



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee
From: John McGowan
Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue
Re: 2009 Third Quarter Report - Fire-Rescue

Date: October 29, 2009
File: 09-5140-01/2009-Vol 01

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report dated October 29, 2009 from the Fire Chief, entitled "2009 Third Quarter Report – Fire-Rescue" be received for information.

John McGowan
Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue
(604-303-2734)

FOR ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT USE ONLY		
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER		
REVIEWED BY TAG	YES	NO
<i>CVC</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
REVIEWED BY CAO	YES	NO
<i>BD</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Staff Report

Origin

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

Analysis

Below is Fire-Rescue's 3rd Quarterly Report for July 1 to September 30, 2009.

Suppression Activity

Fire Suppression's activity statistics for the third quarter of 2009 are presented along with the corresponding quarters from the previous two years. The subsequent tables provide details on fire calls by type and estimated losses; medical call breakdown by type; and hazmat call types.

In reviewing the third quarter 2009 statistics, the following highlights emerge:

- Rise in fire calls due to hot weather resulting in dry conditions +24.
- Rise in medical calls due to severe weather +139.
- Rise in Alarm No Fire calls +75.

The rise in call volume in the third quarter was very clearly environmental. With the global warming cycle, this could become the norm rather than an exception.

Suppression Activity Statistics

Incident Type	Q3 of 2007	Q3 of 2008	Q3 of 2009
Fire	193	172	196
Hazardous Materials	47	32	32
False Alarm	184	203	191
Medical	1184	1054	1193
Motor Vehicle Incident	358	327	319
Alarm No Fire	258	240	315
Explosion	1	0	0
Public Hazard	49	62	49
Public Service	197	179	203
Technical Rescue	4	2	3
Totals	2475	2271	2501

Call Type Legend:

Alarm No Fire includes: accidental, malicious, equipment malfunctions

Explosion includes ruptured: boilers, gas pipes, or water pipes

False Alarm includes: intrusion/security alarms; malicious; mistaken by equipment-smoke, dust, and/or steam

Hazardous Materials includes fuel or vapour: spills, leaks, or containment

Medical includes: cardiac arrest, emergency response, home or industrial accidents, and motor vehicle incidents

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

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

Technical Rescue includes: aircraft, confined space, high angle, or water

Fire Calls By Type and Loss Estimates Third Quarter 2009

Incident Type Breakdown	Call Volume	Estimated Building Loss	Estimated Content Loss	Estimated Loss Totals
Fire – Structure Total:	41			
Residential				
Single-family	17	\$467,581	\$191,610	\$ 659,191
Multi-family	13	\$158,000	\$ 12,550	\$ 170,550
Commercial/Industrial	11	\$158,250	\$ 48,500	\$ 206,750
Fire – Outdoor	123	\$ 13,075	\$ 0	\$ 13,075
Vehicle	32	\$133,562	\$ 0	\$ 133,562
Totals*	196	\$930,468	\$252,660	\$1,183,128

*The dollar losses shown in this table are preliminary estimates. They are derived from Fire'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).

Medical Calls by Type Third Quarter 2009

Medical	Volume
First Responder Total:	1193
Cardiac*	130
Firefighter Injury	1
Home Accident	47
Industrial Accident	16
Emergency Response**	999

* Cardiac Calls include: chest pain, shortness of breath, numbness, speech, and mobility.

**Emergency Response Calls include: abdominal pain, airway obstruction, allergic reaction, animal injury, assault, assists, back pain, maternity, burns, choking, collapse, diabetic, drowning, electrocution, eye injury, falls, haemorrhages, medical alert/lifeline, motor vehicle injury, overdose, poison, seizures, stabbing, and trauma.

Hazmat Calls By Type Third Quarter 2009

HazMat Calls	Details
Hazmat Calls Total:	32
Fuel Containment	10
Misc. (empty containers to unknown powder)	8
Drug Related	0
Natural Gas/Propane Leaks (small)	14

Hazmat Incidents

Although there were numerous Hazmat calls, with the assistance of air monitoring equipment, we were able to determine that the majority of these events were relatively minor in nature.

During the third quarter of 2009, the following emergency response incidents are noted:

Rescue Incidents

- Light airplane crash into an industrial area resulting in two fatalities.
- Significant motor vehicle incidents including:
 - Commercial truck and scooter
 - Car into a commercial business resulting in four injuries
 - Driver extrication on No. 2 Road bridge

Rescue Incidents Cont'd

- Significant medical calls including:
 - Cardiac resulting in a fatality
 - Multiple stabbing deaths at a commercial business
 - CPR and AED device used resulting in the patient being revived

Fires – Residential / Single-Family

- Emerald Drive house fire started by dishwasher

Fires – Residential / Multi-Family

- Catalina Road resulting in two patients hospitalized with burns
- Granville Avenue apartment fire resulting in an estimated \$100,000 in damages
- Apartment fire started by dishwasher
- High-Rise apartment fire on the 17th floor

Fires – Commercial/Industrial/Institutional

- Church fire resulting in approximately \$15-20,000 in damages
- A commercial fire on Bathgate Way was determined to be suspicious as there had been a grow op in the structure in the recent past.
- There were several commercial fires on Mitchell Island, two of which were significant:
 - A sawmill fire was held to the room of origin but sustained significant damage.
 - An auto wrecker yard was heavily involved in fire on arrival. The fire was held to the area of origin and resulted in significant damage to the building and inventory.
- Restaurant Grease Fire

Fires – Vehicle

- A vehicle fire resulted in an average loss of \$4,173.

Fires – Outdoors

- Large wild land and sawdust road fire near Westminster Highway between No. 7 & 8 Roads
- Multiple dumpster and outdoor fires

Cultural Transformation

RFR continues on its journey of cultural transformation. Activities have focussed on leadership, which is the foundation for building a department that is inclusive and values diversity.

A very productive leadership workshop was held in September where RFR employees were engaged in developing leadership competencies based on a framework developed by the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs. The competencies identify the roles and interpersonal skills and behaviours required in RFR.

The process will ensure that the competencies align with the City of Richmond's and address the uniqueness of the fire service. Once validated the model will lead to defined leadership competencies, career paths and a gap analysis for practical, training and educational needs.

Innovation

Richmond Fire-Rescue continues to be innovative and collaborative in the delivery of services. RFR is currently investigating a new type of bar-coding system for tracking inventory and checking out people and assets. The system uses a hand-held unit to locate missing items and downloads data to a computer.

Training

Training is delivered to RFR members from the newest probationary firefighters to the seasoned 30-year veterans. The primary focus is on employee safety; their ability to perform effective and professional emergency services; and on leadership and teamwork in emergency and non-emergency circumstances. This quarter's activities include:

Activity	# Members Involved
New firefighter recruits hired in 2009	6
Firefighter recruits hired in 2008 continued their in-service learning	20
Recertification of firefighters in CPR and Swift Water Rescue	approx. 70

Fire Operations

- Delivery of new Rescue/Pumper, outfitting and public presentation
- Annual ladder testing at No. 2 hall prior to construction

Fire Prevention

RFR Community Relations and Public Education staff participate in community events where they pursue opportunities to deliver safety messages to the public. In addition, RFR staff often volunteer their time in support of charitable and community events.

Highlights of participation in community relations and public education during the third quarter include:

- Steveston Salmon Festival
- South Arm Kids Safe
- Pumper Visits to Richmond Muslim School and Mahood Drive Block Event
- Canada Post Event at King George Park
- Richmond Mandarin Lions Club Garden Festival at Lansdowne Mall
- World Police & Fire Games
- BC Seniors Games

Awards

Richmond Fire Fighters' Global Village Project team has received a number of recent awards for their efforts including:

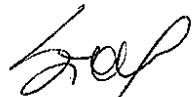
- At its Celebration of Peace event on August 21st, the Universal Peace Federation of Western Canada presented a Community Service Award to the Richmond Fire Fighters' Habitat for Humanity Global Village Project Team for their service to the community and their volunteer work in Southeast Asia and Central America.
- Community Relations Officer Kirby Graeme was one of six individuals appointed by the peace federation as an Ambassador for Peace, an award given for exemplifying the ideal of living for the sake of others and dedicating oneself to practices which promote universal moral values, strong family life, inter-religious cooperation, international harmony, renewal of the United Nations, a responsible public media and the establishment of a culture of peace.
- In September a Diploma of Recognition from Rosa Elena Moreno Maldonado, the Consul General of El Salvador in Vancouver, was presented for their construction project in El Salvador.

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.



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Richmond Fire-Rescue (Ext. 2750)