



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

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

Date: April 24, 2009

File:

Staff Recommendation

That the report on Fire-Rescue's Operations for the 1st Quarter ending March 31, 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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
REVIEWED BY CAO	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

Staff Report

Origin

It is important that Council and the public be informed on Richmond Fire-Rescue's activities and strategic work plans to ensure that Richmond Fire-Rescue continues to do the right things for the benefit of the community.

Analysis

Fire-Rescue has strategically aligned its annual work program and operational activities to support the City's vision as well as those of the Community Safety Department and Fire-Rescue Division itself. Currently reports to Council on Fire-Rescue are limited to quarterly financials and annual achievements and an annual divisional report on activities and priorities. Fire-Rescue's Quarterly Reports to Community Safety Committee will:

- Provide progressive quarterly updates on a wide range of Fire-Rescue's activities throughout the course of the year, culminating in year-end achievements reporting to Community Safety Committee.
- Expand on Fire-Rescue's quarterly operational key indicators summarized in the City's Financial Report to Finance Committee.

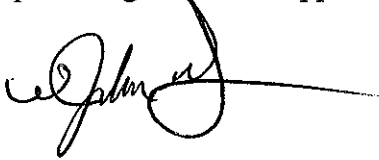
Fire-Rescue's 1st 2009 Quarterly Report is found in *Attachment 1*.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

Fire-Rescue is committed to providing Council and the public information on its activities and providing additional opportunities for dialogue on setting priorities.



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

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Attachment 1 – Fire-Rescue’s 2009 1st Quarter Report

Suppression Activity:

Fire Suppression’s activity statistics for the first 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 statistics, the following highlights emerge:

- Motor Vehicle Incident and Medical emergency call dispatch protocols were changed in 2007 and subsequently reduced call volumes in both of these call types. In 2009 the medical call volume increased as a result of BCAS dispatch protocol changes.
- The total call volume for the first quarter of 2009 when comparing it with the previous two years is within normal range.

Suppression Activity Statistics

Incident Type	Q1 of 2007	Q1 of 2008	Q1 of 2009
Fire	72	82	77
Hazardous Materials	28	33	23
False Alarm	149	165	144
Medical	1164	1013	1085
Motor Vehicle Incident	372	338	295
Alarm No Fire	265	253	255
Explosion	0	0	0
Public Hazard	46	43	58
Public Service	169	159	155
Technical Rescue	5	2	0
Totals	2270	2088	2092

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 First Quarter 2009

Incident Type Breakdown	Call Volume	Estimated Building Loss	Estimated Content Loss	Estimated Content Loss Totals
Fire -- Structure Total	35			
Residential				
Single-family	13	\$945,381	\$542,500	\$1,487,881
Multi-family	14	\$156,400	\$65,450	\$221,850
Commercial/Industrial	8	\$398,000	\$5,000	\$403,000
Fire -- Outdoor	25	\$297,400	\$90,350	\$387,750
Vehicle	17	\$61,450	-	\$61,450
Totals	77	\$1,858,631	\$703,300	\$2,561,931

Medical Calls by Type First Quarter 2009

Medical	Volume
First Responder	
Cardiac*	150
Firefighter Injury	0
Home Accident	30
Industrial Accident	12
Emergency Response**	825

*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 First Quarter 2009

HazMat Calls	Details
Hazmat Calls Total:	23
Fuel Containment	5
Misc. (empty containers to unknown powder)	8
Drug Related	1
Natural Gas/Propane Leaks (small)	9

Notable Fire Incidents:

During the first quarter of 2009, the following incident details are noted:

- There were four boat fires, which is unusual for Richmond. The most significant boat fire was while it was in dry dock for repairs. Another boat fire occurred while moored at a marina and impacted two additional boats and resulted in injuries to the boat owner.
- There was damage to the City's caretaker facility in South Arm Park. The home was damaged along with the caretaker's vehicle.

Cultural Transformation

- In February Richmond Fire-Rescue participated in Richmond School District's 6th Annual Career Options Fair. This is a popular and well-attended event, in 2008 drawing 80 different groups and over 2,400 students attending.
- Fire-Rescue has been approached by the Multicultural Concerns Society to sit on an advisory committee for their Welcoming and Inclusive Communities and Workplaces Initiative funded by the Provincial Government.

Innovations

- Fire pursued sustainability through:
 - Raising staff's green awareness of the need to reduce its environmental footprint and have implemented programs to facilitate sustainable practices including:
 - A reduction in plastic water bottles use;
 - Introducing composting into each fire hall;
 - Waste recycling including: paper, plastic, metal, batteries, newspaper, and cardboard;
 - A bottle "Return it @ Work" program for refundable beverage containers.
 - Raising staff's awareness of the need to reduce natural resource consumption through the introduction of a:
 - "Turn Off the Lights" electrical program;
 - The installation of automatic fire hall bay garage door closers linked with heating shut off switches.

Fire Prevention

There were several significant community relations' events to report:

- In February 2009 eighteen people from Richmond Fire-Rescue participated in a two-week Habitat for Humanity building project in El Salvador. This group of volunteers fundraised to pay for expenses and were instrumental in the donation of over \$60,000 in sporting equipment, toys and clothing donations.