

Park Ridge Fire Department

*OUR MISSION: TO LIMIT THE LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY THROUGH
PLANNING, PREVENTION AND RESPONSE*

Dive Master Frank Villari held dive rescue training for all three shifts during the month of January. There are 15 bodies of water located within Park Ridge that are potential dangers to the community. Therefore, training is extremely important to ready the Department in case of an emergency. After cutting holes in the ice, members practice surface rescue techniques in very cold water.



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Highlight of the Month

Smoke detectors credited with alerting family to basement blaze

January 4, 2011

By [JENNIFER JOHNSON](mailto:jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com) jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

A family of six escaped safely from their Park Ridge home after a fire broke out in the basement early Sunday morning.

Park Ridge fire investigators suspect rags that had been used for staining wood spontaneously ignited in the basement of the home on the 100 block of Stanley Avenue, causing the fire, which was reported just after midnight Jan. 2.

No heat sources or open flame were detected near the area where the rags had been stored, but certain chemicals -- like wood stain -- can ignite without these sources present, said Deputy Fire Chief Jeff Sorensen.

"The flammable liquid on cloth or rags will allow for spontaneous combustion," he said.

Sorensen credited the home's system of interconnected smoke detectors with alerting the residents to the fire, allowing the two adults and four children to exit the home before the smoke and fire spread from the basement to living areas. When interconnected smoke detectors are installed and one alarm goes off, all of the alarms in the home are triggered, Sorensen explained.

"It's important in a larger house that they had this feature, which was able to awake them and get them out," he said.

The residents, outside when the Fire Department arrived, also assisted in letting firefighters know the location of the fire and exactly how to access the basement stairs, Sorensen said.

The fire was confined to the basement, but the ground floor sustained some smoke damage and some walls were cut open by firefighters checking for additional hot spots, he added.

In addition to the residents a pet dog also escaped unharmed, the Fire Department reported. No firefighters were injured.

Damage estimates were not immediately available. Firefighters from the Rosemont Fire Department and Norwood Park Fire Protection District also assisted, and the fire was extinguished within 40 minutes, the Fire Department reported.





Personnel News



Fire and Police Commissioner I.D. Maramba (shown above) sent the following:

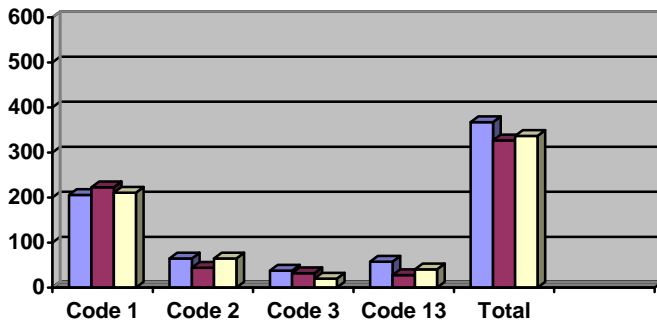
For all of you who wish you were at the beach during this cold Chicago/Park Ridge January, here is a photo of our weather here in Iraq. Stay warm!!

Best regards,
I.D. Maramba
Balad, Iraq

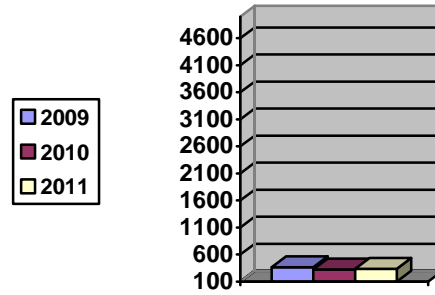
Response Statistics
Fire Administration

CODE	NUMBER OF RESPONSES	MONTHLY PERCENTAGE	TOTAL RESPONSES
1- ambulance	211	64%	337
2- single vehicle	65	19%	
3 - full fire	20	6%	
13 - mutual aid & auto aid	41	12%	





CURRENT MONTH



TOTAL ALARMS YTD

FIRE INVESTIGATION
Lieutenant Derek Decker

January 2 All Park Ridge equipment along with the Rosemont and Norwood Park Fire Departments responded to the 100 block of Stanley for a house fire. First arriving companies reported smoke was coming from the house and that there was a fire in the basement. Hoselines were quickly advanced to the basement and the fire was extinguished. Resulting damage was estimated to be \$200,000.

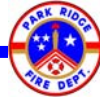
Investigators concluded the fire started in a basement utility room. The fire resulted from the spontaneous heating of rags soaked with a chemical used for staining wood. The burning rags ignited the surrounding combustibles spreading the fire throughout the basement. The fire was classified as accidental.

January 21 Both Stations 36 and 35's equipment along with the Rosemont and Niles Fire Departments responded for a reported oven fire on the 300 block of Elmore. Upon arrival, companies found evidence there was a fire in the oven, but it was no longer burning. No extinguishment or ventilation was necessary. No damage resulted from the fire that was contained to the oven.

Investigators concluded the fire was caused by the ignition of spilled food product on the interior surface of the oven. The fire was classified as accidental.

January 22 All Park Ridge fire equipment along with the Niles Fire Department responded to the 200 block of North Chester for a bedroom fire. First arriving companies confirmed there was a fire on the second floor of the





single-family house. A 1-3/4" pre-connected hoseline was quickly stretched into the house and the fire was extinguished. The resulting damage was estimated to be \$20,000.

The fire was determined to have started in the closet of a 2nd floor bedroom. The cause of the fire is still under investigation. The fire is currently being classified as undetermined.

Training

Fire/Arson Investigator Bill Petersen attended a two-day seminar in Mokena, Illinois sponsored by the Illinois chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators. The topics covered at the seminar included:

- Cellulose insulation in relation to factory-built fireplaces and chimneys
- Recessed light fixture fires
- Criminal report writing

Seminars like this prove to be essential in the development of the Park Ridge Fire Department's Fire Investigators and serves as an opportunity for our investigators to acquire training hours needed for re-certification.

Investigation Photographs



100 Block of Stanley – Room of Origin



200 Block of N. Chester – Area of Origin

Special Teams

Battalion Chief Scott Sankey

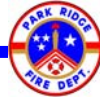
Hazardous Materials Team (HAZMAT)

During January, Hazmat team members participated in the bi-yearly inventory drill in Morton Grove.

Technical Rescue Team (TRT)

The Park Ridge TRT began 2011 with a Division III meeting that took place in Deerfield on January 21st. During that meeting, the training calendar for 2011 was set. During 2010, Division III members completed over 1,500 training hours with no injuries.





Underwater and Rescue and Recovery Team (URRT)

Dive Master Frank Villari held dive rescue training for all three shifts during the month of January.



Training
Battalion Chief Scott Sankey

Daily Quick Drills

Each shift day the Training Division assigns a quick drill to be discussed at the morning roll call. The quick drills for January included a review of the recent Chicago Fire Department building collapse incident, a near miss report review, Mueller pin-off tee gas meter review, distributor nozzles, and map grids 3582, 3583, 3684 and 3685.

Flame-Sim Introduction

All shift personnel participated in a hands-on demonstration of Flame-Sim, our new computer based fire training simulation software.

Decon III Familiarization

During the month of January, the MABAS Division III decon vehicle was housed at Station 35. Driver training and vehicle familiarization/operation training were conducted.

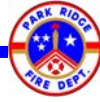
MABAS Division III Special Teams

Members of the Fire Investigation, HAZMAT, URRT (Dive), and TRT teams participated in Division III training drills.

Outside Training

FF/PM Herling	HAZMAT Incident Command	16 hrs
FF/PM Isom	HAZMAT Incident Command	16 hrs
FF/PM Kuzmanovich	HAZMAT Incident Command	16 hrs
FF/PM Petersen	IAAI Northern Zone Winter Seminar	16 hrs
Lt. Decker	Blue Card Incident Command Practical	24 hrs





Apparatus & Equipment
 Battalion Chief John Hanson

Due to the high amount of miles and stresses that vehicles are put under, it is critical that the Department performs routine and emergency maintenance in cooperation with the City Garage. Below is a list of vehicle maintenance completed for this month:

F-32	2005 Ambulance	- Repaired drawers inside of patient module
F-41	1995 Engine	- Replaced solenoid - Replaced alternator bracket - Replaced fuel injectors - Fuel injector pump rebuilt
F-42	1996 Engine	- Examined engine shutting down issue
F-43	2005 Engine	- Replaced pump panel light

Fire Prevention
 Lieutenant Kevin Plach

Activity	Monthly Totals
Initial Inspections	0
Re-Inspections	1
Pre-Permit Meetings	0
Construction Visits	4
Final Inspections	7
Plan reviews	14
Sprinkler Hydros	1
Storage Tank Installs	0
Storage Tank Removals	0
Residential Sprinklers	0
Fire Flow Tests	0
Fire Alarm Tests	4
Fire Pump Tests	0
Key Box Insp./Installs	5
Hood Test	0
Single Family Home Inspections	1
Citations	0
Meetings	21
Fire Drills	0
Seminar/Schools	0
Complaints	1
Shift Tours	0
Public Education Tours	0
Total-	59





Public Education

Lieutenant Kevin Plach

Car Seat Safety Checks

16 car seat safety checks were performed in January.

CPR and First Aid classes

48 people attended CPR and First Aid classes in the month of January 2011.

The following classes were provided:

- 1 Health Care Provider class
- 1 Heart Saver First Aid and CPR classes
- 1 Heart Saver AED class

CPR and First Aid training was provided to:

- 14 employees from HDR Engineering Inc.
- 17 people in our 2 public classes
- 17 members from Citizen Patrol

Park Ridge Fire Explorer Post 3536

The first Explorer Post meeting for 2011 was held on January 12th. At that meeting, 14 Explorers were shown the different components of a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), as well as donning and doffing techniques and emergency procedures. At the second meeting held, January 26th, 12 Explorers toured the NSECC Center (911) in Des Plaines.

Monthly Tip

Make sure your house is as safe as possible by following these few simple guidelines.

- Install smoke detectors on each level of your home and change batteries every six months. Smoke detectors should be installed within 15 feet of all bedrooms (state law). The detector should be placed so it will be easily heard in all sleeping areas and should be installed according to manufacturer's instructions.
- Keep hallways and exits clear for easy evacuation.
- Keep an ABC type fire extinguisher accessible. Make sure you know how and when to use it.
- Store flammable or highly reactive chemicals securely and separately from each other in cabinets or on lower shelves.





- Know how and when to switch off your [utilities](#).
- Keep utility company emergency phone numbers in one place near the telephone.
- Install carbon monoxide detectors on each level of your home and change batteries every six months. Carbon monoxide detectors should be installed within 15 feet of all bedrooms (state law). The carbon monoxide detector should be placed so it will be easily heard in all sleeping areas and should be installed according to manufacturer's instructions.
- Have a set place for storing your [Emergency Supply Kit](#) and a [Go Bag](#).
- Have a weather radio and extra batteries in your home.
- Establish the safest places in your home in case of tornado (basement or small interior room or hallway) or earthquake (under sturdy table, desk, or against inside walls).
- If your home is susceptible to flooding: elevate the furnace, water heater and electric panel; install check valves in sewer traps to prevent flood water from backing up into your home; construct barriers (levees, beams, sandbags, or floodwalls) to stop floodwater from entering your home; and seal walls in basements with waterproofing compounds to avoid seepage.

