

RIVER FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT



MONTHLY REPORT

APRIL 2025



MEMORANDUM

TO: Matt Walsh
Village Administrator

FROM: Thomas Gaertner
Fire Chief

DATE: May 12, 2025

SUBJECT: Monthly Report – April 2025

The Fire Department responded to 231 responses during the month of April. This is lower than our average number of calls in comparison to April 2024, when we had 253 responses. Emergency Medical Service responses represent 54% of our response activity for the month of April.

Incident Type Group	April 2025
100 - Fire	5
300 - EMS	139
400 - Hazardous Conditions	4
500 - Service Call	13
600 - Good Intent	39
700 - False Alarms	25
900 - Special Incident	6
Monthly Total	231

Fire Chief Gaertner Report

- Attended the Weekly Village Administrators Staff Meetings.
- Attended the Bi-Weekly Village Board Meetings.
- Attended our Monthly Officers' Meeting.
- Attended the Monthly Statewide Terrorism & Intelligence Center (STIC) webinar.
- Attended the Monthly Metro Chiefs Executive Board Meeting.
- Attended numerous Zoom Meetings with First Due (RMS System) for our onboarding process.
- Attended the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association Administrative Professionals Luncheon.
- Attended the Monthly MABAS Division 11 Fire Chiefs Meeting.
- Attended meeting with the Inspection Reports On-Line (IROL) about implementation process.
- Attended interviews for new firefighter recruits.
- Attended a meeting with the Fire & Police Commission on Recruitment and Retention of firefighters and police officers.
- Attended the StarComm Radio Fire Chiefs Steering Committee meeting.
- Attended the IRMA Fire Chiefs Steering Committee meeting in Westmont.
- New flooring and painting in fire station living quarters, and offices were completed.
- Attended Triton College First Responders Career Day.

Deputy Fire Chief Bochenek Report

- Attended the Weekly Village Administrators Staff Meetings.
- Attended the Village Board Meeting.
- Attended multiple ZOOM meetings on transitioning to a new RMS system, First Due.
- Meeting with Roosevelt Middle School on career day opportunity.
- Meeting with D90 on the monthly safety meeting for the district.
- Ensured the new monthly policy compliance surveys were rolled out and completed through Lexipol.
- Attended the Monthly Statewide Terrorism & Intelligence Center (STIC) webinar.
- Attended Div 11 Chief Meeting.
- Trained staff in the transition to the new RMS system for the department.
- Coordinated the renovations in the fire station.
- Attended an online IRMA meeting on Respiratory PPE and OSHA requirements.
- Filed application for a grant to help offset some of the cost of rescue equipment the department needs.
- Attended a Zoom meeting with IROL about the official rollout of the new fire prevention compliance service.
- Attended LUMC for mandatory continuing education for my paramedic license.

Fire Marshal Kevin Wiley**FIRE PREVENTION**

It's hard to believe that 2025 is a quarter of the way over already!

April was a very busy month for the Fire Prevention Bureau. I performed 13 building inspections, and 28 re-inspections split between both universities. In total, we had 66 violations corrected this month. Now that the warmer weather is almost here, I expect the shifts to do more fire department activities such as hydrants, hose testing, training and Public Education.

Tele-communicator's Week was April 13 - April 19, 2025. The telecommunicator's at the West Suburban Consolidated Dispatch Center (WSCDC) do an awesome job in keeping the fire departments in the Division informed and ultimately safer. They are the first link in the communication chain from the public that culminates with the Fire and Police Departments answering the public's call for service. We owe them a debt of gratitude. For the week, the Fire Department provided some Challenge Coins, t-shirts, and some glassware as gifts.

I set up and performed all inspections on the three District 90 schools and the Administration building as well as a couple of private schools. The results of my inspections need to be uploaded to the Office of the State Fire Marshal's portal prior to May 15, which ultimately gets reported back to the District 90 Superintendent. I do these inspections in April so I can give the building engineers time to get things taken care of before the summer break. All the public schools were pretty good and did not have many violations noted.

As of April 1, 2025, the department has switched our records management system (RMS) to a new company called First Due. All fire prevention activities will be recorded and tabulated in First Due. With that happening, I am still setting up a number of files to record all our activities. Although we had a Pre-Incident or Preplan system in place, all the data from each inspected property must be uploaded and recorded into the system. We still have some time to implement the new system, but I take an hour or two every day to do some uploading of data into the system.

April is the time of the year when we start increasing the amount of plan reviews and construction projects in town. I performed 23 plan reviews in April, nearly doubling my year-to-date totals. My average turnaround for reviews is still under a week at 4.34 business days for April and 4.5 business days for my year-to-date.

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 department 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
April 2025**

Monthly Activities	Monthly Totals		YTD-Year to Date	
	Apr-24	Apr-25	2024	2025
**FPB Inspections	12	13	62	62
**Company Inspections	37	2	80	27
FPB Re-Inspections	23	28	43	39
Company Re-Inspections	9	0	15	23
Special Inquiry/B/L Site Inspections	3	1	8	1
Construction Inspections (Rough/Finals)	1	5	9	14
Inspections with Building Department	0	0	2	11
Inspections with/for State Fire Marshal	4	4	4	4
Permit Inspections (tent, hot work, UST)	2	1	2	3
TOTAL INSPECTIONS	91	54	225	184
School/Business Emergency Plan/Drills	0	0	0	1
Violation Notices Issued	19	11	70	56
Violations Noted	34	21	159	128
Violations Corrected	27	66	81	99
Permits Issued	0	1	0	1
**Complaints Received & Investigated	0	0	0	1
All Meetings/Consultations	3	5	10	20
Training Activities	1	0	21	19
Fire Suppress/Alarm System Test/Final	1	1	1	5
Fire Suppression Hydro's	0	0	0	1
**Plan Reviews and Revisions	9	23	25	51
**Average turn around (Business Days)	2.3 days	4.34 days	2.56 days	4.5 days
Public Education Programs	6	0	14	12
Public Education Program Contacts	266	0	443	182
Misc Fire Prev Activities (See Narrative)	7	16	27	45

** Performance Measures for the Chief
Fire Marshal Kevin Wiley

Training Division: Lt. Michael Smith

For April 2025, the Department participated in various training activities such as:

- Loyola CE was held on April 16, 17, and the 18th. The subject was Crew Resource Management and Communications.
- Firefighters viewed a one-hour IFSI webinar: Traffic Incident Management Awareness. This course is required by OSFM.
- Firefighters completed several tasks in the OSFM FAE Recertification Task Book.
- Firefighters worked on tasks in the OSFM FSVO Recertification Task Book.
- FF Kyles completed three stations in the FSVO Competency Course.
- Firefighters were assigned a FSRI video: The Science of Fire and Explosion Hazards from Lithium-Ion Batteries.
- Firefighters were assigned a TRANSCAER video: Response Considerations for Lithium-Ion Batteries.
- Shifts viewed Firefighters Under Fire: The Tucson Experience. The webinar discussed the lessons learned from an active shooter incident that included first responder victims.
- Red and Gold Shift completed a residential structure fire tabletop drill.
- Lt. Smith and Lt. Zipperich attended the Division 11 Hazmat Team drill in Forest Park. The drill consisted of building a MABAS Western Shelter.
- Lt. Smith attended the Division 11 Fire Investigation Team drill in Berwyn. The drill consisted of a lecture and practical on electrical components.
- Lt. Smith attended the Division 11 Training Officer meeting on April 25th.

Individual Shift Reports

Black Shift Report- Lieutenant Q. Boyd

Calls For Service: Black Shift responded to a total of 73 calls. 27 were fire related, 46 were EMS calls.

Incidents/Events of note: New floors installed in fire station, offices painted and reorganized, First Due went live.

Public Service & Community Outreach:

Firehouse Tours 1 20 visitors
CPR Classes 1 10 students
Car Seat Install 0
Smoke Alarm Install 0

Shift Training and Hours:

Fire: 74 hours
EMS: 31 hours
Specialty: Lt. Boyd attended the Medical Specialist course in Ocala Florida through the Illinois Task Force team for an additional 42 hours of training.

Departmental Goals & Benchmarks:

Inspections: 66/84
Hydrants: N/A
Hose Testing: N/A

Red Shift Report- **Lieutenant E. Howe**

Calls For Service: Red Shift responded to a total of 63 calls. 20 were fire related, 37 were EMS calls, 6 service calls.

Incidents/Events of note: On April 14 Red shift responded to a brush fire at Chicago and Thatcher caused by high winds following a controlled burn earlier in the day. Crew extinguished fire and wetted down hot spots to prevent a rekindle.

Public Service & Community Outreach:

Firehouse Tours 1 4 visitors
CPR Classes 0 0 students
Car Seat Install 0
Smoke Alarm Install 0

Shift Training and Hours:

Fire: 130
EMS: 60
Specialty: 2

Departmental Goals & Benchmarks:

Inspections: 13/77
Hydrants: 0
Hose Testing: 0

Live Training or Evolutions: SCBA, and Loyola continuing education

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

Gold Shift Report – Lieutenant P. Zipperich

Calls for Service: Gold shift responded to a total of 68 calls. 17 were fire-related, 47 were EMS calls, 4 service calls.

Incidents/Events of note: Assisted with a two-story structure fire on Kenilworth Ave in Oak Park.

Public Service & Community Outreach:

Firehouse Tours 1 4 visitors
CPR Classes 0 0 students
Car Seat Install 0
Smoke Alarm Install 0

Shift Training and Hours:

Fire: 48
EMS: 120
Specialty: 0

Departmental Goals & Benchmarks:

Inspections: 0/81
Hydrants: 0/
Hose Testing: 0

EMS/Paramedic Activity: FF/PM Luke Finfrock

RFFD responded to a TOTAL of 123 patients in April. Of those patients Ambulance 214 treated and transported 97; while 19 patients refused further treatment/transport from the fire department, 5 called the Fire Department for a lift assist, and 2 were DOA. 97 patients were transported to the following hospitals:

Loyola University Medical Center- 17

Rush Oak Park Hospital- 71

Gottlieb Memorial Hospital- 8

West Suburban Hospital- 0

Hines VA- 0

MacNeal- 1

800 N. Harlem- 8 patients

7617 North Ave- 6

Mutual Aid from A214- 20 times

Abdominal Pain- 1

Adult Respiratory Distress- 9

Allergic Reaction- 0

Altered Mental Status- 5

Animal Bite- 2

Assault/Battery- 2

Behavioral/Psych- 11

Burns- 0

Chest Pain- 8

Cardiac Arrest- 2

Choking- 0

CO Poisoning- 0

Diabetic Problems- 1

Electrocution- 0

ETOH- 1

Eye Problems- 0

Fall- 12

General Aches/pain- 2

Hemorrhage/Bleeding- 2

Medical Alarm- 0

No Complaint- 4

Opioid Overdose- 2

Peds Respiratory Distress- 2

Pregnancy- 0

Sick Person- 35

Traffic Accident- 8

Traumatic Arrest- 0

Traumatic Injury- 8

Unconscious/Unresponsive- 5

Unknown Problems- 1

Weakness- 0

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

Maintenance:

- 200- Nothing to report, zero issues
- 202- Nothing to report, zero issues
- 201- Nothing to report, zero issues
- 218- Nothing to report, zero issues.
- 213- Check engine light and SRS lights coming on. Waiting for 219 to be returned before sending in for repairs.
- 222- Nothing to report, zero issues
- 219- Ladder will not switch between Rescue and water tower. OOS at FSI
- 214 No Issues
- 215 Safety Recall Completed.