



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

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**To:** Community Safety Committee **Date:** October 4, 2013  
**From:** John McGowan **File:** 09-5000-01/2012-Vol  
Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue 01  
**Re:** Richmond Fire-Rescue – August 2013 Activity Report

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### Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled Richmond Fire-Rescue – August 2013 Activity Report, dated October 4, 2013, from the Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue, be received for information.

John McGowan  
Fire Chief  
(604-303-2734)

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER 	
REVIEWED BY DIRECTORS	INITIALS: DW
APPROVED BY CAO 	

**Staff Report**

**Origin**

The purpose of this report is to keep Council informed on matters pertaining to public safety services in the community of Richmond.

This report supports Council Term Goal #1: *to ensure Richmond remains a safe and desirable community to live, work and play in, through the delivery of effective public safety services that are targeted to the City's specific needs and priorities.*

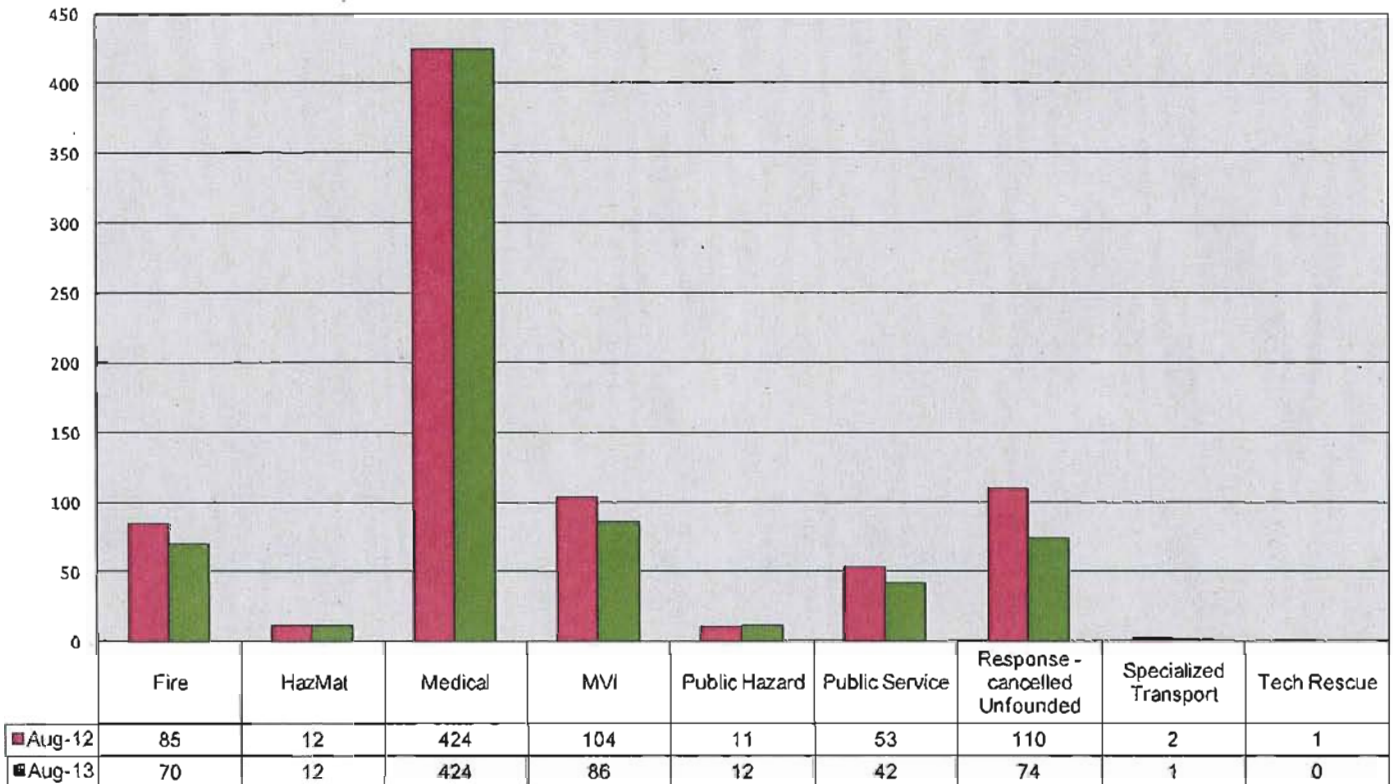
**Analysis**

Richmond Fire-Rescue's report for August 2013 is set out below.

**Suppression Activity**

The following chart provides a month to month comparison of the number of incidents that occurred in August 2012 and August 2013. In August 2013 there were a total of 845 incidents, compared to 901 in August 2012. This represents a decrease of 6.2%. Analysis of the events did not provide any significant reason for this decrease.

**August 2012 & 2013 Calls for Service Volumes**

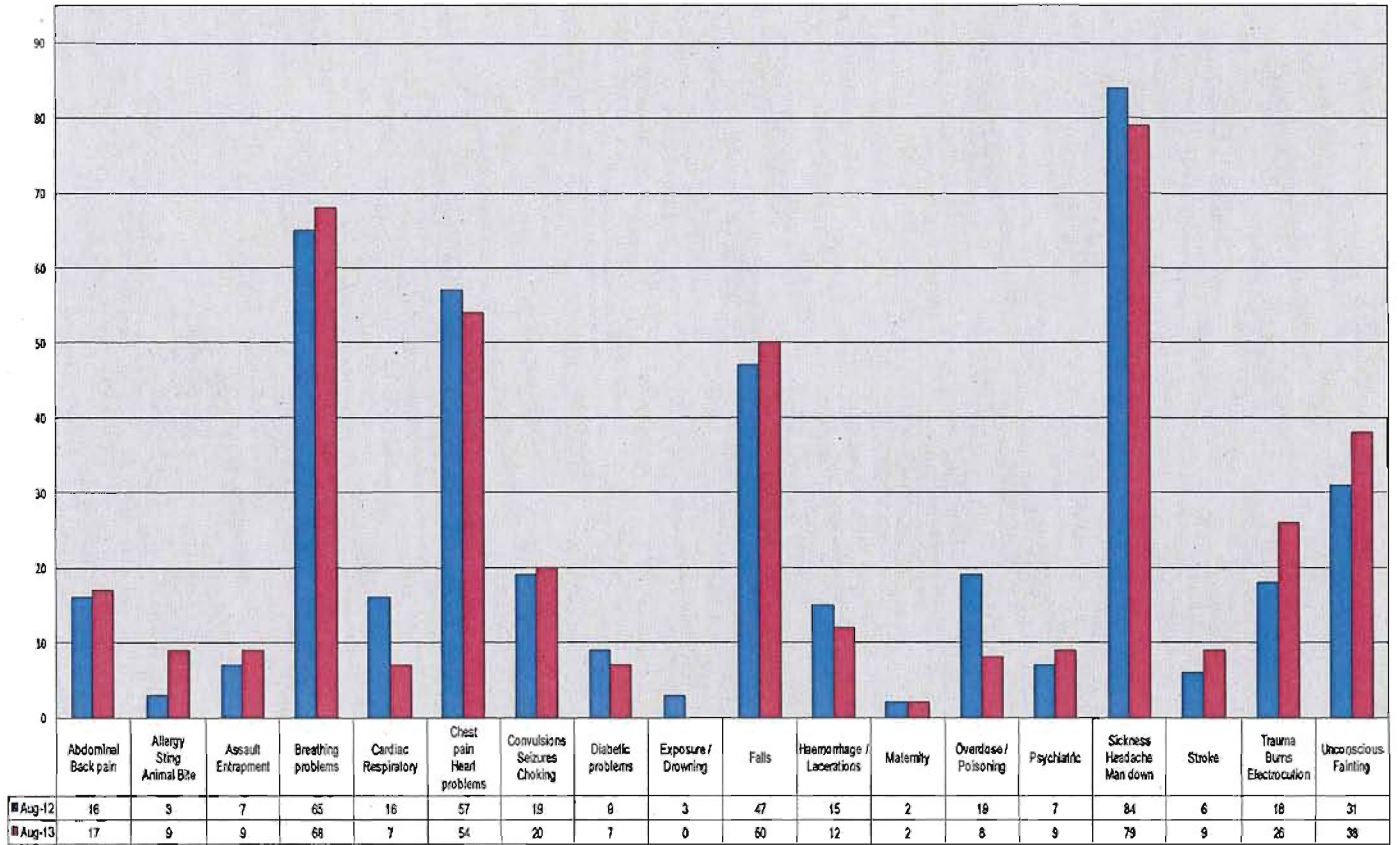


**Call Type Legend:**  
*Alarm Active/No Fire* includes: accidental, malicious, equipment malfunctions  
*HazMat*: includes fuel or vapour; spills, leaks, or containment  
*Medical* includes: cardiac arrest, emergency response, home or industrial accidents  
*Public Hazard* includes: aircraft emergency, bomb removal standby, object removal, or power lines down  
*Public Service* includes: assisting public, ambulance or police, locked in/out, special events, trapped in elevator, water removal

**First Responder Totals**

Medical calls comprise 50.2% of total calls for RFR. A detailed breakdown of the medical calls for August 2012 and August 2013 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 424 medical calls in August 2013 and August 2012.

August 2012 & 2013 Medical Calls by Type



**Incidents**

Notable emergency incidents which involved RFR for August 2013 were:

Medical

In August, an RFR crew responded to a call of an imminent child birth. When they arrived the mother had the baby boy in her arms beside the bed. RFR crew members provided blankets for the child and then assisted BC Ambulance Service with patient care. The baby boy and mother are both very healthy and doing well.

RFR crew responded to a male who was stuck inside the box of his panel truck with his hand caught in the springs of its roll up door. RFR crews spread the side of the door to expose the rollers and facilitate the release of the springs to release the patient’s hand. RFR crews provided medical attention to the patient.

### Motor Vehicle Incidents (MVI)

A patient extrication from a vehicle was carried out on Westminster Highway by RFR crews. A vehicle had driven into the side of a cement truck at the intersection northbound on of Westminster and Garden City Road. Hydraulic cutters were used to remove the passenger side rear door to assist in the removal of the patient. RFR crews removed the patient and a C-spine was applied.

A single vehicle roll over with driver trapped southbound on Railway Avenue. RFR crews secured and stabilized the car. The patient was then extricated through the passenger side door.

RFR crews attended to a semi rollover on the Highway 91A on ramp. On arrival a semi truck and trailer were laying on the driver's side. BCAS was on scene treating the driver of the truck. No other vehicles were involved. RFR crews secured the scene and ensured the cargo posed no hazards. Antifreeze and oil that had leaked from the vehicle created a hazard on the road and RFR crews mitigated this by using Absorbal.

### Fires – Residential / Commercial / Outdoor

In August, RFR crews were called to a residential structure fire in a townhouse complex on No 3 Road. On arrival, the roof of the townhouse was engulfed in fire. RFR crews secured the surrounding roads and proceeded to attack the fire and control the spread of the fire. Multiple agencies were called to attend the fire including Fortis Gas and BC Hydro to secure the gas and electricity. Two occupants of a nearby unit were sent to hospital for smoke inhalation and burns. The cause of this fire was found to be accidental. In an attempt to control a hornet infestation, the occupant had used a product which had leaked onto an energized bug-zapper racket, causing an immediate ignition of the paper-based blown-in insulation. The fire had then spread through the attic to other areas of the top floor of the townhouse, which affected the connecting unit.

RFR crews responded to a bus on fire that was parked in the north parking lot at YVR. The driver heard a noise just after he fuelled up. He saw flames coming from the engine and used his extinguisher to attempt to put it out, but was unable to. RFR crews arrived and through a combined effort the fire was struck.

RFR crews arrived on scene of a heavy machinery storage yard, where a single dump truck was on fire. The fire was contained to the vehicle cab and hydraulic lines to the rear of the cab. RFR crews mitigated the fire by using 150 gallons of Cold Fire foam.

During August there were several incidents of outdoor fires including: a Travel Trailer which resulted in a fence and debris on fire on Charles Street; a dumpster fire on Westminster Hwy; a fence fire on Anaheim Drive; a planter on a balcony fire on Garry St; a wild land fire on Alexandra Road; a Hydro pole fire on Finn Road and a garbage can fire located on Williams Road. There were also 3 small bark mulch fires and 2 backyard-burning complaints reported.

For August 2013, the estimated total Fire Loss was \$302,650. This includes \$251,000 for building loss and \$51,650 for content loss. The total building and content value at risk was \$61,627,100, and the total value preserved was \$61,324,450. These numbers translate to 99.5% of value protected.

<b>Fire Calls By Type and Loss Estimates – August</b>						
<b>Incident Type Breakdown</b>	<b>Call Volume</b>	<b>Estimated Building Value \$</b>	<b>Estimated Building Loss \$</b>	<b>Estimated Content Value \$</b>	<b>Estimated Content Loss \$</b>	<b>Estimated Total Value Preserved \$</b>
Residential:	3	400,000	0	40,000	50	439,950
- Single-family	9	44,300,000	250,200	14,074,000	51,500	58,072,300
- Multi-family						
Commercial/Industrial	1	1,500,000	0	500,000	100	1,999,900
Fire – Outdoor	53	513,100	800	300,000	0	812,300
Vehicle	4	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals*</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>46,713,100</b>	<b>251,000</b>	<b>14,914,000</b>	<b>51,650</b>	<b>61,324,450</b>

\*The dollar losses shown in this table are preliminary estimates. They are derived from RFR's record management system and are subject to change due to delays in reporting and confirmation of actual losses from private insurance agencies (as available).

The fire investigation statistics for August 2013 are listed below:

<b>Total Fire Investigation Statistics – August</b>			
	<b>Suspicious</b>	<b>Accidental</b>	<b>Undetermined</b>
Residential - Single-family	1	2	-
Residential - Multi-family	2	6	1
Commercial/Industrial	-	1	-
Fire – Outdoor	18	19	16
Vehicle	-	3	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>18</b>

### HazMat

In August, crews were dispatched to assist the RCMP at a Meth Lab. RFR provided fire protection and decontamination to the RCMP members inside the house. This call lasted for two days and included multiple shifts.

Crews also responded to a report of a gas smell coming from neighbour's house. On arrival RFR crews checked the house and found very little smell. The investigation determined that the smell was coming from a neighbour's shed where an unconscious adult female was found not breathing. The patient was removed from the scene and CPR treatment was provided but to no avail. The smell was caused by two substances mixed together which had created a toxic gas.

All other HazMat calls for August were relatively minor, quickly mitigated, and did not require any long-term HazMat team deployment.

<b>HazMat Calls By Type – August</b>	
<b>HazMat Calls</b>	<b>Details</b>
Natural Gas/Propane Leaks (small)	5
Flammable/Combustible Liquids	4
Misc. (empty containers to unknown powder)	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>

### **Training and Education**

During August 24 members were trained in Technical Water Rescue on the Fraser River and 23 members were trained in Technical High Angle Rope Rescue by securing an appropriate training site within Richmond.

### **Community Relations / Public Education**

Richmond Fire-Rescue participated in events and activities for public education during August 2013. The events were as follows:

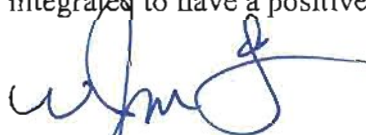
- 32 car seat inspections at Fire Hall No.1
- Pumper visits for: *Real Life Super Heroes at South Arm, East Richmond Community Association, Outdoor Movie Night, 2013 Stroll for Liver, London Family Farm Day, The Arts Connection and the CEFA Richmond Junior Kindergarten.*
- A Safety and training event for the *Richmond Centre for Disabilities Safety Presentation.*
- Special Events: *Wellness Health and More (WHAM) Fair and the 10th Annual Maritime Festival.*

### **Financial Impact**

None

### **Conclusion**

Richmond Fire-Rescue continues to deliver services and programs through an approach balancing prevention, education and emergency response. This direction is based on the belief that prevention, education and emergency response programs must be well established and integrated to have a positive impact on community safety.



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Fire Chief  
(604-303-2734)

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