

# Booster Line

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## “911, What’s your Emergency?”

**O**ur 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 November 11<sup>th</sup> when Black shift responded to a medical alert alarm. Arriving our personnel found that the resident had inadvertently activated the “Help, I’ve fallen and can’t get up” alarm. Members ensured that she was alright before leaving.

Lt. Hatcher and Red shift took in a call for a car fire on November 15<sup>th</sup>. As they pulled up to the address they found a limousine with the engine compartment fully involved. The engine company dropped and line and went to work extinguishing the fire. The origin and cause investigation revealed that it probably started in the battery compartment.

Firefighter/paramedics responded on November 18<sup>th</sup> to a person stuck in an elevator. FF/PM Schneider and the crew got on scene and had the elevator stuck between floors. The Firemen Service elevator key was used and Red shift members lowered a ladder from above to rescue the occupant.

The following day at a different location another elevator with a person trapped. Lt. Cesaretti and Gold shift en-route were told there was now also a fire alarm at this location. On scene the engine company found the person had self extricated and that there was smoke in the elevator shaft. The white smoke was traced to a belt on the elevator motor that had broken.

As the winds picked up on the 19<sup>th</sup> several calls were received for sparking wires. Most of these calls ending up being bad insulation on the wires and Com Ed was notified of the different locations.

Black shift on November 20<sup>th</sup> responded to a request by the police for a vehicle that ran into a garage. Cmdr. Leiser and the group showed up and assessed the situation. It was determined that the structure was not going to collapse but that the building Department should be notified.

Gold shift’s engine under the direction of FF/PM Chung took in a call with our ambulance for a person with their finger caught in a lid. Paramedics were able to use a scissors to remove the lid.

A working fire on November 26<sup>th</sup> had Black shift respond. Upon arrival heavy smoke and fire were emulating from the single family home. The structure was vacant as a prior fire from a year ago had the building being re-built. Members advanced the hose line from the front door to the rear of the building where the bulk of the fire was. A second line went to the second floor attic area which was also rolling. During the incident Cmdr. Leiser requested a Fire Investigator Box alarm. Lt. Budnik ran operations of the fire and supervised the interior firefight. The Origin and Cause investigation was conducted by 9 Division 20 fire investigators from surrounding communities along with our own Cmdr. Chiodo and FF/PM Leiser. The fire is still under investigation.

December calls began for the department on the 1<sup>st</sup> with Red shift going to a 24 hour store for smoke in the building. The fire investigation team found a haze of smoke in the store with no source in the store. The building was laddered and the truck company went to the roof to check any units. What they found was a malfunctioning heating unit that was shut down. The store was told to contact a service technician for the heater.

Lt. Cesaretti and the crew made a rescue on December 1<sup>st</sup> when a two year old was locked in an apartment, with no windows found unlocked their locksmith skills were put to use to gain entry with minimal damage.

The next call for gold shift was from the Cook County Forest Preserve who found an unresponsive man in a car. The shift arrived on the scene and found that the man needed some assistance. He was not unresponsive but asleep. He had "backed" into the parking spot.

Lt. Budnik and his engine company took in a call on December 3<sup>rd</sup> for a possible car fire at the O'Hare Oasis. Pulling up to the area they found no car fire but a man unresponsive in his car that had driven into the barrier gate on the toll way. The car was running and in drive with the doors locked. Members gained access to the interior by breaking the passenger window. The vehicle was then placed in park and the man treated and transported.

December 2<sup>nd</sup> found Red shift release another trapped person in an elevator. The car stalled between the first and second floor and members were able to free the trapped person.

A man with his hand caught in a machine on December 5<sup>th</sup> had Gold shift respond. Arriving the man had his hand pulled into a machine and jam the machine before being able to wrestle it free. The broken wrist was all that was suffered in this accident that could have snapped off his entire hand.

After shift change Cmdr. Leiser and the truck company took in a working fire in Franklin Park. The Tower Ladder made forcible entry to the overhead doors and then assisted with the second hose line. Tower 454 was also requested to place two positive pressure fans in place to aid in the suppression operation.

A person trapped in the elevator on December 5<sup>th</sup> has continued to have members hone their skills with elevators and elevator rescues. The person was trapped between floors and the elevator would not move. Black shift was able to release the elevator and it was placed out of service.

The next day Red shift responded to this location for five people trapped in

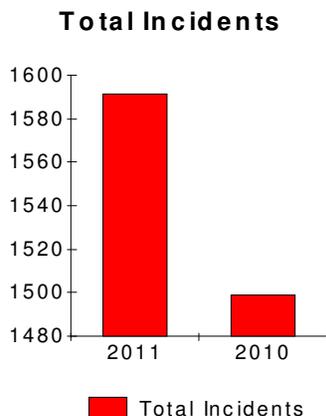
the elevator. Lt. Hatcher responded with the engine crew and freed the occupants. While questioning how this happened after it was placed out of service, Lt. Hatcher was told that the elevator company came out and placed in back in service. Following up on the incidents by Lt. Hatcher, the repair company indicated that it was a bad module component that would be ordered and replaced.

A reported gas leak and smell of gas in the building on December 9<sup>th</sup> had Red shift respond. On scene in one of the units the monitoring equipment indicated a 20% lower explosive limit. The gas was shut off and the tenant plus the owner was advised to get a repair done or a replacement range.

A fire alarm at a local business had a Still response on December 9<sup>th</sup>. On scene members found that it was burnt food in the break area.

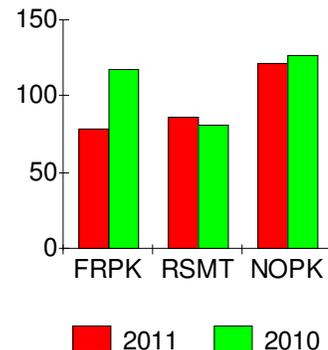
The last call for this reporting period occurred on December 10<sup>th</sup> for a water flow alarm. Gold shift pulled up and found the water gong activated along with the white strobe. Entering the building on the weekend with no workers present the fire investigative team found in one of the cooler storerooms a broken head. Members shut down the water flow and contacted the owner's representative to have the system restored.

The following is the total run count compared with the same reporting period from 2010:



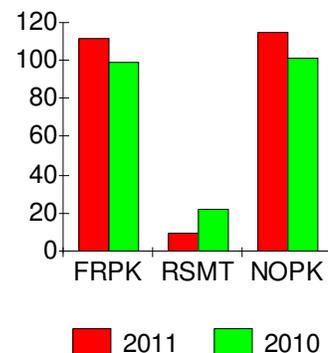
The run summary for Automatic Aid as of October 31<sup>st</sup> "To" the following communities:

### Auto Aid Given



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

### Auto Aid Received



	2011	2010
Total Incidents	1591	1499

### Auto Aid to:

Franklin Park (FRPK)	78	118
Norwood Park (NOPK)	121	127
Rosemont (RSMT)	86	81

### Auto Aid From:

Franklin Park (FRPK)	112	99
Norwood Park (NOPK)	115	101
Rosemont (RSMT)	9	22

# Commander's Cove

## *We Stagnate When Caution Prevails*

FF/PM LiRosi had additional surgery for a shoulder injury he received related to the job. Vito will be off several months rehabilitating. As a result a shift change will be necessary to cover his slot until a new candidate is hired and Vito returns. FF/PM Miletta has taken a shift change from Gold to Black.

The Police and Fire Commission also will be processing the next candidate for firefighter/paramedic from our current list. This list expires early next year and it is anticipated that a new test will be administered in the near future.

The Schiller Park Fire Department received from the Department of Defense the Patriot Employer Award for our commitment to the troops and in particular our support of FF/Pm Jeremy Solana who has been deployed twice with the U.S. Army in the past year. Director Deegan accepted the award on behalf of the Department. The award was presented at the November 22<sup>nd</sup> village Board meeting. (See accompanying photo).

Our Congratulations to a number of fire department members in the Division. First to Chief Tierney on his retirement after 30 years in Broadview. Our second set of congratulations goes to Lt. Koy and Lt. Erlewein who were promoted in Norwood Park after the retirements of Cmdr. Carpino and Cmdr. Stec.

The Foreign Fire Insurance Fund meeting met in November and approved several purchases. These included additional safety lighting for 4-5-4, a flow kit for testing our pumpers and audio-visuals aids.

Director Deegan is also in the process of re-aligning the shifts and

implementing the Bureau system. More information will be available in our next issue.

Director Deegan also has assigned different vehicles and rooms to each shift as part of their daily maintenance.

We also have received information from the Radak family indicating that they have set up a scholarship in Robert Radak's name. Donations can be made through Leyden High School with a note that it is for the Robert Radak Scholarship Fund. Bob was the Police Chief and Director for several years before falling ill.

John Komorowski from the Building Department has asked that if a heating complaint comes in after normal business hours to contact him via his cell phone. He will follow up on all complaints.

We also have heard that former member Adam Khuelman recently had a seizure. He is reported at home and has not returned to work with the Chicago Fire Department.

We have had all of our radios narrow banded this past month to comply with the FCC regulations and to also open up band width. Lt. Budnik and Lt. Hatcher will also be looking into purchasing our next generation of portable radios.

MABAS Division 20 has re-located some of its resources. These include the movement of DECON 20 to Leyden Fire Protection District and 749 (HAZ MAT 20) to the Norwood Park Fire Protection District.

We have also taken possession of SPRINT emergency phones as part of our emergency operations and management program. Cmdr. Leiser will be working on policies and procedures for their use and distribution.

We are also looking at getting voluntary compliance with numbering or lettering the stairways in our multi-story buildings. This would aid residents and firefighters in identifying the fire attack and evacuation stairways.

Another project is to identify which elevators our stretchers can be accommodated in by placing a Star of Life on the elevator(s) that we can get our stretcher into. A blue bar under the Star of Life will indicate that the stretcher can be fully vertical in the elevator.

## 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:

The Knox box key on 4-5-5 was replaced after it broken in a Knox Box. When opening the boxes do not force the key or use it as leverage.

Lt. Budnik has purchased new batteries for the HT 1000 radios and also revised our charging procedures for the batteries to extend their life span.

A new sump pump was also installed by members of both public works and the fire department.

Public Works also helped clean out the triple basin in the firehouse on the apparatus floor.

FF/PM Bertoncini has been repairing several of our SCBA's that either failed or were damaged in recent incidents.

A new door coiled cord and switch were replaced on the middle bay door this past month. The door was stuck in the up position. The cause according to technicians was a pinched cord that shorted itself out.

The passenger side door on 453 was also repaired this past month.

Lt. Budnik also has obtained a new battery for our thermal imaging camera. This replaces the one no longer holding a charge.

We obtained a new phone charger to replace the missing one on tower ladder 454.

Lt. Cesaretti and Lt. Hatcher are working on the pre-emption system in town. They documented 5 devices that were not working. Both Meade electric and H&H electric are working on repairing the affected intersections.

Lt. Hatcher attended a STARCOM seminar and we will now be participating in the monthly drills with this state issued radio on Tuesdays.

We have received the go ahead with getting the plumbing done on the second floor for our bathroom and laundry room. Lt. Cesaretti and FF/PM Bertoncini will spearhead this project. A punch list and timeline will be developed for shift participation and cooperation. The demolition will begin January 9<sup>th</sup> and the rough plumbing will begin on January 12<sup>th</sup>.

We also were able to replace our fax machine which no longer was printing out faxes nor receiving them.

If you would like to view all completed reports for each division of our department, training, EMS, inspections, station maintenance, vehicle maintenance and public education can be found in the Chief's Monthly Report posted on the board and submitted to the Village Board.

## EMS Coord. Briefs

**J**ust an update on activities within the bureau...

When replacing our "H" tanks for oxygen use wipe off the chalk marks that indicate FULL when they are placed in the cage. Re-mark them Empty with chalk. This will eliminate

the problems of looking at them and determining if they are full or empty. We will look into purchasing a portable gauge so that the tanks do not have to be dragged to the ambulance and hooked up to see if they are FULL.

Please remember that any unused or empty controlled substance vials must be brought into the hospitals for them to replace. If you have any questions or concerns, please see EMSD Nosek.

Please consult the FYI's on the EMS Clipboard in the kitchen for complete info and updates.

## Other EMS bits...

This past month we found that the pelican drug box on 462 had a broken latch. EMSC Nosek ordered the new latch for the repair. The new latch was installed by members.

Ambulance 462 went out for front end alignment and for play in the drive shaft. Both concerns were taken care of.

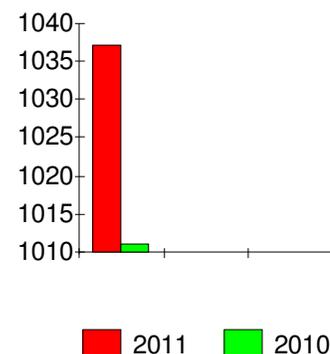
We are in the preliminary stages of getting information on a possible replacement ambulance. EMSC Nosek will keep all members informed and begin the committee process soon. We intend to have this vehicle delivered by mid 2012.

Please refer to the clipboard in the kitchen for any new updates in the Bureau.

During the past month personnel responded to 93 emergency calls. A total of 81 patients were encountered. 68 patients were transported to area hospitals. 49 patients required Advanced Life Support care.

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
Total Responses	1130	1085
Cardiac	100	97
Medical Emergency	593	544
Accidents/Trauma	211	289
Fire Responses	182	137
False Alarm/Standby	16	19
Mut. Aid to SHPK	34	25
SHPK to others	49	113

## 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 Director Deegan, Cmdr. Chiodo or FF/PM Bertoncini.

We have obtained approval for the rough plumbing to be done for the unisex bathroom and laundry room. Lt. Cesaretti will coordinate this with FF/PM Bertoncini and the shifts. Members will begin the demolition work on January 9<sup>th</sup> followed by the plumbers on January 12<sup>th</sup>.

We may do this project in two parts as funds permit.

What's in the works? –

- clean loft
- more emergency lights on 454
- Second circuit for electric in office

- Deep cleaning of all the rooms
- Creating a laundry room
- Completing the deck
- New lights at station 2
- re-do firehouse rear entrance
- Additional outlets at station 2
- Emergency phone outside sta. 2
- mount patches around kitchen
- paint apparatus floor border
- Paint tool room floor
- Install window in TV. Room
- Paint sta.2 floor
- Door and jam simulator
- sprinkler simulator
- Sta. 2 classroom
- Man station 2
- re-direct second exit stairway
- New high-rise load packing tool
- New LED lighting for front of firehouse
- re align staff offices
- fully sprinkler the firehouse
- prevent hose tower from flooding

## Trivia

### *Answer to last month's Trivia*

### **November Trivia**

What is the difference between a wye and a Siamese?

A Wye merges two or more lines into one, whereas a Siamese splits one line into more lines.

Only one correct answer was submitted by Chief Belmonte (ret.) Westchester.

## **December Trivia**

What did a 16 rib fire helmet signify?

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.

Cmdr. Leiser is working on a training schedule for the New Year. If you have any ideas or training suggestions please see him.

I have received a DVD training simulator where we can use pictures of buildings in town and I will be able to set up different scenarios.

We will be looking to complete the quarterly training for each shift. Please remember to fill out these forms.

I am looking into the possibility of hosting some State Fire Marshal classes including technical rescue and fire apparatus engineer. I will notify personnel if openings occur.

I am planning on having a refresher class for FAE in the near future.

We will also have in the next month Fire Service Vehicle Operator class (FSVO), Polaris ATV mandatory training and METRA training.

I 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.

I have also obtained railroad ties for training in using different techniques for cutting, i.e. chopping with axes, mauls, saws. They are located behind the firehouse.

This past month we had Lt. Hatcher and FF/PM Swiontek attend a Haz-Mat Division 20 monthly training.

Cmdr. Leiser attended the Training and Safety officer monthly meeting.

FF/PM Swiontek and FF/PM Leiser attended the Fire Investigator monthly meeting.

Lt. Hatcher attended the StarCom21 radio training seminar.

Lt. Budnik attended the EMS Advisors course held in Schiller Park and sponsored by Division 20.

The OSFM has also created its latest flow charts for certifications through their office. A copy is posted in the kitchen.

Members completed 302 hours of training for the month with 30 training drills. This includes outside classes. Our Paid On Call had 4 meetings for 22 hours.

The second Thursday of each month the State Fire Marshal has a testing site at Triton College. They have also instituted a new policy of a government issued picture ID at the test site. If you cannot produce one you will not be allowed in. Likewise they are requesting that all phones be left in the test takers car to help with the integrity of the test (too many camera phones).If you would like to sign up see Cmdr. Leiser.

Please remember to fill an Outside Training Form 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.

Remember signing up for tests is considered a Duty Assignment for being there. If you cannot attend see me in advance and provide a written response for the absence.

# Employee of the Month

This month we nominate and acknowledge as our Employees of the Month PM Paukert, Lt. Budnik and Lt. Hatcher and EMSC Nosek.

Pm Paukert was instrumental in helping the Firefighters Association in their annual Christmas party. PM Paukert assisted as one of Santa's helpers and greeted the children of the department. He also listened as the members who were good boys and girls gave Santa their Christmas wishes.

Lt. Budnik and Lt. Hatcher worked with all of our radios in coordinating that they all became narrow band compliant. This included all mobile and portable radios. They spent an entire day at NORCOMM as the transition took place.

Lastly, EMSC Nosek who taught the three day seminar for all the EMS Advisors in the division. Rick reviewed the plans for EMS, Re-Hab and the roles and responsibilities of the EMS Advisor on the BOX Alarm responses. He emphasized that these same principles should be in play on EMS incidents in all our communities whether or not it is at the Box Card level.

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 Cmdr. Chiodo.

## Fire Prevention

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

Members are in the process of working on their 2011 inspections. Each shift received approximately 1/3

of the inspections or about 150 per shift. The inspections are rotated so that over a three year period each shift should have the opportunity to enter all the businesses. We are in the process of finishing those assigned to each shift and completing the re-inspections.

Please remember on emergency numbers forms to circle which shift the inspection is assigned to. That way it can go in the correct file and may save a re-inspection trip if that was all they required.

I am reviewing several new businesses in town. We have several major projects that are in the works. These include a new addition to the library and a new bank. The new Chase Bank Branch plans on opening soon after the New Year. This will be followed by a new Aldi's being built and occupying the former Chase site. A new eatery is also planned for the old Brown's Chicken.

When you bring back your fire inspections, make a copy of the pre-plan forms and submit to FF/PM Bubis. Tim is working on a computer fire prevention pre-plan that incorporates the information we bring back. He is CAD drawing the diagrams with the information. He is also using satellite imagery in each of the files. This process will take a year of more to import, drawn and download to our laptops. If you are interested in helping Tim, please see him.

For newer members once a class for Fire Prevention opens up you will be enrolled as part of your hiring process.

If you are interested in any of the plan review in the Fire Prevention office please see me. I 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 Cmdr. Maher.

We are also suggesting and strongly

recommending that sprinkler and standpipe connections be converted to stortz fittings. Please consult with Cmdr. Maher.

The State Fire Marshal is instituting a new certification program Inspector I. Cmdr. Leiser is looking into the program if this should replace the Fire Prevention Principles now required of all probationary members. Cmdr.'s Leiser and Maher will advise those needing the class when it is available.

## Notes

Several notes were received for the fire department this past month.

Thanks to all the members who helped out with the Santa house. This includes the shift that helped set up and the shift that stood by and stoked the bon fire.

Two youngsters wrote us a note thanking the firefighters for letting him and his sister visit the firehouse.

## Public Affairs

### *Saving Lives Through Education*

We have been very pro-active in Public Education during the past month.

FF/PM LiRosi now has a voicemail for Public Education. If any calls come in please forward to his voicemail.

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.

## Schiller Park Fire Fighters Association

The Association had its annual Christmas party on December 4<sup>th</sup>. Members and their families were

treated to a fine meal and a visit from Santa Claus.

Members are in the process of finalizing the amount that will be donated to the Cancel Fund raising. We hope to have the final numbers by our next issue.

Your 2012 Association dues are to be paid by January 1, 2012. Payments can be made to any of the Association officers. Late fees are in place for those not paying on time. A receipt will be issued to you.

With FF/PM LiRosi going on short term disability FF/PM Niemand will take over and collect \$60 per member for the house fund. This fund is what pays for all the common food items. For a listing of items or purchases see Adam. He will not buy any new supplies until all members are paid up.

Thanks to all the members who donated Food and Toys to the Leyden Family Services Food and Toy drive.

Members also donated to the Salvation Army Angel Tree with gifts for families.

Please support the Association in fundraising with our pop machine and M&M machine in the kitchen.

Members have created our own website, [www.schillerparkfa.org](http://www.schillerparkfa.org) for members and visitors who want to know more about the Association or its charities.

The Association received a piece of scrap metal from the World Trade Center. The Association presented it during the 9/11 Memorial after the Car Show.

## Retiree Row

Cmdr. Chiodo had the opportunity to see Lt. Knuth (ret.) at the Wisconsin Dells where both their sons played in a Hockey Tournament. The boys play

for two different teams and happen to both be at the same tournament but in different age groups and divisions.

Lt. Knuth then visited the firehouse with his children when his son had a hockey game in Franklin Park. He wanted to show his kids where dad worked as they were too young to appreciate their dad's vocation when he worked here.

December 16<sup>th</sup> saw a visit by FF/PM Shields (ret. Disability) who visited and dropped off cookies for all three shifts. Chris had coffee with Gold shift and met many new faces who were all hired after he left in 2004.

## Stork Report/ Announcements

FF/PM Collette Hudacek continues with her pregnancy and continues to work. She is expecting in early February 2012. Congratulations!

Any word on the horizon please drop us a note.

## And Finally...

If only we could put some of the Christmas spirit in jars and open a jar every month.

## Deadlines

The deadline for the next issue of the *Booster Line* will be 8:00 A.M.

January 7<sup>th</sup>. Please submit all materials, articles, ideas and photos to the *Booster Line* c/o Cmdr. Chiodo at [pchiodo@villageofschillerpark.com](mailto:pchiodo@villageofschillerpark.com)

*The Booster Line is published monthly on or about the 15<sup>th</sup>. All articles and suggestions are welcome. The Editor, Peter Chiodo, reserves the right to edit based on content and space availability.*

Pictures:

Page 7 – Director Deegan receives the Patriot Award from the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve a Department of Defense organization. Director Deegan is flanked on his right by Michael Holub representing the DOD and Sgt. Jeremy Solana who is also a Firefighter / Paramedic on the Schiller Park Fire Department.

Page 8- Photo Courtesy of Cmdr. Leiser

Fire fighter / Paramedic Adam Niemand (#64) our newest firefighter and current "rookie". Here he is in his dress uniform and Fire Department recruiting poster pose. Doesn't he look like a Marine ready for battle?