



# City of Richmond

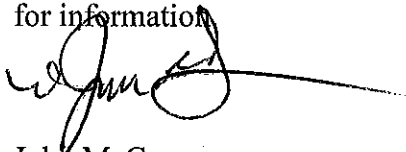
## Report to Committee

**To:** Community Safety Committee  
**From:** John McGowan  
 Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue  
**Re:** 2010 Second Quarter Report - Fire-Rescue


**Date:** July 29, 2010  
**File:** 03-1000-18-023/Vol 01

### Staff Recommendation

That the report on Fire-Rescue's operations for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter ending June 30, 2010 be received for information



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

<b>FOR ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT USE ONLY</b>		
<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b>		
		
<b>REVIEWED BY TAG</b>	YES cvc <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>REVIEWED BY CAO</b>	YES cd <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <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> Quarter report for April 1 to June 30, 2010.

### Suppression Activity

Fire Suppression's 9-1-1 emergency call volumes for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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). In Q2 of 2010 cooler weather resulted in a 32% reduction in "fire" type calls as compared to the same Quarter in 2009. The 27% reduction in "false alarm" type calls is attributed to the Fire Prevention Officers who work with repeat alarms locations to ensure improved on-site management of their fire alarm systems.

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

Incident Type	Q2 of 2008	Q2 of 2009	Q2 of 2010
Medical	1052	1137	1145
Motor Vehicle Incident	306	303	298
Fire	123	167	113↓32%
False Alarm	196	173	127↓27%
Alarm No Fire	239	221	241
Public Service	176	142	180
Public Hazard	51	51	62
Hazardous Materials	36	40	15
Explosion	1	0	0
Technical Rescue	2	2	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2182</b>	<b>2236</b>	<b>2181</b>

#### Call Type Legend:

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

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

*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

**Community Response**

Details of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter's overall community response is detailed in the following tables. The estimated building loss for this quarter is \$1,078,420 and represents .08% of the total potential loss of \$133,656,458. The estimated content loss for this quarter is \$326,220 and represents .01% of the of the total potential loss of \$22,946,065.

**Fire Calls By Type and Loss Estimates Second Quarter 2010**

Incident Type Breakdown	Call Volume	Estimated Building Loss	Estimated Content Loss	Estimated Loss Totals
Fire – Structure Total:	<b>38</b>			
Residential				
Single-family	14	\$ 569,620	\$159,010	<b>\$728,630</b>
Multi-family	15	\$ 309,550	\$120,210	<b>\$429,760</b>
Commercial/Industrial	9	\$ 130,000	\$47,000	<b>\$177,000</b>
Fire – Outdoor	<b>62</b>	\$ 9,150	\$0	<b>\$ 9,150</b>
Vehicle	13	\$ 60,100	\$0	<b>\$ 60,100</b>
<b>Totals*</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>\$1,078,420</b>	<b>\$326,220</b>	<b>\$1,404,640</b>

\*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 Q2 – 2010**

Medical	Volume
First Responder Total:	<b>1145</b>
Emergency Response	988
Cardiac	123
Home Accident	25
Industrial Accident	9

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

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

**Hazmat**

**Hazmat - Calls By Type Second Quarter 2010**

HazMat Calls	Details
Hazmat Calls Total:	<b>15</b>
Natural Gas/Propane Leaks (small)	6
Fuel Containment	6
Misc. (empty containers to unknown powder)	3

## **Incidents**

Notable emergency incidents and numbers for this quarter follow.

### ***Rescue***

- An emergency child birth was performed by a fire crew.
- Fire crews were on standby due to an aircraft bomb threat.

### ***Fires – Residential / Single-Family***

- Arson was the cause of an abandoned house fire in the 7100 Block of No. 6 Road.
- A house was consumed by fire in the 17,000 block of River Road with flames 20-30' in the air upon arrival. An exterior defensive operation was deployed.

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

- While responding to a fire alarm call, fire crews discovered a meth distribution centre.
- Three condo units in the 12,000 block of Cambie Road were impacted by a fire. Two condos were heavily involved with fire, with the third sustaining lesser damage.

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

- The fire in a strip mall coffee shop was limited to the roof area of the single unit due to the quick attack by the fire crew.
- A garbage fire was set at Sunnymede School.
- A cement plant fire destroyed one of their large tents along with several pieces of machinery.

## **Awards**

On April 28, 2010 the Richmond Chamber of Commerce held the 9-1-1 awards event. This year's Fire nominees were:

### **Firefighter or Fire-Rescue Crew of the Year**

- Cardiac Arrest Call: Firefighter Al Ostafiew, Firefighter Gonzalo Ledezma, Firefighter John Yoo
- Community Public Relations Bag: Firefighter Nathan Bavis
- Dampier Road Fire: Fire Captain David MacDonald
- Firefighters Without Borders (El Salvador): Firefighter Edgar Rodriguez

### **Community Safety Award**

- Abandoned Properties: Fire Prevention Officer Forrest Weissler

### **Fire-Rescue Career Achievement Award**

- Ron Beaman

### **Innovation**

- Richmond is the 1<sup>st</sup> Fire Department in Canada to introduce “hot stick” equipment, used in the Australian fire services for responding to incidents involving high-energized power lines. The device is a stick that is long and insulated and is used to safely sense the presence of electrical activity. Using this tool can reduce the risk of further injury to the victim, emergency responder and aids in safe victim extrication. The equipment is deployed on Richmond’s emergency response vehicles.
- Fire’s older automatic external defibrillators (AED) were replaced, which provides an opportunity, for the first time, to electronically download Richmond’s AED use and patient data. Richmond is one of the key participants in a community study on effective pre-hospital cardiac intervention. Richmond’s AED data is sent to RFR’s Medical Director, Dr. Holmes, at Global Medical for analysis which has been used to drive positive changes to cardiac intervention. Significant time was spent updating Fire’s AED protocols and in the delivery of training to all First Responder personnel.
- The July 2010 firefighter recruit class is the first to be evaluated using newly developed electronic evaluation forms. Significant hours were used to develop the evaluation framework in partnership with the City’s IT and Human Resources work units. The tool will be used to capture consistent and quantitative information on the progress of new firefighter recruits.
- Fire continues to leverage and develop its web-based computerized staff training system (Target Safety). Recently Fire staff have developed a feature to track and produce documentation relating to firefighter training certification requirements. This innovative approach is generating interest from other regional Fire Departments.

### **Training**

The training staff in RFR deliver training programs to all members of RFR in disciplines ranging from: Personal Protective Equipment, Firefighting and Rescue to Emergency Vehicle Operating and Incident Management. Training also delivers leadership and people skills programs through in-house instructors, on-line training, and the use of external trainers. For the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter the following highlights are noted:

#### **Recruit Training**

- Five probationary recruits passed their 12 month exams. They are now fully trained and have been operationally deployed.
- Four new probationary recruits have been hired and are proceeding through their in-house training and evaluation period. Preparation for the recruits occurred in this period in anticipation of their arrival which included securing of equipment and review of training plans.

### **Community Partnerships**

- Confined space training was provided by Fire-Rescue to staff at the Lulu Island sewage treatment plant. Safety and harm prevention was their primary focus with dialogue on preparation and emergency management.
- BC Hydro has, at no cost to the City, trained Fire's trainers in electrical safety. Fire's trainers have in turn delivered information lectures to all of fire's emergency responders that focussed on harm prevention and mitigation for downed wires and other electrical issues.

### **High-Rise Firefighting**

RFR is incorporating recent learnings into its Standard Operational Procedures (SOPs) and staff training programs for high-rise incidents.

The development of appropriate SOPs and staff training for response to high-rise fires or events is an important activity given the nature of high rises, which are the most dangerous fire a firefighter can attend due to the complicated technical issues of getting staff, water and equipment to height.

### **Incident Command System**

Within the last year, Richmond has introduced procedural and equipment changes to its Incident Command System (ICS) and completed live fire training for its command staff (Captains and Officers). The ICS focus points are the safety of staff and citizens while managing resources at incidents.

### **Managing Firefighter Emergencies at Incidents**

RFR's existing Rapid Intervention Team training SOP for rescuing trapped and missing firefighters inside a burning building was updated.

**Emergency Vehicle Operator (EVO/EVD) and Driver**

Staff were able to evaluate a simulation program and mock-up training prop. Staff can practice driving in all types of weather and hazardous conditions to enhance skills and allow for evaluation of new drivers. RFR’s regular EVO/EVD training takes place weekly. The key components and evaluation checklists were brought back to RFR from a Training Officers’ education forum and incorporated into the newly re-designed EVO/EVD program that is currently being rolled out.

**Fire Prevention**

Special investigations are summarized in the table below.

**Special Inspections/Investigations Second Quarter 2010**

Type	Total
Electrical and Fire Safety Inspections	6*
*Data reflects April to mid May only	
Infant Car Seat Inspections	87
Fire Investigations	113
Incendiary	33
Suspicious	9
Accidental	52
Undetermined	17
Investigation Ongoing	2

Incendiary fires are those where a person intentionally lights it, knowing they shouldn't.

Suspicious fires are those where there is no reason for the fire to start.

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 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter:

**Civic Events**

- South Arm Community Event
- Steveston Salmon Festival
- St. Albans Volunteer Event
- City Hall Olympic Celebration
- Public Works Yard Open House

**Educational Opportunities**

- Education to 25 Adults ESL Learners
- Attendance and Public Education at: Steveston Community Centre; McKinney, Ferris, Anderson, Grauer, and Westwind Schools

**Community Relations Event Visits**

- Fundraising for Richmond fire victims
- Motorcycle ride to cure cancer and cancer foundation event at Ironwood
- Jimmy Ng Memorial tournament
- M.A.D.D. Event

- M&M Meats community event

### **Fire Halls**

During the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of 2010, the following fire hall facility highlights are noted:

- The Steveston fire hall construction project saw these milestones achieved: installation of sewer line and right-of-way completed, foundation walls prepared, concrete bay floors and foundation installed, underground services installed, and pouring of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor concrete slab.
- The Hamilton fire hall community room was used by the City's Engineering Department to hold a Community Open House.

### **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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