

RIVER FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT



MONTHLY REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2024



MEMORANDUM

TO: Matt Walsh
Village Administrator

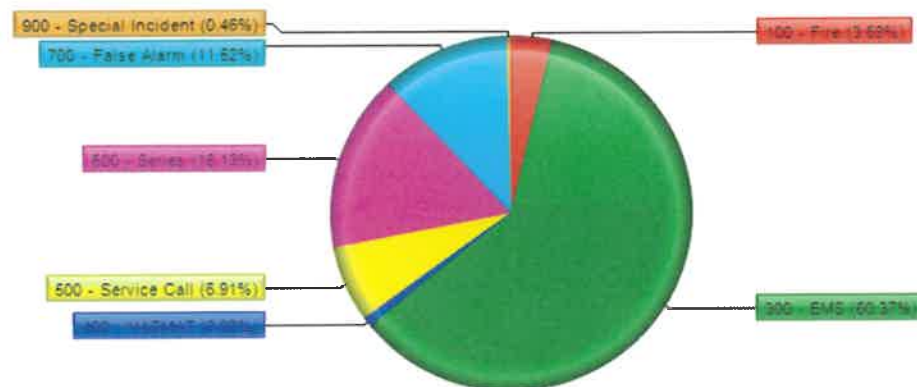
FROM: Thomas Gaertner
Thomas Gaertner
Fire Chief

DATE: October 14, 2024

SUBJECT: Monthly Report – September 2024

The Fire Department responded to 222 calls during the month of September. This is below our average number of calls in comparison to September 2023 when we had 249 calls. Emergency Medical Service calls represent 60% of our response activity for the month of September.

Incident Type Group	September 2024
100 - Fire	8
300 - EMS	131
400 - Hazardous Conditions	2
500 - Service Call	15
600 - Good Intent	35
700 - False Alarms	25
900 - Special Incident	6
Monthly Total	222



Custom ▾ Sep 30, 2023 - Sep 30, 2024 ▾

42%

FIRE

(Percentage of Total Incidents)

58%

EMS

(Percentage of Total Incidents)

2,894

INCIDENTS

(Total Incidents)

367

DAYS

(Total Days in Period)



Counts	% Rows		% Columns		% All									
	Sep '23	Oct '23	Nov '23	Dec '23	Jan '24	Feb '24	Mar '24	Apr '24	May '24	Jun '24	Jul '24	Aug '24	Sep '24	Total
RIVER FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT	7	268	246	230	241	222	233	252	243	247	238	247	220	2,894
Total	7	268	246	230	241	222	233	252	243	247	238	247	220	2,894



Custom ▾

Sep 1, 2024 - Sep 30, 2024 ▾

40%

FIRE

Compared to goal with 11 incidents

59%

EMS

Compared to goal with 11 incidents

222

INCIDENTS

In Selected Time Period

30

DAYS

In Selected Time Period

12.5

10

7.5

5

2.5

0

Sep 2

Sep 4

Sep 6

Sep 8

Sep 10

Sep 12

Sep 14

Sep 16

Sep 18

Sep 20

Sep 22

Sep 24

Sep 26

Sep 28

Sep ...



Counts

% Rows

% Columns

% All

Week Ending	9/1/24	9/8/24	9/15/24	9/22/24	9/29/24	10/6/24	10/13/24	10/20/24	10/27/24	11/3/24	11/10/24	11/17/24	11/24/24	Total
(11) Structure Fire		2		4	2									8
(15) Outside rubbish fire			1											1
(32) Emergency medical service (EMS) incident	4	30	34	32	31	1								132
(44) Electrical wiring/equipm. problem				1	1									2
(51) Person in distress			2	1	1									4
(52) Water problem		1		1										2
(53) Smoke, odor problem				1										1
(54) Animal problem or rescue				1										1
(55) Public service assistance		2	2		3									7
(61) Dispatched and canceled en route		10	6	11	4	1								32
(62) Wrong location, no emergency found	1	1			1									3
(65) Steam, other gas mistaken for smoke					1									1
(73) System or detector malfunction		1												1
(74) Unintentional system/detect... operation (no fire)		7	6	2	9	1								25

Week Ending	9/1/24	9/8/24	9/15/24	9/22/24	9/29/24	10/6/24	10/13/24	10/20/24	10/27/24	11/3/24	11/10/24	11/17/24	11/24/24	Total
(90) Special type of incident, other		1												1
NULL			1											1
Total	5	55	52	54	53	3								222

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 Monthly Village Board of Trustees Meeting.
- Attended a demonstration for a new RMS System for the department.
- Attended the WSCDC Radio Committee Meeting.
- Attended the Monthly Metro Chiefs Executive Board Meeting.
- Attended a Zoom Meeting with Image Trend on possibly upgrading our current fire reporting system.
- Attended the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association Fall Symposium.
- Conducted our Quarterly Shift Meeting with all three shifts.
- Attended the Monthly MABAS Division 11 Fire Chiefs Meeting.
- Attended the Annual Lemon Aid Fund Raiser.
- Attended a Zoom Meeting with Federal Signal on our new messaging system.
- Attended the RFFD Annual Open House.
- Attended the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association Annual Conference in Peoria, IL.
- Attended the Pre-Build Meetings at Emergency One, Inc. in Ocala, Florida for our new Quint that will be delivered in 2026.

Deputy Fire Chief Bochenek Report

- Attended the Weekly Village Administrators Staff Meetings.
- Attended the Chief Fire Officer class held by the University of Illinois Fire Service Institute on Community Risk Reduction and outreach.
- Attended our Monthly Officers Meeting.
- Attended the Monthly Statewide Terrorism & Intelligence Center (STIC) webinar.
- Attended the WSCDC Radio Committee Meeting.
- Conducted our Quarterly Shift Meeting with all three shifts.
- Attended the Monthly MABAS Division 11 Fire Chiefs Meeting.
- Attended the Annual Lemon Aid Fund Raiser.
- Attended a Zoom Meeting with Federal Signal on our new messaging system.
- Attended the RFFD Annual Open House.
- Attended the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association Annual Conference in Peoria, IL.
- Attended the Pre-Build Meetings at Emergency One, Inc. in Ocala, Florida for our new Quint that will be delivered in 2026.
- Attended the D90 safety committee meeting.
- Attended meeting on upgrading our RMS system.
- Completed Small Equipment Grant for Water Rescue tools and safety equipment for the department.
- Attended the Quarterly WSCDC Operations Meeting.
- Ensured the new monthly policy compliance surveys were rolled out and completed.

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

Fire Marshal Kevin Wiley

The September Report is the first report after the Autumnal Equinox when we really start to notice the sun setting a little earlier each day, cooler mornings and schools are in full session. It also means that it is LemonAid time!! Chief Gaertner, Deputy Chief Bochenek and I, along with Shift personnel were present for the memorial where we performed a 3-3-5 bell ceremony and recited a poem called "The Watch". The Watch poem was written by an anonymous member of the United States Navy, many years ago. When I read it, I thought it was an outstanding poem that could be adapted and re-worded to stand as a lasting tribute to honor all the First Responders' lives lost on 9/11. There were approximately 200 children and adults (among the 1000+) who listened to the ceremony in the bright sunny and warm weather to commemorate the 23rd annual event. The 3-3-5 Bell ceremony signifies a time long since retired. Back in the day, fire stations communicated with each other in a series of bells in each station. They received alarms of fire by the ringing of bells in a certain sequence, often a street fire alarm box number. The 3-3-5 signal designated that the fire company had returned to quarters. We utilize these traditions as symbols, which reflect honor and respect for those who have given so much and who have served so well.

This year we switched things up when it came to scheduling the annual Fire Department Open House. In years past, it was always scheduled during Fire Prevention Week. The biggest problem we had was terrible weather that we think affected the attendance at the event. Whether it was cool temperatures or pouring rain with multiple lightning strikes. This year, we moved the Open House up one full month to Saturday, September 14, 2024. As it turned out, we were absolutely correct! We saw 400+ people who attended the Open House on a beautiful warm, sunny day. One of the great things that we discovered was that a number of residents said that they heard about the date change from our social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram and on the Villages web site. They also mentioned the traffic information sign that we had at Park Av. and Lake Street.

Fire Prevention Week will be held October 6 - 12, 2024. Fire Prevention Week commemorates the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 and is the "NFPA's signature fire prevention awareness event and the oldest continuously running U.S. public health observance campaign, launched in 1922." For more than 100 years, Fire Prevention Week has worked to educate people about the risk of home fires and ways to minimize them. Local fire departments, schools, and community organizations play a key role in bringing Fire Prevention Week to life in their communities each year and spreading basic but critical fire safety messages. The 2024 campaign slogan is "Smoke Alarms: Make Them Work for You". The campaign slogan strives to educate everyone about the importance of having working smoke alarms in the home.

Key messages for this year's Fire Prevention Week theme, "Smoke alarms: Make them work for you!" include the following:

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area (like a hallway), and on each level (including the basement) of the home.
- Make sure smoke alarms meet the needs of all family members, including those with sensory or physical disabilities.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old or don't respond when tested.
- Replace them with smoke alarms that have a 10-year sealed battery.

I was able to spend some time wrapping up all my inspections and re-inspections of both Dominican and Concordia Universities. Both universities have come a long way in taking care and fixing any code violations that I identify on my inspections.

September also finished all the required State Fire Marshal mandated school fire drills. I witnessed a number of fire drills in September.

As mentioned last month, Food Truck events are becoming more of the norm these days, Dominican had three more events in September where food trucks were the catering focus for food to be served at the events. Now that the 2018 Fire Code has a section dedicated to food trucks,

September also starts our school safety assemblies. In years past, these assemblies were called ISEARCH. However, that name was identified as being a registered trademark and we felt that our safety curriculum had changed from the original format, so we decided to change the name of our team. We will forever be known as the River Forest Community Safety Team, or RFCST for short. We will continue to be funded by a grant from the River Forest Township. As mentioned in previous reports, the Safety Assemblies cover a number of safety points that kids may encounter in their daily lives and some that only happen in a lifetime! We discuss various fire safety topics that range from calling 911, matches and lighters, smoke alarms, to having a Family Meeting Place outside their homes. On the Police side we discuss finding a gun or a knife, bike safety that includes locking up their bikes. Sometimes we go out to the bike racks to find a bike that was not locked, and we always find at least one! We also discuss Bus Safety, Car Safety and Seatbelts, Walking to School Safety and a few others. We try to have a couple of live interactions with the groups so the kids can get up and demonstrate some of the things they have learned. We have conducted six assemblies that totaled 621 students and 28 adults with more to come in October.



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

Monthly Activities	Monthly Totals		YTD-Year to Date	
	Sep-23	Sep-24	2023	2024
**FPB Inspections	10	10	120	128
**Company Inspections	29	20	116	146
FPB Re-Inspections	7	10	67	83
Company Re-Inspections	7	7	56	53
Special Inquiry/B/L Site Inspections	2	5	7	16
Construction Inspections (Rough/Finals)	6	2	44	28
Inspections with Building Department	0	0	1	3
Inspections with/for State Fire Marshal	0	0	4	4
Permit Inspections (tent, hot work, UST)	10	2	30	31
TOTAL INSPECTIONS	71	56	445	492
School/Business Emergency Plan/Drills	7	5	24	12
Violation Notices Issued	27	19	129	150
Violations Noted	45	39	318	324
Violations Corrected	25	20	185	169
Permits Issued	10	2	31	32
**Complaints Received & Investigated	0	1	3	2
All Meetings/Consultations	4	6	52	41
Training Activities	2	0	27	28
Fire Suppress/Alarm System Test/Final	0	2	12	3
Fire Suppression Hydro's	1	0	5	0
**Plan Reviews and Revisions	16	11	107	129
**Average turn around (Business Days)	2.12 Days	6.81	2.64 Days	4.36 days
Public Education Programs	10	7	45	42
Public Education Program Contacts	656	1249	1264	2413
Misc Fire Prev Activities (See Narrative)	8	17	69	80

** Performance Measures for the Chief
Fire Marshal Kevin Wiley

Training Division: Lt. John Carter

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

- Loyola CE was held on September 24th, 25th and 26th. Subject was Pediatric trauma and medical emergencies.
- Division 11 Hazardous Materials Team drill held at the BNSF railyard in Hodgkins on September 16. A BNSF representative taught a Train Safety Program and the main components of a railcar. Crews also trained with the Midland kit (a cap for leaking fittings on top of pressurized rail cars), Chlorine Kit-C (Chlorine leaks around pressure relief valves and angle valves) and Vetter Bags (lifting bags) for product control. Lt's Boyd, Smith and FF/PM Bencik attended.
- Gold shift attended the LemonAid fundraiser
- The Fire Department Open House was on September 14th.
- Shifts continued their assigned building inspections.
- Shifts are finishing up hydrant testing
- FF/PM Fischer has started OSFM Company Fire Officer class through the Illinois Fire Service Institute in Bedford Park
- FF/PM Finfrock is attending OSFM Hazardous Materials Technician class at Romeoville Fire Academy
- All shifts trained on ropes and knots. Tools and equipment were tied off and hoisted from the interior hose tower and the training prop
- All shifts trained on Forcible Entry methods using the training prop

Individual Shift Reports

Black Shift Report- Lieutenant Q. Boyd

Activities: Black Shift responded to a total of 77 calls. 31 were fire related, 46 were EMS calls

Incidents/Events of note: First annual employee picnic! FF Seablom attended the pre-build meeting for our new Quint.

Shift Training and Hours:

Fire: 99.5 hours

EMS: 25 hours

Specialty: FF Bencik and LT Boyd attended the monthly Division 11 Hazmat drill. LT Boyd attended the monthly Division 11 TRT drill.

Public Service & Community Outreach:

None

Departmental Goals & Benchmarks:

Inspections: 56/61

Hydrants: Completed

Hose Testing: Completed

Red Shift Report- Lieutenant E. Howe

Activities: Red Shift responded to a total of 68 calls. 26 were fire related, 35 were EMS calls, 7 service calls.

Incidents/Events of note: On the morning of September 2nd, Engine 213 was committed to a fire alarm in Forest Park. Truck 219 and members FF. Doran and FF. McKenna responded for a report of fire at 77654 Lake. On arrival, they quickly extinguished the fire and ventilated the building. Engine 213 responded with auto aid and assumed command. Overhaul was completed and one occupant of the building was transported to LUMC for smoke inhalation.

Shift Training and Hours:

Fire: 83

EMS: 28

Specialty: NIMS 100 & 800, Courage to Be Safe

Public Service & Community Outreach:

- Attended numerous Block Parties throughout the village

Departmental Goals:

In-Company Inspections: 40/81

Hydrant Testing: Completed

Hose Testing: Completed

Gold Shift Report – Lieutenant M. Smith

Activities: Gold Shift had a total of 81 calls. 22 fire related, 58 were EMS calls, 1 service call.

Incidents/Events of Note: On September 2nd, Lt. Smith investigated the fire at 7765 Lake Street. On September 8th, Engine 213 responded to 1400 S. 8th Ave, Maywood for the structure fire. Engine 213 performed firefighting tasks assigned by Maywood Command. On September 26th, Engine 213 and Truck 219 responded to 1118-B Harlem Ave for the stove fire. The fire was extinguished, and the appliance removed from the property. On September 29th, Engine 213 and Truck 219 responded to 1435 Park Ave for the garage fire. River Forest units deployed the skid load and extinguished the fire. The garage fire at 1435 Park Ave was investigated by Lt. Smith. FF Ercoli attended Vehicle Machinery Operations in Romeoville. Lt. Smith attended the Division 11 Hazmat Drill in Hodgkins, IL.

Public Service & Community Outreach:

Firehouse Tours	1	400 visitors (Open House)
CPR Classes	0	0 students
Car Seat Install	0	
Block Parties	2	

Shift Training and Hours:

Fire:	140.75
EMS:	29.5
Specialty	42.0

Departmental Goals & Benchmarks:

Inspections: 54/78
Hydrants: 83/136
Hose Testing: 0

EMS/Paramedic Activity FF/PM Finfrock

RFFD responded for a TOTAL of 119 patients in September. Of those patients Ambulance 215 treated and transported 99, while 17 patients refused further treatment/transport from the fire department. In addition, crews responded to 3 patients for a lift assist. The 99 patients were transported to the following hospitals:

Loyola University Medical Center- 11

Rush Oak Park Hospital- 73

Gottlieb Memorial Hospital- 14

West Suburban Hospital- 1

Hines VA- 0

MacNeal- 0

800 N. Harlem- 19 patients

7617 North Ave- 14

Mutual Aid from A215- 11 times

Abdominal Pain- 5

Adult Respiratory Distress- 11

Allergic Reaction- 2

Altered Mental Status- 2

Animal Bite- 0

Assault/Battery- 2

Behavioral/Psych- 4

Burns- 0

Chest Pain- 2

Cardiac Arrest- 1

Choking- 0

CO Poisoning- 0

Diabetic Problems- 0

Electrocution- 0

ETOH- 0

Eye Problems- 0

Fall- 24

General Aches/pain- 1

Hemorrhage/Bleeding- 3

Medical Alarm- 0

No Complaint- 6

Opioid Overdose- 2

Peds Respiratory Distress- 1

Pregnancy- 0

Sick Person- 32

Traffic Accident- 11

Traumatic Arrest- 0

Traumatic Injury- 3

Unconscious/Unresponsive- 6

Unknown Problems- 0

Weakness- 1

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

Lt Howe continues to fine-tune vehicle the vehicle and equipment maintenance program. The highlights of maintenance and repairs performed this month are listed below.

Maintenance:

- 200- Nothing to report, zero issues.
- 202- **Waiting for info on new car**
- 201- PM's Complete, New Front Struts, Tires and Alignment
- 218- Nothing to report, zero issues.
- 213- PM's Completed
- 222- PM's Completed, PTO shift repair, Radiator repaired
- 219- DEF tank replaced, Shore Power Charge gauge replaced
- 215- Safety lane completed
- 214- First PM Completed

2024 FIRE DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE









