



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Brian Murphy  
Village Administrator

FROM: Thomas Gaertner  
Thomas Gaertner  
Fire Chief

DATE: February 4, 2022

SUBJECT: Monthly Report – January 2022

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The Fire Department responded to 199 calls during the month of January. This is above our average number of calls in comparison to January 2021 where we had 119 calls. We experienced 4 fire related calls for the month. Emergency Medical Service calls represented 61% of our response activity for the month of January.

| Incident Type Group        | Jan 2022   |
|----------------------------|------------|
| 100 - Fire                 | 4          |
| 300 - EMS                  | 122        |
| 400 - Hazardous Conditions | 3          |
| 500 - Service Call         | 10         |
| 600 - Good Intent          | 33         |
| 700 - False Alarms         | 27         |
| <b>Monthly Total</b>       | <b>199</b> |

Our Public Education programs, including station tours and block parties continue. We have been restricting access to all vehicles and fire station living quarters during tours and block parties following COVID protocols.

### **Incidents of Interest**

At the January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Village Board Meeting Tom Gaertner was sworn in as the new Fire Chief for the River Forest Fire Department.

### **Suppression Activities**

For the month of January, we responded to 199 emergency calls, which translates into 6.4 calls per day, which is above our average amount of calls. Of this total, 4 calls were fire related incidents. All of these fire incidents occurred outside of River Forest.

The first incident was a structure fire where RFFD Ambulance 215 responded to a structure fire in River Grove. This was a multiple fatality fire which killed three individuals. Ambulance 215 assisted with supplying body bags for victim removal.

The second incident was a report of a possible structure fire in Oak Park. RFFD Engine 213 responded and reported to the staging area. They were notified that it was burnt food on the stove and were released and returned to quarters.

The third incident was a report of a possible structure fire in Elmwood Park. RFFD Engine 213 responded and once on arrival were ordered to stage in front of the building. They were notified of burnt food on the stove and released by command. Engine 213 returned to quarters without incident.

The fourth incident was a report of a structure fire in Forest Park. While responding RFFD Engine 213 was notified of a working garage fire. On arrival Engine 213 was ordered to conduct a search of the fire building as there were reports of a person possibly inside. The search proved to be negative. They were then ordered to assist with salvage and overhaul of the fire building. Once the fire was extinguished they were released and returned to quarters without incident.

## **Training Lt. Carter**

During the month of January, the department participated in various training activities such as:

- Loyola EMS CE was held on-line for each shift. Subjects included Mental Health, Provider Wellness, Consent & Refusals
- Shifts continued their assigned building inspections
- FF/PM's A. Howe and Basa continuing truck training
- All shifts toured and pre-planned Grace Lutheran Church & School accompanied by Rich Brooks
- Division 11 Hazardous Materials/Fire Investigator/TRT Drill were canceled due to COVID-19
- Shifts conducted cancer awareness and prevention training

## **Individual Shift Reports**

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

**Activities:** For the month of January, the Gold Shift had a total of 73 calls. 28 of the calls were fire related, 39 involved emergency medical services and there were 6 service calls.

**Incidents/Events of Note:** On January 19 the Gold shift responded after hours to Willard school at 1250 Ashland for an activated fire alarm. Crews gained access to school building and investigated source of alarm to a defective smoke detector on the second floor. Alarm was reset and the building secured.

**Training:** Gold shift had 90 hours of fire related training this month, 40 hours of EMS training and 3 hours Hazmat for an average of 22.1 hours per firefighter. Our monthly fire training included emergency vehicle driver safety, AHA CPR refresher, response to carbon monoxide incidents, firefighter cancer awareness and prevention, and Loyola EMS mandated continuing education on mental health and provider wellness.

**Inspections:** 2 company inspections were completed.

**Black Shift Report: Lt. Bochenek**

**Activities:** For the month of January, Black shift responded to a total of 63 calls. 23 were fire related, 38 were EMS calls and 2 were service calls.

**Incidents/Events of Note:** Black shift responded to a structure fire at a single family home in Maywood. Crew performed search and then overhaul. No injuries noted at the scene.

**Training:** Black shift conducted 114.75 hours of fire related training this month and 31.5 hours of EMS training for a total of 146.25 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 29.25 hours per LT and firefighter/paramedics. Some of the training included LUMC CE and fire ops training.

**Inspections:** 16 total company inspections were performed. Our shift also conducted an escorted walk through inspection and public education to two residents at 1010 Harlem during the inspection.

**Red Shift Report: Lt. Smith**

**Activities:** For the month of January, Red Shift responded to a total of 69 calls. 20 of the calls were fire related. There were 47 EMS calls and 2 service calls.

**Incidents/Events of Note:** On January 15<sup>th</sup>, Red Shift responded to the rollover vehicle accident at Harlem and Le Moyne Street. Units arrived on the scene and found a vehicle lying on its driver side with an occupant trapped inside. Crews stabilized the vehicle as our paramedics triaged the occupant as well as other individuals involved. The driver was transported to Loyola Hospital. On January 27<sup>th</sup>, Engine 213 responded to 114 S. Elgin, Forest Park for the structure fire. The crew from performed a primary search and overhaul of the structure.

**Training:** Red Shift conducted 66.5 hours of fire related training this month and 36.25 hours of EMS training for a total of 102.75 hours of training. That is an average of 17.1 hours per firefighter. Some of the training included monthly online Loyola Continuing Education, a class on the best practices for preventing firefighter cancer, an online class on the Strategic and Tactical Operations for Basement Fires.

**Achievements to Be Noted:** FF Adam Howe completed his Associate's Degree in Fire Science and an Associate's Degree in EMS. FF Doran completed the written promotional exam on January 18th. Lt. Smith attended six online classes consisting of firefighting tactics and strategies, fire investigation, fire officer development, and EMS.

**Inspections:** 0 company inspections with 0 violations, and 2 Re-inspections with 1 correction.

**Paramedic Activity FF/PM Fischer**

In the month of January, we had a total of 126 requests for EMS. Of those 126 requests, 120 patients were cared for by RFFD EMS. Of the 120 patients, 51 were ALS and 68 were BLS and 1 was an invalid assist. 25 patients refused treatment and transport. These 120 patients had various complaints. A detailed monthly EMS report is available for review.

**Fire Prevention Fire Marshal Wiley**

Welcome to January and the new year, 2022. First, I would like to send a very warm welcome to the River Forest Fire Department to Fire Chief Tom Gaertner. I cannot wait to get into the down and dirty aspects of the Fire Prevention Bureau. Welcome Chief Gaertner. January is always busy getting out new Inspection Lists, wrapping up any outstanding inspections and re-inspections from the previous year and starting new inspections. This January looks a lot different from January 2021 as we were just emerging from a long shutdown due to COVID 19. The numbers show that we have performed approximately five times the amount of inspections this January compared to last January. January is also the start of CIP and the budget process and I spent time doing that preliminary work until Chief Gaertner started. Time was also spent bringing Chief Gaertner up to speed on the current workings of the fire department. One downside of the time spent doing work other than fire prevention was that the average turn-around time for Plan Reviews shot up to 15.25 days on average. I will spend the rest of the year whittling that timeframe down so it is well within the performance objectives established years ago.

During the month of January, the Fire Prevention Bureau conducted 12 regular inspections and 15 company inspections with 26 company re-inspections. There were 41 violations noted and 20 violations corrected. The Fire Prevention Bureau also performed 8 plan reviews.

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.

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**Vehicle/Equipment/ Station Maintenance FF Zipperich**

**Vehicles:**

- 200- Recommend check-up/oil change
- 201- Nothing reported
- 202- Nothing reported
- 213- Discharge #2 gauge OOS Interstate to schedule a remote service when part comes in.  
Deck Gun-waiting on replacement (Air One)
- 214- Nothing reported
- 215- Completed oil change.  
Air bag dash light on and off.  
Back up camera not working.  
MDT tablet not charging.
- 218- Nothing reported
- 219- Called Interstate to obtain last estimate for generator replacement. Certified (previous servicer) did not have their records moved to Interstate. The generator was repairable but the cost to repair vs cost of a new generator were about the same (\$11,000).
- 222- Nothing reported

**Equipment:**

Stryker technician repaired ambulance 215 power load cot. (Corroded wires)

**Fire Station:**

Clothes dryer repaired  
SCBA compressor PMs completed. Air quality testing completed.  
ABT contacted-stove/oven for service. They have been out over 8 times in the past two years for repairs to this stove/oven.  
Electrical outlet/ shoreline over 213 / not charging intermittently