



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Matt Walsh  
Village Administrator

FROM: Thomas Gaertner  
Fire Chief

DATE: July 14, 2025

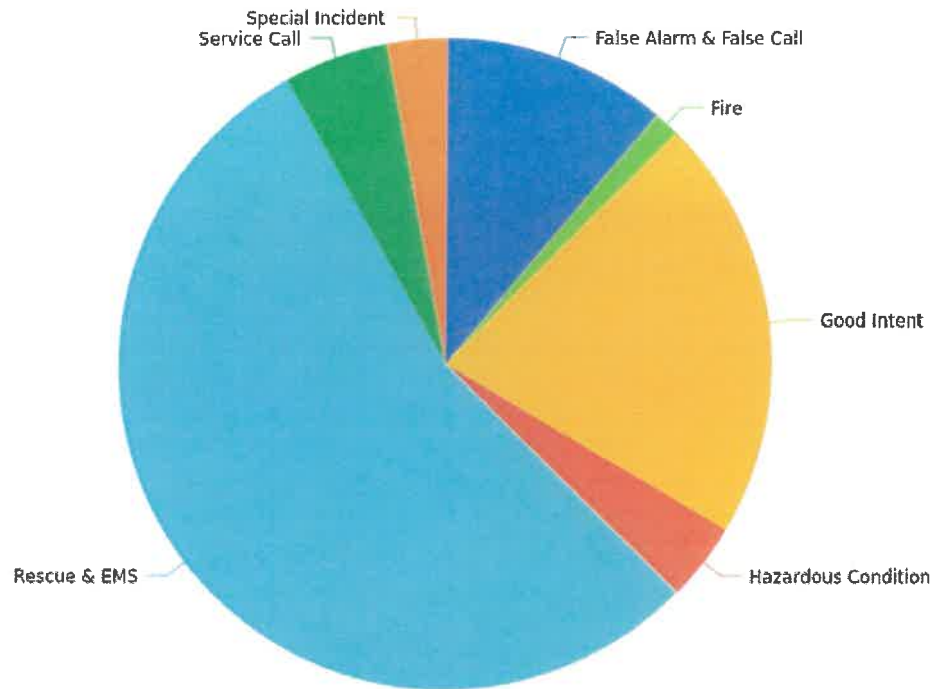
SUBJECT: Monthly Report – June 2025

---





## Monthly Incident Summary Report - Previous Month



PSAP CALL DATE/TIME / INCIDENT TYPE SERIES NAME	INCIDENT COUNT	PERCENT OF TOTAL
Jun 2025	233	100.00%
False Alarm & False Call	26	11.16%
Fire	3	1.29%
Good Intent	49	21.03%
Hazardous Condition	9	3.86%
Rescue & EMS	127	54.51%
Service Call	12	5.15%
Special Incident	7	3.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



## FDR-NFIRS: Incident Count by Shift - Last Calendar Month

SHIFT NAME	INCIDENT COUNT	PERCENT OF TOTAL
Black	81	34.76%
Gold	85	36.48%
Red	67	28.76%
<b>Total</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

### **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 Annual Pride Flag Raising Ceremony at Village Hall.
- Attended the Triton College Annual Golf Outing.

### **Deputy Fire Chief Bochenek Report**

- Attended the Weekly Village Administrators Staff Meetings.
- Attended the Village Board Meeting.
- Attended Monthly Officer's Meeting.
- Attended multiple ZOOM meetings on transitioning to a new RMS system, First Due.
- Meetings with Concordia on putting on the Envision Medical Career camp.
- Attended the Envision camp and instructed other FD members during the camp.
- Attended the Juneteenth ceremony at the RF Public Library.
- Ensured the new monthly policy compliance surveys were rolled out and completed through Lexipol.
- Attended the Monthly Statewide Terrorism & Intelligence Center (STIC) webinar.
- Trained staff in the transition to the new RMS system for the department.
- Filed application for a grant to help offset some of the cost of rescue equipment the department needs.
- Coordinating an integration with IROL to bridge IROL with our new RMS system.

## Fire Marshal Kevin Wiley

### FIRE PREVENTION

Welcome to June 2025 and the realization that 2025 is now half over!! Time sure is moving fast! June 2025 was a very busy month in Fire Prevention on a couple of fronts. Inspections and Preplans using our NEW First Due software.

#### Inspections:

Starting this month, I have started to collect data to use with our new RMS system called First Due. Part of that data collection includes some elements of the preplan system. The idea is, if I collect contact information as well as building information on each of the inspectable properties/buildings, all that data will be available for the shift personnel to use. When I fill in contact information, that information is applied to every file we have on that particular building. When I or the shifts inspect a building, the contact information will populate portions of the Inspection Report as well as the Preplan form. The problem is that contact information needs to be added in by hand the first time and after that, will only need to be verified or updated on an annual basis.

#### Preplanning:

Preplanning or building surveys have been part of the fire department's annual training for decades. Over the years the process of data collection and the forms have been updated to include contact information, building hazards, fire protection systems, access problems, utility locations and other information relating to the building. When we migrated to First Due that information evolved into a very large document. That document, however, now provides every department member with information that they can use to better understand the building and any associated hazards that they may not see from the curb. I have successfully created nearly 60 new Preplans for our members. Until I can get all the new data imported into the system, the department members can still access the older preplans.

#### Public Education:

June was a busy month for events that the Fire Department played a key role. Chief Gaertner and I participated in a raffle from Willard School where two winners bid to become "Mayor for the Day". The two winners took part in the day-to-day activities of running the Village. They sat in on a mock Board Meeting where they listened to a few ideas and then voted on two new ordinances. One was to have candy on Fridays and the second was to always have desserts on Sunday. You can only imagine that Village Staff will gladly enforce these new ordinances! They also sat in on a Village Staff Meeting. They had extended tours of the Fire House, Police Station and the parts of the Village Hall that nobody else can see. As a finance exercise, they were asked to divide a set amount of money amongst the various departments that comprise the village staff. I am happy to say that they took this task to heart and gave the bulk of the money to the Fire Department!

The Fire Department provided some attention seeking noise in the form of a parade with Lights and Sirens blaring, down Lake St for the OPRF Girls Softball Team who were on their way to represent the two towns in a State Tournament.

The Fire Department also participated in the Wounded Warrior Bike Ride by displaying a huge American Flag hanging 40 feet in the air for all the riders in support of this annual tradition.

The Fire Department also participated in the ceremonies for the Pride flag and Juneteenth flag raisings.

During the last week of June, the fire department teamed with Concordia University for the second year in a row, to present a Nursing Camp to approximately 20 Junior High and High School aged kids. The camp was held at the Christopher Center's new Nursing training facility. Deputy Chief Bochenek, with assistance from Lieutenant Quentin Boyd and other department members presented a number of classes such as patient assessment, performing vital signs in a stressful situation, patient packaging and the transport of sick and injured patients over the five days of the camp. The students also participated in scenarios to reenforce the close working relationships Paramedics have with the area hospital nurses and emergency room staffs. The students were also offered a down and dirty CPR and Stop the Bleed class, as well as a demonstration of an auto accident and extrication scenario. Despite a week of hot weather, the camp was a HUGE success, and the reviews of the camp, as well as the Fire Department were extremely high. We think this may be the beginning of a grassroots campaign to attract young people into the Firefighter/Paramedic programs, as well as Nursing programs.

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  
June 2025**

Monthly Activities	Monthly Totals		YTD-Year to Date	
	Jun-24	Jun-25	2024	2025
**FPB Inspections	23	18	99	94
**Company Inspections	11	9	98	45
FPB Re-Inspections	4	3	54	46
Company Re-Inspections	8	2	28	25
Special Inquiry/B/L Site Inspections	1	0	10	4
Construction Inspections (Rough/Finals)	2	4	18	21
Inspections with Building Department	0	0	2	11
Inspections with/for State Fire Marshal	0	0	4	4
Permit Inspections (tent, hot work, UST)	2	0	9	11
<b>TOTAL INSPECTIONS</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>261</b>
School/Business Emergency Plan/Drills	0	2	2	3
Violation Notices Issued	20	8	103	74
Violations Noted	52	22	228	169
Violations Corrected	19	11	118	125
Permits Issued	0	0	5	12
**Complaints Received & Investigated	1	0	1	1
All Meetings/Consultations	5	8	22	34
Training Activities	0	2	23	25
Fire Suppress/Alarm System Test/Final	0	0	1	5
Fire Suppression Hydro's	0	0	0	1
**Plan Reviews and Revisions	16	26	70	99
**Average turn around (Business Days)	3.68 days	3.26 days	3.92 days	3.91 days
Public Education Programs	7	14	31	35
Public Education Program Contacts	148	301	998	1126
Misc Fire Prev Activities (See Narrative)	7	18	42	86

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

**Training Division: Lt. Michael Smith**

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

- Matt Hattier from IBEW Local 134 taught a three-hour Fire Safety, Photovoltaics, and Energy Storage Systems class on June 2–4. Forest Park firefighters also attended.
- Shifts trained on standpipe operations using the Concordia University parking garage. The Shifts worked on FDC connections, pump operations, high-rise pack deployment, standpipe connections, and moving hose lines in stairwells.
- Firefighters used the training prop to complete structure fire evolutions. The drill covered Size-up, command, pump operations, hose deployment, forcible entry, search and rescue, and fire attack.
- Shifts reviewed the operating procedures for new equipment: TRUBLUE Auto Belay, the Emergency Plug, and the CellSafe pail.
- Lt. Boyd, Lt. Zipperich, and FF Bencik attended the Division 11 Hazmat Drill at the MWRD Stickney Water Reclamation Plant.
- Lt. Howe attended the Division 11 TRT Drill in Oak Park.
- Lt. Smith and FF Seablom attended the Division 11 Fire Investigator Drill in Stickney.
- FF Kyles and FF Ercoli completed a 40-hour Advanced Technician Firefighter course at Romeoville Fire Academy.
- Lt. Smith attended the Division 11 Training Officer meeting on Zoom.
- Lt. Smith attended a 75-minute Fire Engineering webinar: Standpipe Operations.
- Lt. Smith met with OSFM, Scott Olinski. The two-hour meeting reviewed the process of using Vector Solutions to document training for State recertifications.



## **Individual Shift Reports**

### **Black Shift Report- Lieutenant Q. Boyd**

**Incidents/Events of note:** Assisted with the Concordia Nursing Program Envision summer camp.

#### **Public Service & Community Outreach:**

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

#### **Shift Training and Hours:**

Fire: 94 hours  
EMS: 10 hours  
Specialty: FF Bencik and LT Boyd attended the Division 11 Hazmat drill. FF Seablom attended the Division 11 fire investigator drill.

#### **Departmental Goals & Benchmarks:**

Inspections: 55/84  
Hydrants: N/A  
Hose Testing: N/A

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

**Incidents/Events of note:** On June 28th Engine 213 responded to a Metra locomotive on fire. Crew responded to Hawthorne Ave and gained access to railroad right of way using a ladder. The crew found the 2nd locomotive with smoke from the undercarriage. Metra engineer and crew had knocked down flames with dry chem fire extinguishers. Power and fuel were shut down and Engine 213 crew completed extinguishment with CO2 extinguishers.

**Public Service & Community Outreach:**

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

- Members of the red Shift attended a 1 block party on the 200 block of Ashland
- FF Rouse taught one CPR class

**Shift Training and Hours:**

Fire: 130  
 EMS: 60  
 Specialty: 2

**Departmental Goals & Benchmarks:**

Inspections: 50/68  
 Hydrants: 0  
 Hose Testing: 0

- Lt Howe Attended Div. 11 TRT drill in Oak Park
- All assigned hydrants for annual flushing completed
- All new hose inventoried and numbered
- Hose testing

**Live Training or Evolutions:**

- IBEW class on wind and solar power hazards
- Standpipe high-rise tactics
- Mega code cardiac arrest training
- Hose deployment
- Engineer/Operator evolutions
- Cardiac SOP's
- Fire behavior NIST/UL study review

## **Gold Shift Report – Lieutenant P. Zipperich**

**Incidents/Events of note:** Gold Shift responded to a person choking at 319 Forest Ave. On arrival we found a elderly female unconscious and not breathing. ALS treatment was started, and patient was revived successfully.

### **Public Service & Community Outreach:**

Firehouse Tours 2      10 visitors  
CPR Classes 0          0 students  
Car Seat Install 0  
Smoke Alarm Install 1

### **Shift Training and Hours:**

Fire: 85  
EMS: 98  
Specialty: 0

Assisted with the Concordia Nursing Program Summer Camp

### **Departmental Goals & Benchmarks:**

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

# **EMS/Paramedic Activity: FF/PM Luke Finfrock**

RFFD responded for a TOTAL of 123 patients in June. Of those patients, Ambulance 214 treated and transported 97; while 18 patients refused further treatment/transport from the fire department, 5 called the Fire Department for a lift assist, and 3 were DOA. The 94 patients were transported to the following hospitals:

Loyola University Medical Center- 14

Rush Oak Park Hospital- 75

Gottlieb Memorial Hospital- 8

West Suburban Hospital- 0

Hines VA- 0

MacNeal- 0

800 N. Harlem- 18 patients

7617 North Ave- 3 patients

Mutual Aid from A214- 19 times

Abdominal Pain- 1

Adult Respiratory Distress- 4

Allergic Reaction- 1

Altered Mental Status- 5

Animal Bite- 0

Assault/Battery- 0

Behavioral/Psych- 11

Burns- 0

Chest Pain- 6

Cardiac Arrest- 4

Choking- 1

CO Poisoning- 0

Diabetic Problems- 0

Electrocution- 0

ETOH- 5

Eye Problems- 0

Fall- 15

General Aches/pain- 4

Hemorrhage/Bleeding- 1

Medical Alarm- 0

No Complaint- 6

Opioid Overdose- 5

Peds Respiratory Distress- 0

Pregnancy- 0

Sick Person- 29

Traffic Accident- 6

Traumatic Arrest- 0

Traumatic Injury- 5

Unconscious/Unresponsive- 9

Unknown Problems- 1

Weakness- 4

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

**Maintenance:**

- 200- Nothing to report, zero issues
- 202- New car info added to system
- 201- Nothing to report, zero issues
- 218- Nothing to report, zero issues.
- 213 A/C repaired, Diesel lift pump repaired. Still OOS waiting for door alarm parts.
- 222- Back in service after major repairs
- 219- No issues
- 214 No Issues
- 215 Safety Lane completed.

## Concordia University Nursing Program

### “Envision Nursing Camp”

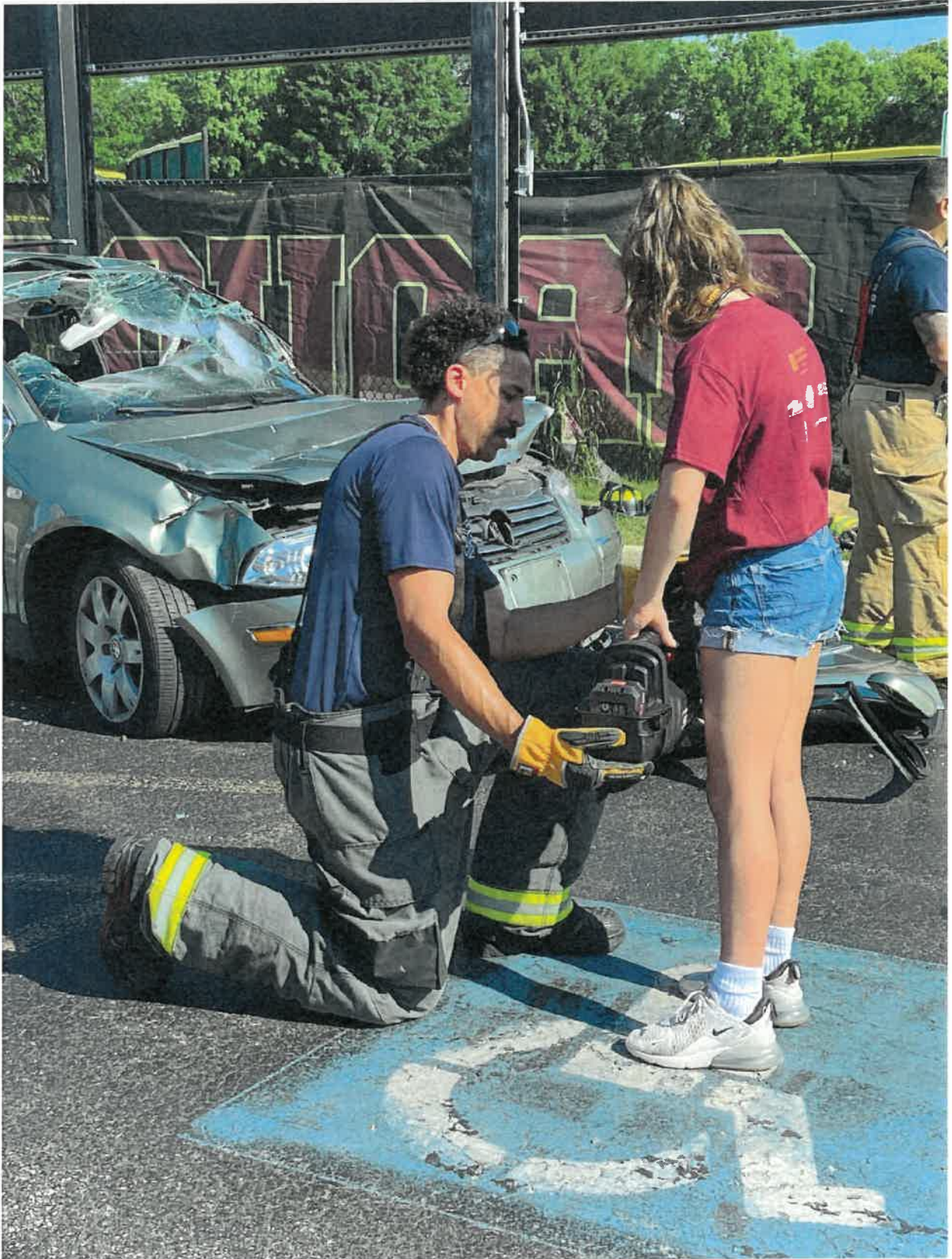
The week of June 23rd through the 27th saw the second run of the ENVISION Nursing Camp at Concordia University here in River Forest. The camp was the recipient of a state grant that aims at teaching kids in the community about the various aspects of the medical field. From being a first responder EMT, to performing a procedure with a Laparoscopic surgical device, these participants were thrust into an immersive and simulated driven camp like no other.

The participants experienced many hands-on exercises that challenged them mentally and physically, while giving them a safe environment to handle medical and rescue equipment. Students learned skills that firefighter/paramedics perform in the field as well as many skills nurses perform in a hospital setting. These skills included performing intraosseous placement (drilling into bone), pleural decompression (placing a needle into the lung), and intubation skills (placing a breathing tube into the trachea) just to name a few. After learning the skills of a first responder/paramedic, the kids were transported to a nursing environment. Skills like medication administration, suturing, and Laparoscopic surgery were among the new skills experienced by camp participants.

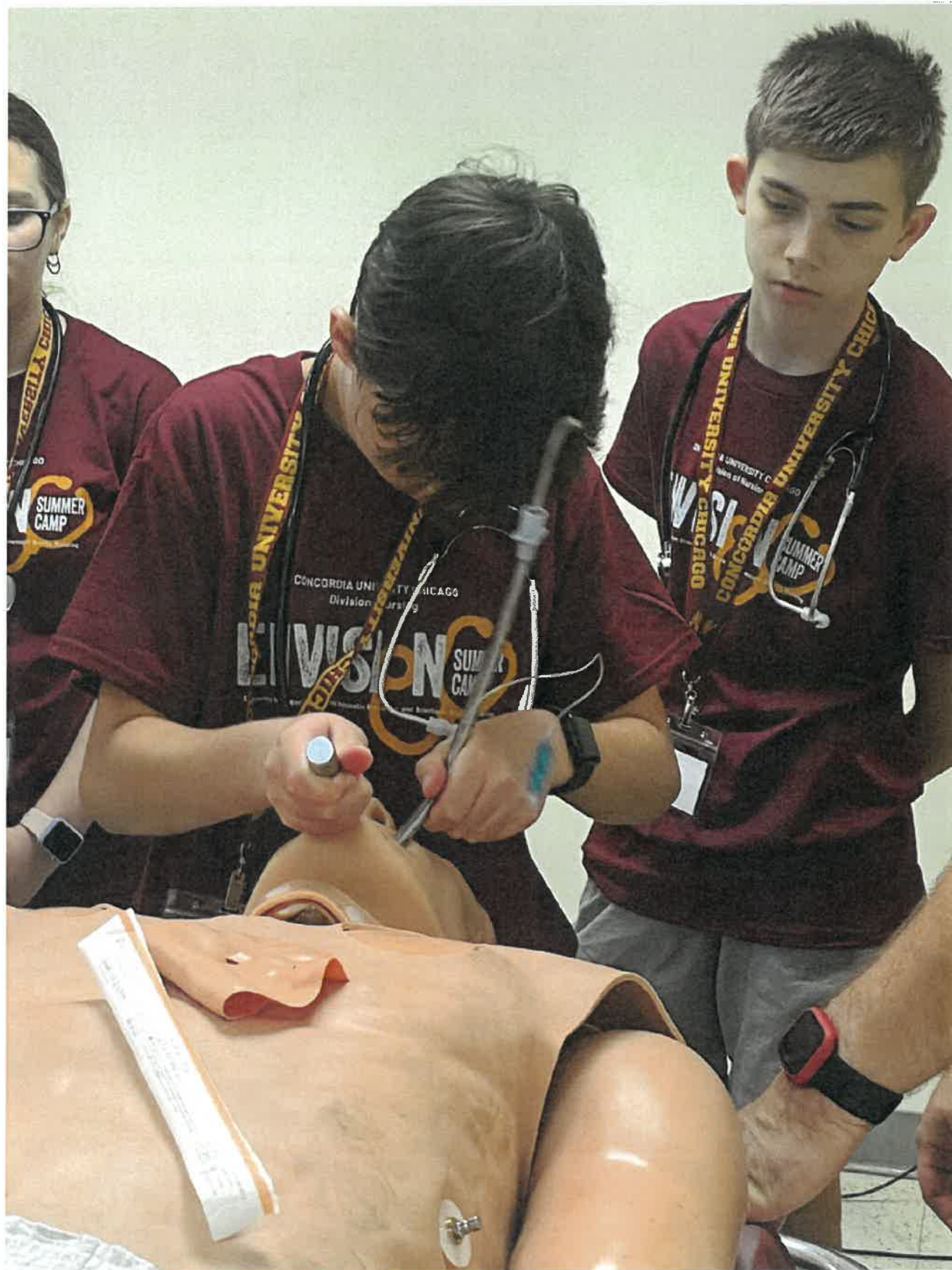
This camp went so well that the organizers, which included 2 members of the fire department and 3 members of the Concordia nursing staff, were invited to the International Simulations in Healthcare Conference in Florida in January of 2025. Concordia's nursing staff led by Director Kristen Bayer and Laurie Zack, secured a state grant to help offset some of the cost of the camp for this year's participants. The camp was truly a community effort as the River Forest Police Department and Public Works also contributed to the success of the event.















## Pizza Dinner With Our Firefighters Raffle Winners









## Wounded Warrior Ride











name:

KIN3

date:

May 2025

Dear Chief Soerthner

I am a second grader at

Willard school. I am

writing to say thank

you for all you do for

our community.

Being a fire fighter

is such an important job

You help save people

and rescue pets. You

name: \_\_\_\_\_ date: \_\_\_\_\_

help keep the

community safe by

putting out fires.

Do you ever get to

use a trampoline to

rescue people? thank

you for your service.

Your friend,

King

Deputy Fire Chief Bochenek  
and Lt. Boyd,

Thank you so much  
for taking your time  
to teach us so many  
new life skills. Our  
day changed many lives  
and futures! Every RMS  
student left inspired  
and more confident that  
they can help their  
community.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Patty Feinberg and...

Sireen ☺  
Abuagel  
-Ty for all

Misha Ilovubachev  
Kumar

Thank you

mettew

neilyn

...for simply  
everything.

Thank  
you

Stella McEwen

manuGrespo

Cyus McNeill

Lerra Monahan

Charlie Rosen

Penny Wortman

Sarah Daly  
Easton Blackmer

Kirby  
Matthew

Hanika Chiplonkar

Wesley Timchak

Andrew

HERBY B