



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee

Date: September 12, 2025

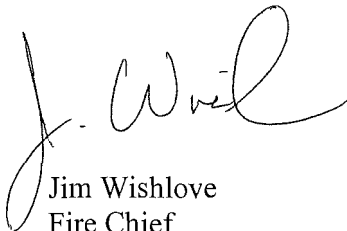
From: Jim Wishlove
Fire Chief

File 09-5140-01/2025-Vol
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Re: Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – August 2025

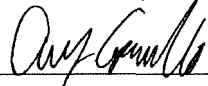


Staff Recommendation

That the report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – August 2025”, dated September 12, 2025, 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 highlights activities, information, and statistics related to calls for service and community initiatives by Richmond Fire-Rescue in August 2025.

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

Significant Events

Richmond Fire-Rescue (RFR) emergency response crews minimized harm, limited damage and stopped fire spread from the point of origin, and performed life-saving interventions in these notable August 2025 incidents¹:

Vessel Fire on Shell Road

On August 3, 2025, RFR emergency crews responded to a boat fire in a parking lot in the 1100 block of Dyke Road. The first arriving crew found a fully involved 25-foot boat on a trailer with the towing vehicle already unattached and out of the way. Crews quickly extinguished the fire. A Fire Investigator attended to search for the cause and origin of the fire.

Fatality on No. 7 Road

On August 8, 2025, RFR emergency crews, along with Richmond RCMP and the BC Coroners Service, attended an incident involving an unknown substance and a self-inflicted fatality. All necessary safety precautions were incorporated into the incident action plan to ensure the protection of first responders.

Gas Leak on Barnard Drive

On August 14, 2025, RFR emergency crews responded to a townhouse complex on Barnard Drive, where a vehicle had struck a gas meter bank. RFR crews evacuated several of the townhomes to ensure the safety of the immediate community. Crews, along with the assistance of the RCMP, closed Barnard Drive, and Fortis Gas attended. Once the gas issue was resolved, on-scene crews coordinated with the RCMP to reopen Barnard Drive. In total, there were approximately 70 homeowner units affected. Once the issue was resolved, crews ensured the atmosphere was safe using air monitoring equipment. All residents returned safely to their homes.

¹ Unless otherwise noted, no injuries were reported by the public or RFR personnel in the listed incidents.
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Gas Leak on Bridgeport Road

On August 16, 2025, RFR emergency crews attended an industrial site for a significant natural gas leak. All workers had been evacuated from the site, and the road network around the area was closed to minimize any ignition risk. RCMP attended the scene to assist with the road closures and resident safety. Works Yard crews attended and assisted with barricades to keep the public at a safe distance. RFR on-site incident command liaised with Fortis Gas to monitor the air quality in the immediate area as well as manage the necessary repairs and mitigation.

Structure Fire on River Drive

On August 21, 2025, RFR emergency crews responded to a structure fire on River Drive. On arrival, crews saw black smoke from the fifth floor of a building and declared a working fire. Crews attacked and quickly extinguished the fire. Crews then checked for any fire extension and began overhauling the fire area. The units adjacent to the fire suite sustained some water damage. Emergency Support Services were deployed, and two RFR-Emergency Programs team members, along with three Canadian Red Cross volunteers, attended the site to complete a needs assessment with the impacted residents. There were four units affected with six adults, of which only one required overnight accommodation. A Fire Investigator attended.

Emergency Response

Table 1 provides incident data for August 2024 and August 2025. In August 2025, there were 1,098 reported incidents of all types, representing an overall decrease of eight per cent compared to the previous year.

Table 1: Total Incidents - August 2025					
	Incident Totals August (2025)	Incident Totals August (2024)	Number Change from August 2024 to 2025	Percentage Change from August 2024 to 2025	5 Year Average for August
Active Alarm	171	188	-17	-9	163
Explosion	0	0	0	0	1
Fire	56	52	+4	+8	56
Hazardous Materials	7	7	0	0	9
Medical	556	649	-93	-14	545
Motor Vehicle Incident	65	84	-19	-23	78
Public Hazard	14	12	+2	+17	10
Public Service	104	121	-17	-14	108
Response Cancelled/Unfounded	118	80	+38	+48	79
Specialized Transport	6	2	+4	+200	4
Technical Rescue	1	0	+1	+100	0
Total	1,098	1,195	-97	-8	1054

The average time on scene in August 2025 for emergency response crews was 29 minutes per event, which is lower than the number recorded in August 2024: 32 minutes. The time spent on the scene can vary due to the nature and severity of each incident.

In August 2025, there were 56 fire incidents reported to the BC Office of the Fire Commissioner, which is eight per cent higher than the number reported in August 2024. The average number of fires reported each August over the last five years is 56.

Fire damage and property losses during August 2025 are estimated at \$54,750. The total building/asset and content value at risk is estimated to be \$3,036,420, and the total value preserved from damage was \$2,981,670. These numbers translate to 98 per cent of value protected (Table 2), which is one per cent lower than the value observed in 2024.

Table 2: Fire Incidents By Type and Loss Estimates - August 2025						
Incident Type Breakdown	Incident Volume	Estimated Building/Asset Value (\$)	Estimated Building/Asset Loss (\$)	Estimated Content Value (\$)	Estimated Content Loss (\$)	Estimated Total Value Preserved (\$)
Single Family Residence	1	-	-	-	-	-
Multi-Family Residence	7	245,000	-	171,420	-	416,420
Commercial/Industrial	4	458,000	6,000	320,000	1,200	770,800
Outdoor	37	1,057,950	14,050	732,550	-	1,776,450
Vehicle/Vessel	7	51,500	33,500	-	-	18,000
Totals²	56	1,812,450	53,550	1,223,970	1,200	2,981,670

RFR Public Outreach & Education

During August, RFR staff conducted the following public outreach and education activities:

- On August 7, 9, 12 and 30, Fire Hall and vehicle tours for four organizations, with over 100 attendees.
- On August 1, 2, 29 and 30, RFR set up the Big Rig and information booths in collaboration with the City Parks Department for Play Days. Families learned about fire safety, the fire department, and had a chance to sit on the fire truck. Over 700 attendees participated.
- On August 15, RFR set up an education booth at the end of summer Cambie Community Centre Carnival, with a focus on seeing what a firefighter looks like in full gear, testing smoke alarms and creating home escape plans. Due to rain, engagement was set up inside the community centre along with many other community departments and associations. Over 300 attendees participated in the event.

² 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). Values under a threshold limit of \$1,000 will not be noted in the table.

- On August 23 and 24, RFR used the Big Rig to help the community stay cool during the Maritime Festival. With limited places to get out of the heat, RFR staff sprayed water from the top of the ladder and created a temporary spray park. Everyone, from staff and volunteers to attendees and passers-by, was very thankful for the display of water during this extremely hot weekend. Over 4,000 attendees participated in the event.

Emergency Programs

Emergency Programs staff participated in the following engagement activities in August:

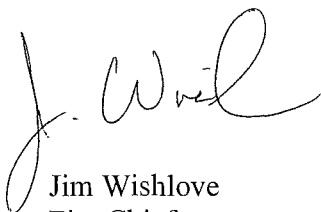
- On August 20, conducted an Emergency Operations Centre setup exercise for the City's Emergency Operations Centre at City Hall.
- On August 23 and 24, supported the City's Major Events team and Green Team, Environmental Services, with radios and batteries for the Maritime Festival. Over 82 radios and 100 batteries were used to support the City's event teams from the Emergency Programs-Radio Loans Program.
- On August 23 and 24, supported the Safety and Security of the Maritime Festival event in both planning and execution for the event.
- On August 24, provided a presentation at the Oval Community Day, where attendees were encouraged to sign up for Richmond BC Alert, and Prepared BC guides were provided with information about emergency preparedness at an information booth.

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 promote effective prevention behaviours.



Jim Wishlove
Fire Chief
(604-303-2715)

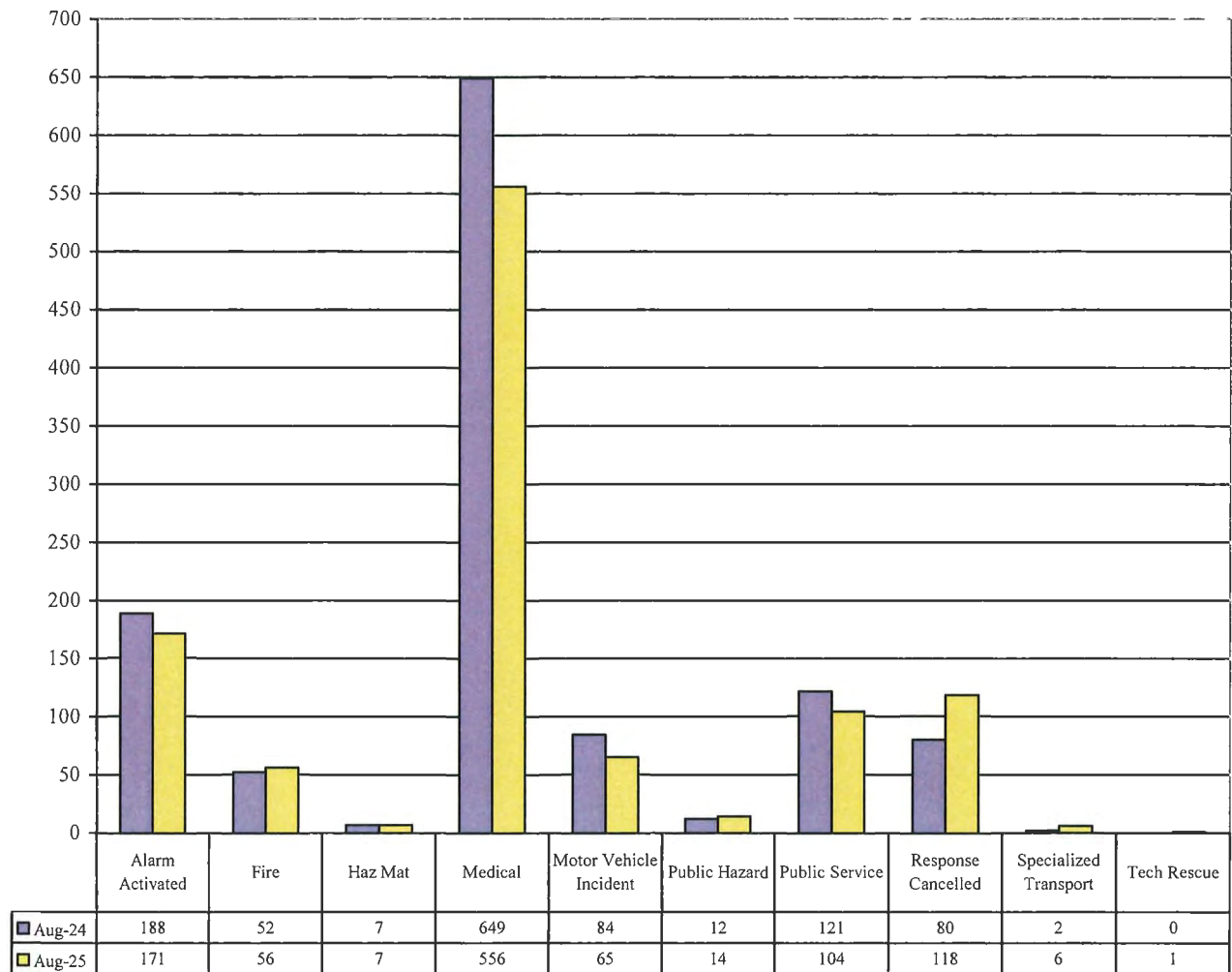
Att. 1: Emergency Response Activity for August 2025.

Emergency Response Activity for August 2025

Incident Volumes

The following chart provides a month-to-month comparison of incidents occurring in August 2024 and 2025. In August 2025, there were 1,098 total incidents, compared to 1,195 in August 2024. This represents an overall decrease of 8 per cent between last year and 2025.

Table 3: August 2024 & August 2025 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: 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 51 per cent of the total emergency responses for RFR during August 2025. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for August 2024 and 2025 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were 556 medical incidents in August 2025 compared to 649 in August 2024, a decrease of 14 per cent.

Table 4a: August 2024 & August 2025 Medical Calls by Type

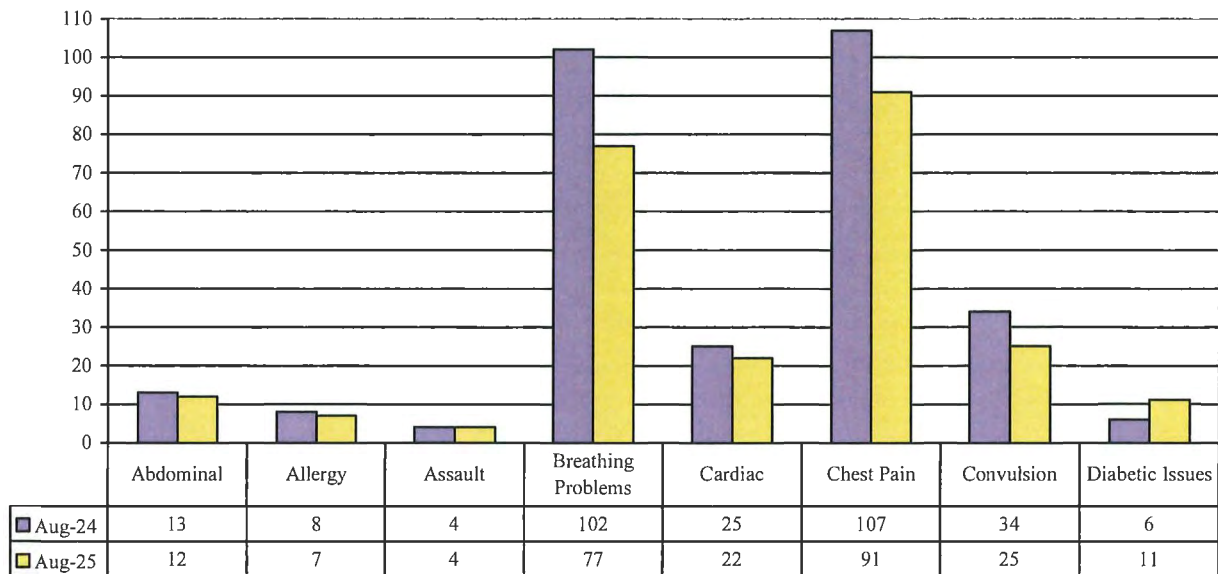
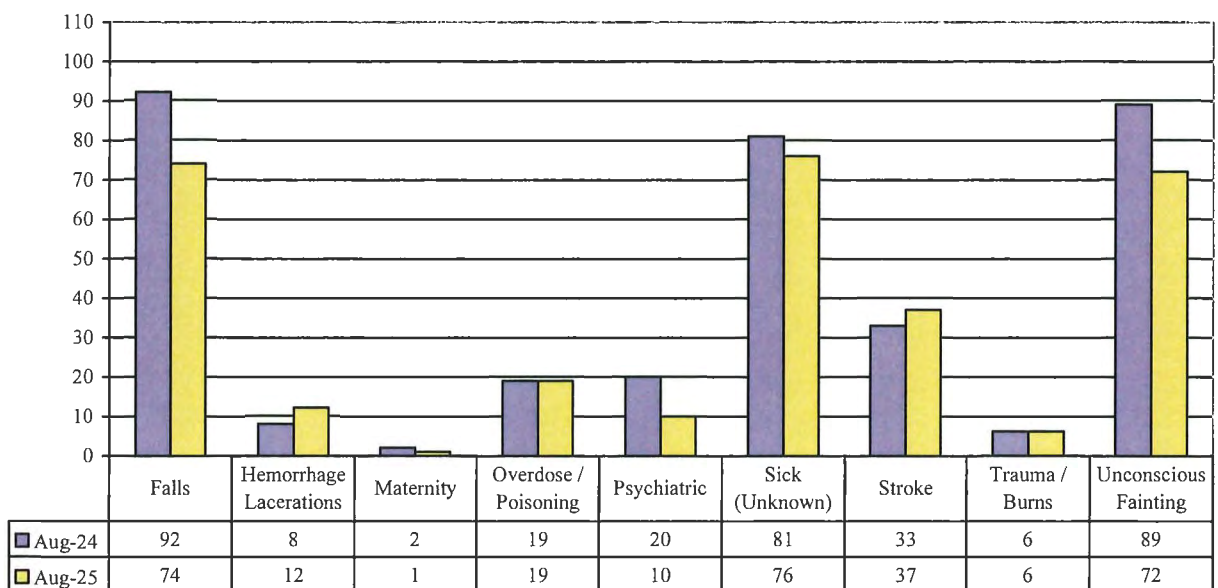


Table 4b: August 2024 & August 2025 Medical Calls by Type



Overdoses

The following chart provides the overdose/poisoning incident volume breakdown for August 2025. During August 2025, RFR staff did not administer Naloxone to any patients.

Table 4c: Overdose / Poisoning Incidents By Type – August 2025	
Opioids	1
Alcohol	8
Medications	2
Unknown (no patient contact / refusal of treatment)	5
Other drug types (eg. Marijuana)	3
Totals	19

Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for August 2025 are listed below:

Table 5: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – August 2025			
	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	-	1	-
Residential - Multi-family	-	6	1
Commercial/Industrial	-	4	-
Outdoor	14	19	4
Vehicle	-	5	2
Totals	14	35	7

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

Hazardous Materials

Table 6: Hazardous Materials Incidents By Type – August 2025	
	Details
Gasses (Natural / Propane)	5
Hazardous Materials - Unclassified	2
Totals	7

The following charts provide total incident volumes for fires, medical, motor vehicle, and overdose/poisoning incidents on a year-to-year comparison in August including year averages from 2016 to 2024.

Table 7a: Total Fire Calls for Service in August and year averages from 2016 to 2025

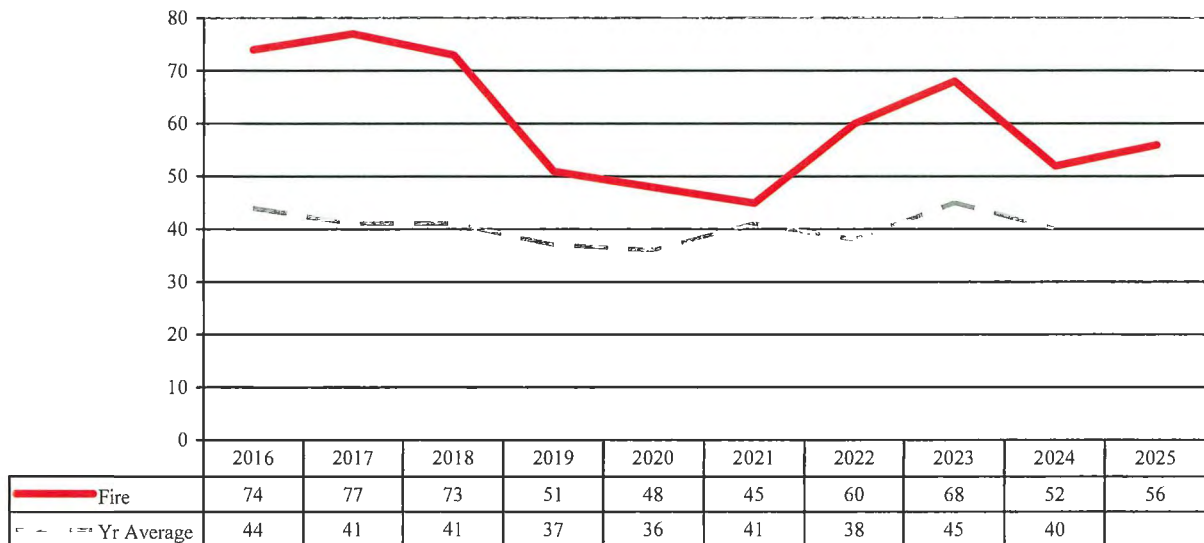
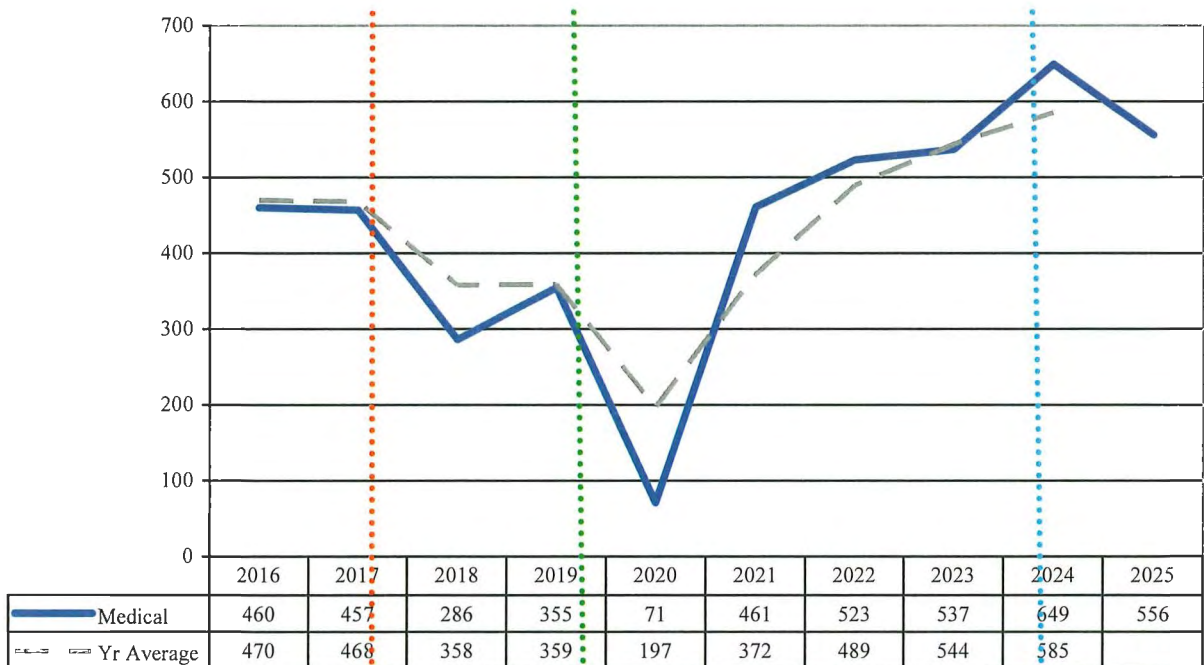


Table 7b: Total Medical Calls for Service in August and year averages from 2016 to 2025

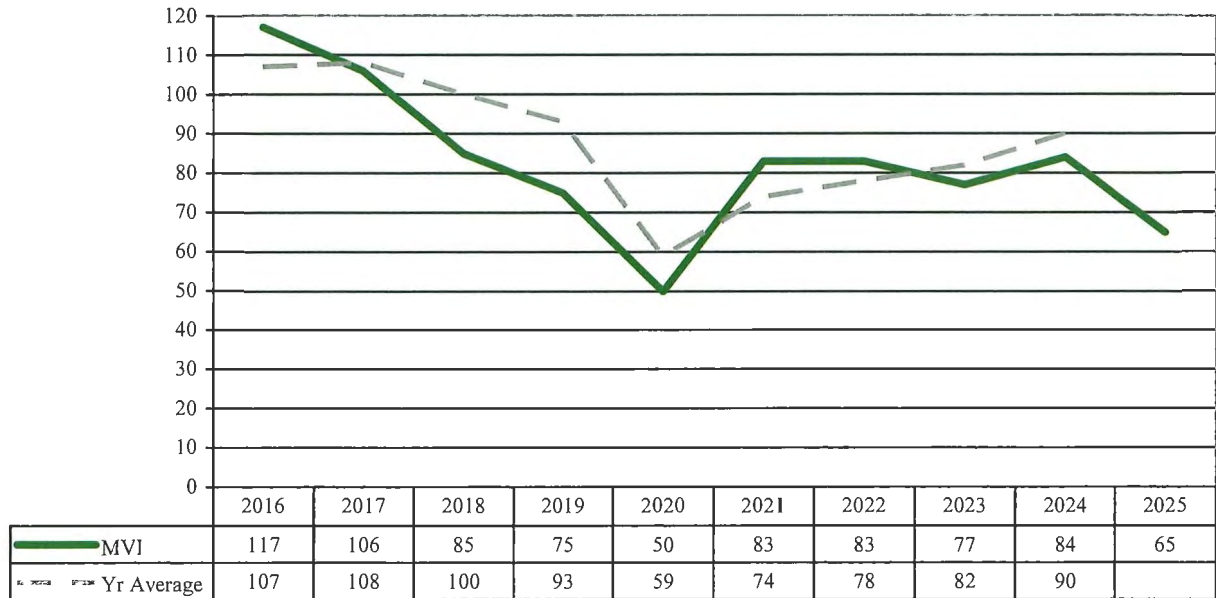


Changes to BC Emergency Health Services Clinical Response Model dispatch system (2017-2018)

Start of COVID-19 Pandemic

July 26, 2024 - Provincial Health Officer ended public health emergency for COVID-19

**Table 7c: Total Motor Vehicle Incident (MVI) Calls for Service in August
and year averages from 2016 to 2025**



**Table 7d: Total Overdose/Poisoning (ODP) Calls for Service in August
and year averages from 2016 to 2025**

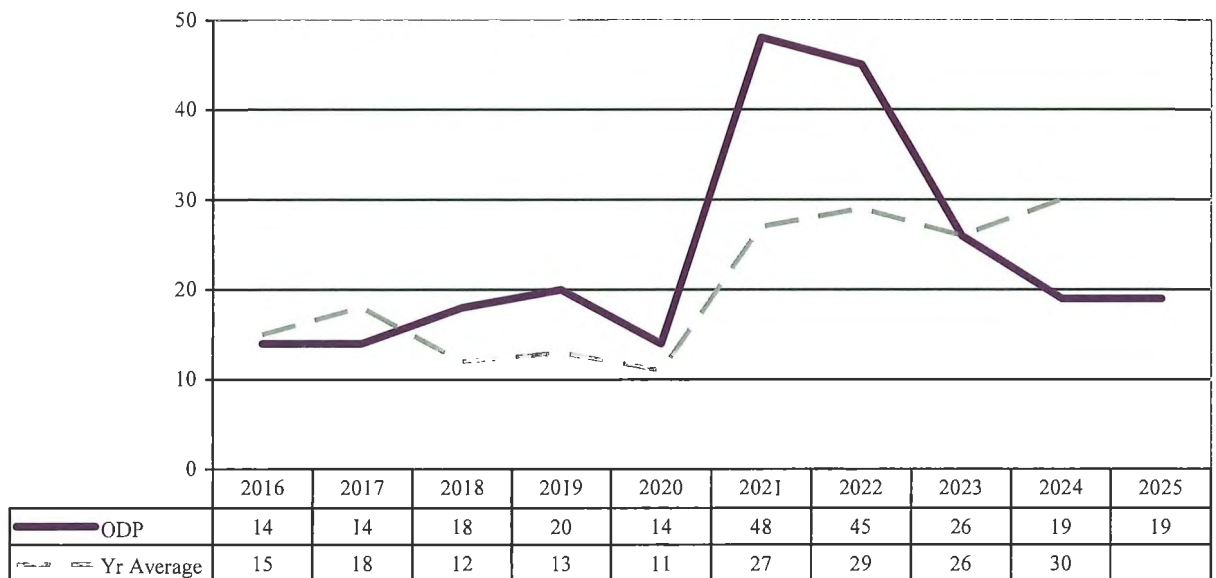
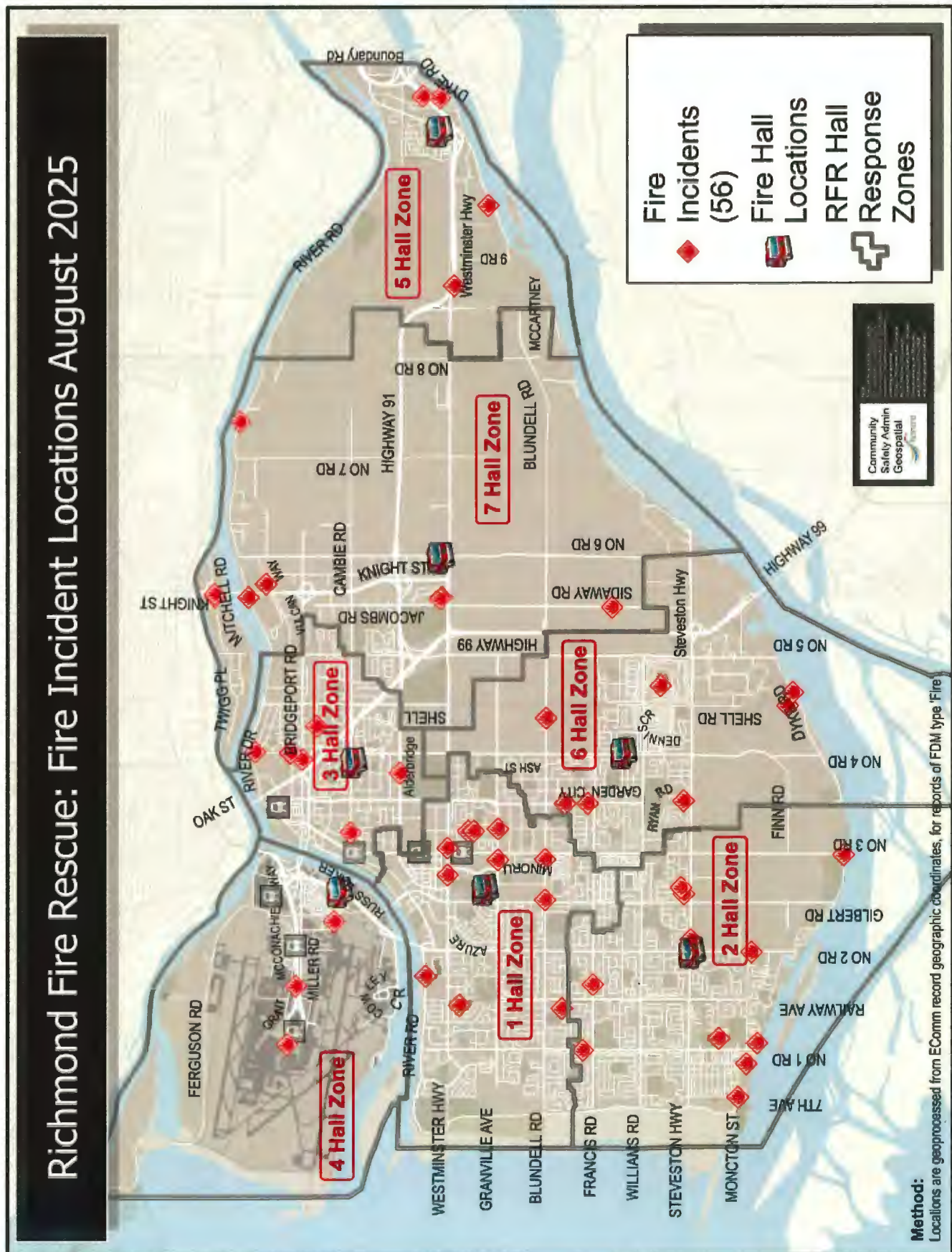


Figure 1: Location of reportable fire incidents attended in August 2025 (total 56)



Richmond Fire Rescue

Where are Fire Incidents Concentrated?

Relative Density of 56 Fire Incidents, August 2025

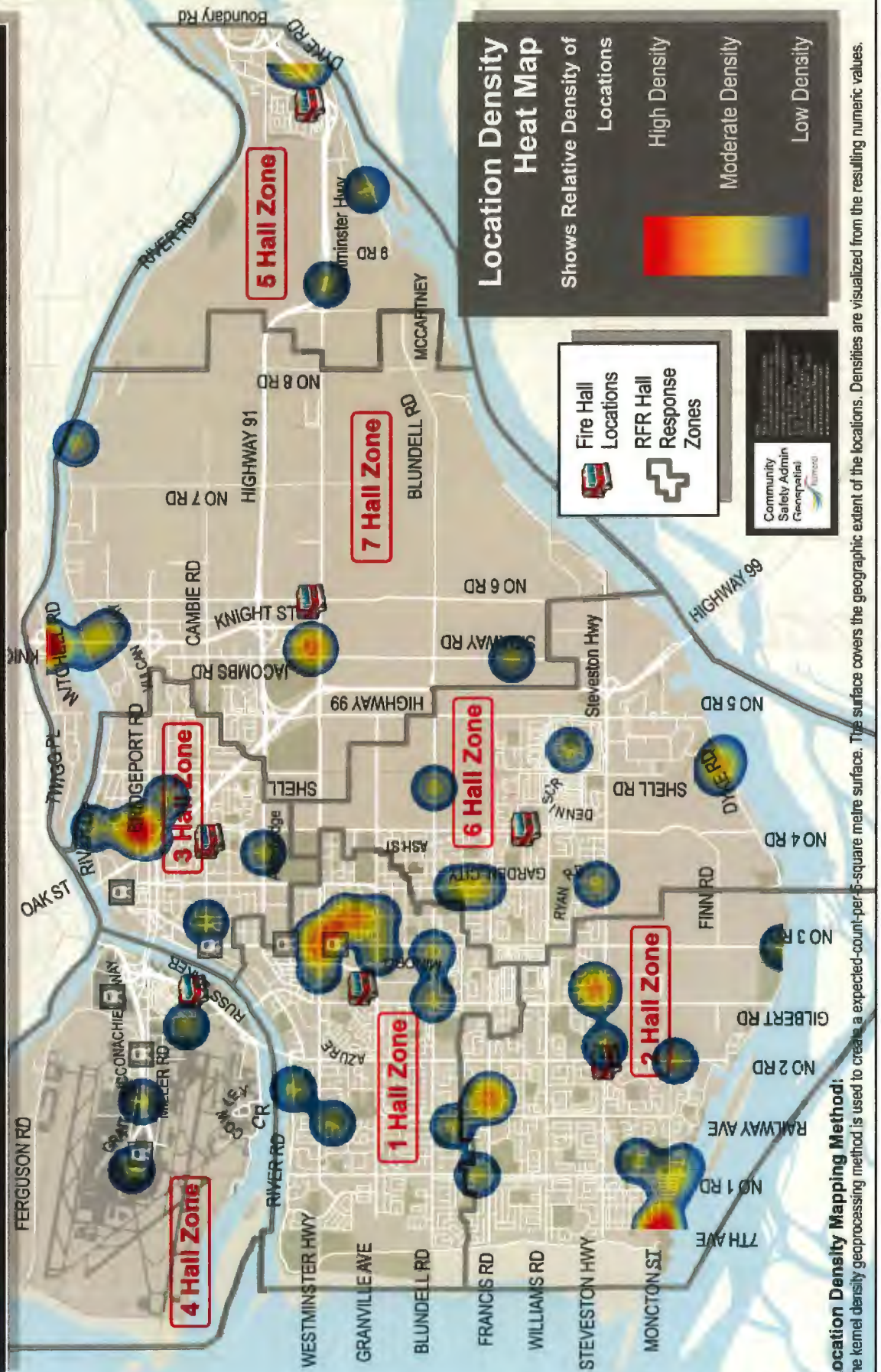
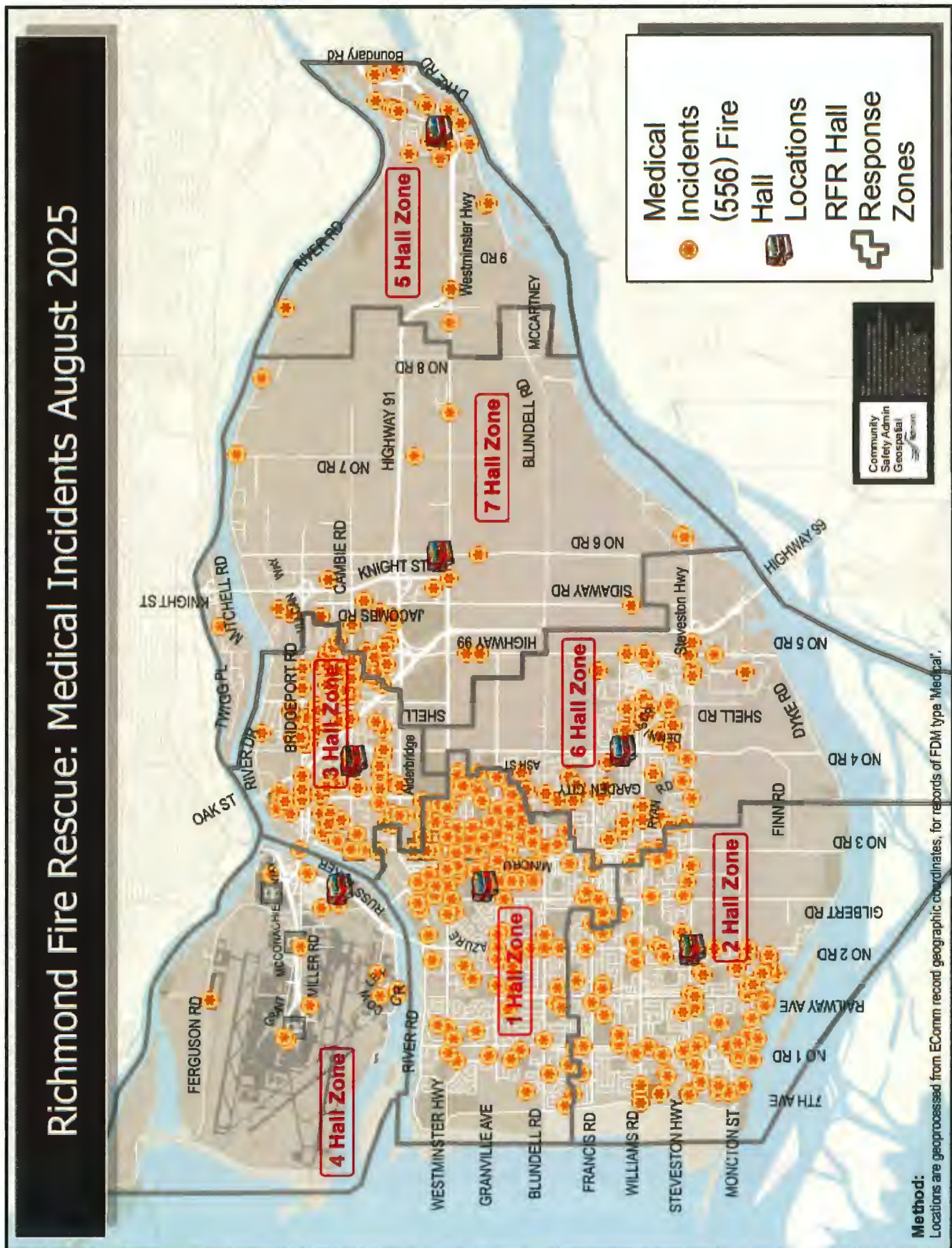


Figure 2: Location of reportable medical incidents attended in August 2025 (total 556)



Richmond Fire Rescue

Where are Medical Incident Locations Most Dense? Relative Density of 556 Medical Incidents, August 2025

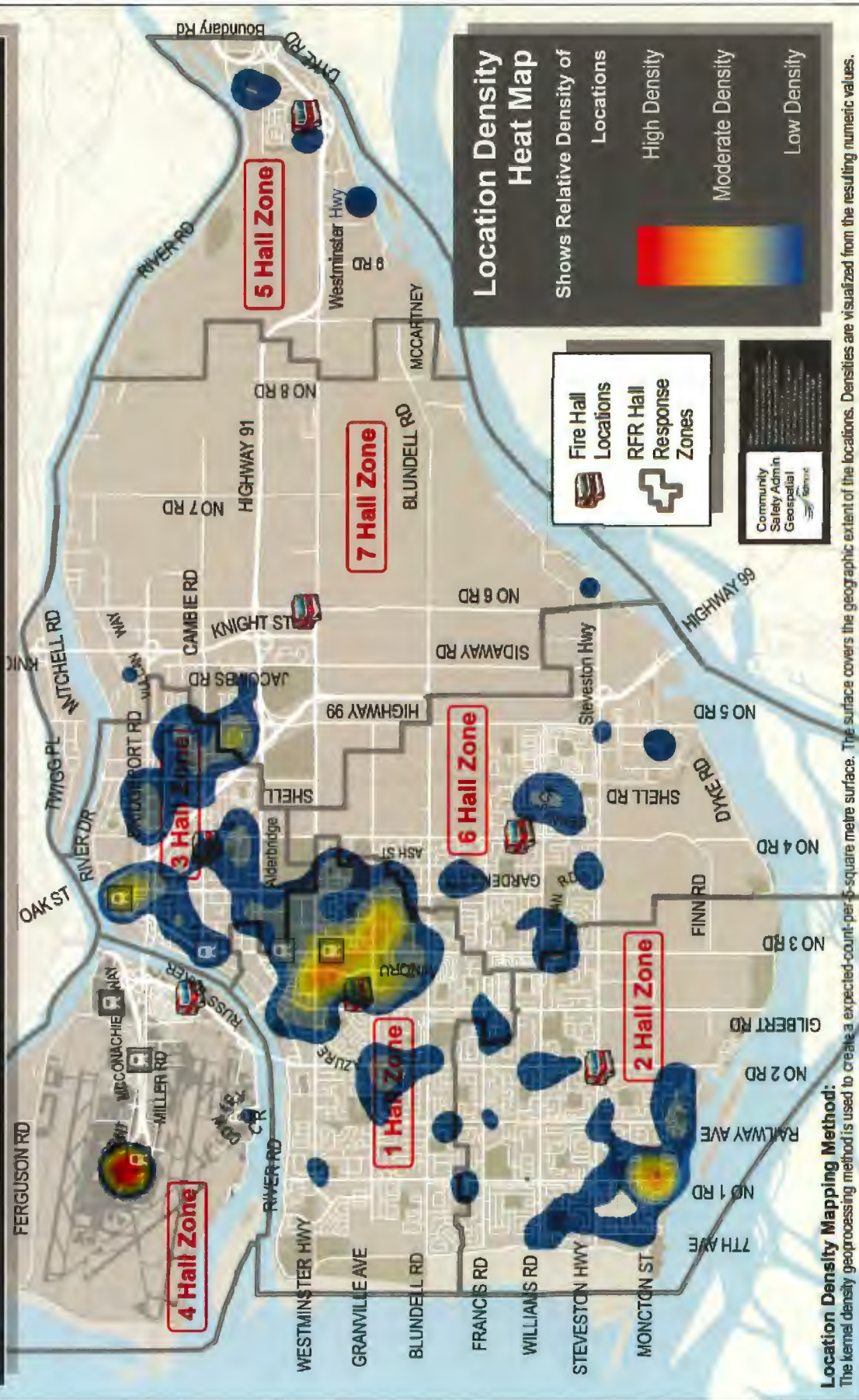
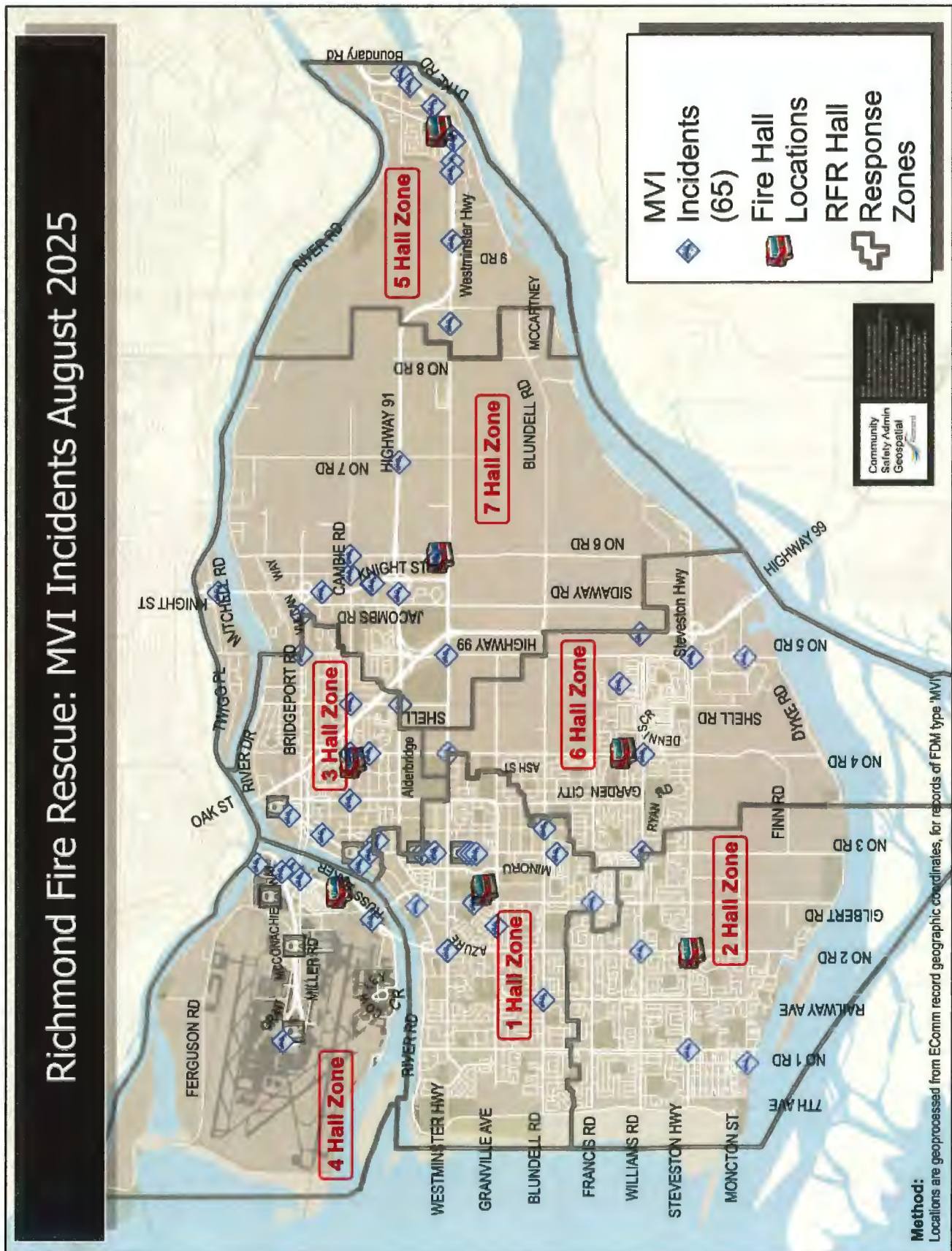


Figure 3: Location of reportable motor vehicle incidents (MVIs) attended in August 2025 (total 65)



Richmond Fire Rescue

Where is Fire Rescue Most Likely to Respond to MVIs?
Relative Density of 65 Motor Vehicle Incidents, August 2025

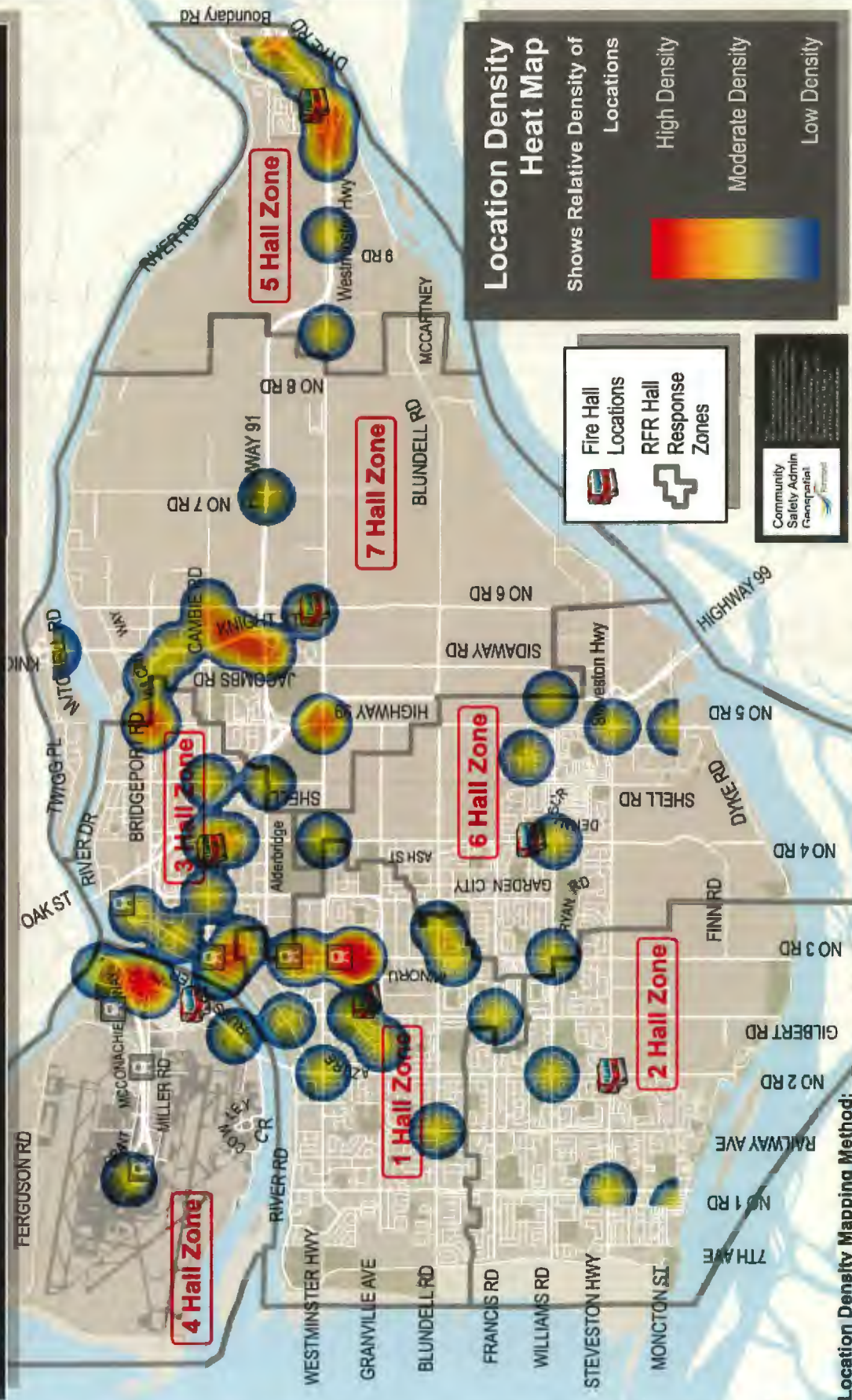


Figure 4: Location of reportable overdose / poisoning incidents attended in August 2025 (total 19)



Richmond Fire Rescue

Where are Overdose/Poisoning Incident Locations Concentrated?

Relative Density of 19 Overdose/Poisoning Incidents August 2025

