

# **RIVER FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT**



## **MONTHLY REPORT**

**MAY 2022**



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Brian Murphy  
Village Administrator

FROM: Thomas Gaertner  
Thomas Gaertner  
Fire Chief

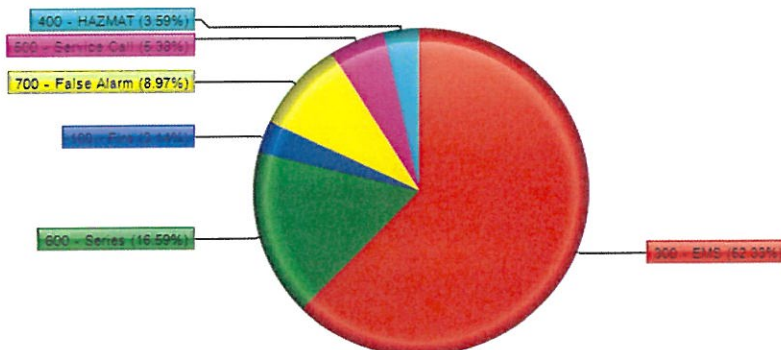
DATE: June 6, 2022

SUBJECT: Monthly Report – May 2022

---

The Fire Department responded to 223 calls during the month of May. This is above our average number of calls in comparison to May 2021 where we had 198 calls. We experienced 7 fire related calls for the month. Emergency Medical Service calls represented 62.33% of our response activity for the month of May.

Incident Type Group	May 2022
100 - Fire	20
300 - EMS	139
400 - Hazardous Conditions	8
500 - Service Call	12
600 - Good Intent	37
700 - False Alarms	20
<b>Monthly Total</b>	<b>223</b>



### **Incidents of Interest**

On May 8<sup>th</sup> Engine 213 responded to 40 Lake St. in Maywood for a fire alarm at the Burger King. On arrival found heavy smoke and fire. Engine 213 assisted Maywood fire department with ventilation and overhaul.

RFFD responded to a structure fire in Maywood at 2<sup>nd</sup> and Madison. Crews performed a primary search and overhaul at the fire. No injuries noted.

RFFD hosted an age friendly fall prevention seminar in collaboration with The Sheridan of River Forest.

On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, RFFD responded to Chicago and Harlem Ave for the car accident. Units arrived on scene and found a four vehicle accident. A medical van was stolen with the employee locked inside the cargo area and crashed into the three other vehicles at the intersection. There were a total of five patients. Three patients signed refusals. Two of the patients were transported to Loyola by Ambulance 215 and Forest Park 408. The hydraulic spreaders were used by Truck 219 to gain access into the vehicles.

### **Chief Gaertner Report**

- Attended monthly RFFD Officers meeting
- Attended the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs General Meeting
- Attended the Illinois Fire Chiefs Spring Symposium in East Peoria, Illinois
- Attended School District 90's Annual Safety Meeting
- Attended the Monthly Metro Chiefs Executive Board Meeting
- Attended a Zoom planning meeting for a Juneteenth Celebration on June 19, 2022
- Attended the Pancake Breakfast at the Sheridan of River Forest for the RFFD Aged Friendly Safety Program
- Attended the Triton College Emergency Services Advisory Committee Meeting
- We participated in the IRMA Mental Health for Firefighters Stand Down
- Renee and I met with a representative from the State of Illinois Archives Division to begin disposing of old Fire Department records
- I attended the Annual Memorial Day Parade

### **Fire Prevention Fire Marshal Wiley**

The department currently operates on a paper, flip calendar for all public education and special events located on the Lieutenants desk. A problem comes up almost monthly if I try to schedule a public education event and I need to go downstairs and check that calendar. I've been thinking about developing a Department Monthly Calendar on Outlook that would be available to all Lieutenants and Administration personnel to better coordinate department activities. Chief Gaertner gave the approval to design and implement the Outlook calendar and the department started using it in May 2022. We have all Block Parties, Public Education, and any other event on the calendar.

We have Ambulance 215 scheduled for replacement in the 22/23 budget. Chief Gaertner and I looked at a couple of demo ambulances that came to the station. With the nation-wide supply chain shortage, we need to get the new ambulance ordered as soon as possible.

With May being designated as Senior Month, we had two public education events that dealt with Senior Health issues. The first was a health fair scheduled in conjunction with the River Forest Township and Grace Lutheran Church. The event was held at Grace Lutheran Church and we had approximately 45 participants during the two-hour event. The Fire and Police departments both had tables set up to hand out safety material specific to seniors.

The second event was spear-headed and coordinated by Lieutenant David Bochenek. Lt. Bochenek got in touch with the Sheridan of River Forest at 800 Harlem to coordinate a Fall Prevention Pancake Breakfast and feature the fire departments ICE Packet. Lieutenant Bochenek designed the ICE Packet with a grant supplied by the River Forest Township. The ICE Packet is a heavy duty, clear plastic envelope with red edges that is designed to be placed in your freezer. The packet contains current medical information that Paramedics can retrieve in the event of a medical emergency where the senior patient cannot verbalize their medical problem or condition. With the help of the River Forest Township, the departments ICE Packet will be distributed to all residents of the Sheridan (see photos). Lieutenant Bochenek also employed the help of his wife, Iwona Bochenek to come and give a presentation on Fall Prevention. Iwona is a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) as well as a Certified Fall Prevention Specialist. She had the audience captivated during her presentation. There were a number of seniors at both events who had high praise for the River Forest Fire Department for the times they have called and needed assistance.

Chief Gaertner and I also attended the District-90 annual Safety Meeting. Superintendent, Dr. Edward Condon along with all the school Principals, Assistant Principals and other key District-90 staff, Fire and Police Departments come together every year to discuss school safety and review the schools Emergency Procedures for a number of events that could possibly occur at the schools.

Chief Gaertner and I sat for a couple of presentations from The Compliance Engine and Lexipol.

I answered a complaint at the Lake/Lathrop construction site about the rear walkway from the back doors to the public way for the businesses west of the site. The construction company was in the middle of constructing a wooden walkway that will give the businesses the ability to exit from their rear doors, safely.

The month ended with the Fire Department participating in the annual Memorial Day Parade.... well.... sort of!! 30 seconds after the parade started, we got the first of three calls during the parade!! I think that may be a record!! We've had numerous events where we have to respond to a call but this was the first time in recent memory where we had three calls in the middle of the parade.





RIVER FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT  
 FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU  
 MONTHLY REPORT  
 May 2022

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES	MONTHLY TOTALS		YEAR TO DATE	
	May-21	May-22	2021	2022
**FPB Inspections	17	14	35	71
**Company Inspections	10	13	86	84
FPB Re-Inspections	1	1	2	44
Company Re-Inspections	19	1	39	58
Special Inquiry - B/L Site Inspections	1	1	4	8
Construction Inspections (Rough/Finals)	8	2	36	10
Inspections with Building Department	2	1	7	3
Inspections with/for State Fire Marshal	4	0	4	5
Permit Inspections (tent, hot work, UST)	0	2	11	5
<b>TOTAL INSPECTIONS</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>288</b>
School/Business Emergency Plans/Drills	3	2	7	2
Violation Notices Issued	14	15	62	99
Violations Noted	34	46	137	193
Violations Corrected	36	8	73	145
Permits Issued	0	2	3	5
**Complaints Received & Investigated	0	1	0	2
Meetings/Consultations	9	11	38	59
Training Activities	0	1	29	14
Fire Suppression/Alarm System Tests/Finals	0	0	1	0
Fire Suppression Hydro's	0	0	3	1
**Plan Reviews and Revisions	0	17	17	54
**Average turn around ( <b>Business Days</b> )	0	8.35 days	2.64 days	7.18
Public Education Programs	3	4	7	9
Public Education Program Contacts	18	134	847	420
Misc Fire Prev Activities (See Narrative)	8	6	35	26

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

**Training Lt. Carter**

This month the department participated in various training activities such as:

- Loyola CE covered 2 subjects as April CE was canceled. Subjects covered were: Crew Resource Management and Adult Medical Emergencies
- Shifts continued their assigned building inspections
- Drills at Concordia Gross Hall have concluded
- Lt. Smith attended a 40-hour Leadership Development and Decision Making course in Oak Forest presented by Illinois Fire Service Institute
- FF/PM McKenna attended a weeklong Advanced Technician Firefighter course at NIPSTA
- Shifts are currently performing annual service testing of fire hose
- The MABAS Division 11 Hazardous Materials Drill was conducted in Oak Park. The combined TRT/Hazardous Material drill was critiqued and discussed, the Hazardous Material Trailer inventory was reviewed and organized
- There was not a Division 11 TRT Drill or Investigator drill this month

**Outside of Department Training**

<b>Course</b>	<b>Dept. Member</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Hrs</b>
DIV 11 HazMat drill	Viera, Zipperich	5/4 & 5/5	3.5
DIV 11 TRT drill	None		
ITTF/OSFM	McKenna (Advance Tech FF)	5/23-5/27	45

## **Individual Shift Reports**

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

**Activities:** For the month of May, Gold Shift had a total of 83 calls. 30 of the calls were fire related, 50 involved emergency medical services and there were 3 service calls.

**Incidents/Events of Note:** On May 8<sup>th</sup> Engine 213 responded to 40 Lake St.in Maywood for a fire alarm at the Burger King. On arrival found heavy smoke and fire. Engine 213 assisted Maywood fire department with ventilation and overhaul.

**Training:** Gold shift had 90 hours of fire related training this month, 40 hours of EMS training and 4 hours Hazmat for an average of 22.3 hours per firefighter Our monthly fire training included Emergency Vehicle Driver Safety, Traffic Safety and Road Operations, Mental Health for Emergency Workers, EMS training included Loyola mandated continuing education.

- FF. McKenna completed Advanced Firefighter Certification
- Lt. Howe and FF Zipperich participated in the Div. 11 Hazmat drill
- FF Zipperich conducted one CPR class in May.

**Inspections:** Gold shift completed 0 company fire inspections in May.

### **Black Shift Report: Lt. Bochenek**

**Activities:** Black Shift had a total of 65 calls. 20 were fire related, 43 were EMS calls, 2 service calls.

**Incidents/Events of Note:** Black Shift responded to a structure fire in Maywood at 2<sup>nd</sup> and Madison. Crews performed a primary search and overhaul at the fire. No injuries noted. Black Shift also hosted an age friendly fall prevention seminar in collaboration with The Sheridan of River Forest, here in River Forest.

**Shift Training:** Black shift had 156 hours of fire related training this month and 51 hours of EMS training for a total of 207 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 34.5 hours per LT and firefighter/paramedics. Training subjects included Loyola Continuing Education, Company Inspections, Public Education, Operating Directive Review's, SCBA, and EMS Reporting training.

**Inspections:** Multiple company fire inspections and multiple re-inspections were completed.



**Red Shift Report: Lt. Smith**

**Activities:** For the month of May, Red Shift had a total of 78 calls. 30 of the calls were fire related. There were 45 EMS calls and 3 service calls.

**Incidents/Events of note:** On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, RFFD responded to Chicago and Harlem Ave for the car accident. Units arrived on scene and found a four vehicle accident. A medical van was stolen with the employee locked inside the cargo area and crashed into the three other vehicles at the intersection. There were a total of five patients. Three patients signed refusals. Two of the patients were transported to Loyola by Ambulance 215 and Forest Park 408. The hydraulic spreaders were used by Truck 219 to gain access into one of the vehicles.

On May 7<sup>th</sup>, Engine 213 responded to the Shell Gas Station at 7201 North Ave for the carbon monoxide alarm. When the crew arrived it was found that the alarm was for a carbon dioxide leak from the soft drink system. Firefighters donned self-contained breathing apparatus and entered the building where were their high levels of carbon dioxide detected. The carbon dioxide tank was turned off by our crew and we then spent two hours ventilating the structure.

On May 21<sup>st</sup>, Engine 213 and Truck 219 responded to 1422 William Street for the carbon monoxide alarm. Units arrived and found high levels of carbon monoxide and combustible gas inside the structure. There was also a strong smell of sulfur inside the basement. The structure was ventilated. An investigation found two new marine batteries for the sump pump were hot and releasing a gas. Firefighters donned their air packs and removed the two batteries from the basement. The home was ventilated with positive pressure fans for an hour to make the environment safe.

**Shift Training:** Red Shift had 217.5 hours of fire related training this month and 62.5 hours of EMS training for a total of 203.5 hours of training. That is an average of 33.9 hours per firefighter. Training for the month included removing patients from difficult locations, Carbon Dioxide soft drink systems and their hazards and procedures on dealing with CO2 leaks and other hazardous chemical emergencies. The shift continued to train on our monthly Loyola Continuing Education and the new EMS reporting software that was recently put into service. FF Basa attended a 3-hour public education event at 800 Harlem Ave. FF Viera attended a 4-hour Division 11 Hazmat drill in Oak Park. Lt. Smith attended the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Midwest Hazardous Materials Response Conference from May 3-30<sup>th</sup>. During the virtual conference, Lt. Smith attended 19 classes totaling 28.5 hours. Lt. Smith attended an Illinois Fire Service Institute 40-hour class in Oak Forest on Leadership Development and Decision Making.

**Inspections:** Performed 0 company fire inspections with 0 violations noted and 5 re-inspections with 21 corrections.



**EMS/Paramedic Activity FF/PM Fischer**

No Report due to issues with the new Zoll EMS Charts software. Loyola EMS is looking into the system wide issue with reporting.

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

**VEHICLES**

200- Rear wiper blade replaced

201- Nothing reported

202- Nothing reported

213-Exhaust hanger permanently repaired. Ladder door cabinet switch repaired and sealed from water. Wigits recharged AC. Needs oil change. Check engine light/ code appears to be related to DEF

214-AC repaired (disconnected wires in filter housing)/ Kussmaul will not eject /fuel key placed on key ring

215- To Zeigler for brakes. AC in cab repaired. AC hoses going to patient compartment reported to be leaking. Zeigler unable to repair. Radio mic not transmitting and switched out

218- Nothing reported

219- Plymovent exhaust assembly installed and needs to be adjusted for length. PTO leak, level ok

222-Driver's side rear door gasket reset. AC in service

**EQUIPMENT**

All Ground Ladders tested

Air pack #10 OOS, Air One picked up and repaired/returned

Transmission fluid for 219 PTO

3" hose set to be replaced

## **FIRE STATION**

New Patio Doorbell

American flag on front of station replaced

Bay #1 Both shoreline GFCI removed and in service. Northernmost garage door window repaired

Door #3 (ambulance) shoreline repaired

Desktop computers installed in training and day rooms

Village of



# MAYWOOD

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

700 ST. CHARLES ROAD, MAYWOOD, ILLINOIS 60153 • 708-681-8861 • FAX 708-681-8840

**FIRE CHIEF - CRAIG BRONAUGH, JR.**

**May 17, 2022**

River Forest Fire Department  
Attn: Office of the Fire Chief  
400 Park Avenue  
River Forest, Illinois 60305

Good Day Chief,

On Sunday Morning May 15, 2022, On-Duty Maywood Fire Personnel were summoned to the Maywood Village address of 1010 s. 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. Upon arrival at this location, On-Duty Personnel discovered and encountered conditions posing an immediate threat to both life and health. The Prompt response and valor assistance of personnel from your organization helped us to avoid a potentially catastrophic outcome from this structure fire incident.

Please pass on to your Personnel my **“Sincerest Appreciation.”**

Respectfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. A. Bronaugh Jr.', is written over the typed name.

Craig A. Bronaugh Jr.  
Fire Chief

C C: File