

# Park Ridge Fire Department

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

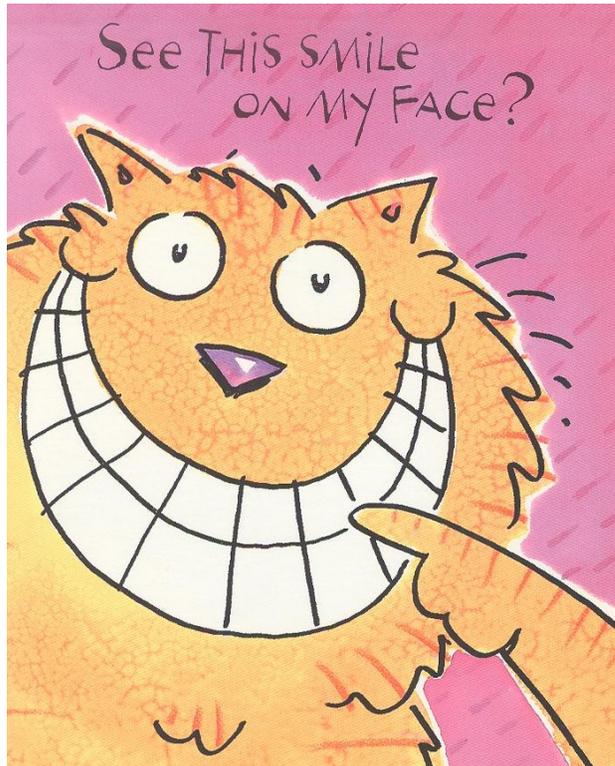
Two weeks of training at an acquired structure located at 221 Courtland Avenue gave members of our Department, the opportunity to learn and practice many basic, fundamental firefighting functions. Included in the training were VES (Vent, Enter, Search), firefighter rescue, hose line advancement and search and vertical ventilation. Firefighter/Paramedics Mleko, Buckley and Villari (pictured below) prepare to climb to the roof to begin practicing VES.



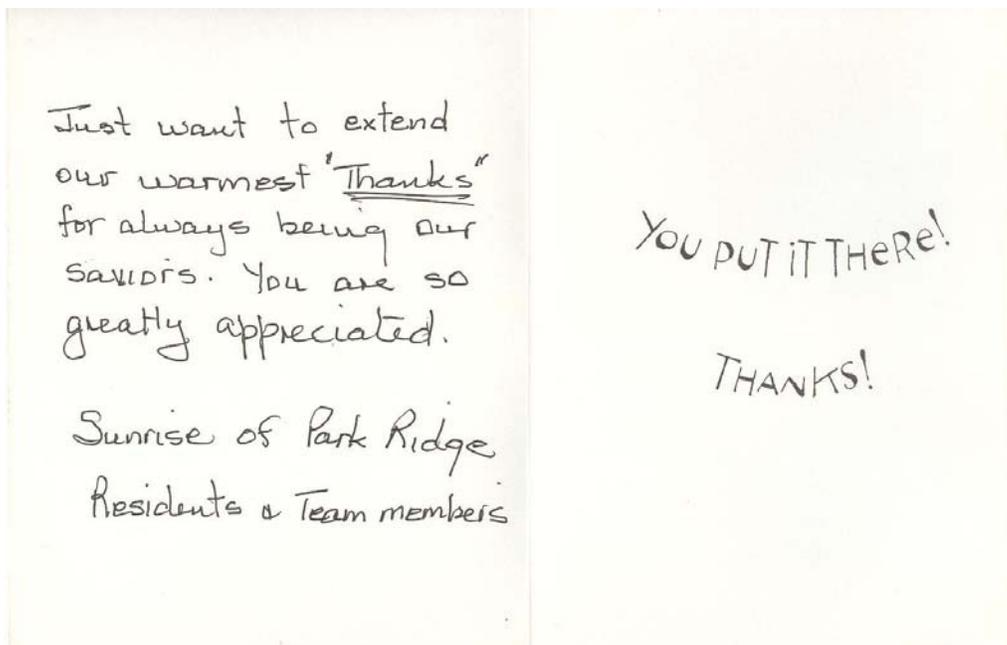
January 2013



**Highlight of the Month**  
Fire Administration



This card was sent to the Red Shift crew.





The Park Ridge Chamber of Commerce’s annual “Night of Stars” dinner and dance was held on January 19 in Rosemont."

”Deputy Chief Sorensen was chosen as a 2012 Community Star for being a “giver, citizenship role model and visionary.”

“He is a force for good and is well respected and well-liked in this community,” his nomination stated.



**Personnel News**

Fire Administration

FF/PM Dave Malcomson and his wife Angie are co-chairing an event for the American Cancer Society On May 4, 2013. It's a non-competitive 5K walk, here in Park Ridge. All of the proceeds go to: research, detection, and treatment of cancer.

FF/PM Cleary has agreed to be the Team Captain for the Fire Department team.

Here are the details:

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer - Park Ridge

Saturday, May 4th (Black Shift)

0800 - Registration (Library)

0900 - Start of the walk

1100 ish - Finish (Hodges Park): refreshments, entertainment, awards, etc.

[makingstrideswalk.org/parkridgeil](http://makingstrideswalk.org/parkridgeil)

**World Trade Center Steel Update**

Fire Administration

Information from the January 22, 2013 meeting:

Acting City Manager Hamilton distributed the feedback to the Commission. He informed the Commission of the various avenues explored for community feedback. These included a display at the Library with response cards (seven were returned) and requests for emails (four were received). The City also placed information on the website and in the October Spokesman. Myefski Architects, Inc. gave a presentation at the October 8, 2012 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Commissioner Brady relayed that, in total, not many negative comments had been received, but the comments that we received mostly dealt with the funding aspect.

Commissioner Buschmann was surprised to read that the Fire Department had concerns about the location of the memorial. Commissioner Chisari agreed. Buschmann reminded the group that Cumberland Park was the original favorite. She stated that, if the Fire Department is expressing concern now, we may need to consider another location.

Commissioner Brady echoed that it would be great if the Fire Department wanted to give up the station location as it may present other options.

Commissioner Chisari questioned feedback received about the project being a political process. Acting City Manager Hamilton said he has not heard of any politics behind the project.

Ms. Sandrik (409 S. Clifton) expressed concerns about the location. She further stated that the Fire Department may have had a different concept. It is larger than originally anticipated.



Commissioners Chisari and Buschmann are concerned that the Fire Department personnel do not like the project. Acting City Manager Hamilton stated that he would set up a meeting with representatives from the Department to hear their concerns in person and see if they have additional ideas.

The Commissioners felt they did not have the knowledge or experience to raise the funds needed to accomplish the memorial laid out by the architects. Commissioner Lifton mentioned forming a fundraising committee and possibly utilizing the skills of Northwestern University students. Hamilton said he would survey neighboring communities to see what they have done regarding fundraising efforts.

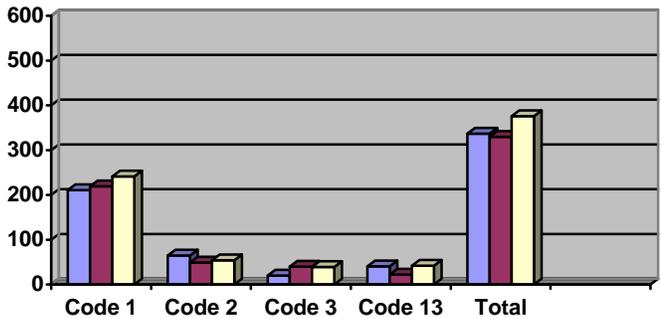
Acting City Manager Hamilton will gather data and do preliminary research on potential fundraising options. He will also schedule a meeting with representatives from the Fire Department to listen to any new concerns they may have.



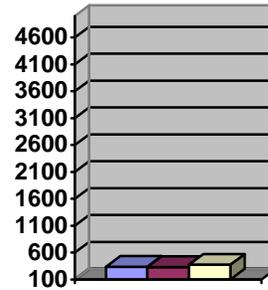
**Response Statistics**  
Fire Administration

CODE	MONTHLY REPOSESES 2012	MONTHLY REPOSESES 2013	MONTHLY PERCENT 2012	MONTHLY PERCENT 2013
1- ambulance	219	241	66%	64%
2- single vehicle	49	54	15%	14%
3 - full fire	40	39	12%	10%
13 - mutual & auto aid	22	42	7%	11%
<b>TOTAL RESPONSES</b>	330	376	100%	100%





CURRENT MONTH



TOTAL ALARMS YTD

**Incident Response**  
Deputy Chief Jeff Sorensen

- January 1 Engine #35 responded to Schiller Park on a change of quarters, for a fire in their town. The fire started in a dryer at a pet daycare/ hotel.
- January 4 Companies responded to the report of a motor vehicle crash at Higgins Road and Dee Road. Upon arrival, there were two occupants trapped in the automobile. The response was upgraded for the extrication. Additional hazards present included an electrical pole with wires down in the street, for which Commonwealth Edison was requested to the scene. Treatment of the occupants began while extrication operations unfolded. The driver of the vehicle was extricated first and transported to Lutheran General Hospital roughly 15 minutes after the arrival of the Fire Department. A few minutes later, the passenger was also freed and transported to Lutheran General Hospital.
- January 11 Companies responded to a fire alarm activation in the 1700 block of Ballard. Upon arrival, companies located a room on the third floor that was charged from floor to ceiling with white/grey smoke. One person was quickly removed from the area. The fire was out and the thermal imaging camera was used to confirm no spread of fire. Companies ventilated the building and confirmed that no carbon monoxide was present. The alarm was restored and all Park Ridge companies returned.
- January 13 Companies responded to the single vehicle crash at Riverside Drive and Oakton Street. One patient was transported to Lutheran General Hospital.
- January 29 The Park Ridge Fire Department was dispatched to Oakton Street and Greenwood Avenue for a school bus that collided with a taxicab. While enroute, it was determined that there were several other crashes along Oakton Street leading up to the final crash scene at Greenwood Avenue. The Incident Commander requested a MABAS EMS box alarm to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm level, bringing a total of six (6) ambulances to the scene. Both Park Ridge



ambulances transported patients from this incident to Lutheran General Hospital.

## Fire Investigation

Lieutenant Derek Decker

### Investigation Summaries

- January 11 All Park Ridge equipment along with the North Maine and Des Plaines Fire Departments responded to the 1700 block of Ballard for a fire alarm activation. Investigation into the cause of the alarm found that an occupant placed a dry hand towel over an incandescent light bulb to dim the light that resulted in the ignition of the towel. The smoldering fire was quickly extinguished. The damage was isolated to the towel and light fixture. Monetary damages were estimated to be \$15. The fire was classified as accidental.
- January 20 Both Stations 36 and 35's equipment along with the Rosemont and Norwood Park Fire Departments responded for a reported chimney fire on the 900 block of Harrison. Upon arrival, companies determined there was a small fire in the walls of the single-family home. The fire was quickly extinguished with a water extinguisher. Investigators determined the fire resulted when hot embers had fallen into a crack separating the hearth from the firebox igniting wooden structural members. The resulting monetary damage was estimated to be \$25. The fire was classified as accidental.



*Tanks are going in soon at the Citgo at Cumberland and Higgins. Here are some pictures of the site, currently with one hole in the ground 25X25 and about 20-24 feet deep.*



**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 January quick drills covered:

- Unauthorized compressed gas cylinders
- Draeger PSS7000 buddy light review (SCBA face piece display)
- Surface ice rescue review
- CD V700 review (civil defense radiation meter)
- Tactical scenario—smoke showing the occupants trapped
- Small department approach to high-rise fires

**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 January were:

- Mantle
- Tip arc

**Self Contained Breathing Apparatus Skills**

All department shift personnel continued to practice their SCBA skills while maneuvering through multiple obstacles in the MABAS Division III SCBA maze trailer. The trailer, which is a shared MABAS III asset and housed at NIPSTA, was brought to Station 36 for three weeks of skills training.

**Acquired Structure Training**

Shift personnel participated in multiple hands-on training scenarios at a city owned house on Courtland that was scheduled for demolition. Crews practiced 2.5-inch hose line deployment, search and rescue techniques, pitched roof ventilation, firefighter rescues from a basement window, firefighter rescues from a second floor window, and vent/enter/search.



"Courtland Training"



### Surface Ice Rescue

Shift personnel participated in two weeks of joint surface ice rescue with the Niles and North Maine Fire Departments. The training consisted of a classroom refresher along with practical skills at a pond in the Bay Colony apartment complex in North Maine.

### Outside Training

No outside training for the month of January.

### Special Teams

Battalion Chief Scott Sankey

### Hazardous Materials Team (HAZMAT)

Park Ridge Hazardous Materials Team members participated in the annual inventory drill in Glencoe, Illinois on January 23, 2013. Team members evaluated and tested all equipment used for hazardous materials response calls.

### Underwater and Rescue and Recovery Team (URRT)

Members of the Dive Team conducted a training session for Park Ridge, Niles, and North Maine Fire Department personnel on the water rescue of a person that has fallen through the ice. Firefighters performed several evolutions practicing rescuing a victim at a small frozen over lake located within the Bay Colony apartment complex in North Maine.

### Technical Rescue Team (TRT)

In January, the TRT met for an all team meeting in Deerfield. During the meeting, discussion revolved around the budget for the new fiscal year as well as training for 2013.

### Apparatus & Equipment

Battalion Chief John Hanson

Due to the high amount of miles and stresses that our 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-26	1998 Command Van	- Body damage repaired
F-31	2005 Ambulance	- Interior trim repaired
F-32	2005 Ambulance	- Oil dipstick replaced - Siren repaired
F-33	2005 Ambulance	- New go-light installed
F-43	2005 Engine	- Door ajar system repaired
F-45	2001 Tower Ladder	- Perimeter lights repaired - Auto-eject replaced



**Fire Prevention**

Lieutenant Kevin Plach

Activity	Monthly Totals 2012	Monthly Totals 2013
Initial Inspections	51	43
Re-Inspections	35	11
Pre-Permit Meetings	2	0
Construction Visits	9	9
Final Inspections	8	4
Plan reviews	21	9
Sprinkler Hydros	4	2
Storage Tank Installs	0	0
Storage Tank Removals	0	0
Residential Sprinklers	0	0
Fire Flow Tests	2	2
Fire Alarm Tests	5	3
Fire Pump Tests	0	0
Key Box Insp./Installs	3	1
Hood Test	0	0
Single Family Home Inspections	1	0
Citations	0	0
Meetings	16	13
Fire Drills	0	0
Seminar/Schools	0	0
Complaints	0	2
Shift Tours	1	0
Public Education Tours	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>99</b>
<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>99</b>

**Car Seat Safety Checks**

16 car seat safety checks were performed in January.

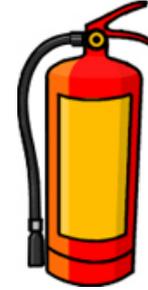
**CPR and First Aid classes will resume in March.****Park Ridge Fire Explorer Post 3536**

During the month of January, there were two meetings held. The first meeting took place on January 16, where Explorer's practiced vent, enter and search operations. The Explorers were able to hone their skills using ladders, search techniques and tools. The second meeting was held on January 30, and the Explorers practiced knot tying in the classroom. The Explorers then used those knots to make harnesses and slings to help them move victims around an obstacle course.



**Monthly Tip**

Senior Administrative Assistant  
Jennifer Steurer

**FIRE EXTINGUISHERS**

A portable fire extinguisher can save lives and property by putting out a small fire or containing it until the fire department arrives; but portable extinguishers have limitations. Because fire grows and spreads so rapidly, the number one priority for residents is to get out safely.

**Safety tips**

- Use a portable fire extinguisher when the fire is confined to a small area, such as a wastebasket, and is not growing; everyone has exited the building; the fire department has been called or is being called; and the room is not filled with smoke.
- To operate a fire extinguisher, remember the word PASS:
  - **P**ull the pin. Hold the extinguisher with the nozzle pointing away from you, and release the locking mechanism.
  - **A**im low. Point the extinguisher at the base of the fire.
  - **S**queeze the lever slowly and evenly.
  - **S**weep the nozzle from side-to-side.
- For the home, select a multi-purpose extinguisher (can be used on all types of home fires) that is large enough to put out a small fire, but not so heavy as to be difficult to handle.
- Choose a fire extinguisher that carries the label of an independent testing laboratory.
- Read the instructions that come with the fire extinguisher and become familiar with its parts and operation before a fire breaks out. Local fire departments or fire equipment distributors often offer hands-on fire extinguisher trainings.
- Install fire extinguishers close to an exit and keep your back to a clear exit when you use the device so you can make an easy escape if the fire cannot be controlled. If the room fills with smoke, leave immediately.
- Know when to go. Fire extinguishers are one element of a fire response plan, but the primary element is safe escape. Every household should have a home fire escape plan and working smoke alarms.

*NFPA does not test, label or approve any products.*

[www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)

