

Park Ridge Fire Department

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

The Park Ridge Fire Department had collection bins at both stations to assist the Marine Corps Reserve in its annual citywide efforts for the Toys for Tots campaign. On December 22, 2011 the Marine Corps picked up the assortment of donations, with the help of Fire Inspector Kufner (far right) and FF/PM Petersen (2nd from the right). A few days later, a Fire Department vehicle that was packed full, due to the late delivery of an excessive amount of toys, was delivered to the Starbucks on Northwest Highway and Euclid. Starbucks were also a collection spot for the Marine Corps. It was heartwarming to see the generosity of so many people living in this City.



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Highlight of the Month
Fire Administration

9-1-1: True First Responders

Fielding Over 800 Calls A Day, Local Center Ponders Expansion

By HEATHER HOLM

The North Suburban Emergency Communications Center, located in Des Plaines City Hall on Miner Street, is a busy place. It's also a place where many usual calls for help are received.

The strangest call into the center since it opened two decades ago happened a few years back, according to Sherrill Orberg, executive director of the center. She explained that a woman called in who verbally exhibited all the symptoms of giving birth to a child.

"Since we are Emergency Medical Dispatch-certified, we gave instructions to the husband over the phone. When the paramedics in Des Plaines got there they found out she was only pregnant in her head," Orberg said. "When we heard that call and heard her screaming, we thought she was giving imminent birth so it was pretty much a shock to find out she was not pregnant."

Orberg said she uses this example during training of her dispatchers to show that everything someone hears is not necessarily the way it really is.

The center, in its 20th year of operation, covers the suburban region from Rt. 83 east to the Edens Expressway and includes the communities of Des Plaines, Niles, Park Ridge and Morton Grove.

Approximately 800 calls come into the North Suburban Emergency Communications Center per day, which averages out to about 25,000 calls per month.

Highly-trained emergency communications specialists man the center 24 hours a day.

"We have a very seasoned staff with an average of 12 years of experience on the floor," Orberg said.

Since the center is a public safety answering point, all emergency calls within those four communities are

required to come there by law.

"We are the first first-responders," Orberg said. "We are the ones nobody ever sees."

Calls that are common to the center include traffic accidents, domestic abuse, robbery, theft and medical-related calls, related Orberg.

The center has the capability to set off audible tones to fire and police departments for an emergency and handle radio traffic.

It also has ongoing relations with police who are out on the street and can contact officers who are closest to the address of an emergency.

"If you picture a stool, the police, fire and EMT are the legs and we are the seat connecting them all," explained Orberg.

The center has a number of emergency lines, including 9-1-1 numbers and 10-digit emergency numbers. The center also monitors about 900 alarms in the surrounding area.

For burglar alarms, the calls usually come in from ADT or Wells Fargo and the center dispatches the call to the proper unit. For fire alarms, the calls go straight to the center's alarm board and then are dispatched to the proper fire department.

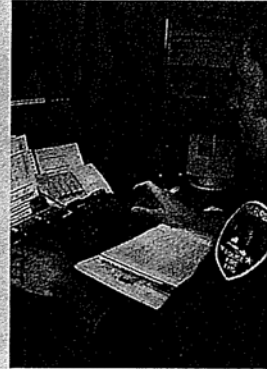
In November, the center received 6,598 9-1-1 calls; 11,201 calls for 10-digit emergency and non-emergency calls as well as ringdowns, which is when the center dials a direct department number; had a total monthly workload of 24,102 calls; had a daily telephone based workload of 803 calls; and made 6,303 outgoing calls.

In addition, total police activity calls for Des Plaines, Morton Grove, Niles and Park Ridge reached 14,407 calls in November and total fire activity calls for the four villages reached 1,118 calls that same month.

Over the past year, 36% of calls re-



Michelle Homme, dispatcher for Morton Grove, spends much of her time receiving calls from people needing help.



Andy Cain, emergency communications specialist for Niles, takes in calls for the area.

ceived by the center were for incidents in Des Plaines, 24% for incidents in Niles, 16% for incidents in Morton Grove and for Park Ridge incidents.

Orberg also about the possibility of the center moving to different quarters in the future.

"It's been discussed for a period of time. The Des Plaines Police Dept.

(next door) is pretty overcrowded and the Joint Emergency Telephone System Board would like to see us expand to more municipalities in other towns sometime in the future," Orberg said.

However, no action has yet been made for relocation or will be in the near future, according to Orberg.



Emergency communications specialists from the Des Plaines section of the center are hard at work. Trainee Andrew Ostman (left) learns the ropes while Charles Hasselmann, communications training officer (right) looks on with dispatcher Courtney Sasiadek working in the background.

Special Holiday Gift
Give a Souvenir of
OAKTON POOL
(1968 TO 2011)



- 1 ounce concrete piece in commemorative container
- Certificate of Authentication
- \$20 to Parks Foundation

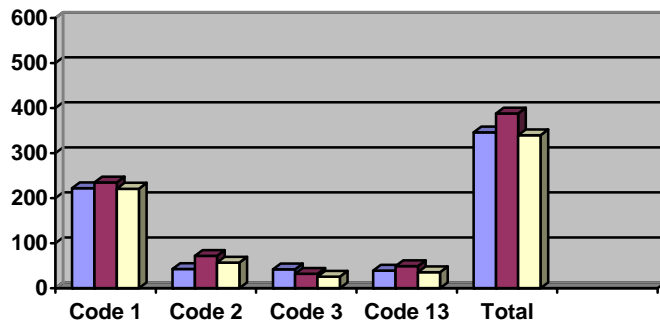
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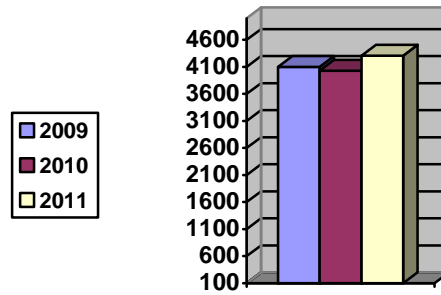



Response Statistics
Fire Administration

CODE	MONTHLY REPOSES 2010	MONTHLY REPOSES 2011	MONTHLY PERCENT 2010	MONTHLY PERCENT 2011
1- ambulance	235	221	61%	65%
2- single vehicle	72	57	19%	17%
3 - full fire	32	26	8%	8%
13 - mutual & auto aid	49	36	13%	11%
TOTAL RESPONSES	388	340	100%	100%



CURRENT MONTH



TOTAL ALARMS YTD

Incident Response
Deputy Chief Sorensen

December 17

Gold Shift responded into the forest preserve off of Riverside Drive and Sibley Street for an accident involving an all terrain vehicle (ATV). Park Ridge transported one male patient to Lutheran General Hospital who was injured when his ATV went off the trail and struck a tree.





- December 23 Tower #36 responded into Des Plaines for a fire with victims. Upon arrival, paramedics from this company assisted Des Plaines medics with one of the victims and later conducted overhaul in the basement of the structure.
- December 24 Companies responded to the reported chimney fire in the 1800 block of South Washington Avenue. Upon arrival determined that reported fire contained to the fireplace and chimney. Companies checked for fire extension along the interior second floor and attic, using thermal imaging camera. Homeowner stated that he has never had the fireplace cleaned or serviced during the time he has owned the home. Advised homeowner to have fireplace cleaned and checked before future use.

FIRE INVESTIGATION

Lieutenant Derek Decker

The Park Ridge Fire Department is happy to announce they were able to, "Keep the Wreath Red" during the month of December! Consequently, Lt. Decker has no report for this month, meaning there were no fires.

Training

Battalion Chief Scott Sankey

Quick Drill

Throughout the month, the Training Division assigns various quick drills to be discussed at the morning roll call. The quick drills for December included: thoughts on cold weather operations, NIPSTA fall drill summary report, Holiday tree fires, difficult carbon monoxide incidents, and chimney fire review.

Report of the Week

Throughout the month the shifts are assigned a report from the National Firefighters Near Miss web portal. The site provides firefighters a place to anonymously document and share their close calls and near miss experiences with other firefighters around the country. By sharing these reports we hope to prevent similar situations from happening in the future. The report reviewed for December was: the posts have hazards. This report emphasized the dangers associated with cutting vehicle A, B, and C posts during extrication due to hidden pressurized airbag canisters.

Word of the Week

Throughout the month shift members at each station are assigned a word. The member researches the word as it relates to the fire service and presents his/her findings to the rest of





his station during the morning roll call meeting. The words for December were residual pressure and entrapment.

Target Safety Online Training

All department personnel continued working on the four-part HAZMAT operations refresher training modules that were assigned in November.

Vehicle Stabilization Training

Red shift personnel practiced vehicle stabilization techniques' using our new Prospan struts. The hands-on training involved stabilizing a vehicle on its side and a vehicle on its roof.

Vehicle Extrication Training

All three shifts practiced various extrication techniques using the vehicles that were acquired for the stabilization training.

MABAS Division III Special Teams

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

Outside Training

Lt. Tim Debs	Blue Card practical course	24 hrs
FF/PM Sempoch	Fire Prevention principles	40 hrs

Special Teams
Battalion Chief Scott Sankey

Hazardous Materials Team (HAZMAT)

Members of the Park Ridge HAZMAT team participated in a response drill that took place in Glenview. MABAS Division III requested all departments respond from their respective stations, to simulate actual response times for an incident. Upon arrival, the members then participated in a hands on Level "A" suit drill, to practice using many applications that they may potentially be confronted with.

Technical Rescue Team (TRT)

The Park Ridge Fire Department's TRT participated in a Division III drill held at NIPSTA (Northeastern Illinois Public Safety Training Academy). The drill was a makeup skills drill covering rope rescue and confined space entry.





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 the City Garage. Below is a list of the maintenance completed for the month:

F-43	2005 Engine	- Kussmaul charger repaired - Quartz light replaced
F-45	2001 Aerial Platform	- Steering assist mount replaced
F-47	1994 Utility Vehicle	- Both batteries replaced - Internal light rewired

Fire Prevention
Lieutenant Kevin Plach

Activity	Monthly Totals 2010	Monthly Totals 2011
Initial Inspections	17	1
Re-Inspections	50	38
Pre-Permit Meetings	2	2
Construction Visits	7	9
Final Inspections	1	4
Plan reviews	7	18
Sprinkler Hydros	2	6
Storage Tank Installs	0	0
Storage Tank Removals	0	0
Residential Sprinklers	0	0
Fire Flow Tests	0	3
Fire Alarm Tests	3	1
Fire Pump Tests	0	0
Key Box Insp./Installs	1	3
Hood Test	0	1
Single Family Home Inspections	1	0
Citations	0	0
Meetings	22	21
Fire Drills	0	2
Seminar/Schools	2	0
Complaints	1	4
Shift Tours	1	0
Public Education Tours	0	1
Total	117	114
Year to Date	630	807





Public Education

Lieutenant Kevin Plach

Highlights

Lt. Plach gave several Fire House tours during the month of December.

Car Seat Safety Checks

20 car seat safety checks were performed in December.

CPR and First Aid classes

53 people attended CPR and First Aid classes in the month of December.

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:

- 37 faculty and staff from School District 64
- 16 people in our 2 public classes

Park Ridge Fire Explorer Post 3536

The Explorer Post had two meetings during December. The first meeting took place on the December 7 and the new Explorers were introduced to their SCBA (self-contained breathing apparatus). After learning and reviewing about what the SCBA is and how it works, all of the Explorers practiced putting on their gear and air packs quickly.

The second meeting was held on December 21. SCBA use was reviewed again and the Explorers completed a SCBA maze set up by two of their leaders. It proved to be a challenge for the more experienced Explorers and a great introduction to the new Explorers doing something like that for the first time.

Monthly Tip

Is your child safe staying overnight at a friend's home? NFPA offers a [free Sleepover Checklist](#) to help parents answer that age-old question, "Mom, can I sleep over at Dana's house?"

Think upset tummies and lack of sleep are the biggest risks when your child is spending the night at his or her friend's house? "Think again," says Judy Comoletti, NFPA's assistant vice president for public education. "Before you permit your child to sleep over with a friend, talk to





the child's parents. Depending on what you learn, it can either uncover serious fire dangers or give you peace of mind during your child's sleepover."

Ms. Comoletti says that eight out of 10 fire deaths take place in the home, with the majority of home fire deaths occurring late at night. "If you don't know for certain that the friend's home is equipped with working smoke alarms, and that the sleepover will be supervised by an adult, don't take the risk; reverse the invitation and have the sleepover at your own home," she adds.

NFPA recommends teaching children about the importance of fire escape planning in a positive, non-threatening style. "Ideally, your child is already well versed in home fire escape planning and drills in your own home. Before you permit a sleepover at a friend's discuss the importance of knowing how to escape from a fire wherever you are, including friends' homes."

Ms. Comoletti also urges parents to empower children to ask friends and their parents about fire safety in their home, and to report to you anything that makes them feel unsafe. "And when it's your turn to have other children stay overnight in your home, make sure they know what your home's fire escape plan is," Ms. Comoletti adds.

NFPA offers this [free Sleepover Checklist](#) to help parents and caregivers consider the hazards, and make decisions about slumber parties and sleepovers.

A checklist to help parents and caregivers consider hazards and make decisions about slumber parties and sleepovers.

"Before you permit your child to sleep over with a friend, talk to the child's parents," says Judy Comoletti, NFPA's Division Manager for Public Education. "Depending on what you learn, it can either uncover serious fire dangers or give you peace of mind during your child's sleepover."

Before you say "yes"

- How well do you know the home?
- Is the home clean? Does it appear to be structurally sound?
- Is the home in a safe area?
- If the home has [security bars on doors and windows](#), do you know for certain that the bars have quick release devices inside, so your child could get out in an emergency?
- Is your child comfortable in the home and with all the occupants?
- Are you comfortable leaving your child in the home overnight?

How well do you know the parent(s)?

- Are they mature, responsible and conscientious?





- Will they supervise the children throughout the stay?
- Are they cautious with [smoking materials](#), matches and lighters, and candles?

Ask the parents

- Are there working [smoke alarms](#) on every level, inside and outside each sleeping area? Are the alarms interconnected?
- Do they have a well-rehearsed [fire escape plan](#) that includes two ways out and a meeting place outside?
- Where will your child be sleeping? Is there a smoke alarm in the room? Are there two escape routes from the room?
- Will the parents walk through their escape plan with your child?
- Do the parents prohibit bedroom [candle](#) use by children?

