



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** Community Safety Committee

**Date:** March 5, 2024

**From:** Jim Wishlove  
Fire Chief

**File** 09-5140-01/2024-Vol  
01




**Re:** Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – February 2024

### Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – February 2024”, dated March 5, 2024, from the Fire Chief, be received for information.

Jim Wishlove  
Fire Chief  
(604-303-2715)

Att. 1

<b>REPORT CONCURRENCE</b>	
<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b> 	
<b>SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW</b>	<b>INITIALS:</b> 
<b>APPROVED BY CAO</b> 	

## Staff Report

### Origin

This monthly report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #3, A Safe and Prepared Community:

*Community safety and preparedness through effective planning, strategic partnerships and proactive programs.*

### Analysis

#### Emergency Programs

During the month of February staff:

- Partnered with local regional partners in drafting the FIFA 2026 safety and security plan. During this session, multiple agencies and municipalities drafted response and mitigation options to prepare for the upcoming FIFA soccer tournament. Richmond Fire-Rescue (RFR) is one of many agencies who are participating in the development of a regional plan for FIFA 2026.
- Partnered with the Canadian Red Cross (CRC) on a group lodging training session in the training session culminated with a group lodging exercise conducted during a simulated evacuation event.
- Provided an in-person introduction to Emergency Management to 15 community youth as part of the Youth Civic Engagement Program.

#### Public Outreach & Education

In February 2024, staff facilitated outreach events to provide educational opportunities to the community, including fire hall and vehicle tours for five organizations. Additionally, staff continued with educational social media videos and posts throughout February.

#### Internal Staff Training

In February 2024, staff organized in-house training events including: Fire Service Leadership Level II, Incident Command Systems levels 100 and 200, First Responder Scope of Practice updates and ongoing recruit training evaluations.

**Emergency Response**

One of the City’s emergency response goals is to arrive on-scene, in time and with enough resources to contain a fire to the room of origin. The room of origin standard is especially important in terms of preventing further fire loss and damage, which can be reduced when a fire is contained to the room of origin. Meeting this standard also assists in mitigating loss of life, reduction of property damage and protection of the environment.

In February 2024, there were 1,017 reported incidents of all types, representing an overall increase of 13 per cent in incidents between February 2023 and February 2024 (Table 1).

<b>Table 1: Total Incidents - February 2024</b>					
	<b>Incident Totals February (2024)</b>	<b>Incident Totals February (2023)</b>	<b>Number Change from February 2023 to 2024</b>	<b>Percentage Change from February 2023 to 2024</b>	<b>5 Year Average for February</b>
Active Alarm	168	159	+9	+6	134
Explosion	1	0	+1	+100	0
Fire	37	37	0	0	29
Hazardous Materials	9	9	0	0	10
Medical	544	490	+54	+11	392
Motor Vehicle Incident	87	57	+30	+53	66
Public Hazard	6	15	-9	-60	8
Public Service	99	86	+13	+15	84
Response Cancelled/Unfounded	59	48	+11	+23	47
Specialized Transport	7	3	+4	+133	3
Technical Rescue	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,017</b>	<b>904</b>	<b>+113</b>	<b>+13</b>	<b>774</b>

The average time on scene in February 2024 for emergency response crews was 30 minutes per event, which is lower than the number recorded in February 2023: 31 minutes. The time spent on scene can vary due to the nature and severity of each incident.

In February 2024, there were 37 fire incidents reported to the Office of the Fire Commissioner, this is the same number reported in February 2023. The average number of fires reported each February over the last five years is 29.

Fire damage and property losses during February 2024 are estimated at \$180,941. This total includes \$145,810 for building/asset loss and \$35,131 for content loss. The total building/asset and content value at risk is estimated to be \$15,575,252 and the total value preserved from damage was \$15,394,311. These numbers translate to 99 per cent of value protected (Table 3), which is the same as the value observed in 2023: 99 per cent.

<b>Table 2: Fire Incidents By Type and Loss Estimates - February 2024</b>						
<b>Incident Type Breakdown</b>	<b>Incident Volume</b>	<b>Estimated Building/Asset Value (\$)</b>	<b>Estimated Building/Asset Loss (\$)</b>	<b>Estimated Content Value (\$)</b>	<b>Estimated Content Loss (\$)</b>	<b>Estimated Total Value Preserved (\$)</b>
Residential: Single family	0	-	-	-	-	-
Residential: Multi family	5	1,217,750	4,000	515,261	2,900	1,726,111
Commercial / Industrial	6	11,426,000	10,000	858,250	1,550	12,272,700
Outdoor	25	1,307,310	101,810	681	681	1,205,500
Vehicle/Vessel	1	220,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	190,000
<b>Totals*</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>14,171,060</b>	<b>145,810</b>	<b>1,404,192</b>	<b>35,131</b>	<b>15,394,311</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).

Significant Events

Emergency response crews minimized harm, limited damage and stopped fire spread from the place of origin and performed life-saving interventions in these notable February 2024 incidents:

- **February 6, 2024 – Medical event on Saba Road.** RFR Emergency crews responded to reports of a person who had fallen from a high floor of a building. On arrival crew assisted BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) with patient intervention. There were multiple RCMP and BCEHS crews on scene. The patient was pronounced deceased by BCEHS crews. All attending crews were provided with Critical Incident Stress Debriefing. There were no further reports of injury to the public or staff.
- **February 7, 2024 – Hazardous materials on Westminster Highway.** RFR emergency crews responded to a Hazmat incident on Westminster Highway where a four litre jug of hydrochloric acid had spilled out onto the road. Following guidelines and best practices, crews used water to dilute the spill and mitigate the hazard. There were no reports of injury to the public or staff.
- **February 9, 2024 – Structure fire on Vanguard Way.** RFR emergency crews responded to a tent fire on Vanguard Way. First on scene crews found a homeless encampment beside the Highway 99 overpass. Crews extinguished the burning debris and cooled nearby exposed propane tanks. No persons were found in the area or in the tent. RCMP were on scene in support of RFR emergency crews. Once extinguished, RFR crews proceeded to examine the area’s debris for any further hazards. There were no reports of injury to the public or RFR personnel.

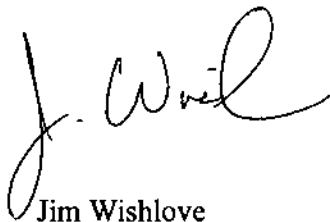
- **February 23, 2024 – Technical Rescue on No.9 Road.** RFR Emergency crews responded to a technical rescue incident on No. 9 Road for a person having a diabetic issue in a confined space. The first in crews were able to remove the patient from the confined space safely. The patient was handed over to onsite BCEHS crews for treatment. There were no other reports of injury to the public or RFR personnel.

**Financial Impact**

None.

**Conclusion**

Richmond Fire-Rescue continues to monitor activities to identify and create public outreach programs to respond to emerging trends and to regularly promote effective prevention behaviours.



Jim Wishlove  
Fire Chief  
(604-303-2715)

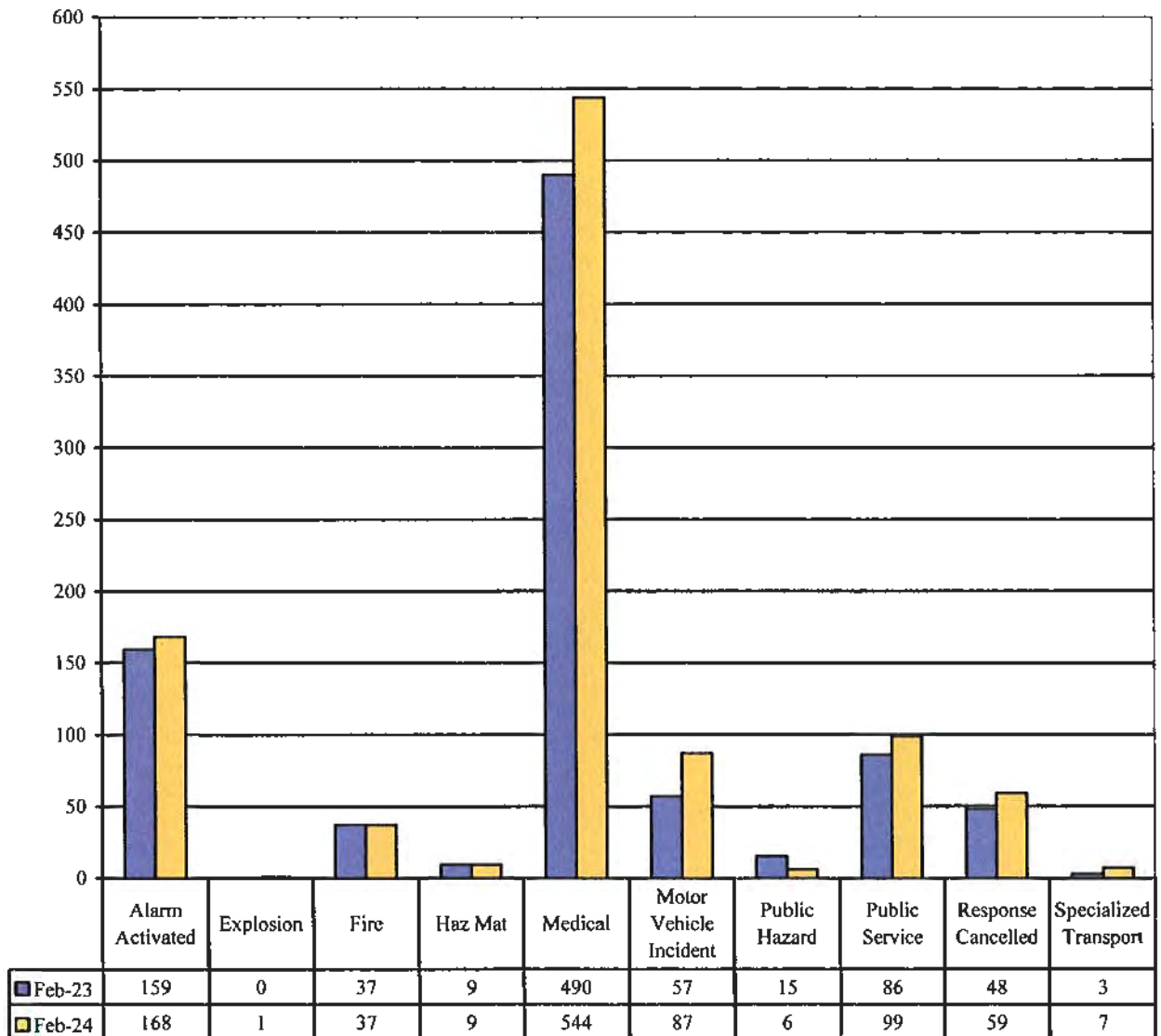
Att. 1: Emergency Response Activity for February 2024.

**Emergency Response Activity for February 2024**

Incident Volumes

The following chart provides a month-to-month comparison regarding incidents occurring in February 2023 and 2024. In February 2024, there were 1,017 total incidents, compared to 904 in February 2023. This represents an overall increase of 13 per cent between last year and 2024.

Table 3: February 2023 & February 2024 Incident Volumes



**Incident Type Legend:**

**HazMat:** includes fuel or vapour, spills, leaks, or containment

**Medical** includes: cardiac arrest, emergency response, home or industrial accidents

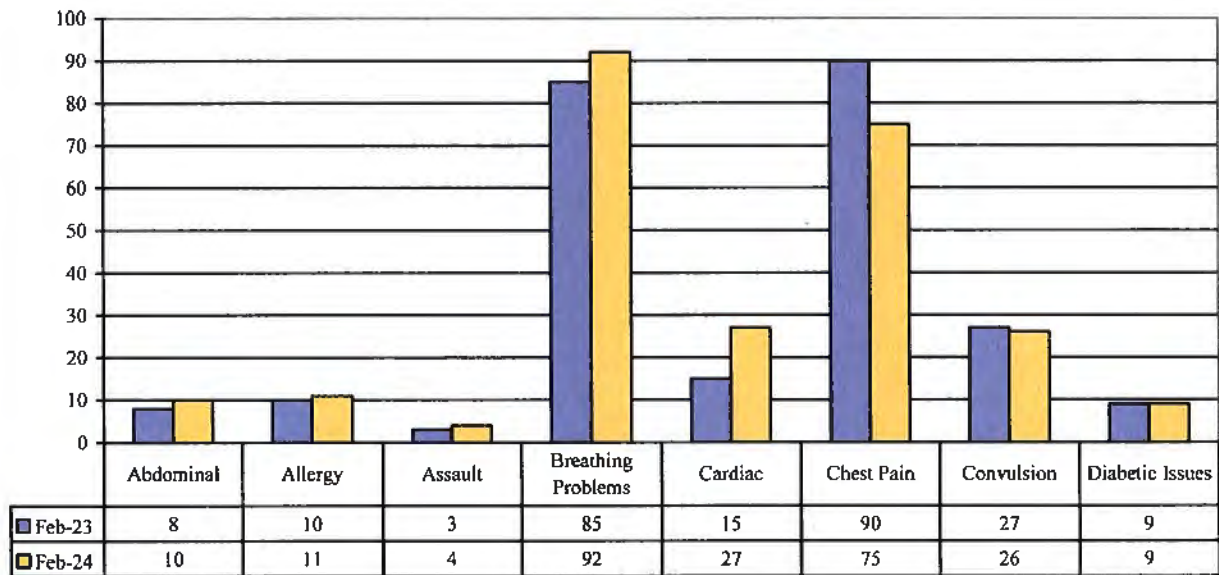
**Public Hazard** includes: aircraft emergency, object removal, or power lines down

**Public Service** includes: assisting public, ambulance or police, locked in/out, special events, trapped in elevator, water removal

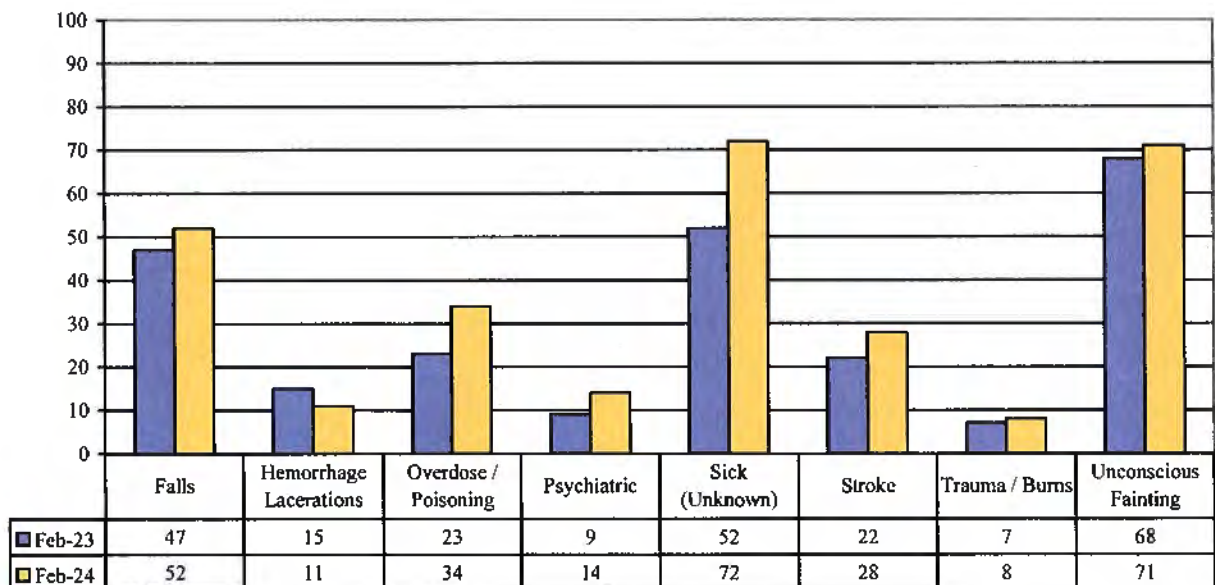
**First Responder Totals**

Medical first responder incidents comprised 53 per cent of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of February 2024. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for February 2023 and 2024 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were 544 medical incidents in February 2024 compared to 490 in February 2023, an increase of 11 per cent.

**Table 4a: February 2023 & February 2024 Medical Calls by Type**



**Table 4b: February 2023 & February 2024 Medical Calls by Type**



The following chart provides the overdose/poisoning incident volume breakdown for February 2024.

<b>Table 4c: Overdose / Poisoning Incidents By Type – February 2024</b>	
Opioid overdose incidents that RFR attended located in an OUTDOOR environment.	4
Opioid overdose incidents that RFR attended located in an INDOOR environment.	5
All other OD / Poisoning Incidents	25
<b>Totals</b>	<b>34</b>

#### Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for February 2024 are listed below:

<b>Table 5: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – February 2024</b>			
	<b>Suspicious</b>	<b>Accidental</b>	<b>Undetermined</b>
Residential - Single-family	0	0	0
Residential - Multi-family	0	4	1
Commercial/Industrial	2	3	1
Outdoor	15	6	4
Vehicle	0	1	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>6</b>

Richmond Fire-Rescue investigators report all suspicious fires to the RCMP, while working alongside RCMP staff to address potential risks to the community and coordinate appropriate fire investigations.

#### Hazardous Materials

<b>Table 6: Hazardous Materials Incidents By Type – February 2024</b>	
	<b>Details</b>
Gasses (Natural / Propane)	6
Corrosive	1
Flammable/Combustible Liquids	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>9</b>



The following charts provide total incident volumes for fires and medical incidents on a year-to-year comparison in February from 2015 to 2024.

Table 7a: Total Fire Calls for Service in February from 2015 to 2024

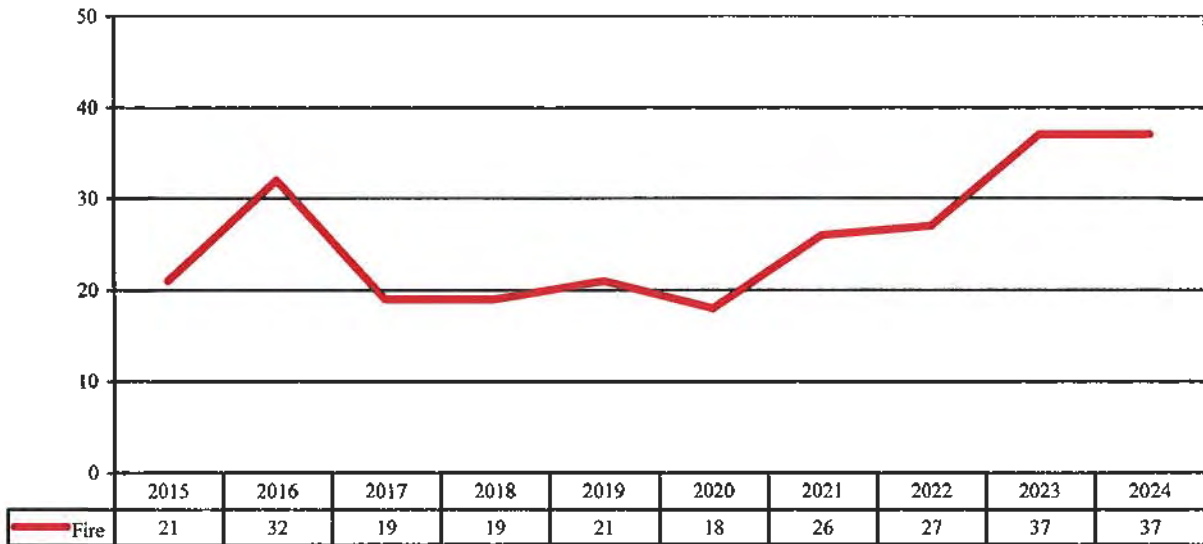


Table 7b: Total Medical Calls for Service in February from 2015 to 2024



Changes to BC Emergency Health Services  
Clinical Response Model dispatch system  
(2017-2018)

Start of Covid-19 pandemic

Figure 1: Location of reportable fire incidents attended in February 2024 (total 37)

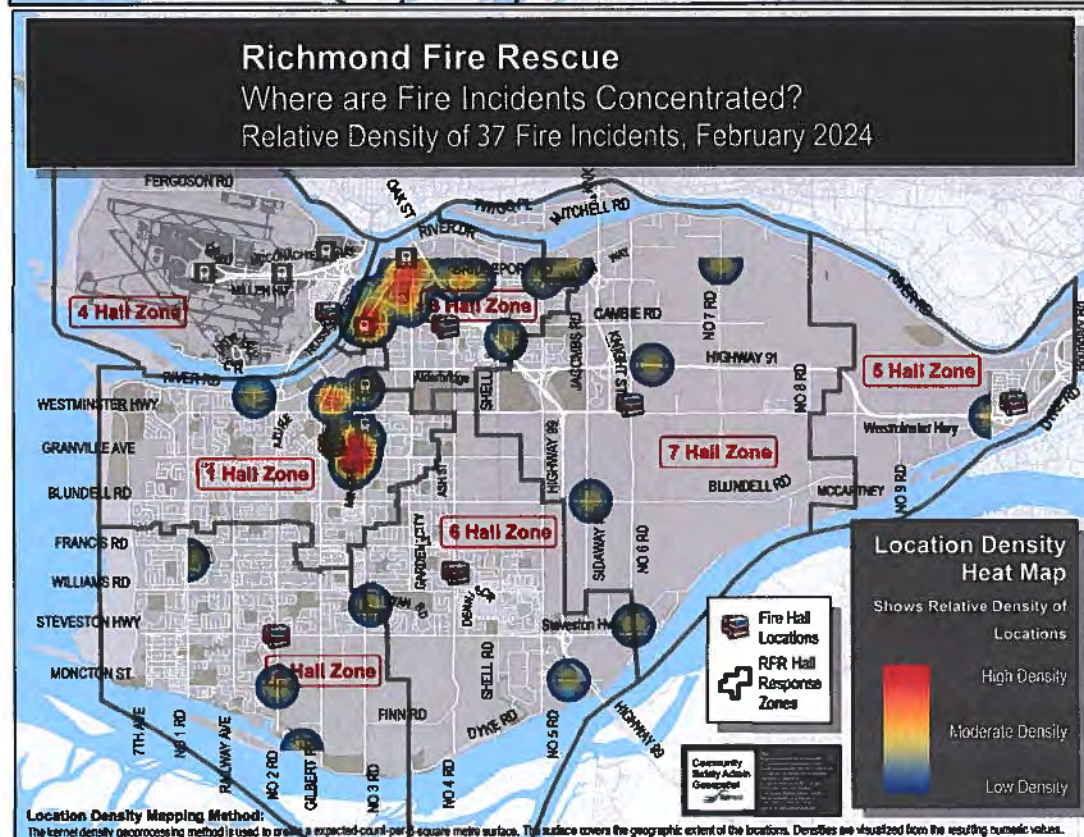
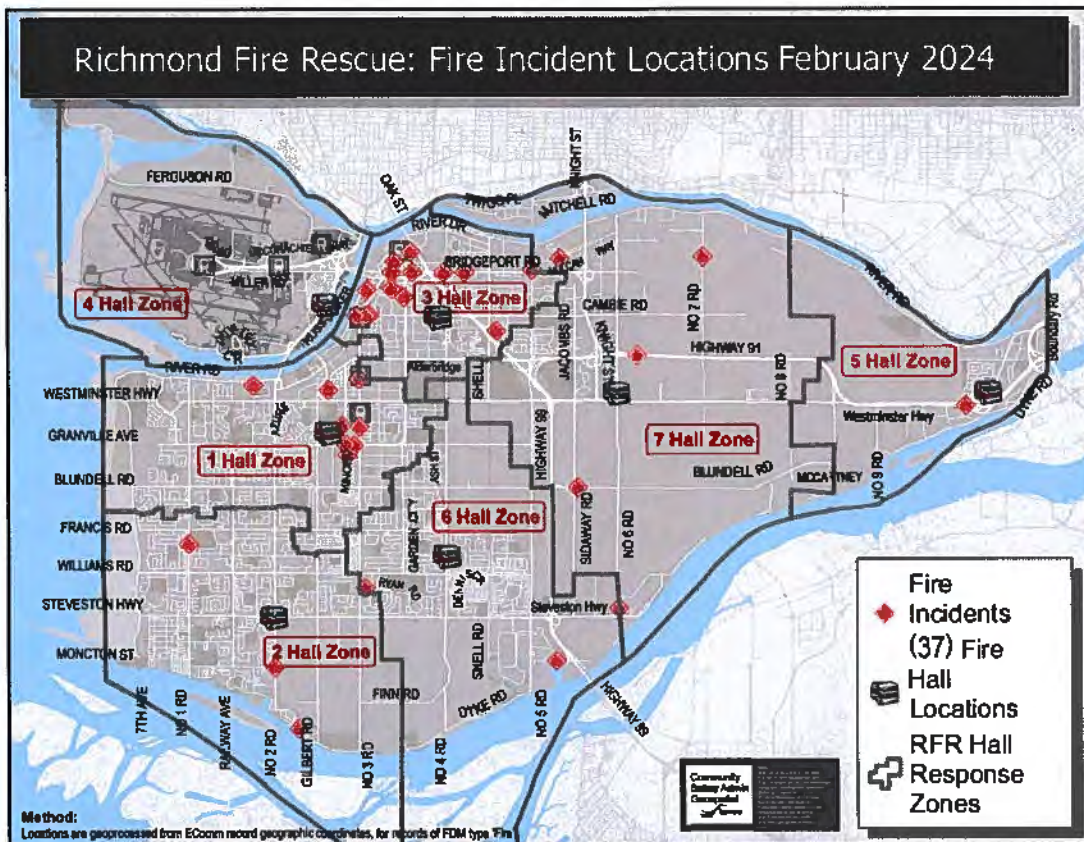


Figure 2: Location of reportable medical incidents attended in February 2024 (total 544)

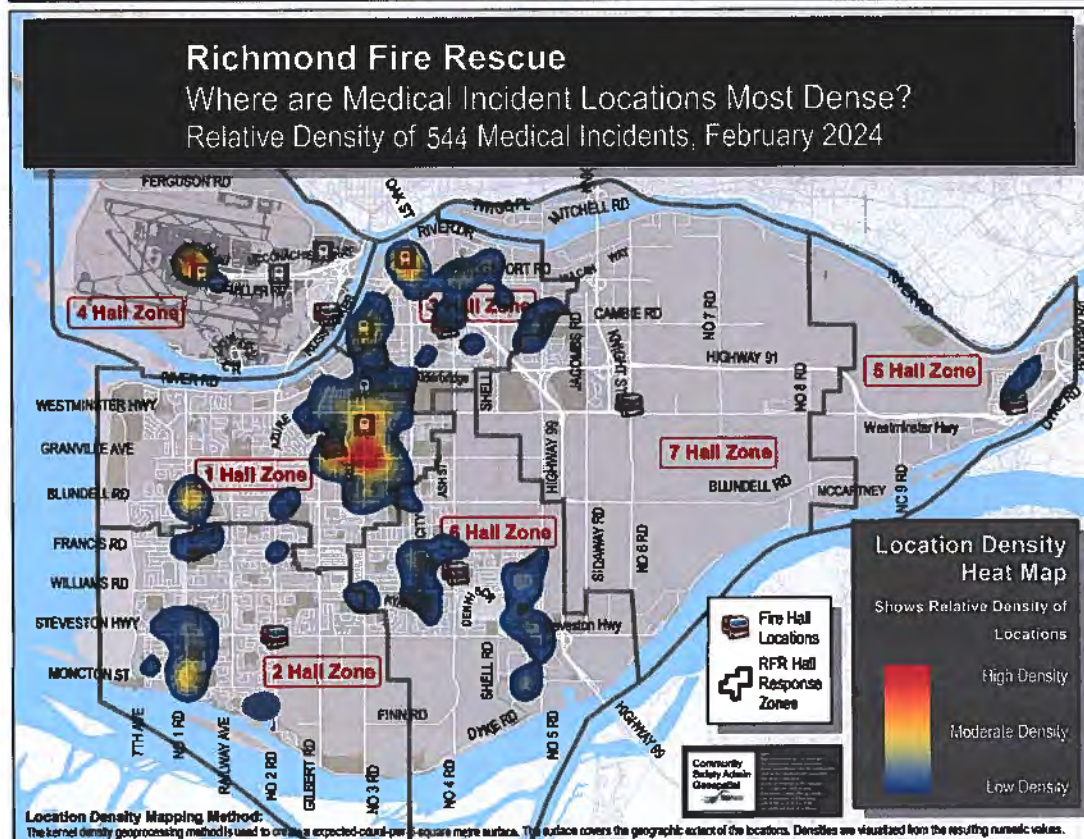
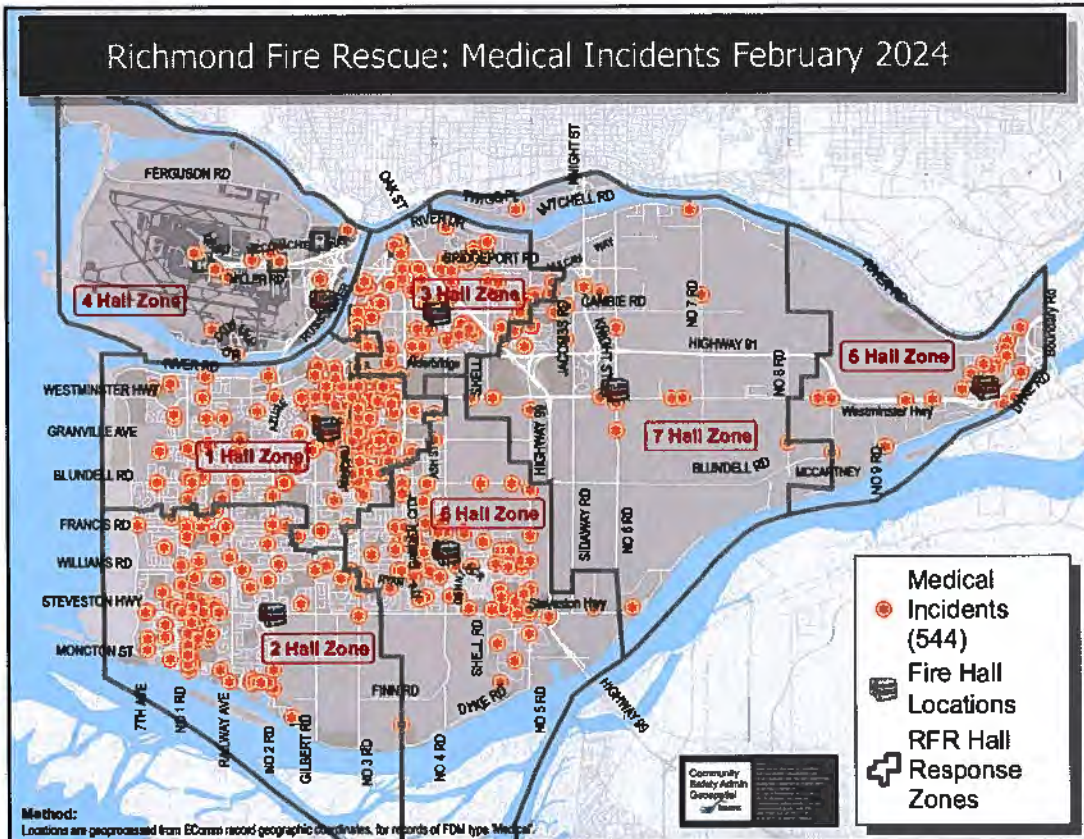


Figure 3: Location of reportable motor vehicle incidents (MVIs) attended in February 2024 (total 87)

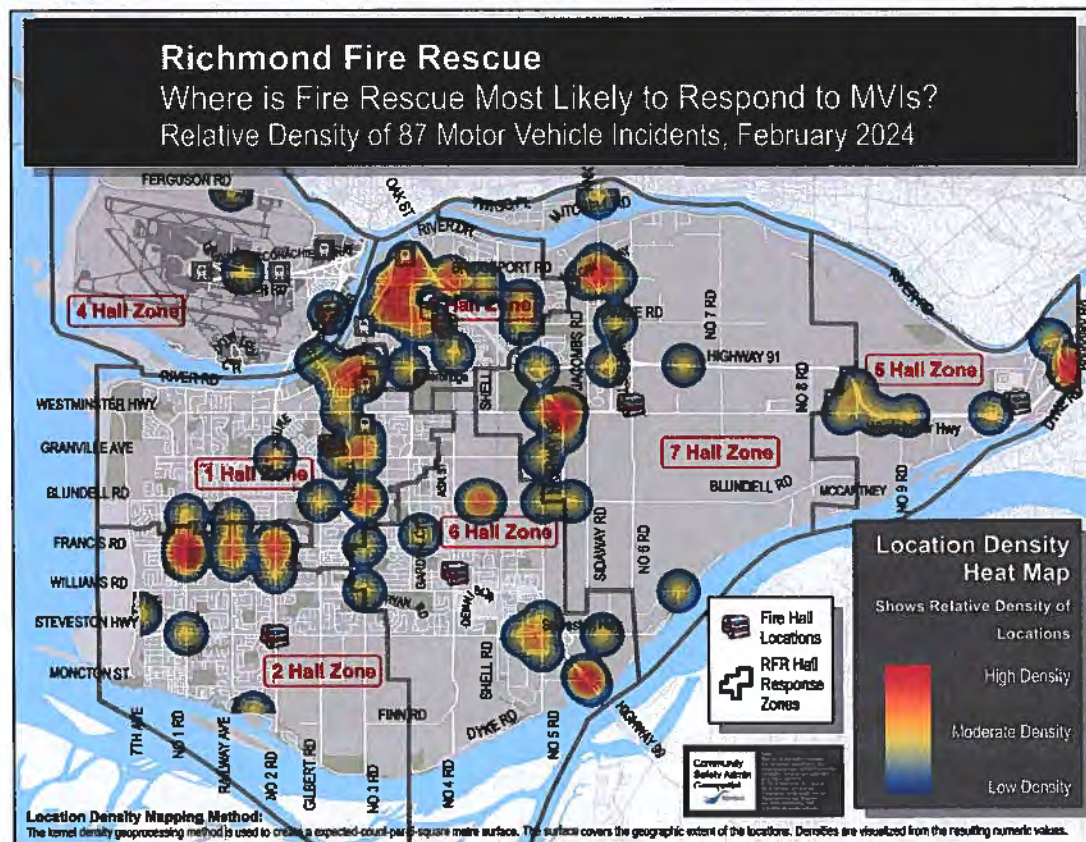
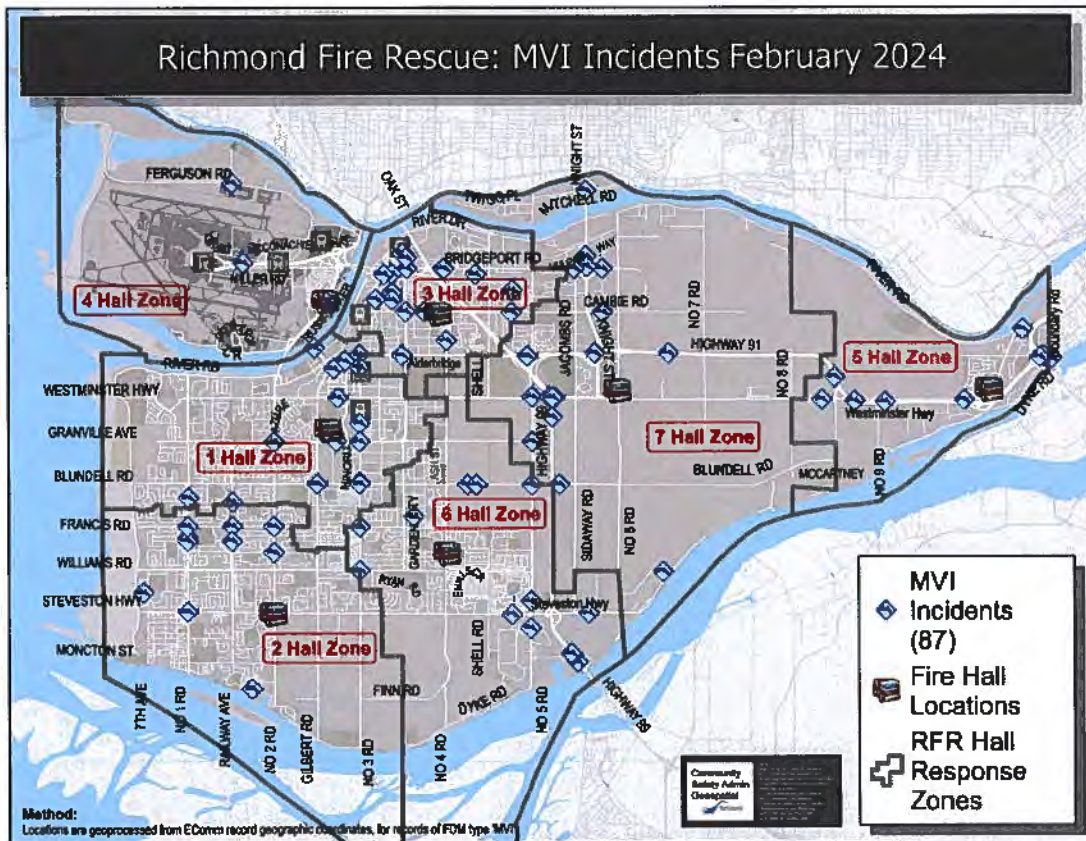


Figure 4: Location of reportable overdose / poisoning incidents attended in February 2024 (Total 34)

