



## City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

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

**Date:** April 29, 2011  
**File:**

### Staff Recommendation

That the report on Fire-Rescue's operations for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter ending March 31, 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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>K</i>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
REVIEWED BY CAO	YES <i>BT</i> <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 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter report for January 1 to March 31, 2011.

### Suppression Activity

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

Q1 saw a 5% 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 2010. If the Q1 2011 trend continues, 2011 medical calls will increase over 2010 levels. As of January 2011 a change in the categorization of False Alarm incident types has occurred to provide more specific information.

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

Incident Type	Q1 of 2009	Q1 of 2010	Q1 of 2011
Medical	1084	1172	1235 ↑5%
Motor Vehicle Incident	300	298	288
Fire	78	85	83
False Alarm	142	137	unavailable
Alarm No Fire	255	247	323
Public Service	153	133	132
Public Hazard	58	46	36
Hazardous Materials	23	22	28
Response -- Cancelled	unavailable	unavailable	94
Specialized Transport	unavailable	unavailable	11
Explosion	0	1	0
Technical Rescue	0	0	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2093</b>	<b>2141</b>	<b>2231</b>

#### 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 new to this quarterly report and is found in the following table.

**Medical Calls by Type Q1- 2011**

<b>Medical</b>	<b>Volume</b>
<b>First Responder Total:</b>	<b>1235</b>
Abdominal Pain	19
Allergy / Sting	18
Animal Bites / Stings	1
Assault	29
Back Pain	16
Breathing Problem -- Abnormal Breathing	241
Carbon Monoxide / Inhalation	2
Cardiac / Respiratory Arrest / Death	42
Chest Pain	162
Choking	6
Convulsions / Seizures	42
Diabetic Problems	32
Falls / Jumper	132
Headache	13
Heart Problems	28
Hemorrhage / Lacerations	28
Man Down	35
Overdose / Poisoning	36
Pregnancy / Childbirth / Miscarriage	1
Psychiatric / Abnormal Behavioral	14
Sick Person	175
Stab / Gunshot / Penetrating Trauma	4
Stroke	27
Traumatic Injuries	55
Unconscious / Fainting	77

**Community Response**

Details of the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter's overall community response is detailed in the following tables. The estimated building loss for this quarter is \$391,350 and estimated content loss is \$346,700.

**Fire Calls By Type and Loss Estimates First Quarter 2011**

<b>Incident Type Breakdown</b>	<b>Call Volume</b>	<b>Estimated Building Loss</b>	<b>Estimated Content Loss</b>	<b>Estimated Loss Totals</b>
<b>Fire – Structure Total:</b>	<b>45</b>			
Residential				
Single-family	14	\$208,500	\$19,335	\$227,835
Multi-family	11	\$3,150	\$750	\$3,900
Commercial/Industrial	20	\$79,700	\$301,100	\$380,800
<b>Fire – Outdoor</b>	<b>33</b>		\$515	\$515
<b>Vehicle</b>	<b>5</b>		\$25,000	\$25,000
<b>Totals*</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>\$291,350</b>	<b>\$346,700</b>	<b>\$638,050</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).



***Hazmat*****Hazmat - Calls By Type First Quarter 2011**

HazMat Calls	Details
Hazmat Calls Total:	28
Natural Gas/Propane Leaks (small)	18
Fuel Containment	2
Misc. (empty containers to unknown powder)	8

**Incidents**

Notable emergency incidents which involved RFR for this quarter are:

***Rescue***HazMat

- Excavator dug up a gas line leading to lot. The line had to be capped off at two ends to stop the gas flow.
- Excavator ripped a meter from a house on Azure Rd.
- Gas leak from a restaurant at Richmond Public Market.
- Major gas leak at Boundary /Thompson Roads. The scene and road was shut down for 5 hours.
- Gas line broken during house demolition.
- Overturned truck with punctured fuel tank.
- Refrigerant leaks at Richmond Water Mania required full deployment of the HazMat team. Watermania staff are addressing the air monitoring system.

Aircraft Emergencies

- Smoke in large aircraft. Passengers evacuated and RFR crews assisted YVR staff to isolate the problem and mitigate any further issues.
- Cardiac arrest death on aircraft, RFR and BCAS crews responded and worked together in a resuscitation effort.

Medical Events

- Six occasions where RFR intervened with the AEDs. RFR crews were able to restore pulses in three of the patients.

Auto Extrication/Major Motor Vehicle Accident

- Forcible extrication - Alderbridge/Garden City Patient removed in teamwork with BCAS.
- Forcible extrication through the use of the "Jaws of Life" which were used to remove a door from an automobile to free patient.
- Pedestrian struck by a vehicle on Minoru Blvd. The patient was stuck underneath the vehicle. RFR crews elevated the vehicle off the patient and removed the patient from the dangerous environment.

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

- Home on Shell Rd. slated for demo. The house was fully involved upon arrival. Fire crews were able to protect the adjacent buildings.
- A fire originated in a room above an attached garage. The firefighting operations were difficult due to hoarding issues within the structure. This fire was contained to the room of origin.
- Fire was located within an interior bathroom which was severely damaged.

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

- Fully involved boat shed with two small vessels inside. Firefighting was conducted during a period of cold weather with icy docks. River flowing at four knots. Full first alarm along with assistance from RCMP, BCAS and Canadian Coast Guard.
- Twelve unit warehouse fire on Voyageur Way. Three business were severely damaged another three had smoke and water damage. The firefighting operation was protracted in nature and required the use of demolition equipment.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter the following highlights are noted:

- As part of Fire's Leadership Development Program, all of Fire's Officers and Pool Officers received training in employee development planning and performance feedback.
- Participation in the annual meeting of the Canada Line Emergency Response Liaison Committee. The Committee's purpose is to improve communications and coordination on shared issues such as training and procedures to improve emergency response.
- Several core training programs were delivered to a variety of staff groups. Recent training included: Emergency Vehicle Operator and Driver Program; Water Rescue; First Responder, Traffic Scene Safety, and Rapid Intervention
- The YVR Airside Vehicle Operator's Permit and Restricted Area Identify Card training programs were administered and are required for all airside vehicle operators and their passengers.
- Seventy-six of Richmond firefighters attended railway training provided by the railway Association of Canada and the TransCAER event personnel. The course covered railroad and derailment safety, railcar identification and components and locomotive emergencies.



### **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 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter:

- Christmas Tree Collection at Gary Point Park
- Winter Fest at the Richmond Olympic Oval
- Canadian Chinese Cultural Association safety lecture to approximately 300 persons through an interpreter
- Pancake breakfast hosted by Cambie Community Centre for Knightsbridge townhouse complex fire residents and victims (one year anniversary)

In January a formal public ceremony to recognize Richmond's newest firefighter and those receiving long service medals was held at Richmond City Hall. The event was attended by dignitaries from many levels of government, firefighters and their families.

In February, Richmond Fire-Rescue hosted a workshop with Metro Vancouver Fire Chiefs to inform and discuss negotiating/bargaining matters of mutual interest.

In March, Richmond Fire-Rescue's Deputy Chief of Administration and Finance was one of the panel members at the Women in Leadership Conference hosted by the Justice Institute of BC.

### **Fire Halls**

The public opening for the Steveston Fire Hall is likely to occur in the Fall to coincide with the return of the local children to school and to avoid conflict with the many summer community events. Richmond Fire-Rescue is seeking art submissions from its firefighters for display in the new Steveston Fire Hall as well as into other local fire halls.

### **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  
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Richmond Fire-Rescue (Ext. 2750)