



MEMORANDUM

TO: Matt Walsh
Village Administrator

FROM: Thomas Gaertner
Fire Chief

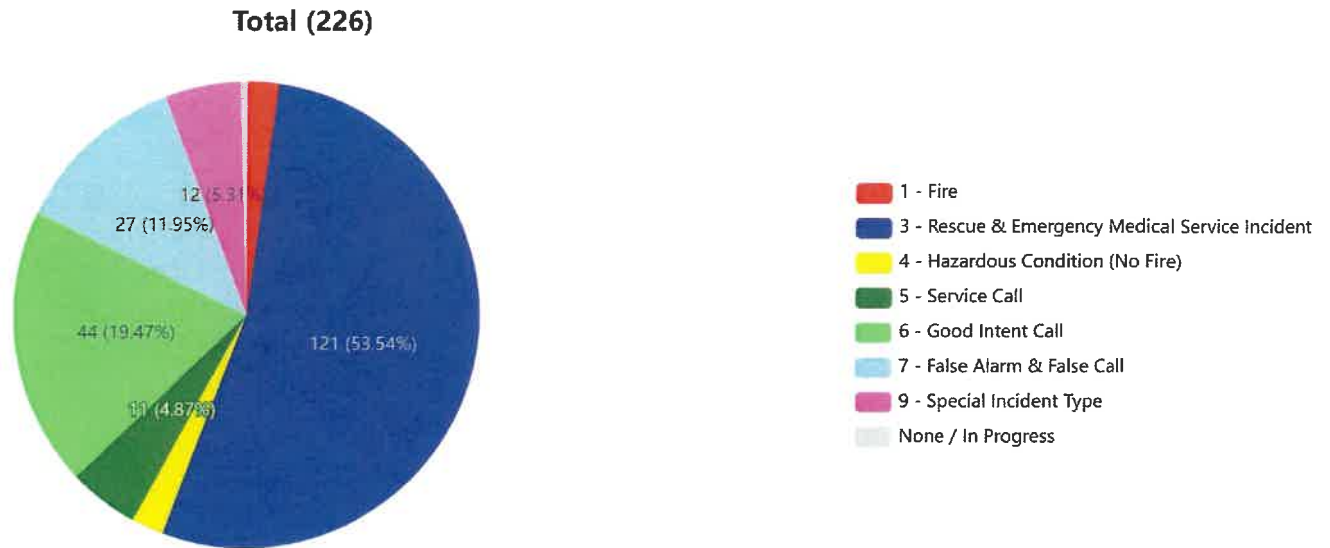
DATE: June 9, 2025

SUBJECT: Monthly Report – May 2025





Monthly Incident Summary Report for May 2025



PSAP CALL DATE/TIME / INCIDENT TYPE SERIES NAME	INCIDENT COUNT	PERCENT OF TOTAL
May 2025	226	93.00%
(NULL)	1	0.41%
False Alarm & False Call	27	11.11%
Fire	5	2.06%
Good Intent	44	18.11%
Hazardous Condition	5	2.06%
Rescue & EMS	121	49.79%
Service Call	11	4.53%
Special Incident	12	4.94%



Incident Breakdown by Shift and Type - Last Calendar Month

SHIFT NAME / INCIDENT TYPE SERIES NAME	INCIDENT COUNT
Black	79
False Alarm & False Call	11
Fire	2
Good Intent	17
Hazardous Condition	2
Rescue & EMS	41
Service Call	3
Special Incident	3
Gold	69
(NULL)	1
False Alarm & False Call	7
Fire	1
Good Intent	15
Hazardous Condition	1
Rescue & EMS	37
Service Call	2
Special Incident	5
Red	78
False Alarm & False Call	9
Fire	2
Good Intent	12
Hazardous Condition	2
Rescue & EMS	43
Service Call	6
Special Incident	4
Total	226

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 General Meeting.
- Attended the Illinois Fire Chiefs Symposium in East Peoria, Illinois.
- Attended the District 90 School District Annual Safety Meeting.
- Sat on a panel interviewing potential candidates to become the next Fire Chief for the Oak Park Fire Department.

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**

May was the second month in a row with over 20 Plan Reviews (April -23, May -22) being performed in the month. Springtime is our busiest time of the year with residents and contractors submitting permits for construction projects to start in the spring and continue into the summer. To date, I have performed 73 plan reviews and my average for the month of May was 3.31 business days to turn around the review.

May has been designated as Older Americans Month and the Fire Department once again, partnered with the River Forest Police Department and the River Forest Township to deliver a Stroke Awareness and Fall Prevention Seminar with a full breakfast for all attendees. Elderly Service Officer, Megan Drake offered the 35+ residents' information on how seniors can avoid becoming victims of a scam. The back-and-forth discussions were awesome, and I know many attendees loved the breakfast and the discussion format. As part of the program, the River Forest Paramedics discussed the signs and symptoms of a stroke and how to recognize the stroke symptoms. Discussions also took place on the "ICE" (In Case of Emergency) Packet and the Residential Knoxbox programs. As you may remember, DC Bochenek designed the ICE Packet several years ago 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 patient cannot verbalize their medical problem or condition. The packet has been used on numerous ambulance calls in River Forest and we recently learned that the Oak Park Fire Department has adopted the program as well and is now using the same "ICE" packet in Oak Park. There were several seniors who had very high praise for the River Forest Fire Department for the times they called and needed assistance. We will definitely do this program and breakfast every year for the foreseeable future. I also attended a resident meeting at The Sheridan where we discussed a number of their concerns and safety practices during a staff fire drill.

With the end of the school year upon us, the Fire Department partnered with a number of school PTO/PTA groups to offer a raffle prize of a Fire Truck Ride to School. Historically, the raffle for the rides have been the highest bid raffle prizes. Most students live in River Forest but this year, Keystone Montessori offered the program. Since a number of their students do not live in River Forest, we invited them for a pizza lunch with the Firefighters. During the lunch, we provided them with some safety information as well as an opportunity for the students to "put out a fire". We have small flames painted on our prop outside and the kids were able to make the "flames" disappear with a stream from a real fire hose. Their faces told the entire story.

As you can tell, May was a very busy month for us with Public Education Events. The Fire Department had 9 events that had over 643 people in attendance.

Chief Gaertner, Deputy Chief Bochenek attended the annual District-90 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 school's Emergency Procedures for several events that could possibly occur at the schools. District 90 schools recently went through a Safety Assessment Review with the West 40 Regional Superintendents Office and our annual meetings were brought up as an excellent idea.

May was the first month that our NEW Preplan program was available to create files. As I described last month, as of April 1, 2025, the department switched our records management system (RMS) to a new company called First Due. All fire department activities, as well as Fire Prevention activities, will be recorded and tabulated in First Due. Although we had an existing Pre-Incident or Preplan system in place, from this date on, all the data from each inspected property must be uploaded and recorded into the system. All of this property information will also allow for more detailed fire incident reports as well as our Community Risk Reduction efforts. We still have some time before we fully implement the new system, but I take an hour or two every day to do some uploading of data into the system. I created approximately 25 new preplans into the system in May.

The month ended with the Fire Department participating in the 100th annual Memorial Day Parade. We were lucky on a couple of fronts again this year. 1. We made it through the entire parade without any emergency calls. You may remember a couple of years ago, the first of three emergency calls came 30 seconds after the parade started. 2. Although it was a sunny but cooler day, throngs of residents came out and lined the parade route to cheer everyone on. A good time was had by all.



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

Monthly Activities	Monthly Totals		YTD-Year to Date	
	May-24	May-25	2024	2025
**FPB Inspections	14	14	76	76
**Company Inspections	10	9	90	36
FPB Re-Inspections	7	4	50	43
Company Re-Inspections	5	0	20	23
Special Inquiry/B/L Site Inspections	1	3	9	4
Construction Inspections (Rough/Finals)	7	3	16	17
Inspections with Building Department	0	0	2	11
Inspections with/for State Fire Marshal	0	0	4	4
Permit Inspections (tent, hot work, UST)	5	8	7	11
TOTAL INSPECTIONS	49	41	274	225
School/Business Emergency Plan/Drills	2	0	2	1
Violation Notices Issued	12	10	82	66
Violations Noted	17	19	176	147
Violations Corrected	18	5	99	104
Permits Issued	5	11	5	12
**Complaints Received & Investigated	0	0	0	1
All Meetings/Consultations	7	6	17	26
Training Activities	2	4	23	23
Fire Suppress/Alarm System Test/Final	0	0	1	5
Fire Suppression Hydro's	0	0	0	1
**Plan Reviews and Revisions	29	22	54	73
**Average turn around (Business Days)	5.2 days	3.31 days	4.0 days	4.15 days
Public Education Programs	12	9	26	21
Public Education Program Contacts	407	643	850	825
Misc Fire Prev Activities (See Narrative)	8	23	35	68

** Performance Measures for the Chief
Fire Marshal Kevin Wiley

Training Division: Lt. Michael Smith

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

- Loyola CE was held on May 21, 22, and the 23rd. The subject was Trauma.
- Shifts followed daily training schedules for FF Abuzineh. The daily training consisted of both firefighting and EMS skills. The Shifts spent time each day reviewing Loyola SMOs with FF Abuzineh.
- Firefighters attended a three-hour vehicle extrication class at 45 Forest Ave on May 20th, 21st, and 22nd. The class was instructed by Kevin Sears from Genesis Rescue Systems. O' Hare Towing supplied vehicles for each day. The firefighters worked with Genesis battery-operated extrication tools and the Kodiak struts.
- Lt. Boyd, Lt. Smith, Lt. Zipperich, FF Bencik, and FF McKenna attended the Division 11 Hazmat/ TRT drill. The Mass Casualty Drill was at the North Riverside Mall. The drill was hosted by Morton College. The drill consisted of multiple tasks performed by the Division 11 Hazmat team, TRT team, and Morton College paramedic students.
- FF Kyles completed the NFPA 1010 FSVO Competency Course.
- Lt. Smith attended the Division 11 Training Officer meeting on May 23rd via Zoom.
- Lt. Smith attended the Division 11 Fire Investigator drill in Stickney. The class lecture was on investigating household appliance fires.
- Lt. Smith attended several Zoom meetings with First Due to build a course library for the training module.
- Lt. Smith attended a one-hour class hosted by Fire Engineering. The course: Residential Playbook, provided tactical considerations for fighting residential structure fires.
- Lt. Smith attended a 2.5-hour class: Landmark Lawsuits Lessons Learned. The class was on lawsuits from emergency treatment of pediatric patients.
- Lt. Smith attended a 1.5-hour class: Elevator Rescue Safety and Awareness.

Individual Shift Reports

Black Shift Report- Lieutenant Q. Boyd

Incidents/Events of note: Black Shift responded to a large diesel spill at 7265 Lake Street. A semi-trucks saddle tank was ruptured and spilled approximately 50 gallons of fuel into the parking lot. The spill was contained and neutralized.

Public Service & Community Outreach:

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

LT Boyd and FF Bencik participated in the fire safety/senior breakfast event
LT Boyd participated in the Roosevelt Middle School career day

Shift Training and Hours:

Fire: 79 hours
EMS: 28 hours
Specialty: FF Bencik attended Division 11 Hazmat drill, LT Boyd also attended the Division 11 Hazmat drill and the Division 11 TRT drill. Black shift attended the extrication drill/class for our new extrication equipment.

Departmental Goals & Benchmarks:

Inspections: 62/84
Hydrants: N/A
Hose Testing: N/A

Red Shift Report- Lieutenant E. Howe

Incidents/Events of note: On May 2nd Red Shift Engine 213 responded auto-aid for a high-rise fire in Oak Park. Engine 213 was initially assigned to assist Oak Park companies in advancing hose line to the fourth floor for the fire attack. Once the hose line was in place Engine 213 then began a search of the fire floor and the floor above. Engine 213 completed all assigned tasks without incident.

Public Service & Community Outreach:

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

- Members of Red Shift attended a touch a truck event at Concordia University.
- Red Shift participated in the River Forest Memorial Day parade.

Shift Training and Hours:

Fire: 130
EMS: 60
Specialty: 2

Departmental Goals & Benchmarks:

Inspections: 22/77
Hydrants: 0
Hose Testing: 0

Live Training or Evolutions:

- Loyola continuing education on trauma
- Auto Extrication
- Rit CPR
- Hose deployment
- Engineer/Operator evolutions
- Cardiac SOP's

Gold Shift Report – Lieutenant P. Zipperich

Incidents/Events of note: Gold Shift responded to a garage fire at 329 Park. On arrival we found a residential garage with heavy fire. The fire was quickly extinguished.

Public Service & Community Outreach:

Firehouse Tours 2 6 visitors
CPR Classes 0 0 students
Car Seat Install 0
Smoke Alarm Install 0

Shift Training and Hours:

Fire: 80
EMS: 96
Specialty: 0

Departmental Goals & Benchmarks:

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

EMS/Paramedic Activity: FF/PM Luke Finfrock

No report

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.
- 222- Nothing to report, zero issues
- 219- Ladder will not switch between Rescue and water tower. OOS at FSI-Repaired
- 214 No Issues
- 215 No Issues.

May 15, 2025

Dear River Forest
Fire Department,

Thank you for the delicious breakfast
and info. session for seniors. We
appreciate all that we learned

Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,

Ray and Gay
McDonald

534 Jackson Ave.



Dr. and Mrs. Raymond
McDonald
534 Jackson
River Forest, IL 60305

CAROL STREAM IL 601

15 MAY 2025 PM 5 L



River Forest Fire Department
400 Park Avenue
River Forest, IL 60305

RIDE TO SCHOOL



CONCORDIA TOUCH A TRUCK



LUNCH WITH THE FIREFIGHTERS

RAFFLE WINNERS



SENIOR WEEK SAFETY BREAKFAST

