



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee

Date: May 10, 2023

From: Jim Wishlove
Fire Chief

File: 09-5140-01/2023-Vol
01

Re: Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – April 2023

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – April 2023”, dated May 10, 2023, from the Fire Chief, be received for information.

Jim Wishlove
Fire Chief
(604-303-2715)

Att. 1

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS:
APPROVED BY CAO	

Staff Report

Origin

This 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

On April 4, staff facilitated a training session with Canadian Red Cross (CRC) which included 15 Richmond CRC volunteers. The training provided volunteers the access to and use of the Provincial Evacuee Registration Assistance tool, which enables more efficient service delivery and documentation tracking during Emergency Support Service responses.

Public Outreach & Education

In April 2023, staff facilitated outreach events to provide educational opportunities to the community, including hall tours for Cook Elementary and Tomsett Elementary students, SUCCESS, the Girl Guides and Beaver Scout group. A career presentation was provided to students of McMath Secondary School. Staff also participated in large community events for the ICBC Road Safety Day. The annual Burning of the Chametz was again held at the RFR No. 1 Firehall in Brighouse in order to support the management of the burn.

Internal Staff Training

In April 2023, staff delivered in-house fire training, educational activities and programs including Wildland Firefighting, Crane Inspection Training, and Emergency Scene Management for Fire Officers, Fire Leadership II, Fire Service Instructor 1, and Emergency Vehicle Operations.

Staff in Fire Leadership and the RFR Pool Officer group also completed a number of required exams to achieve/maintain their required certifications.

Fire Prevention

During April, staff participated in the Greater Vancouver Fire Chiefs Association's (GVFCA) Food Truck Inspection program. The event, hosted this year by the Surrey Fire Service, was a joint collaboration with more than 30 regulatory personnel in attendance from 16 different jurisdictions, including four members from Technical Safety BC and several municipal fire services.

There were 75 inspections conducted in total, all of which were booked through an online booking tool via the RFR website. The booking system ensured that inspections were scheduled to allow inspectors across jurisdictions to collaborate on the inspections. Positive feedback was received from multiple vendors, who appreciated the convenience of the “one stop shop” inspection approach.

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 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 April 2023, there were 914 reported incidents of all types, representing an overall increase of 17 per cent in incidents from April 2022 to April 2023 (Table 1).

Table 1: Total Incidents - April 2023

	Incident Totals April (2023)	Incident Totals April (2022)	Number Change from April 2022 to 2023	Percentage Change from April 2022 to 2023	5 Year Average for April
Alarm Active - No Fire	149	126	+23	+18	119
Explosion	1	0	+1	+100	0
Fire	30	40	-10	-25	39
Hazardous Materials	2	3	-1	-33	6
Medical	524	422	+102	+24	337
Motor Vehicle Incident	80	63	+17	+27	63
Public Hazard	5	10	-5	-50	8
Public Service	59	89	-30	-34	61
Response Cancelled/Unfounded	63	30	+33	+110	51
Specialized Transport	1	1	0	0	2
Technical Rescue	0	0	0	0	0
Total	914	784	+130	+17	686

The average time on scene in April 2023 for emergency response crews was 30 minutes, which is lower than the number recorded in 2022: 32 minutes. The time spent on scene can vary due to the nature and severity of each incident.

In April 2023, there were 30 fire incidents reported to the Office of the Fire Commissioner, representing a 25 per cent reduction from April 2022. The average number of fires reported each April over the last five years is 39.

Fire damage and property losses during April 2023 are estimated at \$2,700. This total includes \$1,500 for building/asset loss and \$1,200 for content loss. The total building/asset and content value at risk is estimated to be \$23,499,630 and the total value preserved from damage was \$23,518,930. These numbers translate to 99 per cent of value protected (Table 2), which is higher than the value observed in 2022: 97 per cent.

Table 2: Fire Incidents By Type and Loss Estimates - April 2023						
Incident Type Breakdown	Incident Volume	Estimated Building/Asset Value (\$)	Estimated Building/Asset Loss (\$)	Estimated Content Value (\$)	Estimated Content Loss (\$)	Estimated Total Value Preserved (\$)
Residential: Single family	3	1,051,000	-	50	50	1,051,000
Residential: Multi family	3	750,400	1,000	150	150	749,400
Commercial/Industrial	4	19,595,000	-	30	-	19,595,030
Outdoor	18	2,100,500	500	2,500	1,000	2,123,500
Vehicle/Vessel	2	-	-	-	-	-
Totals*	30	23,496,900	1,500	2,730	1,200	23,518,930

* 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 medical interventions in these notable April 2023 incidents:

- April 6, 2023 - Fatality on Blundell Road.** Emergency crews responded to a person located under a tractor on Blundell Road. The arriving crews found a person in cardiac arrest, under a small tractor in a field at the rear of the property. The first in crew was able to pull the person from the tractor and begin CPR. RCMP and BC Emergency Health Services arrived soon after. The person was later pronounced as deceased. While on scene, crews coordinated with the RCMP to secure victim services for the deceased person’s family. There were no reported injuries to others in the public or RFR personnel. All RFR personnel who were in contact with the deceased person were contacted by a Critical Incident Stress Management representative.
- April 10, 2023 – Wildland Fire on Shell Road.** Emergency crews responded to reports of a wildland fire on Shell Road. First on scene reported a fire in a makeshift structure, which had extended to three large trees. The fire was approximately 50 metres into the forest area south of Highway 91. RFR crews performed a quick extinguishment of the flames. RCMP were on scene controlling eastbound traffic. There were no reported injuries to the public or RFR personnel. A Fire Investigator attended.
- April 20, 2023 – Rescue at English Avenue.** Emergency crews responded to a person in the water. Upon arrival, an individual was located in the water clenching the swim grid of the back of a boat. RFR crews assisted the person out of the water and were able to get them back up on the dock. Upon BC Emergency Health Services arrival, RFR crews helped package the patient for transport to hospital. There were no reported injuries to the public or RFR personnel.

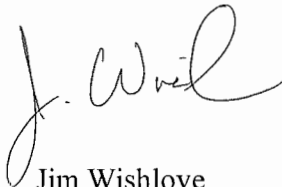
- **April 27, 2023 – Hedge fire on Seacoate Road.** Emergency crews responded to a report of a porch fire. On arrival, crews discovered a hedge on fire behind the property, approximately 20 feet wide by 15 feet high. RFR crews were able to extinguish the fire. Once the fire was extinguished, the structure was checked for any heat signatures and found there were none. A Fire Investigator attended. There were no reported injuries to the public or RFR personnel.
- **April 30, 2023 – Hedge fire on Steveston Highway.** Emergency crews responded to reports of a hedge fire on Steveston Highway. The first in units quickly located the two hedge fires and extinguished them. Crews found minor damage to the structure at one property on Steveston Highway. At another nearby property, only the hedge was affected. A fire investigator attended to investigate these suspicious fires. RCMP also conducted an investigation including bringing in a dog team to facilitate. There were no reported injuries to the public or RFR personnel. No occupants were displaced.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

Richmond Fire-Rescue continues to monitor activities to identify and create programs to respond to emerging trends.



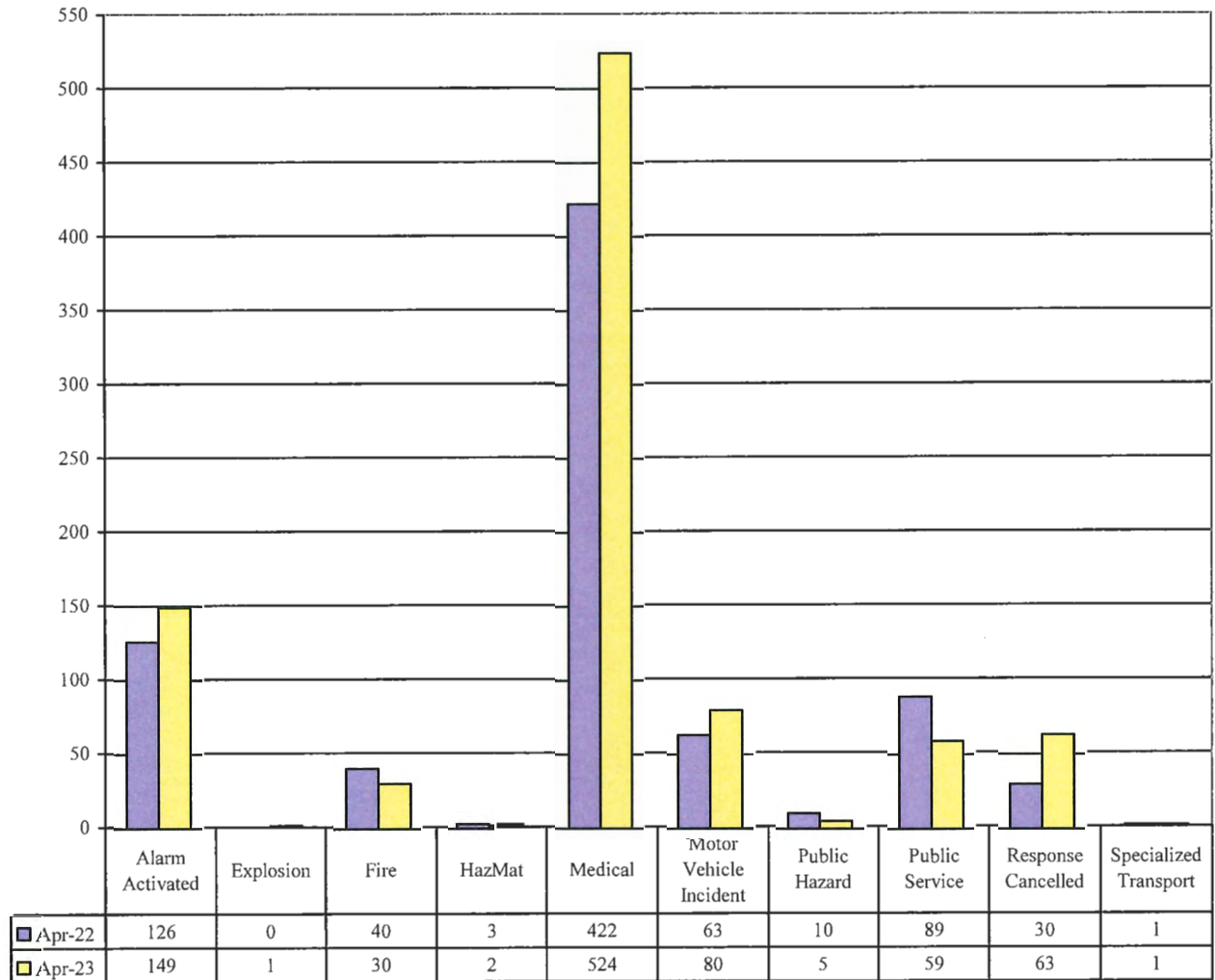
Jim Wishlove
Fire Chief
(604-303-2715)

Att. 1: Suppression Activity, including location of April's Fire, Medical and MVIs

Incident Volumes

The following chart provides a month-to-month comparison regarding incidents occurring in April 2022 and 2023. In April 2023, there were 914 incidents, compared to 784 in April 2022. This represents an overall increase of 17 per cent.

Table 3: April 2022 & April 2023 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, 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 first responder incidents comprised 57 per cent of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of April 2023. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for April 2022 and 2023 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were 524 medical incidents in April 2023 compared to 422 in April 2022, an increase of 24 per cent.

Table 4a: April 2022 & April 2023 Medical Calls by Type

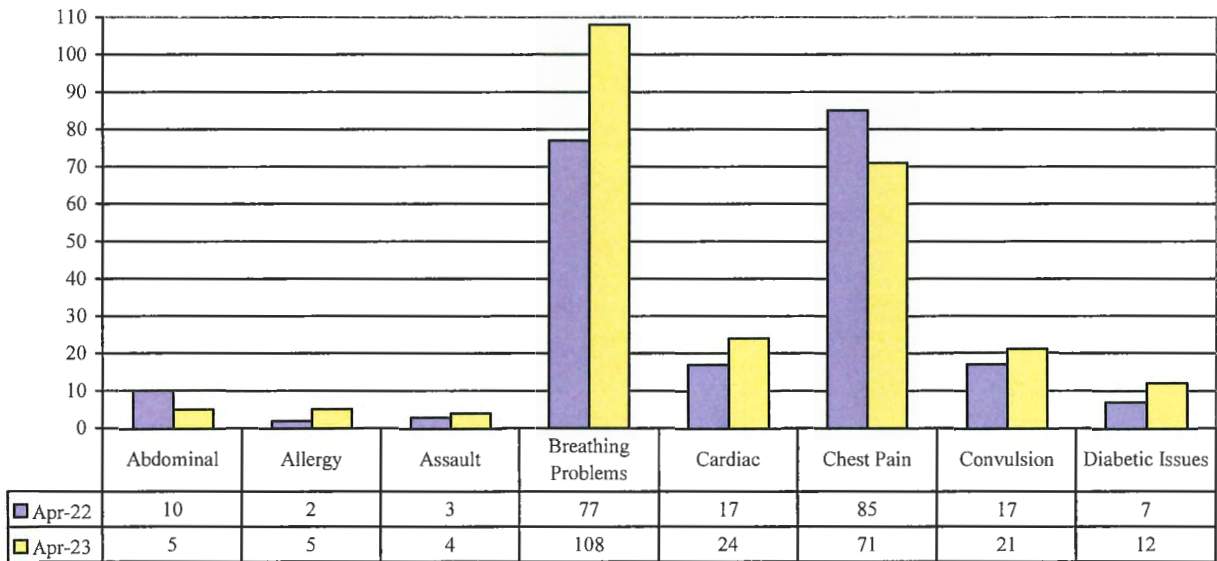
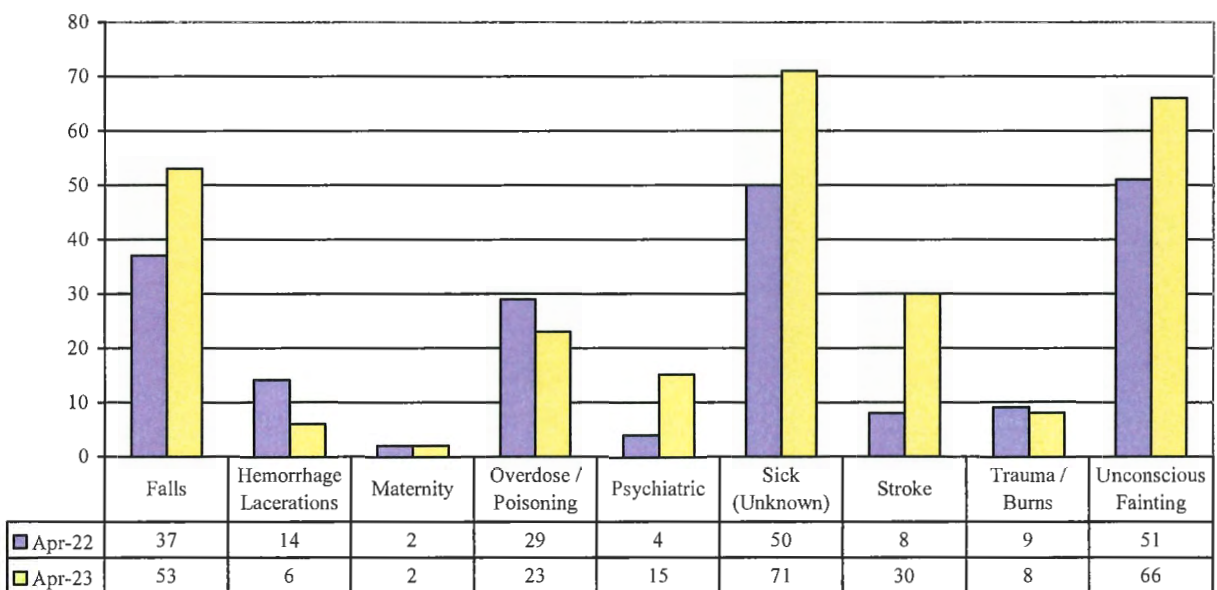


Table 4b: April 2022 & April 2023 Medical Calls by Type



The following chart provides the overdose / poisoning incident volume breakdown for April 2023.

Table 4c: Overdose / Poisoning Incidents By Type – April 2023	
	Details
Narcotics / Opiates	12
Other Miscellaneous Drugs	3
Alcohol	2
Unknown (No patient contact / BC Emergency Health Services staff on scene)	6
Totals	23

In April, out of 23 total overdose / poisoning calls, 10 were located outdoors and 13 were located in a commercial property or residence.

The following charts provide total incident volumes on a year-to-year comparison in April from 2014 to 2023.

Table 4d: Total Fire Calls for Service in April from 2014 to 2023

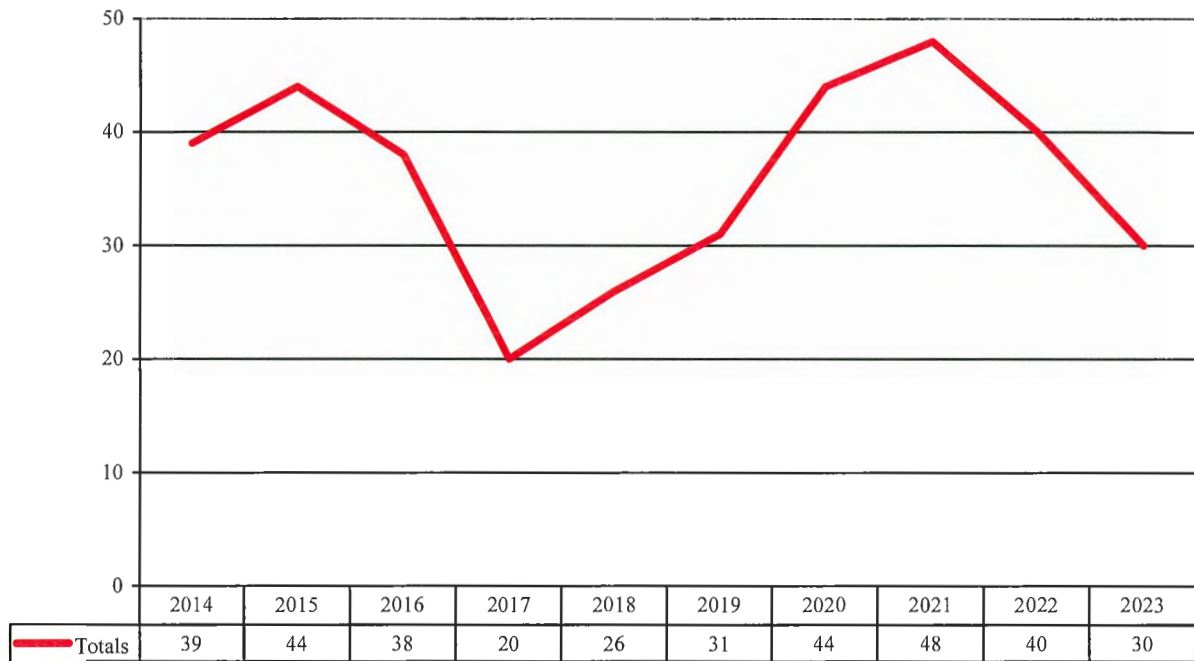
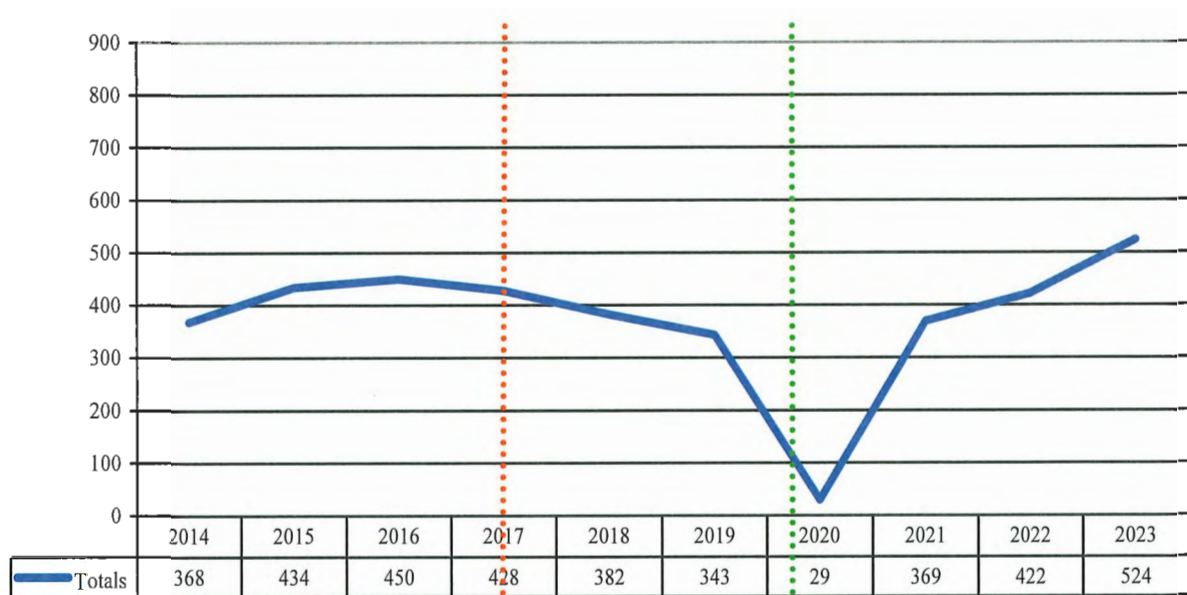


Table 4e: Total Medical Calls for Service in April from 2014 to 2023



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

Start of pandemic

Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for April 2023 are listed below:

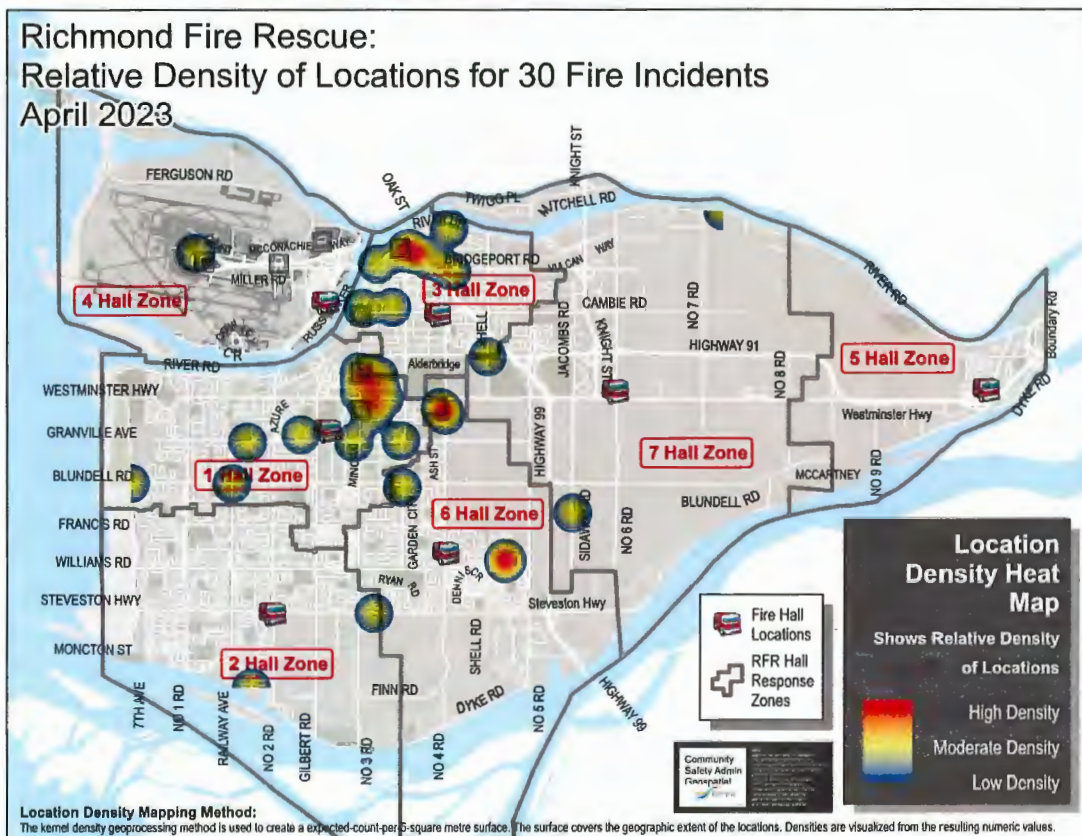
	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	2	1	0
Residential - Multi-family	0	3	0
Commercial/Industrial	2	1	1
Outdoor	9	7	2
Vehicle	1	0	1
Totals	14	12	4

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

Hazardous Materials

Table 6: Hazardous Materials Incidents By Type – April 2023	
	Details
Gasses (Natural / Propane)	2
Totals	2

Figure 1: Location of reportable fires attended in April 2023 (total 30)



Location Density Mapping Method:
The kernel density geospatial method is used to create a expected-count-per-5-square metre surface. The surface covers the geographic extent of the locations. Densities are visualized from the resulting numeric values.

Figure 2: Location of Medical Incidents in April 2023 (total 524)

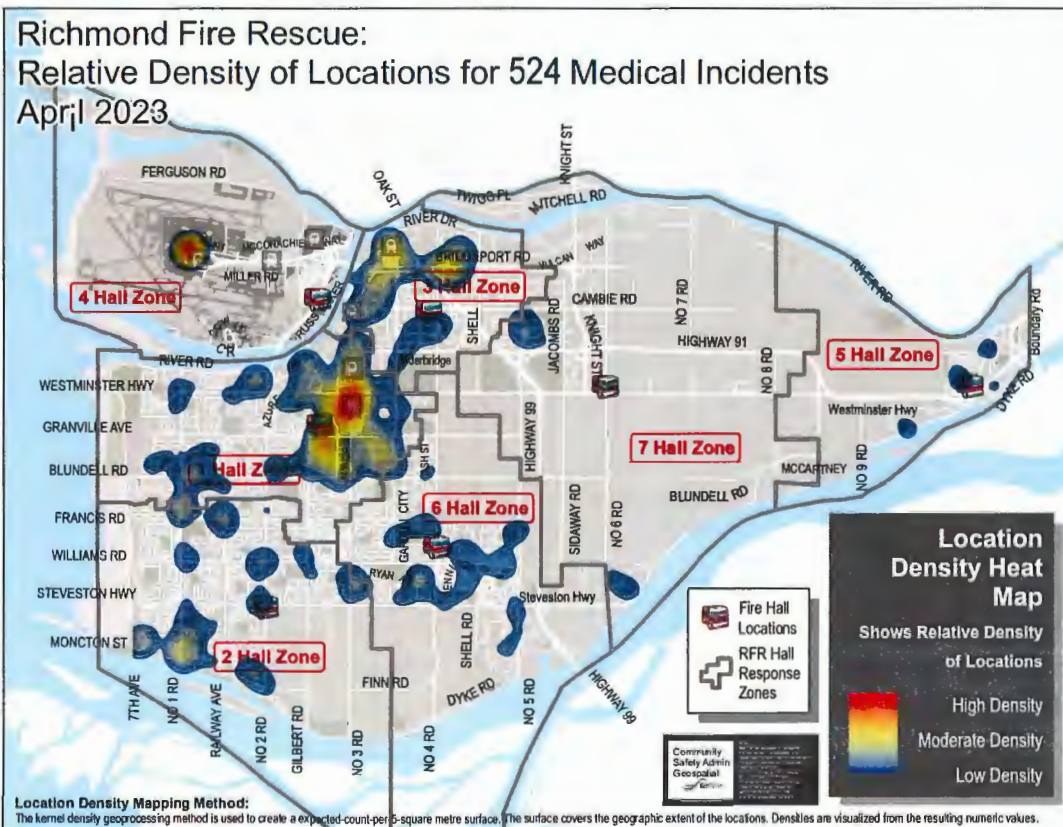
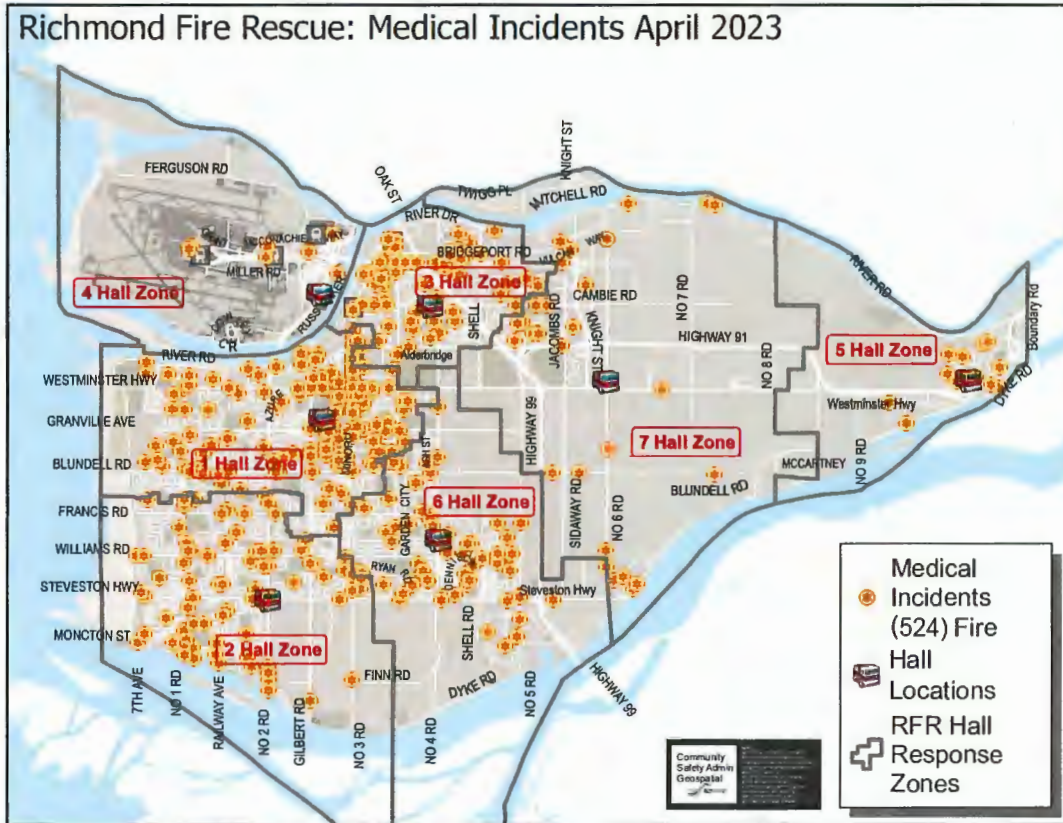


Figure 3: Location of MVI Incidents in April 2023 (total 80)

