



City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** Community Safety Committee

**Date:** August 12, 2009

**From:** John McGowan  
Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue

**File:** 09-5140-01/2009-Vol 01

**Re:** 2009 Second Quarter Report - Fire-Rescue

### Staff Recommendation

That the report on Fire-Rescue's Operations for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter ending June 30, 2009 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
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
REVIEWED BY CAO	YES	NO
	<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 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly Report for April 1 to June 30, 2009.

### Suppression Activity

Fire Suppression's activity statistics for the second 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 second quarter 2009 statistics, the following highlights emerge:

- A 21 call reduction in False Alarms is seen between Q2 2008 and 2009. The change is attributed to enhanced follow-up and billing of false alarm calls, that often lead to multiple offenders fixing their faulty fire alarm systems.
- A noticeable increase is seen in the number of outdoor fires due to the dry and hot weather conditions. There is a 38 (27%) increase in these calls in comparison to the same quarter of 2008. Outdoor fire calls in: 2007= 84; 2008= 63 and in 2009= 101.

### Suppression Activity Statistics

Incident Type	Q2 of 2007	Q2 of 2008	Q2 of 2009
Fire	126	123	168
Hazardous Materials	29	36	39
False Alarm	156	196	175
Medical	1229	1052	1141
Motor Vehicle Incident	347	306	296
Alarm No Fire	209	239	223
Explosion	0	1	0
Public Hazard	44	51	51
Public Service	170	176	141
Technical Rescue	4	2	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2314</b>	<b>2182</b>	<b>2236</b>

#### 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 Second Quarter 2009**

Incident Type Breakdown	Call Volume	Estimated Building Loss	Estimated Content Loss	Estimated Loss Totals
Fire – Structure Total	51			
Residential				
Single-family	12	\$570,550	\$200,000	\$ 770,500
Multi-family	19	\$ 76,100	\$500	\$ 76,600
Commercial/Industrial	17	\$ 20,000	\$0	\$ 20,000
School	3	\$ 30,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 32,000
Fire – Outdoor	101	\$ 28,300	\$0	\$ 28,300
Vehicle	16	\$ 93,800	\$ 50,000	\$ 143,800
Totals*	168	\$818,750	\$252,500	\$1,071,250

\*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 Second Quarter 2009**

Medical	Volume
First Responder	1141
Cardiac*	131
Firefighter Injury	0
Home Accident	32
Industrial Accident	15
Emergency Response**	963

\* 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 Second Quarter 2009**

HazMat Calls	Details
Hazmat Calls Total:	39
Fuel Containment	8
Misc. (empty containers to unknown powder)	7
Drug Related	0
Natural Gas/Propane Leaks (small)	24

**Hazmat Incident**

A dangerous swimming pool chemical mixture occurred at a private sports facility that resulted in the hospitalization of several persons.

**Fire Incidents**

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

**Fires – Residential / Single-Family**

- Four house fires – one with occupant injuries; and one abandoned house (no occupants or injuries).

***Fires – Residential / Multi-Family***

- Garage fires in residential multi-family complexes - Cooney Rd; St. Albans Rd

***Fires – Commercial/Industrial/Institutional***

- Food Processing plant - roof burner stack grease fire
- Furniture Manufacturing plant - dust hopper fire
- Forest Products Manufacturing plant – single room fire
- Restaurants – three oven fires, one grease fire
- Whiteside School; South Arm pool, hedge, and a portable classroom fire

***Fires – Vehicle***

- River Road; Aintree Crescent; and Lynwood Drive - vehicle into a townhouse unit.

***Fires – Outdoors***

- A large number of vegetation fires and on April 11<sup>th</sup> 3 concurrent fire incidents: brush, dumpster and oven.

**Cultural Transformation**

RFR continues on its journey of cultural transformation in a variety of ways including:

- Building capacity for a leadership style that is conducive to an inclusive department, starting with the delivery of information sessions on RFR's new Leadership Development initiative, which is based on the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs framework. This was presented to RFR staff and received positively. The model will be developed and aligned with the City of Richmond's core competencies and linked to the fire services. Richmond is a leader in BC with this initiative.
- Delivering the Steveston-London School firefighter career introduction pilot program at City Centre fire hall to thirty-one Grade 11 and 12 students. The students received the program positively with program expansion discussions underway for 2010.
- Participating in the well-attended annual Career Smart Richmond job fair that is sponsored by the Richmond Public Library, Boys & Girls Club Community Services of Delta/ Richmond, and Immigrant Services Society of BC. Several prospective firefighter applicants have subsequently contacted RFR.
- Building RFR's workforce diversity with five new firefighters. Three of the five candidates recently completed their Justice Institute training on April 9, with the other two already having previously completed their Fire Academy. They have started RFR training in June.

**Innovation**

Fire-Rescue continues to be innovative and collaborative in the delivery of services, including:

- Mapping of RFR's suspicious fires and coordinating activities with RCMP, Parks, and City Facilities.
- RFR has created an inventory of the sixty-three vacant buildings in the City and prioritized them based on their risk level and impact. Fire, RCMP, and Bylaws share this inventory and identify when agency issues arise so that increased action can occur. This system is producing results with several buildings being demolished/secured and only one abandoned building fire to report in Q2 of 2009.

**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:

- Suppression crews completed a one-day training session in fire scene preservation, note taking and incident report writing. Expected outcomes include:
  - Fire scene preservation is becoming second nature on the fire ground, allowing for clearer fire cause determination, and positioning RFR better to prevent fires.
  - Report preparation closely aligns with industry standards.
  - Legal challenges involving RFR are more likely to be withstood.
- Five additional RFR members attended National training sessions for the Intermediate Level training CBRNE in Ottawa. This enhances Fire's ability to respond pre and post Olympics as part of the Hazmat program. The Federal Government paid for the training.
- Canada Line training delivered – station familiarization and train fire simulation exercise.
- Live Fire Incident Command and Passport Accountability training for current Officers completed. New officers would receive training as part of the on-going delivery of this important program.
- Staff re-certified in rescue the following disciplines:
  - First Responders (9)
  - Water Rescue Instructors (3)
- Law & Community Safety Recognition training and program rolled out to RFR staff.
- Probationary firefighter training and evaluation of recruits completed at the eight & twelve month milestones.

**Fire Prevention**

Community Relations and Public Education visits/activities include participation in 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter events/programs including:

- City of Richmond *Open Doors* event at Hamilton Fire Hall
- National Public Works Open House at City Works Yard
- Burkeville Daze on Sea Island
- Indo-Canadian Festival at King George Park
- Thompson Community Centre Picnic
- Boy Scouts visit to City Centre / Crestwood Fire Halls (40 Scouts)
- Steveston-London School ICBC Safety awareness and fire extinguisher practical exam
- Safety presentation through Richmond School District's English language services for adults
- Participation in the Jimmy Ng memorial ball hockey tournament
- Volunteer participation of Fire's honour guard / pipe band at the BC Seniors Games Torch Relay

**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.



Sandra Pearson  
Program/Project Manager,  
Richmond Fire-Rescue (Ext. 2750)