

RIVER FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT



MONTHLY REPORT

MARCH 2025



MEMORANDUM

TO: Matt Walsh
Village Administrator

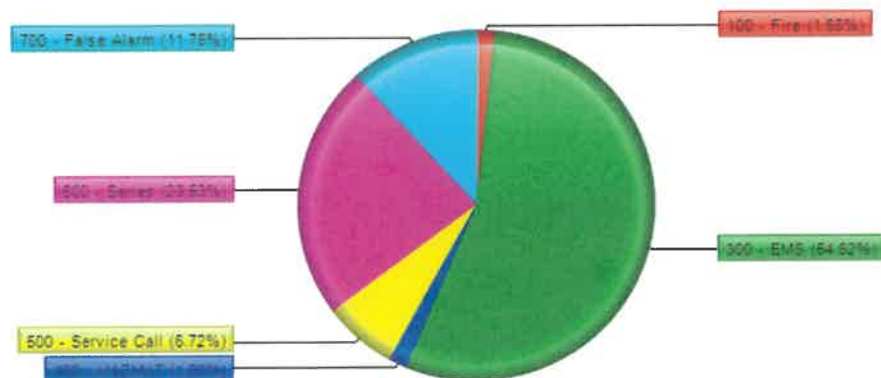
FROM: Thomas Gaertner
Fire Chief

DATE: April 14, 2025

SUBJECT: Monthly Report – March 2025

The Fire Department responded to 245 responses during the month of March. This is higher than our average number of calls in comparison to March 2024, when we had 234 responses. Emergency Medical Service responses represent 54% of our response activity for the month of March.

Incident Type Group	March 2025
100 - Fire	4
300 - EMS	130
400 - Hazardous Conditions	4
500 - Service Call	16
600 - Good Intent	56
700 - False Alarms	28
900 - Special Incident	7
Monthly Total	245

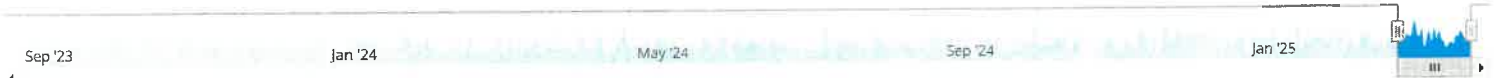
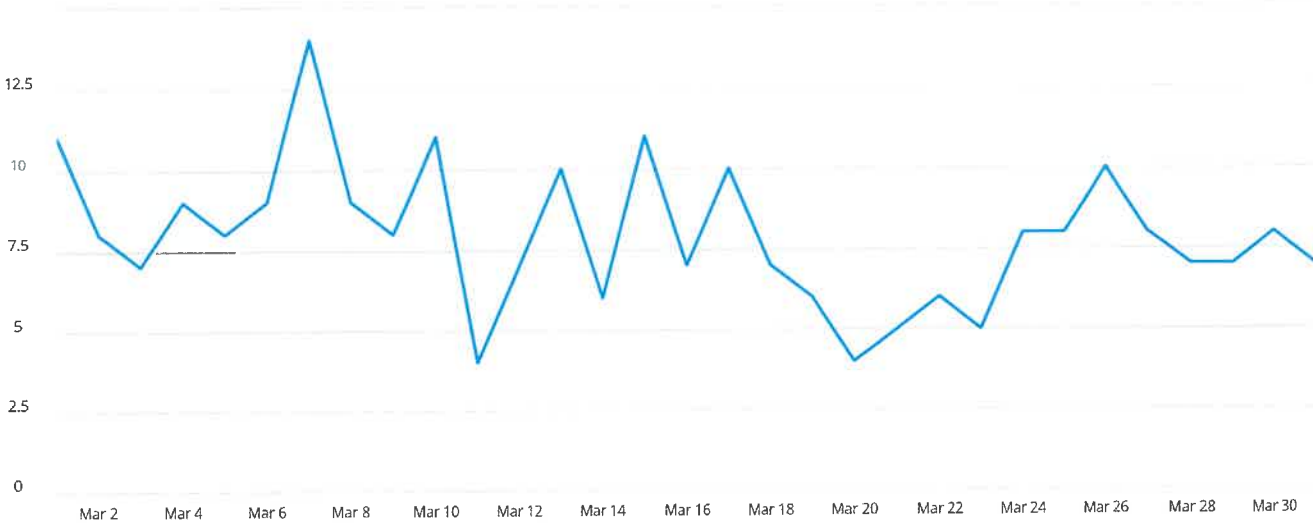


46%
FIRE
Percentage of Total
Incidents

54%
EMS
Percentage of Total
Incidents

245
INCIDENTS
In Selected Time Frame

31
DAYS
In Selected Time Frame



Counts	% Rows		% Columns		% All									
Week Ending	3/2/25	3/9/25	3/16/25	3/23/25	3/30/25	4/6/25	4/13/25	4/20/25	4/27/25	5/4/25	5/11/25	5/18/25	5/25/25	Total
RIVER FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT	19	64	56	43	56	7								245
Total	19	64	56	43	56	7								245



Custom ▾

Jan 1, 2025 - Mar 31, 2025 ▾

43%

FIRE

Percentage of Total Incident

57%

EMS

Percentage of Total Incident

751

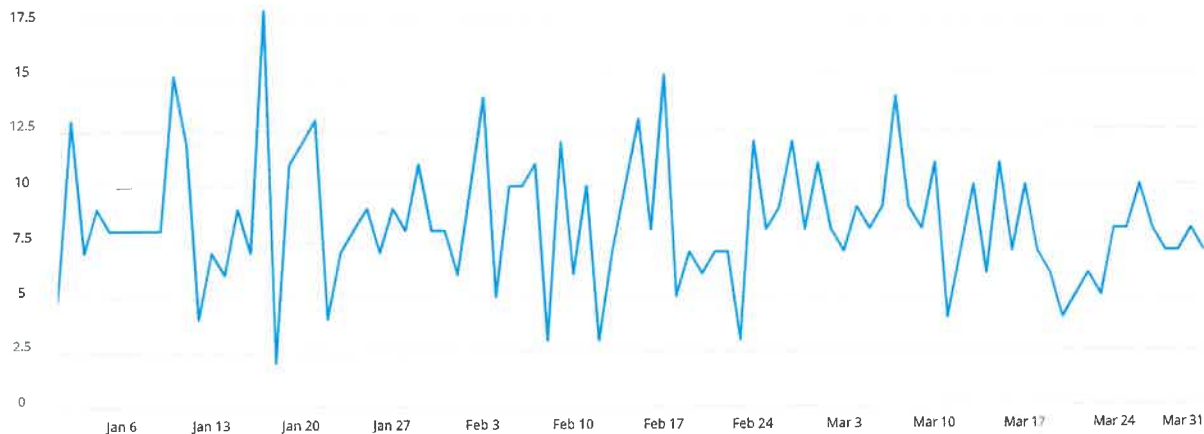
INCIDENTS

In Single and Multiple Calls

90

DAYS

In Single and Multiple Calls



Jan '24

Apr '24

Jul '24

Oct '24

Counts

% Rows

% Columns

% All

Jan '25

Feb '25

Mar '25

Apr '25

May '25

Jun '25

Jul '25

Aug '25

Sep '25

Oct '25

Nov '25

Dec '25

Jan '26

Total

(11) Structure Fire

6

3

4

13

(32) Emergency medical service (EMS) incident

151

145

133

429

(35) Extrication, rescue

4

2

6

(41) Combustible/f.. spills & leaks

4

2

4

10

(42) Chemical release, reaction, or toxic condition

1

1

(44) Electrical wiring/equipm. problem

5

2

7

(51) Person in distress

1

1

(52) Water problem

3

4

1

8

(53) Smoke, odor problem

1

2

1

4

(55) Public service assistance

11

13

13

37

(61) Dispatched and canceled en route

35

24

49

108

(62) Wrong location, no emergency found

6

5

6

17

(65) Steam, other gas mistaken for smoke

1

4

1

6

(66) EMS call where party has been transported

1

1

	Jan '25	Feb '25	Mar '25	Apr '25	May '25	Jun '25	Jul '25	Aug '25	Sep '25	Oct '25	Nov '25	Dec '25	Jan '26	Total
(67) HazMat release investigation w/no HazMat	1													1
(71) Malicious, mischievous false alarm	2	1												3
(73) System or detector malfunction	1		4											5
(74) Unintentional system/detect... operation (no fire)	36	30	25											91
(90) Special type of incident, other		1												1
NULL	1	1												2
Total	269	237	245											751

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 Spring Symposium.
- Attended the Monthly MABAS Division 11 Fire Chiefs Meeting.
- Attended meeting with the Inspection Reports On-Line (IROL) about implementation process.
- Attended a meeting with Kevin Hunter of Paramedic Billing Services.
- Attended and donated at the RFFD Blood Drive.
- Attended the StarComm Radio Fire Chiefs Steering Committee meeting.

Deputy Fire Chief Bochenek Report

- Attended the Weekly Village Administrators Staff Meetings.
- Attended the Village Board Meeting.
- Attended multiple meetings on transitioning to a new RMS system, First Due.
- Completed several modules for the creation of the new RMS system.
- 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.

Fire Marshal Kevin Wiley**FIRE PREVENTION**

March started off with Daylight Saving where we encouraged all residents to change their clocks as well as change/check their smoke alarms. With the new Smoke Alarm Act that went into effect last January 1, 2023, we ramped up our messages again this year in multiple public education and social media formats to get the word out about replacing older alarms with new, 10-year sealed battery alarms. We also reissued messages that we have a Smoke Alarm Recycle program. NEW for 2025, we will now be accepting Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarms for recycling as well. Both types of alarms can be deposited in one of two yellow recycle bins. One yellow bin is located on the 2nd floor of Village Hall, and a second bin is located in the firehouse. We ask residents to remove the battery from each of the alarms prior to placing them into the bins. The batteries can also be recycled in the lower level of the Village Hall battery recycling bins. After the new fiscal year, I will call the recycling center and ship out all the units that we have for recycling. There is only one company in the United States (Curie Environmental located in Albuquerque, New Mexico) that performs this type of recycling and will recycle 98% of each alarm.

Coming off a busy month of February where I inspected all buildings at the Dominican University campus, in March I performed all first-round inspections of the 23 buildings at Concordia University. The Bureau and the Shifts performed 26 Inspections and 7 re-inspections in March.

Severe Weather Preparedness Week was observed from March 3-7, 2025. We posted a number of reminders as well as informational flyers on the departments Facebook and Instagram social media formats.

The month closed out with the 48th annual Fire and Life Safety Conference being held over four days in East Peoria, IL. The conference is sponsored by the Illinois Fire Inspectors Association. To start the week, I attended a pre-conference workshop on Youthful Firesetting Intervention (YFSI) where we were brought up to speed on the recent revisions of the YFSI curriculum. The curriculum enhancements are now aligned with the latest National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards and reflect operationally tested best practices. The conference is formulated with a combination of general sessions, and breakout sessions on fire and life safety issues as well as code-related topics. Sessions included updates from various departments within the Office of the State Fire Marshal, to a large discussion on how to prepare for the ever-increasing fire risk problem caused by lithium-ion batteries and the charging stations that will be spreading over the country to provide charging for electric vehicles. A class was dedicated to the Code updates for electric vehicles as well.

All in all, an outstanding conference. I was able to attend over 18 hours of public education and code-related training sessions, not to mention the camaraderie of fellow Fire Marshals, Inspectors and friends.

The department is in the middle of some major upgrades to our new Records Management System (RMS). First Due is the name of the new system. The new RMS will upgrade our Fire Reports, Fire Inspection Reports as well as Record Management for nearly all operations in the Fire Department. I was involved in a number of fire prevention training segments for the system during the month.

The last item in my monthly report is a summary of activities that do not fit in any other category such as Code Review issues, the time spent performing LAMA reviews, hydrant flows for sprinkler companies, servicing a Knox Box, public education flyers, picking up and/or dropping off vehicles for service, and general day-to-day office duties among others. These activities may not be difficult, but I do them nearly every month and they do take up time that I like to be able to account for.



**RIVER FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU
MONTHLY REPORT
March 2025**

Monthly Activities	Monthly Totals		YTD-Year to Date	
	Mar-24	Mar-25	2024	2025
**FPB Inspections	23	23	50	49
**Company Inspections	29	3	43	25
FPB Re-Inspections	10	6	20	11
Company Re-Inspections	5	7	6	23
Special Inquiry/B/L Site Inspections	3	0	5	0
Construction Inspections (Rough/Finals)	0	3	8	9
Inspections with Building Department	0	10	2	11
Inspections with/for State Fire Marshal	0	0	0	0
Permit Inspections (tent, hot work, UST)	0	0	0	0
TOTAL INSPECTIONS	70	52	134	128
School/Business Emergency Plan/Drills	0	1	0	1
Violation Notices Issued	23	17	51	45
Violations Noted	52	37	125	108
Violations Corrected	33	12	54	33
Permits Issued	0	0	0	0
**Complaints Received & Investigated	0	0	0	1
All Meetings/Consultations	2	3	7	15
Training Activities	11	10	20	19
Fire Suppress/Alarm System Test/Final	0	0	0	4
Fire Suppression Hydro's	0	0	0	1
**Plan Reviews and Revisions	5	12	16	28
**Average turn around (Business Days)	1.8 days	3.8 days	2.8 days	4.6 days
Public Education Programs	1	2	8	12
Public Education Program Contacts	1	16	177	182
Misc Fire Prev Activities (See Narrative)	6	10	20	29

** Performance Measures for the Chief
Fire Marshal Kevin Wiley

Training Division: Lt. Michael Smith

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

- Loyola CE was online on the Moodle LMS. The subject was Toxicology.
- All shifts reviewed the Donald Stallworth III Act. Illinois Legislation on Ambulance Driving.
- Firefighters viewed a driver training webinar: Intro to Emergency Vehicle Driving (1 hour).
- All shifts completed the Check-rides.
- Lt. Boyd attended a two-day Illinois Task Force advanced trauma course at Rush Hospital.
- Gold and Red shifts participated in the Division 11 Large Area Search Drill at the North Riverside Mall (March 18 and 19).
- Lt. Smith was an instructor at the Division 11 Large Area Search Drill on March 18 & 19.
- Fit Testing was completed for all Fire and Police personnel.
- FF Bencik and FF Krall attended Phase 2 of Company Fire Officer at North Palos.
- Lt. Smith attended the Division 11 Fire Investigation Team Drill in Berwyn. The topic was Fire Scene Photography. Investigators practiced using cameras in a vacant two-story home.
- Lt. Smith viewed a one-hour webinar: ISO Training for the Training Officer.
- Lt. Smith attended a one-hour webinar hosted by Sirchie. The topic was: Planning and Coordinating a Search and Rescue Operation.

Individual Shift Reports

Black Shift Report- Lieutenant Q. Boyd

Calls For Service: Black Shift responded to a total of 70 calls. 36 were fire related, 34 were EMS calls

Incidents/Events of note: None

Public Service & Community Outreach:

Girl scouts tour of the station and fire safety talk

Shift Training and Hours:

Fire: 55 hours

EMS: 38.50 hours

Specialty: FF Bencik completed the last portion of his COFO class. Lt. Boyd attended the Advanced Trauma Training Program at Rush University Medical Center through the Illinois Task Force team. Members of the department participated in the Division 11 large area search drill in North Riverside.

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 87 calls. 32 were fire related, 5 were EMS calls, and 5 service calls.

Incidents/Events of note: On March 30 Red Shift responded for a car vs pedestrian at Lake and Lathrop. Ambulance 214 provided care and transported the patient in stable condition to Loyola University Medical center.

Public Service & Community Outreach:

Red shift Completed one station tour in February

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:

Firefighter safety, Line of Duty death case studies, Driver Safety and Safe operations of Fire Apparatus, and Loyola continuing education on Toxicology.

Gold Shift Report – Lieutenant P. Zipperich

Calls for Service: Gold shift responded to a total of 63 calls. 28 were fire-related, 35 were EMS calls, 7 service calls.

Incidents/Events of note: Ercoli/McKenna; Stroke patient taken to appropriate hospital based on condition/Cincinnati-VAN protocols

Public Service & Community Outreach:

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

Shift Training and Hours:

Fire: 80
EMS: 27.50
Specialty 40 (Krall COFO)

Departmental Goals & Benchmarks:

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

EMS/Paramedic Activity: FF/PM Luke Finfrock

RFFD responded to a total of 121 patients in the month of March. Of those patients Ambulance 214 treated and transported 103; while 16 patients refused further treatment/transport from the fire department and 2 called the Fire Department for a lift assist. 103 patients were transported to the following hospitals:

Loyola University Medical Center- 20
Rush Oak Park Hospital- 67
Gottlieb Memorial Hospital- 15
West Suburban Hospital- 1
Hines VA- 0
MacNeal- 0

800 N. Harlem- 14 patients
7617 North Ave- 8
Mutual Aid from A214- 15 times
Abdominal Pain- 2
Adult Respiratory Distress- 4
Allergic Reaction- 1
Altered Mental Status- 2
Animal Bite- 0
Assault/Battery- 0
Behavioral/Psych- 12
Burns- 0
Chest Pain- 8
Cardiac Arrest- 3
Choking- 1
CO Poisoning- 0
Diabetic Problems- 0
Electrocution- 0
ETOH- 2
Eye Problems- 0
Fall- 17
General Aches/pain- 2
Hemorrhage/Bleeding- 3
Medical Alarm- 0
No Complaint- 2
Opioid Overdose- 2
Peds Respiratory Distress- 3
Pregnancy- 1
Sick Person- 37
Traffic Accident- 4
Traumatic Arrest- 0
Traumatic Injury- 8
Unconscious/Unresponsive- 4
Unknown Problems- 3
Weakness- 0

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

Maintenance:

- 200- PM Completed
- 202- Nothing to report
- 201 PM Completed
- 218- Quarterly PM Completed
- 213- Nothing to report
- 222- Nothing to report, zero issues
- 219- Ladder actuator inop , OOS at FSI
- 214- Nothing to report
- 215 -No Issues

Dear Fire and Paramedics,

I am sad to inform you that Sherri Cozzi
Passed away mid January 2025. I wanted
to thank all of you for your caring support each +
every time to come to assist her up and down
the stairs and whenever you transported her
to the hospital. Your patience was a comfort to
her and she truly appreciated all the assistance.

Thank you,
Diana



Sherri Ann Lee Cozzi
1957 - 2025

We shall always remember
with deep gratitude
your comforting expression
of sympathy.

The family of
Sherri Ann Lee Cozzi

The Family of Sherri Cozzi
1521A Bonnie Brae Place Unit 2N01
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1 MAR 2025 PM 4 L

Village of River Forest
Fire Department
400 Park Avenue
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