



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** Community Safety Committee

**Date:** February 27, 2012

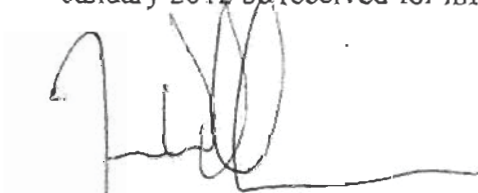
**From:** John McGowan  
Fire Chief

**File:**

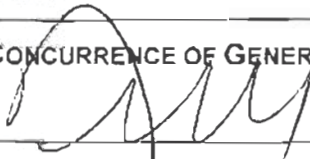
**Re:** Richmond Fire-Rescue – January 2012 Report

### Staff Recommendation

That the Fire Chief's report dated February 27, 2012 on Richmond Fire-Rescue's activities for January 2012 be received for information.



John McGowan  
Fire Chief  
(604-303-2734)

<b>FOR ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT USE ONLY</b>		
<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b>		
		
<b>REVIEWED BY TAG</b>	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>REVIEWED BY CAO</b>	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

### Staff Report

#### Origin

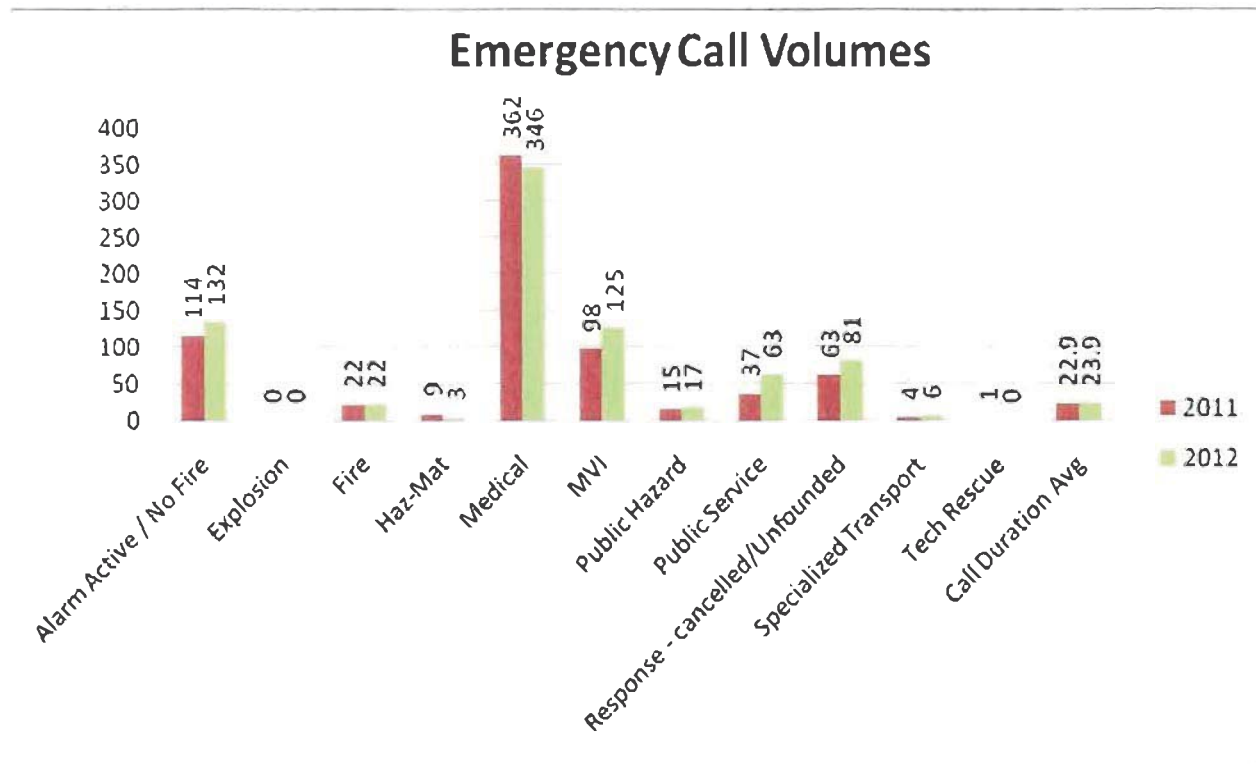
Fire-Rescue is committed to open and transparent reporting on its performance and progress. Monthly reports provide Council with current information on Richmond Fire-Rescue activities.

#### Analysis

Fire-Rescue’s report for January 2012 is set out below.

#### Suppression Activity

The following is a month comparison chart on the number of incidents that have occurred for the years 2011 and 2012. For January 2012 there were a total of 795 incidents compared to 725 in 2011.



**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

The month of January 2012 saw an increase in MVI incidents over the same period in 2011. The call volumes fluctuate from year to year and can be influenced by variables such as extreme weather conditions.

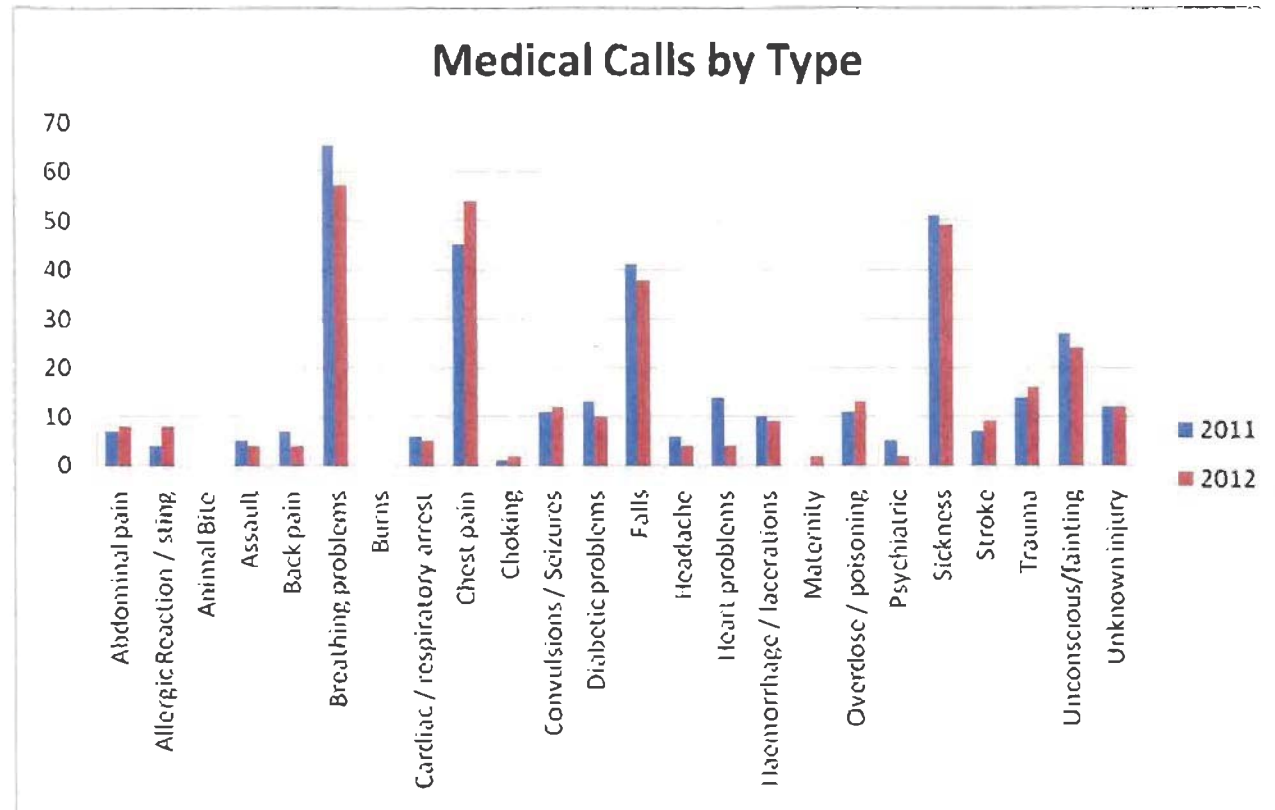
**Hazmat**

Hazmat Calls By Type - January	
HazMat Calls	Details
Natural Gas/Propane Leaks (small)	2
Fuel Containment	1
Misc. (empty containers to unknown powder)	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>

**First Responder Totals**

A detailed breakdown of the medical calls for January 2011 and 2012 by sub-type is set out in the following chart and table. The medical calls make up the majority of activity for RFR which is 43.5% of total calls.

The month of January 2012 saw a decrease in medical calls over the same period in 2011. However, there were a significant increase of chest pain incidents which could be attributed to the colder weather conditions.



<b>Medical Calls by Type - January</b>					
<b>Medical</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>Medical</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
Abdominal pain	7	8	Falls	41	38
Allergic reaction / sting	4	8	Headache	6	4
Animal bite	0	0	Heart Problems	14	4
Assault	5	4	Haemorrhage/Lacerations	10	9
Back pain	7	4	Maternity	0	2
Breathing problems	65	57	Overdose/Poisoning	11	13
Burns	0	0	Psychiatric	5	2
Cardiac/ respiratory arrest	6	5	Sickness	51	49
Chest pain	45	54	Stroke	7	9
Choking	1	2	Trauma	14	16
Convulsions / Seizures	11	12	Unconscious / Fainting	27	24
Diabetic problems	13	10	Unknown Injury	12	12
<b>Totals</b>				<b>362</b>	<b>346</b>

### **Incidents**

Notable emergency incidents, which involved RFR for January 2012, are:

#### Medical Events

RFR crew regularly attend to medical assignments including social issues. In January, for example, crew attended a medical call to attend an attempted suicide. Assistance was also provided to a call after an assault occurred at a robbery.

RFR crew regularly attend medicals where CPR skills are required. In January RFR crews started a new CPR protocol and experienced a patient recovering resulting in pulse being restored. RFR crew also assisted BCAS in the delivery of a baby boy.

#### Auto Extrication/Major Motor Vehicle Accident

During the snowy and icy conditions a serious MVI occurred on Highway 91 involving the operator of a tow truck. The operator was struck by a vehicle that lost control on the icy roads. The operator was taken to VGH trauma center where RFR crew visited and reported the operator was in good spirits.

#### Fires – Residential

RFR report that there were four kitchen/stove fires within the month of January. RFR crew attended a townhouse for a reported stove fire by neighbours. Crew arrived in time as fire had already starting to spread to cabinets. This incident resulted in a third degree burn. Fire Prevention is aware of these statistics and in the process of creating a program of education.

Abandoned buildings continue to be an issue for the City with a number of incidents being reported this month. One of which was an abandoned house fire on Alberta Road.

### Community Response

The estimated building loss for January 2012 is \$451,950 and estimated content loss is \$32,600, for a total estimated loss of \$484,550. The total estimated value of building protected is \$28,657,250.

Fire Calls By Type and Loss Estimates - January					
Incident Type Breakdown	Call Volume	Estimated Value of Building Protected	Estimated Building Loss	Estimated Content Loss	Estimated Loss Totals
Fire – Structure Total:	13				
Residential					
- Single-family	5	\$1,650,000	\$447,000	\$30,050	\$477,050
- Multi-family	6	\$14,000,000	\$200	\$50	\$250
Commercial/Industrial	2	\$13,000,000	-	\$2,500	\$2,500
Fire – Outdoor	8	\$3,250	\$750	-	\$750
Vehicle	1	\$4,000	\$4,000	-	\$4,000
<b>Totals*</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>\$28,657,250</b>	<b>\$451,950</b>	<b>\$32,600</b>	<b>\$484,550</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).

### Training and Education

The training team at RFR deliver and facilitate 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 January 2012, the following highlights are noted:

#### Leadership Development

Six RFR fire officer candidates completed all their qualifications and education in order to serve as officers in suppression. These new officers are fully qualified to serve in the capacity as a company officer at any time and at any Fire Hall, and some of the notable topics they learned include:

- Leadership
- Supervision
- Emergency Scene Management
- Safety

- Respectful Workplace Management
- Interpersonal Skills and Communications
- Conducting Code Based Fire inspections
- Completing post Incident Reports for Analysis and Statistics
- Instructional Techniques
- Coaching, Evaluating and Performance Management
- Fire Scene Strategy and Tactics
- Technical Rescue

Recruit Training

The recruit training and evaluation program is ongoing and the recruits and evaluators are currently in preparation for the first series of evaluations in late March.

A reviewed of the recent recruits' learning plans in support of their ongoing education as new operational staff showed that all nine are developing well and they are effective operational resources.

**Fire Prevention**

The total inspection statistics for January 2011 and 2012 are listed below:

<b>January</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
Fire (total)	86	251
Electrical Fire Safety Inspection Team (EFSIT)	2	2
Abandoned Properties	2	5

The above shows the outcome of the reintroduction of Fire Suppression crew's participation in this important prevention activity of Fire and Life Safety inspections.

Fire Prevention Investigations

<b>Fire Investigations - January</b>			
Suspicious (No further investigation required)	7	Property at Risk	\$48,657,250
Accidental	11	Property Loss	\$451,950
Undetermined	4	Property Protected	\$48,205,300
Incendiary	0	Contents Risk	\$18,337,000
		Contents Loss	\$32,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>Contents Protected</b>	<b>\$18,304,400</b>



Fire Prevention Investigations Billable Activities

<b>Billable Activities (number and dollar amount) - January</b>			
False Alarms Billed	5	@ \$ Various	\$1,422.00
Burning Permits	4	@ \$ 101.75	\$325.75
Fireworks Permits	1	@ \$ 102.00	\$102.00
Fire Safety Plans	1	@ \$ Various	\$105.00
Vacant Premises – Cost Recovery (Apparatus)	1	@ \$ Various	\$710.00
Electrical Safety Inspections	2	@ \$ 4,200	\$8,400.00
<b>Total Dollars / Costs Recovered</b>			<b>\$11,064.75</b>

**Community Relations / Public Education**

Richmond Fire-Rescue participated in numerous events and activities for public education this month. Some of the event attended by RFR crew and Prevention Officers were as follows:

- Pumper visits and hall tours carried out with schools and Guide, Scout and Brownie groups.
- Tree Chip event at Garry Point Park.
- YMCA family literacy and reading week where crews attended and read to children.
- 32 car seat inspections were carried out in January at No 1 Hall with the Fire and Life Safety Educator in attendance.

**Financial Impact**

None

**Conclusion**

Fire-Rescue is committed to providing Council with regular updates on its activities. The Fire Chief welcomes the opportunity to discuss Fire’s activities and priorities with Community Safety Committee.



*John McGowan*  
 Fire Chief  
 (604-303-2734)

JM:js