and most maintainable equipment have been added to the system and will be expanded in the future to include daily checks.

**VEHICLES**

200- PM's completed.

201- PM's completed.

202- Nothing reported

299- Nothing reported

213- PM's completed including pump test.

214- Nothing reported.

215- Nothing reported.

218- PM's completed.

219- Sent out for PM's, pump test, and aerial ladder repairs. Due back 11/07.

222-PM's completed including pump test.

**EQUIPMENT**

219-Updated battery packs and power supply on ventilation fan.

All gas-powered tool and equipment had bi-annual service completed.

**FIRE STATION**

Hastings repaired Plymovent. .

## 2023 Fire Prevention Week Open House









