



City of Richmond

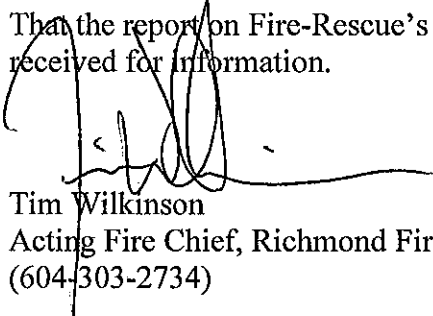
Report to Committee

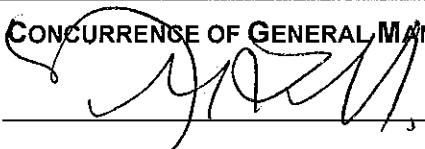
To: Community Safety Committee
From: Tim Wilkinson
Acting Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue
Re: 2010 Fourth Quarter Report - Fire-Rescue

Date: February 3, 2011
File:

Staff Recommendation

That the report on Fire-Rescue's operations for the 4th Quarter ending December 31, 2010 be received for information.


Tim Wilkinson
Acting Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue
(604-303-2734)

FOR ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT USE ONLY		
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER		
		
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REVIEWED BY CAO	YES	NO
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Staff Report

Origin

Richmond Fire-Rescue (RFR) is committed to keeping Council informed of its activities on a quarterly basis.

Analysis

Fire-Rescue's 4th Quarter report for October 1 to December 31, 2010 is set out below.

Suppression Activity

Fire Suppression's 9-1-1 emergency call volumes for the 4th Quarter of 2010 are presented in the table below. Subsequent tables provide details on calls types by: fires and estimated loss; medical; and hazmat.

The quarterly call volumes fluctuate from year-to-year and can be influenced by variables such as extreme weather conditions (wind storms, heat waves, cold snaps or the presence of ice, snow, or heavy rain) and more directly through prevention programming. In Q4 of 2010, the continued vigilant prevention efforts of both prevention and suppression personnel in the areas of "Electrical Safety" and "Abandoned Building" removal is proving effective in driving down "fire" type calls. The continued reduction in "false alarm" type calls of is attributed to the Fire Prevention Officers who work with repeat alarms locations to ensure improved on-site management of their fire alarm systems.

Public service and hazard events reporting indicates a decrease for several reasons firstly, a change in the reporting structure has resulted in a more accurate reflection of the service provision. Secondly, relatively few wind storms were encountered in 2010 as compared to 2008 and 2009 which resulted in a reduction of calls for service in the area of "wires down".

9-1-1-Emergency Call Volumes for Fire-Rescue

Incident Type	Q4 of 2008	Q4 of 2009	Q4 of 2010
Medical	1069	1182	1141
Motor Vehicle Incident	453	375	304
Fire	76	97	86
False Alarm	252	183	118
Alarm No Fire	313	284	389
Public Service	203	213	148
Public Hazard	58	57	40
Hazardous Materials	24	21	39
Explosion	0	0	0
Technical Rescue	0	2	2
Totals	2448	2414	2263

Fire Prevention/Community Response

There were no significant losses in the last quarter of 2010. We continue to shift our focus to a prevention driven model of fire investigation by focusing the investigations to determining cause and directly related activities for preventing future fires.

E.g. Following a small electrical incident, on Bridgeport Rd., RFR:

- o Consulted with the BC Safety Authority
- o Consulted with the BC Fire Commissioner's office
- o Field reports were sent to Electrical Testing Laboratory
- o Educated the business owner on safe electrical installation
- o Trained its new investigators

The City has seven FPO staff that are capable of conducting basic fire investigation (i.e. taking witness statements, supporting fire victims, securing the scene/evidence, liaising with other agencies, ensuring life safety systems are operational). Three of the seven members can conduct a complex scene investigation from beginning to end and complete all related tasks. This level of expertise ensures there is capacity for staff succession to sustain quality investigation services 24/7.

Investigation Results – 4th Quarter	
Accidental	38
Suspicious	22
Incendiary	8
Cannot be determined	8



Property at Risk	Property Loss	Contents at Risk	Contents Loss	Property Preserved
144,373,977	800,577	25,177,000	190,430	168,559,970

Incidents

Many alarm calls due to extreme cold weather conditions resulting in burst and thawing pipes.

Fires Residential Structures:

- House Fire 9660 Steveston Hwy - confined to area of origin.
- Kitchen Fire 5780 Lancing Rd – quick crew action confined fire to stove top
- Suspected arson for a house that was under construction – 7611 Chelsea

- Townhouse fire at 9651 Glendower – quick action extinguished couch fire before extending to a structure fire.
- House fire – 8251 Mirabel Cr. washing machine ignited laundry room

Fires Commercial Structures:

- Fire call at a dental office in Lansdowne Mall
- Barn fire, used only for hay storage

Fire Vehicles:

- A number of vehicle fires one of which at No 7 and River, suspected of being Arson with possible involvement in a shooting.

Fires General:

- Numerous small fires involving single vehicle responses
- Information Booth Fire – Hwy 99 at N end of Deas Tunnel. The latest of multiple arson fires at this location.

Medicals:

- Numerous responses for assaults
- 33 sudden deaths and cardiac arrests
- #2 Hall went to a birth of a baby girl on Hollywood Drive

MVI's:

- Mother and two young children lost control and left Hwy 99 in roll over crash. No serious injuries
- Car into Townhouse causing main structural support damage

YVR:

- Numerous Aircraft standbys – one of which involving fuel dumping after take off for safety purposes.

Training

The last quarter of 2010 was a significant time for training within RFR. The Training Division staff delivered, scheduled, and accommodated both new and on-going programs within the department. Examples are:

- Initial training for new members of our technical rescue teams in hazardous materials deployment on all four shifts. Training sessions were scheduled, facilitated and evaluated to give expertise in various areas of this program.
- Our water rescue program was delivered to all employees. This was a new, enhanced program that was delivered by in-house RFR trainers and supported by the RFR Training Division. RFR now has all members trained and certified to standards for surface swift water rescue.

- Our Emergency Vehicle Operator/Driver (EVO/EVD) program has continued to be delivered to all shifts in modules, so that the members can practice their skills between training sessions. Having members trained on-shift, in-house allows RFR to create sustainability in keeping operators trained and prepared to work between different vehicles and halls.
- Seven members received Fire Officer I training at the Justice Institute of BC (JIBC). This was enhanced with training delivered in-house and included live fire situational training at the Township of Langley fire-training centre. Eight of our newest recruit members were also sent to experience live fire scenario training.
- Seventy-two of our Officers/Pool members received training in Employee Development Plan & Review (EDPR) delivered by the City's Human Resources department and tailored by Fire management. This is the first time this initiative has been delivered within the City of Richmond and RFR is not only implementing this program in-house but also evaluating the overall program and strategy for Human Resources.

Recruit Training

RFR has four recruits currently working on-shift, operating as firefighters assigned to emergency response crews. These four recruits are continuing in their development and will complete their recruit training and probationary period in the spring of 2011.

Each recruit is evaluated regularly and consulted with respect to their personal development in both technical skills and interpersonal skills areas.

To-date, all four recruits are performing above expectations and have added significant value to the shifts they are assigned to.

Community Partnerships

Fire Prevention attended 25 events this quarter. Some of the events attended by Prevention Officers were as follows:

- Fire Prevention Week
- Fireworks monitoring for Halloween
- Halloween Operational Plans
- Diwali Festival
- Sea Island and Steveston Santa Parade

Fire Halls

All RFR Firehalls have regular operations running out of them, and many maintenance improvements have been completed creating a safe, professional and positive working atmosphere for RFR staff.

No. 5 Hall (Hamilton) post-flood repairs are nearing completion: the sewer main infrastructure is repaired and improved, and the interior work of the Firehall has been completed – once the cabinetry is replaced in early 2011 the project will be closed out.

A significant amount of in-house training occurred in the various training classrooms and apparatus bays of all RFR Firehalls. The classrooms were regularly booked most days and evenings for RFR in-house skills based and interpersonal learning sessions.

The No. 2 Firehall construction project in Steveston is progressing well. Other City departments have been supportive in moving the project along to completion: roads, sewers, traffic, sustainability and facilities management have all served significant roles supporting RFR in this project.

The tentative move-in date for RFR to occupy the facility is now scheduled for April 2011. Once RFR staff transition from the temporary facility into the new building, the project will shift to completion of the grounds and surrounding area work.

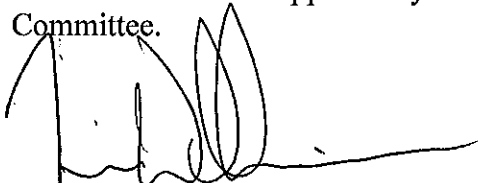
RFR is planning a public opening to showcase this facility for early summer 2011 once the entire project has completed.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

Fire-Rescue is committed to providing Council with quarterly updates on its activities. The Fire Chief welcomes the opportunity to discuss Fire's activities and priorities with Community Safety Committee.



Tim Wilkinson
Acting Fire Chief
(604-303-2734)

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