



To: Community Safety Committee
From: John McGowan
Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue
Re: 2011 Second Quarter Report - Fire-Rescue

Date: August 10, 2011

File:

Staff Recommendation

That the report on Fire-Rescue's operations for the 2nd Quarter ending June 30, 2011 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 2nd Quarter report for April 1st to June 30, 2011.

Suppression Activity

Fire Suppression's 9-1-1 emergency call volumes for the 2nd Quarter of 2011 are presented in the table below. Subsequent tables provide details on calls types by: fires and estimated loss; medical; and hazmat.

Q2 saw a 6% increase in 9-1-1 Medical First Responder calls over the same quarter in 2010. There is a steady upwards trend of medical calls from 2008 to 2011. If the Q3 2011 trend continues, 2011 medical calls will increase over 2010 levels.

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). In Q2 of 2011 cooler temperatures resulted in a 21% reduction in 'fire' type calls compared to the same Quarter in 2010.

9-1-1 Emergency Call Volumes for Fire-Rescue				
Incident Type	Q2 of 2009	Q2 of 2010	Q2 of 2011	% +/- (compared to 2010)
Medical	1,137	1,145	1,221	+ 6%
Motor Vehicle Incident	303	298	276	- 7%
Fire	167	112	88	- 21%
False Alarm	173	126	unavailable	-
Alarm No Fire	221	242	337	+ 39%
Public Service	142	181	145	- 19%
Public Hazard	51	62	44	- 29%
Hazardous Materials	40	15	24	+ 60%
Response – Cancelled	unavailable	unavailable	106	-
Specialized Transport	unavailable	unavailable	9	-
Explosion	0	0	0	-
Technical Rescue	2	0	1	-
Totals	2,236	2,181	2,251	+ 3%

Call Type Legend:

Medical includes: cardiac arrest, emergency response, home or industrial accidents

Alarm No Fire includes: accidental, malicious, equipment malfunctions

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

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

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

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

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

A detailed breakdown of this quarter's medical calls by sub-type is found in the following table.

Medical Calls by Type Q2- 2011

First Responder Totals			
Medical	Volume	Medical	Volume
Abdominal Pain	19	Exposure	1
Allergic Reaction	15	Eye Problems	1
Animal Bite	1	Falls/Jumper	140
Assault	24	Headache	10
Back Pain	23	Heart Problems	19
Breathing Problem	228	Haemorrhage	34
Burns	1	Man Down	37
Cardiac	37	Overdose/Poisoning	30
Chest Pain	145	Maternity	7
Choking	5	Psychiatric	20
Seizures	43	General Sick	172
Diabetic	32	Stabbing/Gun/Penetrating Injury	3
Electrocution	2	Stroke	28
Unconscious/Fainting	70	Trauma	71
Entrapment	1		
Total			1,221

Community Response

Details of the 2nd Quarter's overall community response is detailed in the following tables. The estimated building loss for this quarter is \$61,241,650 and estimated content loss is \$277,000. Which represents an estimated loss total of \$61,518,650.

Fire Calls By Type and Loss Estimates Second Quarter 2011				
Incident Type Breakdown	Call Volume	Estimated Building Loss	Estimated Content Loss	Estimated Loss Totals
Fire – Structure Total:	39			
Residential				
- Single-family	16	\$545,200	\$135,000	\$680,200
- Multi-family	13	\$60,047,500	\$0	\$60,047,500
Commercial/Industrial	10	\$231,450	\$140,000	\$371,450
Fire – Outdoor	38		\$2,000	\$2,000
Vehicle	11	\$417,500		\$417,500
Totals*	88	\$61,241,650	\$277,000	\$61,518,650

*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).

Hazmat

Hazmat - Calls By Type Second Quarter 2011	
HazMat Calls	Details
Hazmat Calls:	
Natural Gas/Propane Leaks (small)	11
Fuel Containment	4
Misc. (empty containers to unknown powder)	9
Total	24

Incidents

Notable emergency incidents, which involved RFR for this quarter, are:

Rescue

HazMat

- Minor spill of gasoline at a gas station. 14 litres of gas was cleaned up by a company representative. The fire crew stood by for fire protection.
- Unauthorized dump of hazardous material discovered in a field at the foot of Nelson Rd. RFR responded, established a hot zone and investigated. Products found were:
 - 30-5 gal. gray containers of Methyl Hydrate and Methyl Alcohol, UN 1230.
 - 40 Cardboard boxes with small black plastic bottles, 40-50 per box.
 - 5 blue rubber made totes with white powder, Ephedrine
 This incident involved a suspected drug lab dump and RCMP were called in and assumed care of the incident.
- Attended fuel spill at airport.
- Report of Oxidizer creating heat, with unknown product (possibly Carbon based), cooled with water.
- Mercury spill of approximately 6-8 ounces from an industrial thermometer in a lab. Decontamination complete and all parties released after BCAS assessment. Tenant assumed liability for clean up costs. RFR arranged to have Hazco attend for remediation once scene was secured by Hot Zone recon. Worksafe contacted and attended.

Medical Events

- Patient deceased on arrival
- Fatal cardiac
- Patient diabetic, unconscious
- Slab of granite fell on worker

Auto Extrication/Major Motor Vehicle Accident

- Responded to car fire due to brakes overheating in George Massey tunnel.
- Suspected arson, FPO Officer called out and EComm advised.
- Motorcyclist struck and landed in large ditch with compound fracture to leg and head trauma.

Fires – Residential

- Pot on fire on top of stove. Occupant found asleep in upstairs bedroom. The crew laddered window on second storey for access.
- Cambie Road apartment building under construction. Building fully involved in flames upon fire crews arrival. Ten other fires started due to fly ash from the original fire. Mutual aid was requested from Vancouver Fire to assist with these fires.
- Kitchen fire in suited two level home at River Drive. Quick fire attack by first alarm units resulted in confinement to room of origin. 6 adults, 3 young children and 1 pet cat re-located by ESS. No injuries.

Fires – Commercial/Industrial/Institutional

- Fire on Alderbridge with the evacuation of approximately 100 employees and work shut down for several hours. Fire was confined with no injuries.
- Early morning fire in an autobody shop at Bridgeport Road. No injuries.
- Minor fire damage to elementary school. RCMP called to scene.

Technical Rescue

- Boat sank in middle of channel. Occupants swam to shore and crew on scene for support.

Training

The training staff in RFR deliver training programs to all members of RFR in disciplines ranging from: personal protective equipment, firefighting and rescue practices to emergency vehicle operating and incident management. The training team also delivers leadership and interpersonal skills programs through in-house instructors, on-line training, and the use of external trainers. For the 2nd Quarter the following highlights are noted:

- Several core training programs were delivered to a variety of staff groups through several mediums. Recent training included: high angle instructor professional development; emergency vehicle operator and driver program; water rescue operations training was delivered to all staff; Word, Excel and computer training courses were held in the RFR computer lab at No. 1 Firehall (Brighthouse). Training programs on the RFR Target Safety education site have also been updated to better aid instructors, as well some of these programs have been audited by staff from City Human Resources and other divisions.
- A selection process was carried out to replace two Acting Training Officers who were rotating back to the suppression teams. Interviews were conducted and out of the four qualified applicants, two successful candidates were appointed to Training Officer positions and begun a three-year term starting in July.

- Members from the RFR training team attended the BC Fire Training Office conference in Abbotsford and were able to report back on current trends in the following areas: wellness initiative, hi-rise operations, training for safety, hazardous materials incidents and professionalism. One of our Acting Training Officers was invited to present at the conference and RFR was able to have him attend at no cost to the City.
- The RFR training team researched options for conducting and delivering shipboard firefighting.
- As part of Fire's Leadership Development Program, the training team facilitated classes where all RFR Fire's Officers and Pool Officers received training in employee development planning and performance feedback. This training was conducted in concert with City Human Resources and took place in several locations over a period of some months.

Fire Prevention (Events & Activities)

Richmond Fire-Rescue participates in many community events and activities for public education and/or community relations purposes. Following are some of the noteworthy events attended during the 2nd Quarter:

- Airport and Hotel Safety Fair
- Job Fair, Richmond Youth Services at Minoru Cultural Centre
- Walk for ALS at Garry Point
- Re-opening of South Arm Community Event
- Jimmy Ng Memorial Tournament
- Ships to Shore Event
- 75th Boy Scout Anniversary at Minoru Park
- Steveston Salmon Festival
- Fijian Community Celebration Event

On April 27 the 911 Awards recognized all Firefighters who were nominated for the awards. The winners of two categories were two Richmond Firefighters.

In May one Firefighter was recognised by Richmond Fire-Rescue for outstanding performance at two cardiac events.

Fire Halls

The building handover and staff occupancy of the Steveston Hall occurred at the end of June 2011 and all temporary facilities have now been removed from the site. The public opening for the Steveston Fire Hall is scheduled for Saturday October 1, 2011. RFR staff are in the process of making arrangements for the event.

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.



John

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