



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** Community Safety Committee  
**From:** John McGowan  
Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue

**Date:** August 17, 2017  
**File:** 09-5000-01/2017-Vol  
01

**Re:** Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – July 2017

### Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – July 2017”, dated August 17, 2017 from the Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue, be received for information.

John McGowan  
Fire Chief  
(604-303-2734)

Att. 2

<b>REPORT CONCURRENCE</b>	
<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b>	
<b>REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE</b>	<b>INITIALS:</b> 
<b>APPROVED BY CAO</b>	

## Staff Report

### Origin

This report provides Council with an update on Richmond Fire-Rescue (RFR) activities. RFR is reporting on its activities in support of its mission:

*To protect and enhance the City's livability through service excellence in prevention, education and emergency response.*

This report supports Council's 2014-2018 Term Goal #1 A Safe Community:

*Maintain emphasis on community safety to ensure Richmond continues to be a safe community.*

### Analysis

#### Community Involvement

RFR advances public awareness, education and community bridge building by participating in training events and community activities. During July 2017 the following events took place:

- Community events attended during July included the Canada Day Salmon Festival and the Public Works Yard – Works on Wheels.
- Car seat inspections were provided to nine members of the public.

Staff engaged with over 30,000 children and adults in the community during July, providing fire safety and harm reduction information.

#### Emergency Response

RFR's goal is to respond to events in a manner where loss of life, reduction of property damage and protection of the environment is mitigated. In July 2017 there were a total 1,032 incidents, representing an 11.3 per cent increase in calls from July 2016 (Attachment 1). The average time on scene for RFR crews was 26.60 minutes, a decrease of six per cent from 2016. This is due to the nature and severity of each call and the duration on scene.

In July 2017 there were 137 dispatched fire calls. Of those, 109 were actual reportable fires, 242 apparatus were used and 742 fire personnel attended.

Fire damage and property losses during July 2017 are estimated at \$1,354,750. This total includes \$1,078,725 for building/asset loss and \$276,025 for content loss. The total building/asset and content value at risk was estimated to be \$17,778,160 and the total value preserved from damage was \$16,423,410. These numbers translate to 92.4 per cent of value protected (Figure 1), this figure is a decrease from the 98.2 per cent protected value observed in 2016.

<b>Figure 1: Fire Calls By Type and Loss Estimates – July 2017</b>						
<b>Incident Type Breakdown</b>	<b>Call Volume</b>	<b>Estimated Building / Asset Value (\$)</b>	<b>Estimated Building / Asset Loss (\$)</b>	<b>Estimated Content Value (\$)</b>	<b>Estimated Content Loss (\$)</b>	<b>Estimated Total Value Preserved (\$)</b>
Residential: Single family	6	530,000	300,000	424,000	100,000	554,000
Multi family	2	-	-	-	-	-
Commercial / Industrial	6	1,537,708	252,725	739,002	175,525	1,848,460
Outdoor	84	2,001,200	500	-	-	2,000,700
Vehicle / Vessel	11	10,541,250	525,500	2,005,000	500	12,020,250
<b>Totals*</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>14,610,158</b>	<b>1,078,725</b>	<b>3,168,002</b>	<b>276,025</b>	<b>16,423,410</b>

\*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).

Fire crews minimized loss and limited fires to the place of origin in these notable July 2017 incidents:

- Structure fire at a commercial property on Vickers Way. Arriving crews proceeded to attack the fire which was extinguished quickly. Due to the nature of the commercial property there were a number of hazardous materials on site and crews carried out a number of decontamination procedures, including their own turnout gear and personal protective equipment. A fire investigator was called to attend the scene.
- Boat fire on Dyke Road. Arriving crew were informed that the interior of a 70ft fishing boat was on fire. The exact location of the fire was difficult to locate and crews used a Thermal Imaging Camera to locate the fires heat signatures. RFR crews breached the sides of the hull to gain access as entry from top was not possible. The fire spread across the ceiling of the lower deck and into the sides of the hull. Crews proceeded to attack and extinguish the fire which was confined to most of the interior of the boat. A significant amount of Cold Fire foam was used for this incident resulting in additional foam being required. There were no injuries reported. The area was blocked off by RFR crews and the site security agreed to monitor the boat.
- Residential house fire on Roselea Crescent. Crews arrived on scene to see black smoke omitting from a garage of a two storey house. The garage was fully alight along with a large hedge nearby. All occupants were out of the building, however two children had suffered smoke inhalation. They were treated by BC Ambulance Crews. RFR crews attacked the fire on all sides of the structure, while other crews were tasked with protecting neighbouring houses. Multiple RFR crews managed to extinguish the fire from the exterior of the structure and then entered the interior to locate and extinguish any further fire. A Fire Prevention Officer was requested to attend.

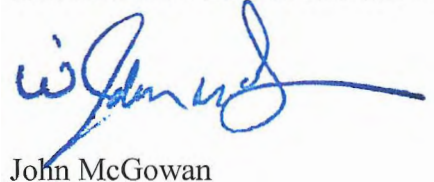
**Financial Impact**

None.

**Conclusion**

During July 2017, calls for service increased by 11.3 per cent from July 2016. RFR will continue to monitor these activities to identify trends and ensure potential solutions.

The continued increase in RFR's emergency response has a direct impact on unit availability, response times, availability for non-emergency operations and in-service training. RFR continues to review the available statistics and amend resource allocation, as necessary.



John McGowan  
Fire Chief  
(604-303-2734)

JM:js

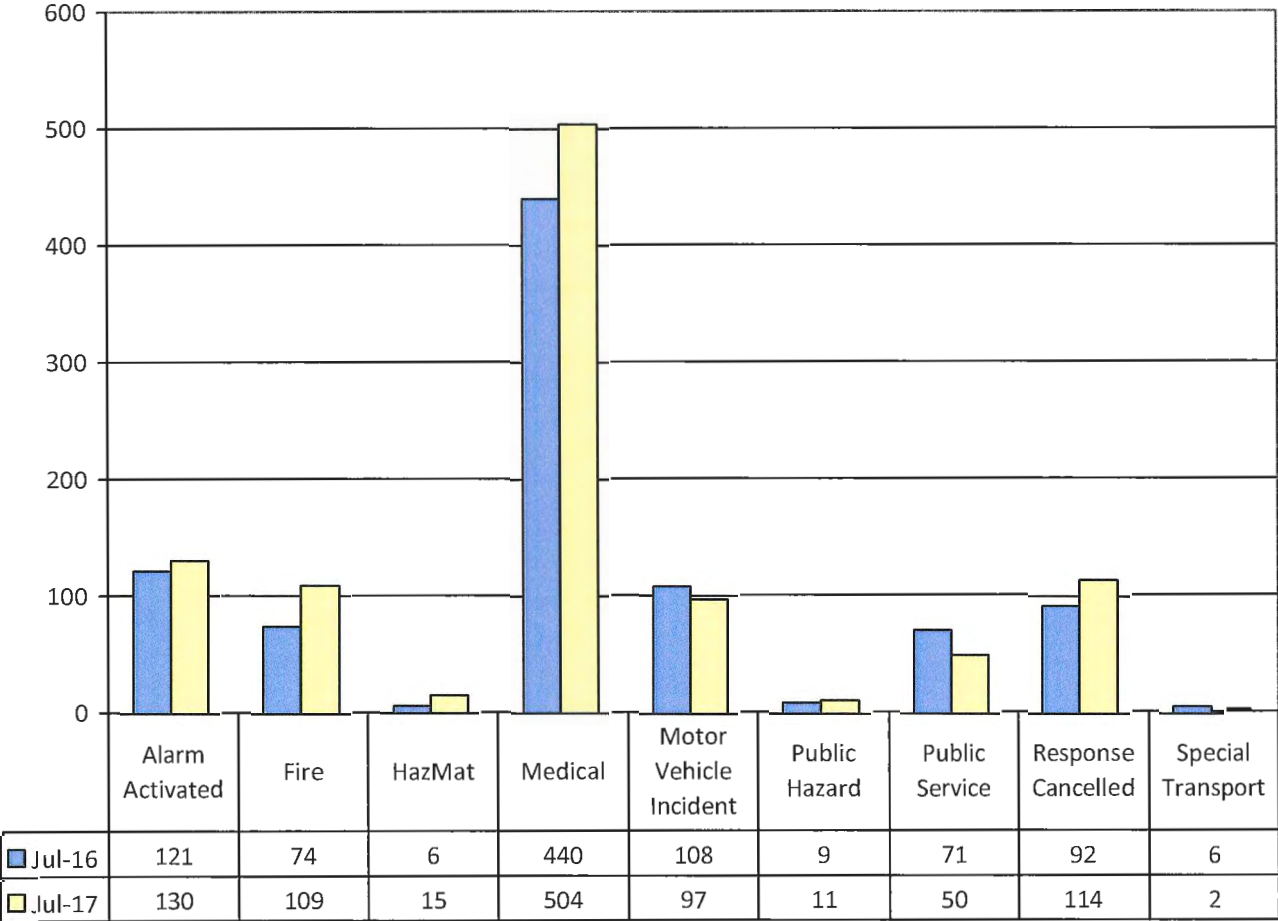
Att. 1: Suppression Activity

Att. 2: Location of July's Fire, Medical and MVIs

**Suppression Activity**

The following chart provides a month to month comparison regarding incidents occurring in July 2016 and 2017. In July 2017, there were a total of 1,032 incidents, compared to 927. This represents an increase of 11.3 per cent.

**Table 1: July 2016 & 2017 Calls for Service Volumes**

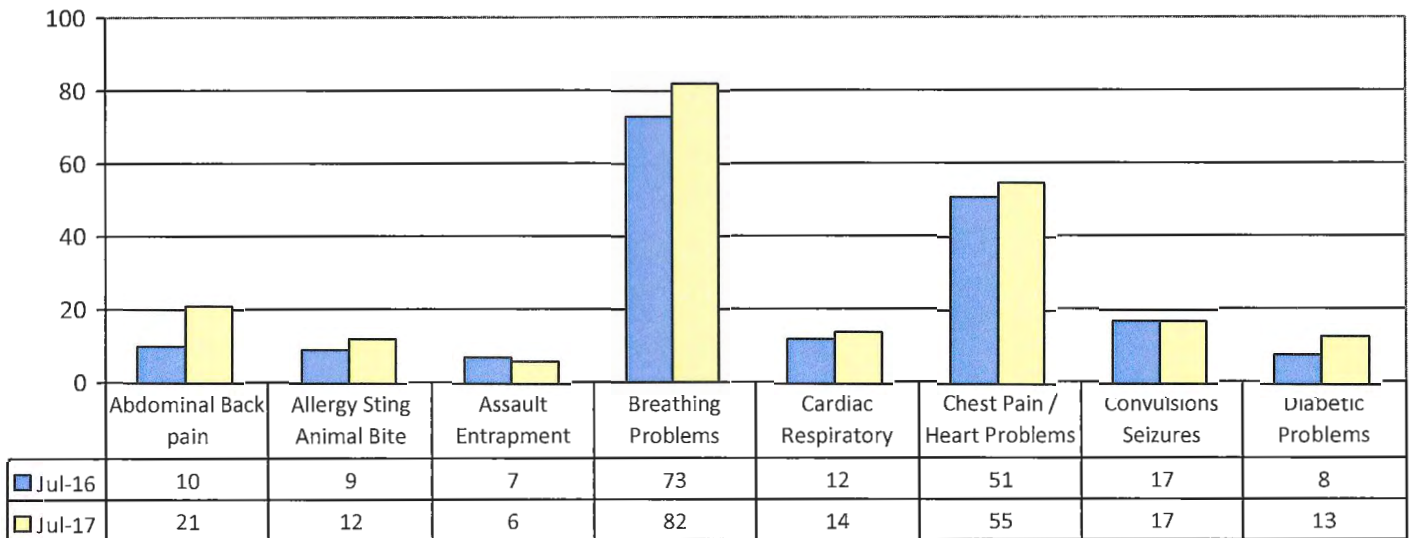


**Call Type Legend:**  
*HazMat:* includes fuel or vapour; spills, leaks, or containment  
*Medical* includes: cardiac arrest, emergency response, home or industrial accidents  
*Public Hazard* includes: aircraft emergency, bomb removal standby, object removal, or power lines down  
*Public Service* includes: assisting public, ambulance or police, locked in/out, special events, trapped in elevator, water removal

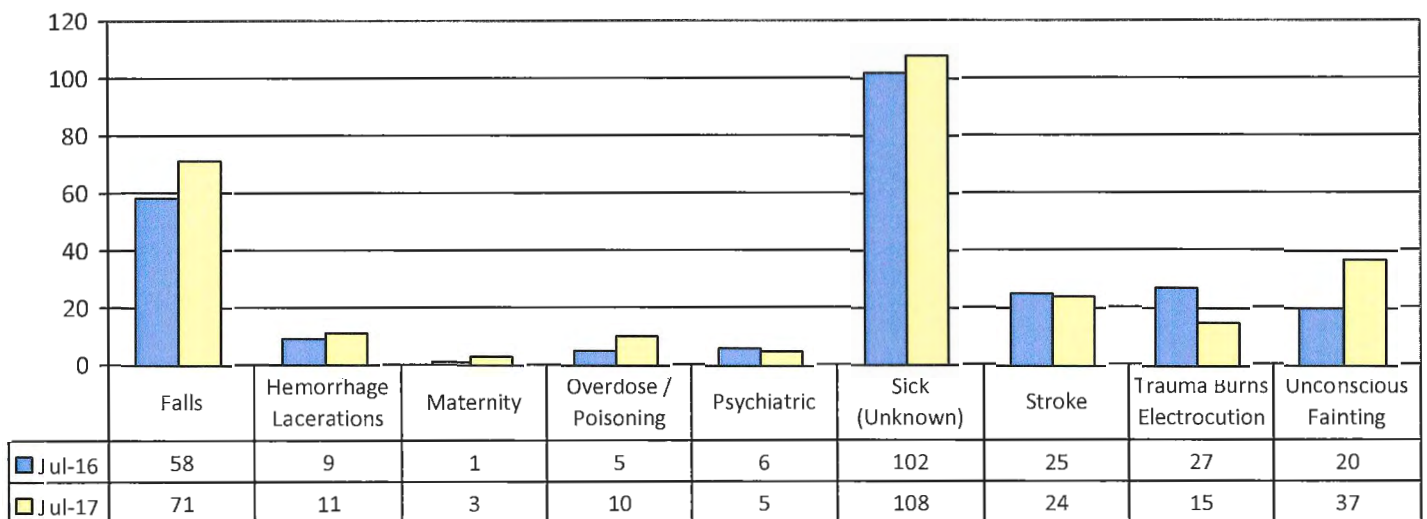
**First Responder Totals**

Medical first responder incidents comprised 48.8 per cent of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of July 2017. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for July 2016 and 2017 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 504 medical incidents in July 2017 compared to 440 in July 2016, an increase of 14.5 per cent.

**Table 2a: July 2016 & 2017 Medical Calls by Type**



**Table 2b: July 2016 & 2017 Medical Calls by Type**



## Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for July 2017 are listed below:

<b>Table 3: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – July</b>			
	<b>Suspicious</b>	<b>Accidental</b>	<b>Undetermined</b>
Residential - Single-family	-	6	-
Residential - Multi-family	-	2	-
Commercial/Industrial	1	5	-
Outdoor	8	64	12
Vehicle	1	8	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>14</b>

RFR investigators report all suspicious fires to the RCMP, while working alongside RCMP staff to address potential risks to the community.

## Hazardous Materials

<b>Table 4: HazMat Calls By Type – July</b>	
	<b>Details</b>
Natural Gas / Propane Leaks (small)	10
Explosives	1
Toxic / Infectious Substances	1
Unclassified	2
Vapour Leak - Refrigeration	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>15</b>





Figure 2: Location of medical calls in July (total 504)

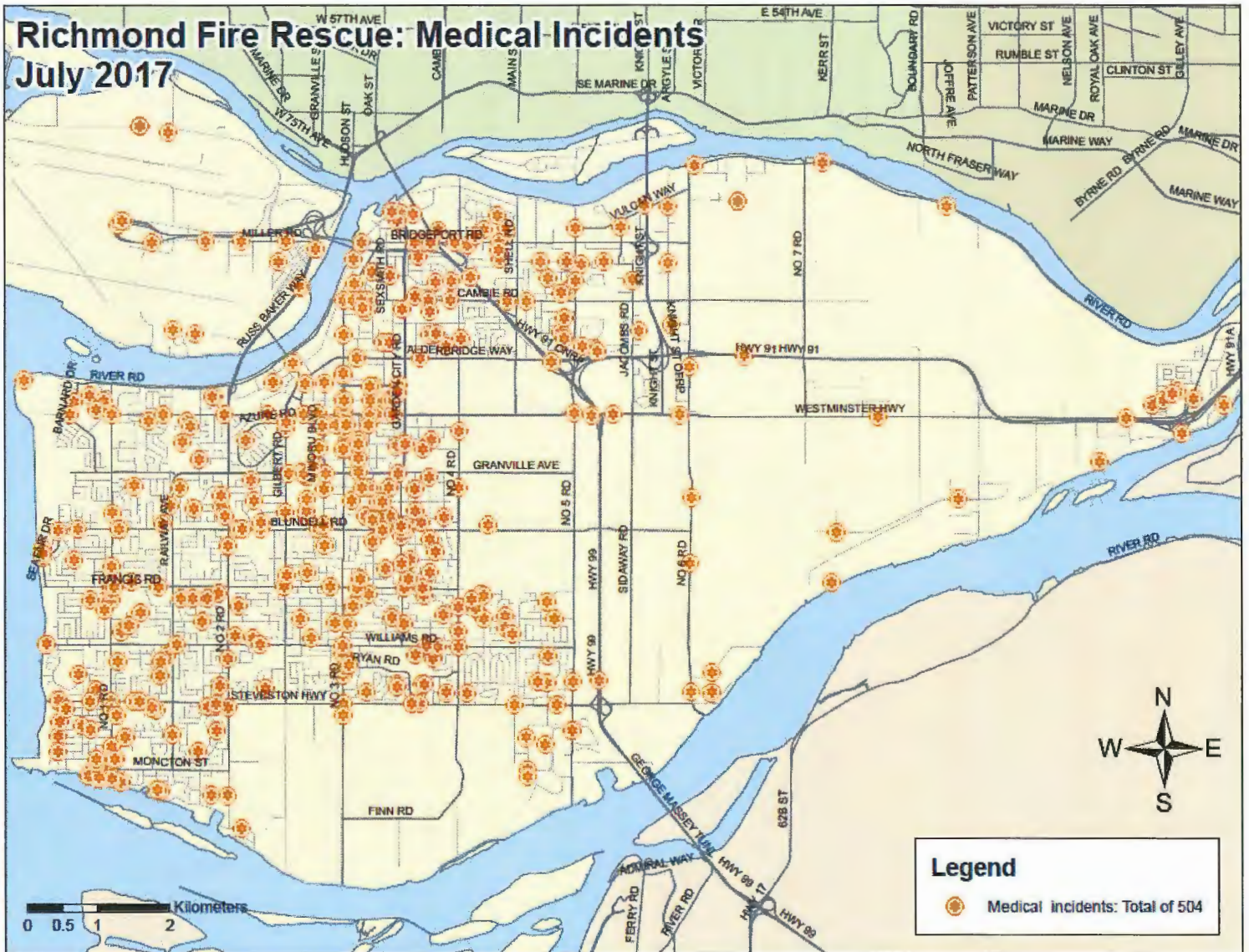


Figure 3: Location of MVI calls in July (total 97)

