

# BOOSTER LINE

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## “911, What’s your Emergency?”

Our current reporting period covers the activities that Schiller Park responded to in the last month. The following incidents are the firefighters and paramedics more unique calls. As always Schiller Park members responded to any call for help.

This month we begin on October 14<sup>th</sup> Red shift responded to a fire alarm. On scene members found that a smoke detector was activated because a tenant who was doing some heavy vapping set off the alarm. First time for everything!

Gold shift on the 15<sup>th</sup> had their on duty fire investigators, Lt. Jeffrey and FF/PM Bertoncini respond to River Grove to assist with the origin and cause determination.

October 17<sup>th</sup> had Black shift take in a truck fire. Battalion 5 took command on scene and found a engine compartment fire. Members were able to use a “pump can” to put out the fire.

Their next call was an automatic fire alarm after shift change on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Here Red shift was met by workers who stated that their lift apparatus set off a beam detector on premise.

In the early morning of the 18<sup>th</sup> Red shift assisted a resident who slide out of her chair and could not get up. Members were able to help her off the floor and back into the chair.

Residents doing some re-modeling on the 18<sup>th</sup> now had Gold shift arrive at the fire alarm to find that construction dust set off the alarm.

Black shift covering Franklin Park while they were tied up on another call took in a 2 car crash on the 19<sup>th</sup>. The accident required a second ambulance to transport to Gottlieb.

October 22<sup>nd</sup> and a banquet at a hotel had one reveler decide to activate a pull station. The malicious pull had a full response of fire apparatus. No one owed up to the event.

Workers still using a high lift on the 23<sup>rd</sup> set off the beam detector and having Red shift dispatched. The workers were cautioned on using the lift around the beam detectors. The beam detector looks for wave lengths of light given off by fires.

A resident on October 24<sup>th</sup> accidentally depressed her Life Alert button. The monitoring company called the fire department who responded to check on the resident.

A fire alarm on October 28<sup>th</sup> in a single family residence had Black shift respond. Members were met by the owner who stated she burnt some food which generated some smoke setting off the alarm. All was well.

Halloween had Black shift respond to a smell of gas. Black shift arrived and had to first determine if it was natural gas or propane gas which was being stored near the building. Monitors showed that there did not appear to be a leak near the building but a strong smell near the parkway. NICOR was called to investigate further.

After midnight Black shift took in a fire alarm in a commercial structure. On scene members found that the alarm was set off by workers at 1:00 in the morning sweating pipe. The shift advised the worker to put alarm in test mode until done.

Red shift November 1, received a call of a truck fire on the toll way oasis. Battalion 5 was met by a toll way supervisor who said that there was no fire but rather a truck which blew a turbo.

November 3<sup>rd</sup> next saw Black shift respond automatic aid to Norwood Park for a structure fire. Battalion 5 was assigned Communications while the Truck company ventilated the basement then backed up NOPK Engine 102 with interior extinguishment. An investigators Box Alarm was called and Lt. Leiser responded to help with the origin/cause.

Burnt food was the culprit on November 4<sup>th</sup> which had Red shift

respond to the fire alarm. Members verified the burnt food and held up responding units.

On November 6<sup>th</sup> Black shift was dispatched to wires down. Upon arrival members found that the wires down were due to a street light being struck in a collision. Schiller Park Police had already contacted IDOT to respond for repairs. The wires were in the base of the fixture not on the ground.

A frantic 9-1-1 call on the 7<sup>th</sup> stated a trailer was on fire near the gas pumps on the toll way oasis. Members responded and could not locate on either side of the oasis. While investigating members saw a man fixing a flat tire. Members approached him and he stated that the break locked up and was smoking but there was no fire.

Gold shift was dispatched on the 8<sup>th</sup> to a rubbish fire behind a hotel. On scene the engine company found a small pile of rubbish on fire in the alley. A "pump can" was used with 2 ½ gallons of water to put it out.

Next, Gold shift took in a fire alarm. This apartment building had all devices activated and the fire investigative team found an activated pull station with no cause. No other problems were found.

A called in fire alarm at a hotel on November 9<sup>th</sup> had Black shift respond. Members were originally concerned because it was called in by phone and not the a fire alarm activation. The fire crews hiked up to the third floor where the caller stated the alarm was coming from to find a chirping smoke detector in one of the guest rooms-no fire.

November 10<sup>th</sup> had Red shift take in an accident with injuries. Members responded to the location which was on Irving over the Des Plaines River. At the scene members found that a car hit the guardrail. The patient was moved to the ambulance and transported.

Election Day, November 11<sup>th</sup>, had Gold shift respond to the smell of

smoke in the building. Pulling up the fire department had nothing showing. The fire investigative team went in and quickly smelled the distinctive odor of burnt food. Further investigation confirmed that a resident in one of the units did indeed burn food.

November 12<sup>th</sup> and Black shift at the helm, took in a fire alarm in a hotel. Members found that the infamous burnt popcorn caused the alarm.

Gold shift responded to a smell of gas on November 17<sup>th</sup>. The occupant said they smelled gas in the front of the structure. Members using our monitors were able to trace the source to a heating unit on the roof. The gas was shut down and they were advised to call a service technician.

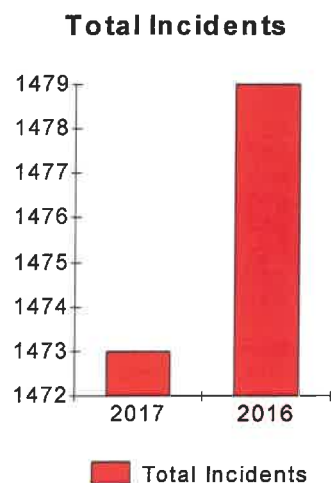
November 18<sup>th</sup> had another report of natural gas. This time it was outside and Black shift began to determine where the source was coming from. Searching the area members found it coming from a sewer. Additional sewers were checked and NICOR notified to come to the scene. Surrounding basements were also checked and monitored.

A fire in Bensenville on November 19<sup>th</sup> was quickly elevated to a 3<sup>rd</sup> Alarm. The structure was a 12 unit apartment building that got into the void areas. Gold shift responded to the early morning fire and Chief Chiodo was also due. After fighting the fire for almost 2 hours in a defensive posture, Command determined that we needed to go inside. Chief Chiodo took interior forward command with several companies making it to the third floor including Schiller Park Engine 5. It was at this point that one fatality was found. Crews continued to put out hot spots until released 2 hours later.

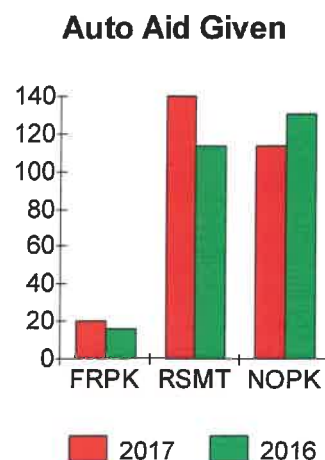
Red shift who relived the weary Black shift firefighters, soon responded to an automatic fire alarm. Here the alarm panel showed an activated pull station. One of the tenants stated that a child had accidentally pull the alarm station box.

The last call of the reporting period was on November 20<sup>th</sup> where Gold shift responded to an accident with a bike versus a car. Ambulance 5 assessed the patient and triaged before packaging and transporting to the hospital.

The following is the total run count compared with the same reporting period from 2016:

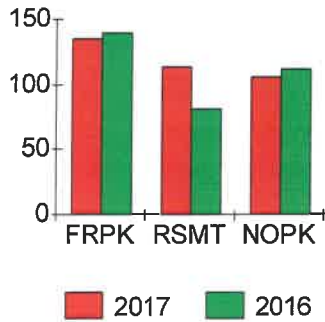


The run summary for Automatic Aid as of October 31<sup>st</sup> "To" the following communities:



The run summary for Automatic Aid as of October 31<sup>st</sup> "From" the following communities:

### Auto Aid Received



	2017	2016
Total Incidents	1633	1638

#### Auto Aid to:

Franklin Park (FRPK)	21	18
Norwood Park (NOPK)	134	143
Rosemont (RSMT)	154	128

#### Auto Aid From:

Franklin Park (FRPK)	154	154
Norwood Park (NOPK)	124	123
Rosemont (RSMT)	134	96

## Chief's Corner

### *We Stagnate When Caution Prevails*

FF/PM Piculas has applied for a non-duty disability pension due to a knee problem.

The Fire and Police Commission has begun the testing process for the next eligibility list. The application period opened November 15<sup>th</sup>. And will continue for one month. Information can be found on our website with all the dates. We hope to have a final eligibility list by February. We are currently one member short with FF/PM Piculas on medical.

FF/PM Rusciolelli continues at the NIPSTA Fire Academy. He still has several weeks to go before returning to Red shift. He is progressing very well.

FF/PM O'Leary has completed his probation period and the Fire and Police Commission have issued him his permanent certification papers. Congratulations!

A retirement party was held for all of our dispatchers this past month. We would like to thank Jeanette Wilinski, Laura Etcheson, Rick Marrazzo, and William Perry for their dedicated service.

Our congratulations to Joe DeSimone of the Schiller Park Police Department. Joe was appointed the Deputy Police Chief by the Police Chief and Village Board.

Our sympathies to the Jenkins family, Mike and Kim, on the loss of their son Desmond this past month. Desmond fought a courageous battle his past year before succumbing. Thoughts and prayers to are with you all.

Best wishes go out to Lt. Tim Monroe (FRPK) who retires after 27 years with the Franklin Park Fire Department. Tim will be taking a position with the Park District and its hockey program. Tim played throughout his school years and in Juniors in Canada.

Our well wishes also go out to three members of the Norwood Park Fire Protection District who were appointed and promoted this past month. Dave Blondell was appointed Deputy Chief, Jeff Piestrup was appointed Commander and Dan Davila was promoted to Lieutenant. Good luck to all.

The Village held its annual Veterans Pancake Breakfast November 5<sup>th</sup>. Some 24 veteran's attended with their families. (see photo's)

A special thank you to all the members of the 2% fund who authorized the additional \$500 for the air quality testing.

The Lions Club is hosting its annual Firefighter of the Year in December. A formal announcement of the nominee will be made shortly.

The Illinois Toll way has added signage to the ramp from southbound I-294 to eastbound Irving. This was done as a result of ours and three accidents with vehicles going down the embankment including one fatality. They will review the data in six months to see if a jersey barrier along this stretch is warranted. (see photo).

I am in the process of reviewing all the Rules and Regulations and having an updated version for Board approval in the next few months. They have not been revised since 1995. I am also reviewing all of our SOG's and coming up with a new template. This second phase of review will take several months.

I am also looking into having ISO come out and review our department hopefully sometime in March. ISO has a new grading schedule which could be favorable to us in lowering us from a Class 4. New areas of grading include Fire Prevention, Fire Investigations and Public Education. With a new ladder truck, village wide water plan and dispatch center, that may all work in our favor. B/C Cesaretti and FF/PM Bubis will be spearheading this effort.

We are beginning to prepare our budget for the 2019 fiscal year. I am asking all members to submit ideas and estimates for potential items that we need or want. These will be prioritized and submitted in a draft budget. I have also asked the Officers to come up with their specialty area budgets to be combined in the overall budget.

We are still trying to sell Tower Ladder 454. We have it listed on Ebay, Brindle Mountain, F&P brokers and Govdeals.com.

## Tools / Equipment and Other FYI's

A number of items have been worked on this past month.

Items worked on and happenings around the firehouse this month include:

A power surge was found in the firehouse apparatus bay that required an electrician come out and figure out why excess voltage was present in the 110v circuits. After some investigation the problem was found and resolved.

Our bunkroom heat went out this past month. It was repaired in house along with the gear dryer on the apparatus floor.

Tony Calefati worked on a power issue with Battalion 5.

We purchased a new quad meter when our old one failed. We have rotated monitors placing the new MSA monitor on Engine 5 and that monitor moving to Battalion 5.

Members completed the hose rotation and ladder testing during the last month.

Our mechanic Tony Calafati also worked on multiple items during his preventive maintenance and emergency maintenance.

## EMS Briefs

Just an update on activities within the bureau...

We continue to host EMT students from Triton and Oakton who will be riding with us as observers.

Lt. Swiontek and Donna from HR have interviewed additional part time paramedics for possible hire. PM Alex Hernandez has been offered a

position.

The air horn on Ambulance 5 (463) was repaired by Tony.

This past month we also had IDPH come out and inspect our EMS vehicles. Needless to say all passed thanks to all our members who ensure that it is always ready.

A new glucometer has been placed on Engine 5.

Our thanks to members of Red shift who stained the windows in the bunkroom and removed the film from the windows.

The Village Hall had its emergency generator repaired this past month and is now fully functional again. A sensor needed to be replaced. This did not affect its start up. Thanks to Ben Delaney for helping supervise the installation.

Lt. Swiontek would like to remind everyone who does EMS reports that ALL incident numbers are seven digits.

Loyola is jointly working with a vendor on having a mobile stroke intervention unit available. We will stay in contact with them to see if this tool is an option for our residents and workers based on where it may be housed.

When at the hospital as a matter of habit please check to see if we have any backboards that were left there from patient transports. This will help retrieve them and cut down on the time they are out of service and unavailable.

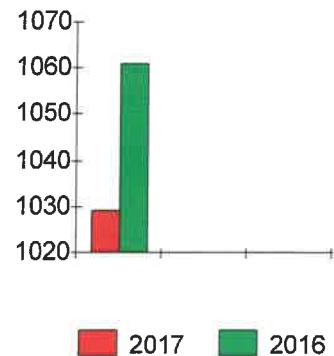
We would like to remind all personnel that when they are exchanging or retrieving drugs from the hospitals, that you check and verify the dosages. With different manufactures and packaging we must make sure that the correct dosages are picked up.

During the past month personnel responded to 111 emergency calls. A total of 102 patients were

encountered. 73 patients were transported to area hospitals.

	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Total Responses	111	1140
ALS Transports	46	481
BLS Transports	27	273
Refusals/MPR's	16	194
Other Non-Transports	1	33
Fire Responses	21	157
CPR Students taught	0	24
Mut. Aid to SHPK	1	46
SHPK to others	6	63

## EMS Total Responses



## Projects in the Works

All the shifts are encouraged to take on new challenges. If you have a project or an idea, please run it past Lt. Budnik.

What's in the works? –

- Painting the outside overhead doors red
- New interior lights at station 6
- Additional outlets at station 6
- Emergency phone outside sta. 6
- paint apparatus floor border
- Paint sta.6 floor
- Door and jam simulator
- sprinkler simulator

-New high-rise load packing tool

## Trivia

### Answer to last month's Trivia

Two persons had partial answers . No complete correct answers were submitted.

### October Trivia

What actor rejoined the FDNY after 9/11?

Steve Buscemi

Several correct answers were received from the following persons- Dave Kosar, Chief Belmonte (WECH), Jimmy "Z", and Terri Roth.

### November Trivia

Why do the Lieutenants in Chicago Fire wear gray shirts?

Please submit your answers in writing to the *Booster Line* in order to be eligible for the prizes. Winners will be selected randomly from all correct entries.

## Office of the State Fire Marshal and Training

### Failure to Train is Training to Fail

The training division has been active in defining and charting a course for our department.

Lt. Swiontek attended a workshop on Fair Labor Standards Act (FSLA).

B/C Leiser completed the on line course Command and Control: Decision making at multiple alar incidents.

B/C Leiser completed the FEMA on line course Intro to Emergency

Response to Terrorism.

FF/PM Jackson attended the Division 20 honor guard training.

Lt. J. Leiser attended Division 20 fire investigator training.

FF/PM Velasco attended Structural Collapse Operations class, part of the State Fire Marshal program, in Romeoville.

FF/PM Rusciollelli began his fire academy class at NIPSTA.

Lt. Leiser also received a roll of webbing. If you need a length, see him.

We have also set up a matrix on when fire investigators should be called to an incident. It will provide a guideline as to calling for additional off duty and division investigators. It is a flow chart that Lt. Leiser will train the shifts on. As the Lead Fire Investigator for Schiller Park, Lt. J. Leiser should be notified of all incidents.

We have signed up several members for OSFM classes as part of their job requirements. If you know that you need a class please let me know, I will try to find one, however if you find one on your own please submit the paperwork and maintain a copy for yourself.

Members completed 413 hours of training for the month with 23 training drills. This includes outside classes.

Totals:    Month    Hrs    Year    Hrs

Drills/  
Classes    23    413    239    3825

B/C Cesaretti is also authorized by the State to administer exams. As a proctor he must give the State notice and obtain the secure exams. Therefore you cannot approach him and expect to be given an exam on a short notice.

Please fill the Outside Training Form

on Target Solutions whenever you attend a class, seminar or training session outside of Schiller Park. This allows for accurate record keeping in those areas and credit for the hours you put into training.

Signing up for tests is considered a Duty Assignment. If you can't attend see me in advance and provide a written response for the absence.

## Employee of the Month

This month we acknowledge as our Employee of the Month Lt. Budnik and FF/PM Bubis as our Employees of the Month.

Both members have worked over the last year to help design and build our new truck. They both also worked on updating all the maintenance checks on the ipads.

Lt. Budnik also worked on re-programming radios and also in getting our new air packs and placing them in service.

Thanks for your time and dedication, you make us proud to be firefighters and in the fire service and village employees.

If you would like to nominate a firefighter, paramedic, officer or other persons for recognition, please submit the action or the incident in writing to the editor Chief Chiodo.

## Fire Prevention

### *An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure*

Shifts are working on their 2017 inspections. Each shift received 1/3 of the inspections or about 135 per shift. The inspections were rotated so that over a three year period each shift

should have the opportunity to enter all the businesses.

FF/PM Neimand completed updating and revising the inspectional form on the ipads. One of the most important additions is that we will check at the beginning of the Inspection and verify that the business has a current valid Business License.

Members of our department are working with putting Pre-Plans on our Mobile Data Terminals (MDT'S) in our vehicles. They will be found in the GIS map section.

Our fire prevention bureau conducted acceptance tests of new installed fire alarm systems and approved Business Regulation Certificate Data Sheets.

B/C Hatcher addressed the Trouble Alarms from the past month from both the end user and Midwest Central Dispatch.

B/C Hatcher also reviewed all the fire alarm and sprinkler system inspection reports.

A letter has gone out to all the businesses with sprinkler systems. After asking for voluntary compliance we are now mandating that all sprinkler connections be outfitted with a stortz connection. Because of our hose lays it is easier to support the system with more water and less friction loss. Those not complying will be turned over to our legal department.

We are looking to bolster and strengthen our fire inspectional program. We are looking for our members to take the Inspector I certification program. All new firefighters will be required to take this class.

ISO has changed their grading system and now will given credit for Fire Prevention and Inspections. As part of this area of grading we will need to have continuing education for our inspectors.

B/C Hatcher is working with Community Development on keeping communications open and resolve

problems. There are several major inspections that are jointly being worked on. The majority of businesses are in compliance.

As a reminder when we go on trouble alarms we need to contact the owner to report that the alarm went into trouble and document that on the incident report and n the trouble alarm binder. Midwest may also be doing this as a back up to our call. If you are interested in any plan review in Fire Prevention, please see B/C Hatcher. He will review what is coming into town based on what plans Community Development sends over.

Any member wishing to attend the monthly meeting of the Illinois Fire Inspectors Association should contact B/C Hatcher.

## Community Engagement

### *Saving Lives Through Education*

We continue to provide fire extinguisher demonstrations and CPR classes for residents and businesses in town.

Members attended the Bon Fire, during the rain, at St. Maria Goretti as part of the church's fall festival.

Members completed the month by doing fire prevention teaching at Washington, Lincoln and Kennedy schools.

Members attended the Veterans Day celebrations and concerts at both East Leyden and Lincoln school (Kennedy school children did the renditions of music).

Members also participated in the East Leyden career day where students learn about our profession and investigate whether this is a career choice for them.

Please check the bulletin board in the kitchen for other fire department fundraisers in the area.

Members also participated in the Village and Recreation Departments Halloween Howl.

We are also coordinating with other a fire service organizations the implementation and publicizing the "ICE" program (In Case of Emergency) for people's cell phones.

## Retiree Row

This past month we heard from Hank Mandziara (ret.) Hank informed us that he is spending the Christmas holidays in the cast of two operas at the Chicago Lyric Opera House. Toi ! Toi!

Please drop a line as to how any of our retirees are doing. This is an opportunity to let others know what you are doing and how you are doing, Please email to Chief Chiodo at [pchiodo@schillerparkil.us](mailto:pchiodo@schillerparkil.us).

## Schiller Park Fire Fighters Association

The Association is planning a Christmas Party at Tuscano's on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. See Dee for details and payment.

Members will also be Ringing the Bell and Filling the Red Kettle for the Salvation Army. We will be at Walgreens on December 20, 21 and 22 from 1-3 P.M.

We will also be driving Santa for the Fraternal Order of Police on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

Members will also be participating in Operation North Pole. See B/C leiser or FF/PM Miletta for details and information.

For more information see the flier in the kitchen or contact one of the Association officers.

## Foreign Fire

A meeting of the Foreign Fire Insurance will be held on Tuesday November 28, 2017 at 1900 hours in the fire department classroom.

## Letters and Notes

We received a note from Pastor Ben at the Grace Community Church thanking the members for the Fire Department Open House and the warm welcome he received. He also granted us permission to remove the guardrail along the alley so that turning will not be hindered.

Steve Ivonelli (Chief FRPK ret.) is still recovering from his motorcycle accident. Steve was broadsided at about 55 MPH. He has broken arms, pelvis and back. He has had several surgeries at Loyola and is recuperating at Marion Joy.

I sent a note to the Fritz's thanking them for their generous donation of a zodiac boat. This will definitely help our members who are in water rescue and operations.

## Emergency Mgmt.

B/C Leiser and Trustee Deegan are working with the Village Officials in completing any necessary NIMS certification. This is necessary for future funding opportunities. Some tabletop drills will be planned for the Spring.

Chief Leiser awaits feedback from the Village Board on revising the Village disaster plan. It is 287 pages and is being reviewed by the Village Board prior to being submitted to Cook County Homeland Security.

We are applying for a grant from Firehouse Subs for RIT (rapid intervention tools). This will be a total kit rather than throwing tools together and have some consistency.

We are also working to clean up the mass notification system of old numbers, bad numbers, disconnected as well as updating all employees contact info.

We are working on a beta version of a tweeter account that we hope to see up and running soon.

## And Finally...

Before you win, you must first not lose.

## Deadlines

*The Booster Line is published monthly. All articles and suggestions are welcome. The Editor, Peter Chiodo reserves the right to edit based on content and space availability. Please submit all materials, articles, ideas and photos to the Booster Line c/o Chief Chiodo at [pchiodo@schillerparkil.us](mailto:pchiodo@schillerparkil.us).*

Pictures: Page 7-Toll way signage at ramp I-294 S/B to eastbound Irving

Page 8- Mayor Caiafa enjoys his birthday with Village Employees

Page 8 (lower section) - Berlin, Germany firefighters from the Schiller Park neighborhood visit us, members complete staining of windows in the bunkroom.

Page 9- Veterans Day Breakfast

Page 10 – Members practice with new truck at Comfort Suite. (Lower right)- Accident with injuries Irving and Prairie.



