



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** June 17, 2013
From: John McGowan **File:** 09-5000-01/2012-Vol
Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue 01
Re: Richmond Fire-Rescue – May 2013 Activity Report

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled Richmond Fire-Rescue – May 2013 Activity Report, dated June 17, 2013, from the Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue, be received for information.

John McGowan
Fire Chief
(604-303-2734)

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER 	
REVIEWED BY DIRECTORS	INITIALS: DW
REVIEWED BY CAO (DEPUTY)	INITIALS: DE

Staff Report

Origin

The purpose of this report is to keep Council informed on matters pertaining to public safety services in the community of Richmond.

Council Term Goals for 2011-2014 identify the desire to ensure Richmond remains a safe and desirable community to live, work and play in, through the delivery of effective public safety services that are targeted to the City's specific needs and priorities.

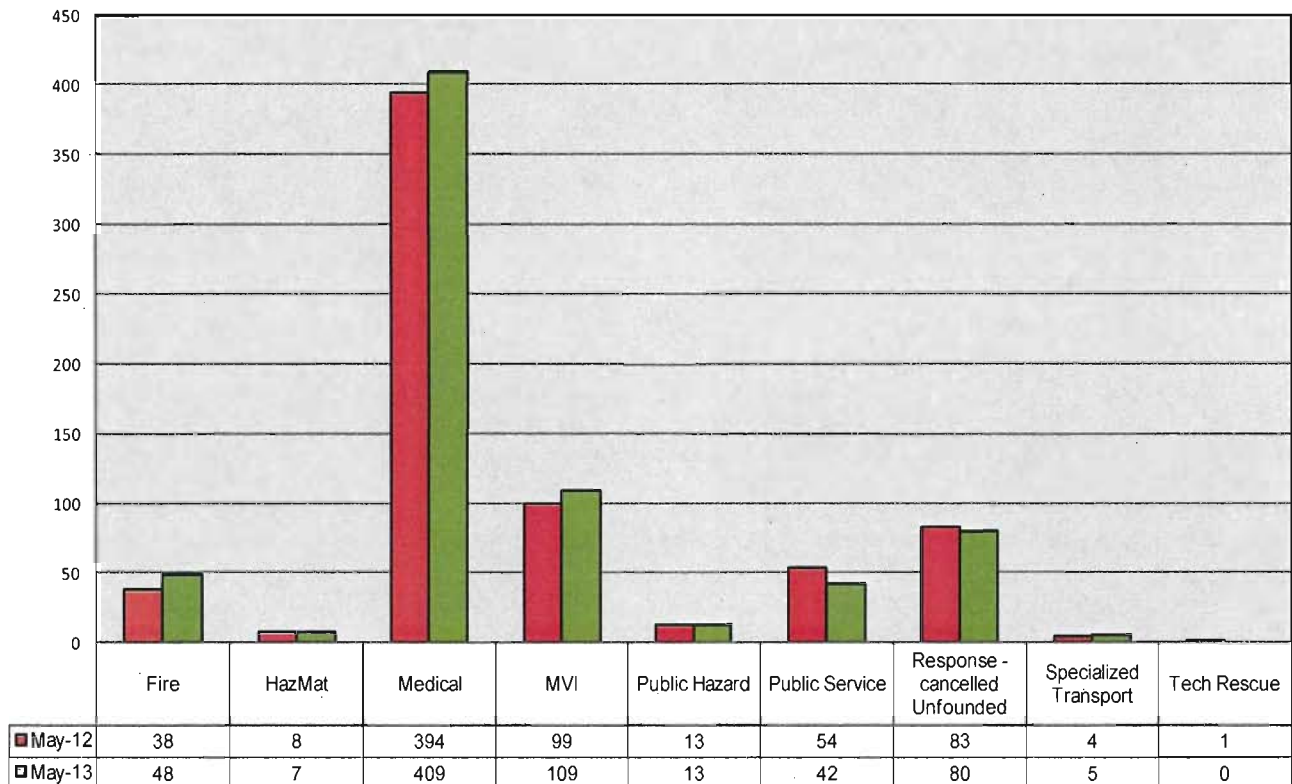
Analysis

Fire-Rescue's report for May 2013 is set out below.

Suppression Activity

The following is a month to month comparison chart of the number of incidents that occurred in May 2012 and May 2013. For May 2013, there were a total of 814 incidents compared to 789 in May 2012, representing an increase of 3.2%.

May 2012 & 2013 Calls for Service Volumes



Call Type Legend:

Alarm Active/No Fire includes: accidental, malicious, equipment malfunctions

HazMat includes: fuel or vapour; spills, leaks, or containment

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

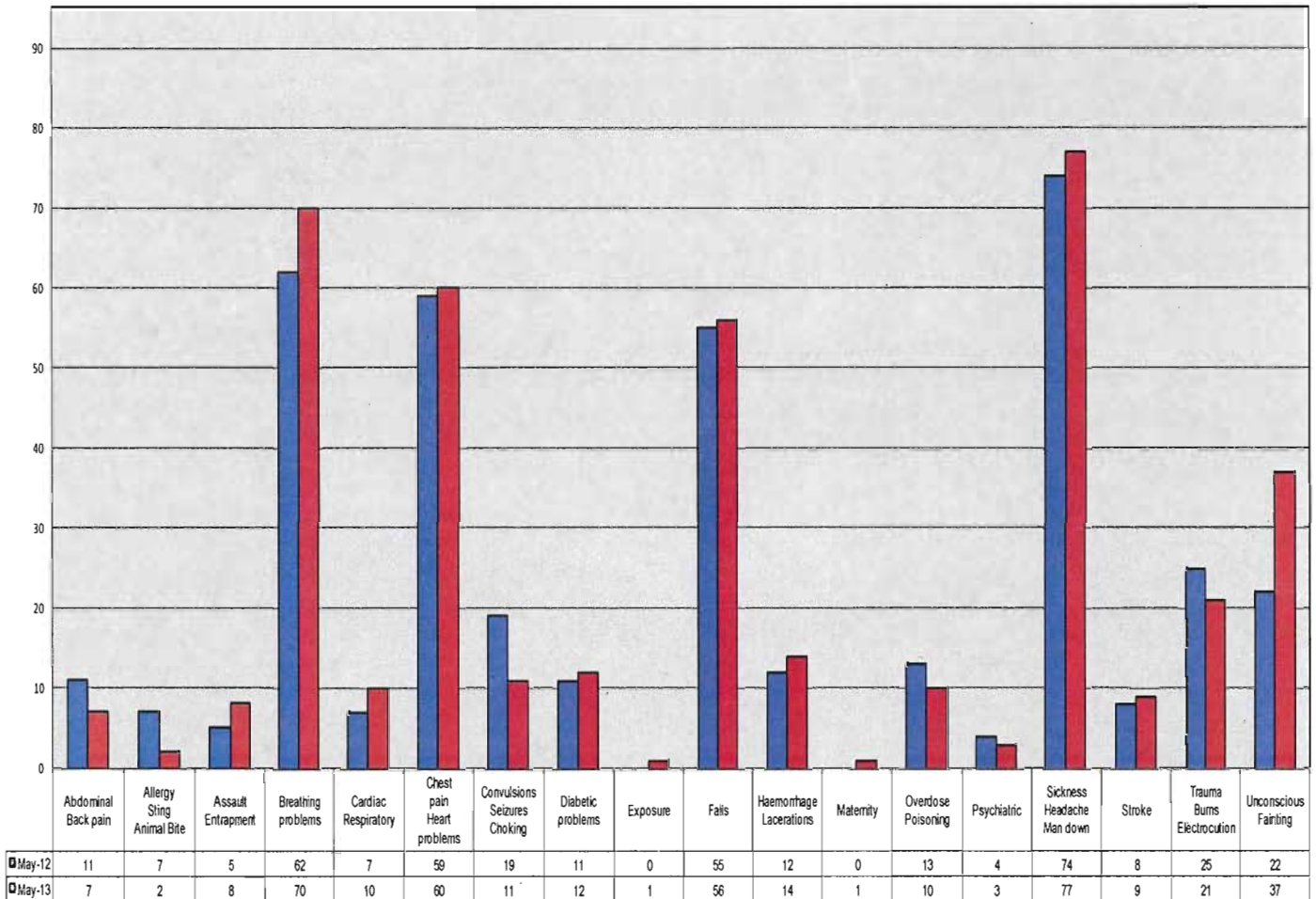
Public Hazard includes: aircraft emergency, bomb removal standby, object removal, or power lines down

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

First Responder Totals

Medical calls comprise 50.2% of total calls for RFR. A detailed breakdown of the medical calls for May 2012 and 2013 by sub-type is set out in the following table, with a total of 409 medical calls for May 2013. This represents an increase of 3.8% over the same period in 2012.

May 2012 & 2013 Medical Calls by Type



Incidents

Notable emergency incidents which involved RFR for May 2013 were:

Medical

In May RFR crews responded to 400 medical calls. RFR crews regularly respond to medical calls where CPR skills are required. In May crews were called to two separate cardiac arrest incidents involving males over the age of 60. In both incidents CPR and an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) were used. RFR was able to resuscitate one of the patients.

Motor Vehicle Incidents (MVI)

RFR were called to a report of a high speed MVI at the intersection of Westminster Highway and Knight St. involving four vehicles with one confirmed fatality and three seriously injured victims. The call involved triage and extrication of patients and victim as well as suppression of a small fire. The Highway was closed for several hours. RCMP took statements from all RFR members that attended the MVI. Attending RFR members received Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD) with a counsellor after the event.

Fires – Residential / Commercial / Outdoor

RFR crews responded to a structure fire in the attic of a house on Blundell Road. Units arrived to find dark gray smoke emanating from the roof area of this home. Crews made quick entry to the home through the front door and found the fire to be in the attic area of the first floor front side and the second floor attic area. An aggressive attack through the attic opening eventually extinguished the fire but it had burned through some of the shake roof structure. The fire was confined to the attic areas with smoke and water damage to various other parts of the home. No one was home at the time and no injuries occurred to fire personnel. The cause is under investigation.

RFR crews responded to a structure fire on Vulcan Way. Crews arrived to find fire and smoke coming from the rear loading dock area of a garden pot and fountain manufacturing complex. The fire originated on the exterior road side of this older timber frame one storey building. The fire spread up the loading bay door area and into the soffit/roof area. Crews were able to quickly contain the fire. The fire was extinguished with no interior extension and with minimal structural damage. Smoke removal from inside the business was also performed. The fire is under investigation.

A Second Alarm was called for a confirmed fire on the second floor of a large 3 storey wood framed apartment complex on Mellis Drive. Arriving units found a developing fire on the exterior second floor balcony at the rear the building. First arriving crews quickly suppressed the fire and prevented further loss. Fire had just broken into the suite and was threatening the third floor above. An aggressive and effective ventilation plan prevented smoke from affecting the remainder of the building and minimized further damage to the unit. 29 members and 9 apparatus attended the scene.

Crews responded to a fire in the engine compartment of a tractor on Steveston Highway. The fire was quickly mitigated.

RFR crews also responded to three reports of “pots on stove” fires and two incidents of BBQ fires. RFR will increase public messaging regarding safety for BBQs and how to avoid kitchen fires throughout the summer months.

For May 2013, the estimated total Fire Loss was \$40,110, which includes \$37,300 for building loss and \$2,810 for content loss. The total building and content value at risk was \$70,000,700 and the total value preserved was \$69,960,950, which translates to 99.9% of value protected.

Fire Calls By Type and Loss Estimates – May						
Incident Type Breakdown	Call Volume	Estimated Building Value \$	Estimated Building Loss \$	Estimated Content Value \$	Estimated Content Loss \$	Estimated Total Value Preserved \$
Residential:						
- Single-family	5	1,400,000	2,000	400,000	200	1,797,800
- Multi-family	7	27,950,000	20,000	9235,000	2,110	37,162,890
Commercial/Industrial	5	17,000,000	300	14,000,000	500	30,999,200
Fire – Outdoor	26	700	-	-	-	700
Vehicle	5	15,000	15,000	-	-	-
Totals*	48	46,365,700	37,300	23,635,000	2,810	69,960,950

*The dollar losses shown in this table are preliminary estimates. They are derived from RFR'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).

The fire investigation statistics for May 2013 are listed below:

Total Fire Investigation Statistics – May			
	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	1	1	3
Residential - Multi-family	0	5	2
Commercial/Industrial	1	2	2
Fire – Outdoor	8	12	6
Vehicle	0	2	3
Totals	10	22	16

HazMat

HazMat Calls By Type – May	
HazMat Calls	Details
Natural Gas/Propane Leaks (small)	3
Flammable/Combustible Liquids	2
Misc. (empty containers to unknown powder)	2
Total	7

RFR crews responded to a report of a large natural gas leak at River Road and Hollybridge. On arrival it was found that a three inch high pressure gas line had been hit during digging at River Road 50 feet West of Hollybridge. Safety Officers from the Onni Construction site had evacuated their site, The Richmond Olympic Oval and surrounding businesses prior to RFR arrival. Richmond Fire secured the area and controlled pedestrian and vehicular traffic flow away from the area. Fortis Gas were eventually able to shut off gas flow to the area. The scene was left in the care of Fortis Gas and RCMP.

Crews responded to a call at Beckman Place involving a male and female who were experiencing headaches and reduced consciousness. On arrival it was suspected that they were suffering from Carbon Monoxide poisoning. RFR crews assisted BCAS with the removal of the patients. RCMP were also in attendance at location. RFR were unable to identify the source of the Carbon Monoxide.

RFR crews responded to a report of a gas leak at YVR domestic terminal. On inspection it was found that there was a gas line leak in the kitchen. Crews worked quickly to ventilate the area.

All other hazmat calls for May were relatively minor, quickly mitigated, and did not require any long-term hazmat team deployment.

Training and Education

Throughout the month of May 2013, RFR's training team led several new initiatives, as well as continued to support the management of regular training within RFR's current training plan.

During May, Company Officers provided training for the response computers on the apparatus to all crew members at individual fire-halls.

RFR's training staff assisted with the recruitment testing on May 13 and 14 on site at Fire Hall No 1 and at the Minoru Aquatics Centre.

RFR's Training staff working with Target Safety to create and update credentials for suppression staff. A report of all completed Emergency Vehicle Office (EVO) assignments is being developed.

RFR Training staff continue to provide High-Rise training for Battalion Chiefs and Acting Battalion Chiefs. In total, this whole program involved over 8000 combined hours of instruction to 190 people, or 40 hours per person over 6 months.

Community Relations / Public Education

Richmond Fire-Rescue participated in numerous events and activities for public education during May 2013. Some of the events attended by the Fire Chief, Deputy Chiefs, RFR crews and Prevention Officers were as follows:

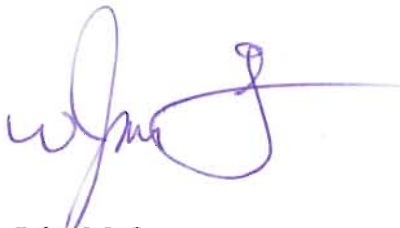
- 18 car seat inspections provided at Fire Hall No.1
- Pumper visits were provided to *Tomsett Elementary School, Blair Elementary School, McHappy Day (various locations), Manoah Steves Elementary (YMCA after care), Shelter Island Marina Day, Anderson Elementary (YMCA after care), Walk for ALS at Garry Point Park, Public Works Open House, Jimmy Ng Memorial tournament, SOS Children's Village Walk and Thomas Kidd Elementary Spring Fair.*
- Hall Tours were provided for *Doors Open Richmond (two days) and Richmond 27th Beavers.*
- Safety and training events attended were *the Safety & Secure Living Fair, Jazz aviation for NAOSH Week, NAOSH Fair at WorkSafe BC, Annual College Wellness Fair and Air Canada.*

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

Richmond Fire-Rescue continues to deliver services and programs through an approach balancing prevention, education and emergency response. This direction is based on the belief that prevention, education and emergency response programs must be well established and integrated to have a positive impact on community safety.



John McGowan
Fire Chief
(604-303-2734)

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