

Park Ridge Fire Department

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

Welcome back Board of Fire and Police Commissioner Maramba!

Alderman Sweeney and Police Commander Keller welcome back I.D. Maramba, Board of Fire and Police Commissioner, from his tour of duty in Iraq. On April 15, 2011, the Fire Department hosted a gathering where City Officials as well City staff came to welcome him home.



April 2011

Volume XI Issue III
www.parkridgefd.org



Highlight of the Month



Maine Township High School District 207

Transition Program

2601 W. Dempster Street
Park Ridge, Illinois 60068
(847) 692-8379

April 14, 2011

Dear Deputy Chief Sorensen and Chief Zywanski,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing Robert Sempoch to come to the Maine Township District 207 Transition Program to speak to our students. He did an excellent job presenting information about fire safety to our students. The students were very engaged during his presentation and asked some very good questions. In our program, we focus on teaching life skills to individuals ages 18-22 who have disabilities. The information Robert provided was important to teach and reinforce for their safety at home and in the community. We appreciate your support in helping to provide them with this information.

Sincerely,

Jeff Gallichio
Teacher

Michelle Dwyer
Teacher





DEAR CHIEF - 4/14/11
 JUST WANTED TO SAY THANK
 YOU TO THE FIRE SHIFT
 WHO TOOK SUCH GREAT
 CARE OF ME LAST SUNDAY.
 THEY WERE FAST & PROFESSIONAL.
 WE ARE LUCKY TO HAVE
 SUCH FINE FF'S WHO CARE
 THE WAY THEY DO. *Jan Spivey*

04/05/2011

On behalf of Advocate Health Care,
thank you for your donation to
 Lutheran General Children's Hospital.

Your **gift** enables us to create a
 positive environment filled with **love**
 and support for our littlest patients.

We are grateful for your kindness and partnership
 as together we build a brighter **day** for our children.

Dear Lt. Kevin,

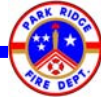
Thank you for your visit to
 the children and their families. Your
 special visit helped make the children's
 hospital stay more positive.



Thank you to
 child life
 Department

The thank you cards above, along with pictures attached on the following page, were sent from Lutheran General Hospital staff in the Child Life Department.





Fire Department staff members (Lt. Plach, Fire Inspector Kufner and Senior Administrative Assistant Steurer with Lutheran General staff members) visited children at Lutheran General Hospital.

Personnel News



BFFC Commissioner Maramba with his family.

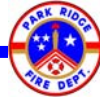


D/C Sorensen with BFFC Commissioner Maramba



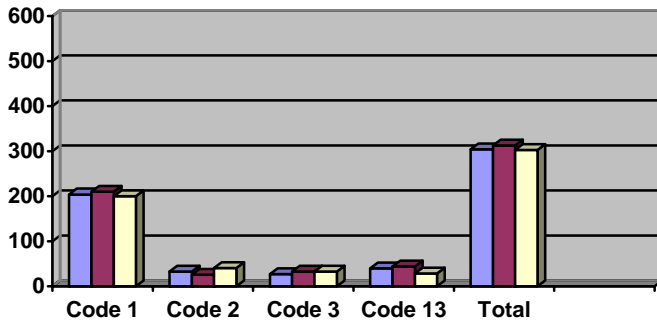
On April 18, 2011 Mayor Schmidt and Chief Zywanski presented FF/PM Villari with a letter of commendation on being selected Firefighter of the Year.



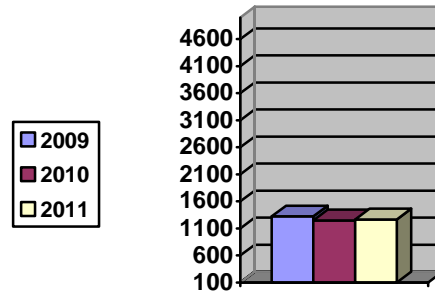


Response Statistics
Fire Administration

CODE	MONTHLY REPOSES 2010	MONTHLY REPOSES 2011	MONTHLY PERCENT 2010	MONTHLY PERCENT 2011
1- ambulance	210	200	67%	66%
2- single vehicle	26	41	8%	14%
3 - full fire	33	33	11%	11%
13 - mutual & auto aid	44	29	14%	10%
TOTAL RESPONSES	313	303	100%	100%



CURRENT MONTH

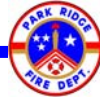


TOTAL ALARMS YTD

FIRE INVESTIGATION
Lieutenant Derek Decker

April 13 Engine 35 responded to the 1300 block of Courtland for a car fire. Engine 35 encountered a pick-up truck with heavy fire involvement in the engine and passenger compartments. A single pre-connected hoseline was used to extinguish the fire. Resulting damage was estimated to be \$12,000.





Investigators determined the fire originated in the engine compartment, but were not able to identify the cause. The fire is currently being classified as undetermined.

April 13 Both Station 36 and 35's equipment along with the Rosemont and Norwood Park Fire Departments responded to the 1100 block of W. Touhy for a reported fire inside a commercial building. First arriving companies found the fire involving industrial machinery had been extinguished with a dry chemical extinguisher prior to their arrival. The estimated damage to the property and contents is \$35,000.

The investigation could not identify how the fire started. Electrical heat energy could not be eliminated as a potential cause. The fire was classified as undetermined.

April 27 All Park Ridge equipment along with the Des Plaines and North Maine Fire Departments responded to the 1300 block of Good Avenue for a car fire inside of a garage. First arriving companies reported heavy fire involving 2-car detached garage with exposures to surrounding structures. Several hoselines were stretched to confine and extinguish the fire. Resulting damage was estimated to be \$25,000.

Investigators are still working to determine where and how the fire started. The fire is currently being classified as undetermined.

Certification

Fire/Arson Investigator Bill Petersen was recertified through the Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal as both a Fire and Arson Investigator. Bill met the State's requirements for recertification by acquiring more than 80 hours of continuing education and gaining practical hands-on experience conducting fire investigations. Bill is the second member of the Department's 9-member team to earn recertification.

Investigation Photographs



(Photo 1)



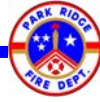


Photo 1 shows the remnants of an automobile fire originating in the engine compartment. Engine compartment fires are difficult for investigators to solve because of the vast number of components that can fail resulting in fire.



(Photo 2)

Photo 2 shows the remnants of a fire involving a 2-car detached garage. It is essential for fire investigators to use a systematic approach when investigating fires in smaller structures. Significant damage is common in smaller structures making fire patterns difficult to identify. Fire patterns assist investigators in determining where a fire started.

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 March included safe roadway work zones, primary rapid intervention company duties, fire investigation health and safety, remembering Ray Hoff (Chicago Fire Department), interior firefighter safety, and map grids 3581, 3584, 3680, and 3683.

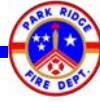
Vehicle Maintenance Training

Lt. Decker conducted a refresher on daily, weekly, and monthly vehicle maintenance procedures and expectations.

Auto-aid Training with Niles Fire Department

All three shifts participated in a joint training session hosted by the Niles Fire Department. The scenario objectives were to locate a missing fire firefighter and remove





him from the house. The crews were only allowed to access the structure by laddering a second story window and also were required to remove from that window as well.

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 Villari	Structural Collapse Operations	40 hrs
FF/PM Sempoch	Rope Operations	40 hrs

Fire Investigators Petersen, Skinner and Wolff attended a training seminar hosted by the Public Agency Training Council covering the topic of Kinesic interviewing. The 20-hour course provided deeper insight into the multiphase behavioral analysis system used to conduct better investigative interviews.

Fire Investigators Blane, Bruchsaler and Lazenby attended a 2.5-hour training session hosted by the Fire Investigators Strike Force. The course highlighted the importance of building and scene safety during a fire investigation.

Special Teams
Battalion Chief Scott Sankey

Hazardous Materials Team (HAZMAT)

Members of the Park Ridge Fire Department Hazardous Materials Response Team, participated in radiological training on April 20th at the Lincolnwood Fire Department.

Underwater and Rescue and Recovery Team (URRT)

The Park Ridge Fire Department was scheduled to host MABAS Division III's night dive at Lake Belleau. Unfortunately the dive had to be canceled due to hazardous weather conditions that rolled into the area that day. An alternative classroom training session was given at Fire Station 36, which involved a presentation on residential flood rescue operations and swift water rescue techniques.

On April 28, members of the dive team responded to the town of River Grove, for the recovery of a drowning victim found in the Des Plaines River. Divers Robert Sempoch, Zeke Kuzmanovich and Tony Zermeno responded to the scene with the Squad and Boat 35. They played an important role in the recovery effort by providing safety to the swift water technicians who preformed the extraction of the victim from the river. Members of the URRT dive team participated in a MABAS Division III dive drill.

Technical Rescue Team (TRT)

The Division III TRT drill for May will be hosted by Evanston, and will include a response to workers trapped in an "L" shaped trench. All departments from Division III will be participating, however Park Ridge will not due to budget constraints.





Apparatus & Equipment

Battalion Chief John Hanson

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

F-26	1998 Command Van	- Backup alarm replaced.
F-31	2005 Ambulance	- Replaced EGR valve - Replaced glow plugs - Replaced glow plug control module
F-32	2005 Ambulance	- Rear door replaced - Replaced fluorescent light in module - Replaced EGR valve - Replaced fuel pressure regulator - Replaced turbo charger
F-35	2001 Squad	- Replaced lights on front light bar - Replaced rear halogen bulb
F-43	2005 Engine	- Repaired perimeter light - Radiator leak replaced
F-45	2001 Aerial Platform	- Hydraulic system serviced - Replaced fuel sending unit - Intercom switch on turntable replaced - Left outrigger light replaced
F-47	1995 Pickup	- Repaired exhaust system - Replaced left rear strobe

SCBA

Lieutenant John Boeringa

Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) – Fit Testing

Each year, the Illinois Department of Labor (IDOL) requires us to fit test any individual who wears a SCBA or respirator. This process involves attaching the mask of the SCBA or respirator to a unit called a Pro-check machine, which is attached to a laptop computer. The individual selects a mask/respirator size for best fit and dons the mask/respirator. Next, the individual is put through a battery of seven tests where the individual is instructed to move their head or breathe a certain way. During the testing process, the Pro-check measures the number of particles inside and outside of the mask/respirator. If the particle count inside the mask/respirator is above a certain range, the mask/respirator is either malfunctioning or is not fitting properly. If the mask/respirator does not function properly, it is repaired and another fit test is completed. If the mask/respirator is not fitting properly the individual takes off the mask/respirator and dons it once again. If that does not correct the problem, a different size mask/respirator is needed and the individual is run through the battery of tests once





again. This process ensures that each individual is fitted properly and the right size mask/respirator is being used.



Battalion Chief Norton being fit-tested

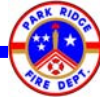


Lt. Boeringa performing fit-testing for our department.

Fire Prevention
Lieutenant Kevin Plach

	Monthly Totals 2010	Monthly Totals 2011
Initial Inspections	73	44
Re-Inspections	30	35
Pre-Permit Meetings	1	0
Construction Visits	6	14
Final Inspections	5	10
Plan reviews	0	13
Sprinkler Hydros	0	1
Storage Tank Installs	0	0
Storage Tank Removals	0	0
Residential Sprinklers	1	0
Fire Flow Tests	1	0
Fire Alarm Tests	2	2
Fire Pump Tests	0	2
Key Box Insp./Installs	2	3
Hood Test	0	1
Single Family Home Inspections	0	1
Citations	0	0
Meetings	6	25
Fire Drills	2	0
Seminar/Schools	2	0
Complaints	6	7
Shift Tours	4	0
Public Education Tours	0	0
Total	141	158





Fire Prevention highlights:

- FF/PM Pavone and Lt. Plach attended a car seat class and were both recertified as technicians.

Public Education

Lieutenant Kevin Plach

Car Seat Safety Checks

22 car seat safety checks were performed in April.

CPR and First Aid classes

108 people attended CPR and First Aid classes in the month of April.

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:

- 15 faculty and staff from School District 64
- 10 people in our 2 public classes
- 35 faculty and staff from Maine East High School
- 32 Park Ridge Country Club employees
- 6 employees from Park Ridge Animal Hospital
- 10 students from Northwestern University Chemistry Department

Park Ridge Fire Explorer Post 3536

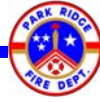
On April 6, 15 Explorers utilized the Elk Grove Fire Department's training tower. They trained in various SCBA obstacle courses set up inside by the Elk Grove and Des Plaines Fire Departments. On April 20, 14 Explorers used the training tower at Station 36 to drill on hose advancement into a structure.

Monthly Tip

April is *National Safe Digging Month*.

JULIE, Inc. is working to launch a statewide public safety and education campaign to increase awareness about the importance of contacting JULIE, Inc. (JULIE) before any outdoor projects this spring. The goal of this "Call 8-1-1" initiative is to reduce the risk of striking underground utility lines and potentially causing environmental or property damage, costly delays or personal injury. As you know, this is a free call and service.





Once per minute, underground utility lines are unintentionally damaged. Homeowners and professional excavators who fail to notify a state one-call center, such as JULIE, before digging cause approximately 40 percent of all damages, making it the top reason for these dangerous and costly incidents. This statistic jumps to 60 percent for landscaping and fence building projects. Based in Joliet, JULIE is a not-for-profit organization committed to promoting the importance of notifying the one-call center and safe-digging practices across Illinois.

<http://www.illinois1call.com/>

