



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

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**To:** Community Safety Committee **Date:** February 9, 2021  
**From:** Tim Wilkinson  
Fire Chief **File:** 99-Fire Rescue/2021-  
Vol 01  
**Re:** **Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – January 2021**

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### Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – January 2021”, dated February 9, 2021, from the Fire Chief, be received for information.

Tim Wilkinson  
Fire Chief  
(604-303-2701)

Att. 1

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS: 
APPROVED BY CAO	

## **Staff Report**

### **Origin**

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #1 A Safe and Resilient City:

*Enhance and protect the safety and well-being of Richmond.*

### **Analysis**

#### Training and Public Education

The education and development of firefighters in the Province of British Columbia is regulated through the Office of the Fire Commissioner. The Office of the Fire Commissioner has created minimum training standards which are found within the "Structure Firefighters Competency and Training Playbook" or "Playbook". Richmond Fire-Rescue implemented a new program in January 2019 where all firefighters will review, practice and demonstrate the skills identified within the Playbook. Firefighters are continuing within their Playbook training.

Fire Training staff facilitated multiple training activities during January 2021 including; Gas and Electrical Safety, Emergency Vehicle Operations and Playbook drills.

During January 2021, public education events remained on hold. Fire staff continued to create and post educational videos on the RFR Facebook and website pages, along with preparation for the next round of recruitment.

#### Recruitment

RFR staff prepared the revised hiring guide for the next firefighter recruitment process for launch on February 8, 2021. This year's process was streamlined to improve on recruitment processes.

#### Emergency Response

Richmond Fire-Rescue (RFR) staff continue to support calls emanating from Health Orders issued by the Province to combat the COVID-19 pandemic as well as provide regular services to the community.

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 January 2021 there were a total of 631 incidents, representing a 25 per cent decrease in calls from January 2020 (Attachment 1).

The average time on scene for RFR crews was 28 minutes, which was more than 27 minutes in 2020. Time on scene can vary due to the nature and severity of each call.

	<b>Totals</b>	<b>Percentage Change (January 2020)</b>	<b>Number Change (January 2021)</b>
Alarm Active No Fire	156	-20%	-40
Explosion	1	-	+1
Fire	27	-4%	-1
Haz-Mat	7	-70%	-16
Medical	277	-24%	-88
MVI	67	-31%	-30
Public Hazard	8	+14%	+1
Public Service	46	-37%	-27
Response Cancelled/Unfounded	41	-7%	-3
Specialized Transport	1	-83%	-5
Tech Rescue	0	-100%	-1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>661</b>	<b>-25%</b>	<b>-209</b>

In January 2021 there were 27 reportable fires to the Office of the Fire Commissioner, representing a four per cent decrease from January 2020. The average figure for fires reported in January over the last five years is 27.

RFR continues to experience decreases in medical responses due to the changes of the Provincial Health Orders and Medical Health Officer's direction. RFR continues to monitor all activities to identify and create programs to respond to emerging trends.

RFR's emergency fire response goal is to contain the fire to the room of origin. The room of origin standard is especially important in terms of fire loss, which increases significantly once the fire leaves the room of origin.

Fire damage and property losses during January 2021 are estimated at \$30,750. This total includes \$11,100 for building/asset loss and \$19,650 for content loss. The total building/asset and content value at risk was estimated to be \$140,414,300 and the total value preserved from damage was \$140,383,550. These numbers translate to 99 per cent of value protected (Table 2); this is greater than the 83 per cent protected value observed in 2020.

<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	3	97,400	-	2,000	2,000	97,400
Multi family	7	136,084,000	100	115,000	16,050	136,182,850
Commercial/Industrial	3	-	-	-	-	-
Outdoor	9	3,506,400	7,000	3,000	1,600	3,500,800
Vehicle/Vessel	5	606,000	4,000	500	-	602,500
<b>Totals*</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>140,293,800</b>	<b>11,100</b>	<b>120,500</b>	<b>19,650</b>	<b>140,383,550</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).

### Significant Events

Fire crews minimized harm and limited fires to the place of origin in these notable January 2021 incidents:

- **January 5 – Structure fire on Alderbridge Way.** RFR crews responded to a structure fire on Alderbridge Way. On arrival crews were presented with a working fire on the 15th floor of a residential hi-rise building. The fire was quickly extinguished by crews, which was limited to a single unit. RFR crews then proceeded to manage water run-off from the fire attack and sprinkler water flow to three other units on the floor below. There were no reports of injuries. A Fire Investigator attended. Emergency Support Services (ESS) were on scene to support any displaced occupants.
- **January 8 – Fatal shooting in Steveston.** RFR crews attended to a shots fired incident. On scene, RFR crews attempted to revive the young patient but they succumbed to their injuries later in hospital. A critical incident stress debriefing was provided for attending RFR staff. RCMP and BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) were on scene.
- **January 20 – Structure fire on Ainsworth Crescent.** Upon arrival fire crews encountered flames through the roof structure of the building. The fire was quickly extinguished and controlled and crews conducted searches for any remaining occupants. Crews also searched for hotspots. The property structure was rendered safe and a Fire Investigator attended the scene. There were no injuries reported. ESS staff were deployed to assist two adults and one child who were displaced as a result of the fire.
- **January 24 – Structure fire on Lucas Road.** RFR crews arrived to a residential house under construction with a fire in the front driveway area. The house appeared to be at the lock up stage of framing and a portion of the security fencing had been knocked down. RFR crews quickly extinguished the fire and prevented any spread to the building. Due to the suspicious nature of the fire, the RCMP attended. A Fire Investigator attended.

### **Financial Impact**

None.

### **Conclusion**

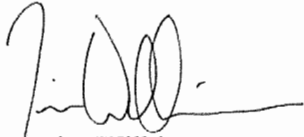
During January 2021, Richmond Fire-Rescue crews continue to experience impacts on all call volumes. For medical incidents, this is due to the decreases in medical responses emanating from the temporary changes by order of the Provincial Medical Health Officer in response to the pandemic.

The impacts of the pandemic, on call volumes, has resulted in RFR Management pivoting staff to learning, development and preparedness activities. Richmond Fire-Rescue staff remain ready to react and adapt to the ever changing pandemic situation.

February 9, 2021

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Richmond Fire-Rescue has not experienced any negative impacts to emergency response and continues to monitor activities to identify and create programs to respond to emerging trends.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Wilkinson', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Tim Wilkinson  
Fire Chief  
(604-303-2701)

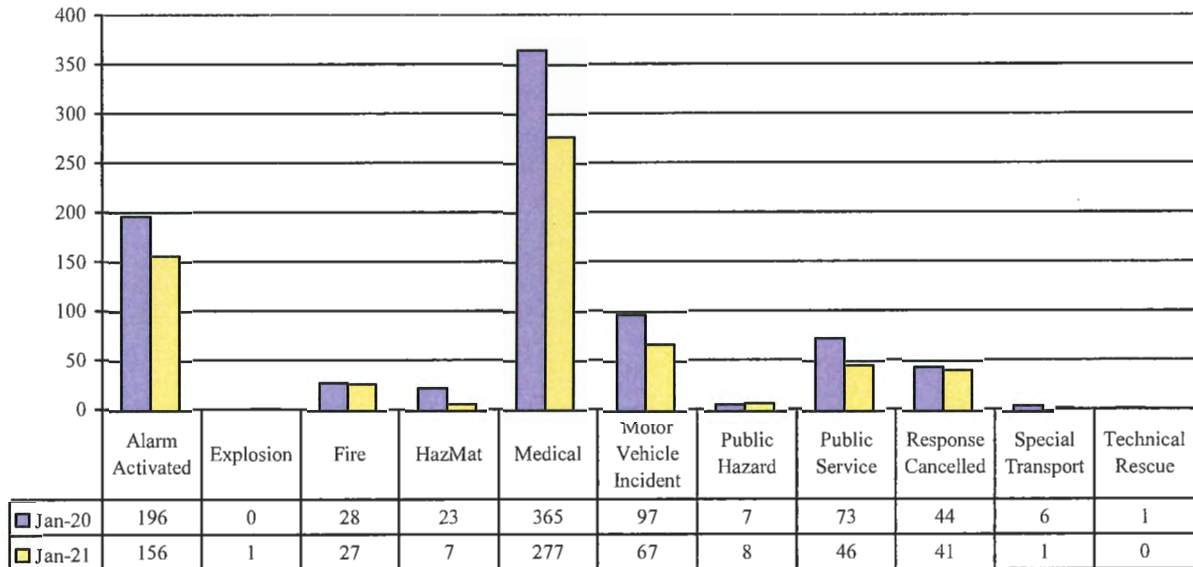
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Att. 1: Suppression Activity, including location of January's Fire, Medical and MVIs

**Calls for Service Volumes**

The following chart provides a month to month comparison regarding incidents occurring in January 2021 and 2020. In January 2021, there were a total of 631 incidents, compared to 840 in January 2020. This represents a decrease of 25 per cent.

**Table 3: January 2020 & January 2021 Calls for Service Volumes**

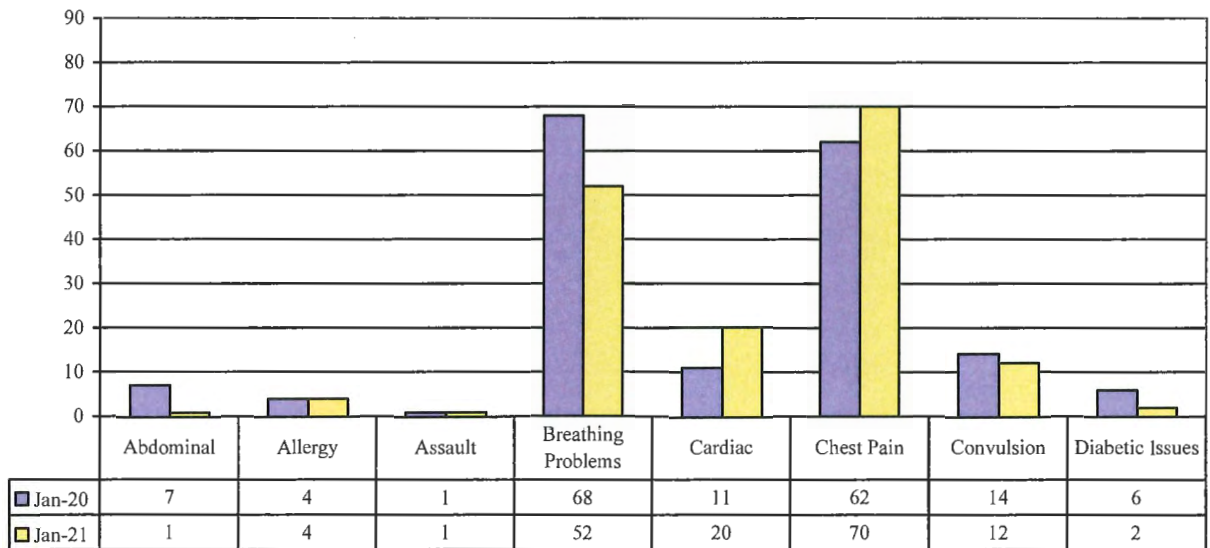


*Call Type Legend:*  
**HazMat:** includes fuel or vapour; spills, leaks, or containment  
**Medical** includes: cardiac arrest, emergency response, home or industrial accidents  
**Public Hazard** includes: aircraft emergency, bomb removal standby, object removal, or power lines down  
**Public Service**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

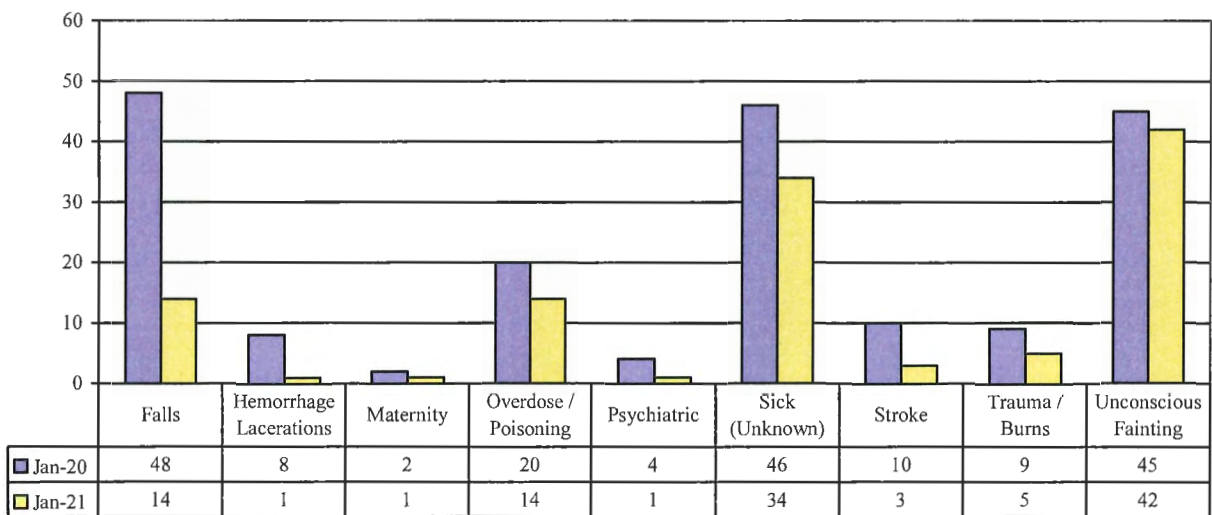
**First Responder Totals**

Medical first responder incidents comprised 44 per cent of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of January 2021. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for January 2020 and 2021 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 277 medical incidents in January 2021 compared to 365 in January 2020, a decrease of 24 per cent.

**Table 4a: January 2020 & January 2021 Medical Calls by Type**



**Table 4b: January 2020 & January 2021 Medical Calls by Type**



## Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for January 2021 are listed below:

<b>Table 5: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – January 2021</b>			
	<b>Suspicious</b>	<b>Accidental</b>	<b>Undetermined</b>
Residential - Single-family	-	3	-
Residential - Multi-family	1	5	1
Commercial/Industrial	-	2	1
Outdoor	4	4	1
Vehicle	1	2	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>5</b>

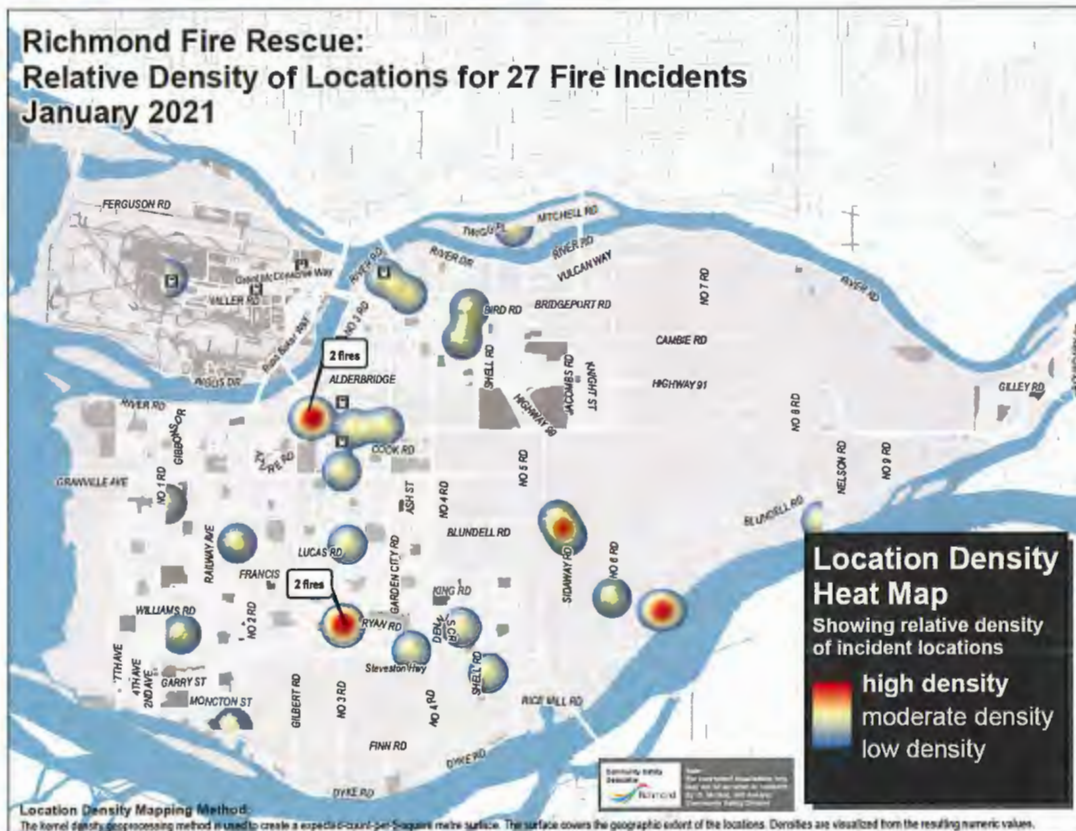
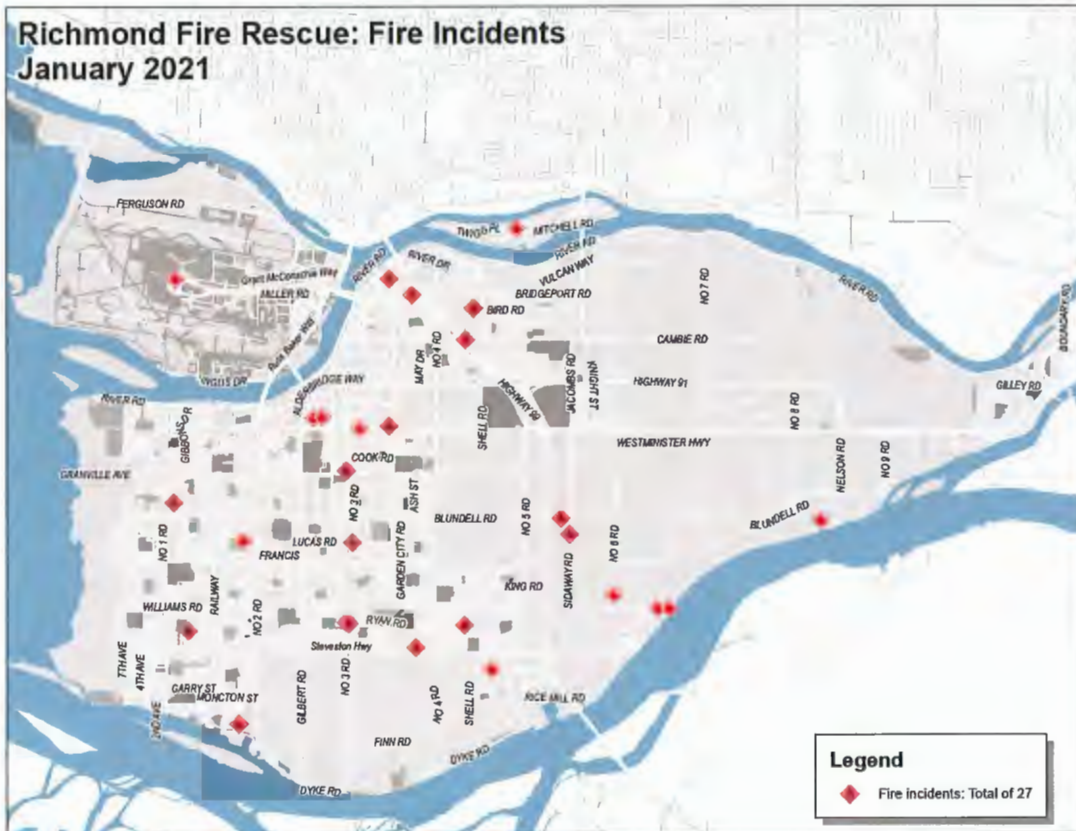
Richmond Fire-Rescue investigators report all suspicious fires to the RCMP, while working alongside RCMP staff to address potential risks to the community.

## Hazardous Materials

<b>Table 6: Hazardous Materials Calls By Type – January 2021</b>	
	<b>Details</b>
Natural Gas / Propane Leaks (small)	4
Unclassified	1
Hazard Misc	1
Flammable / Combustible Liquids	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7</b>

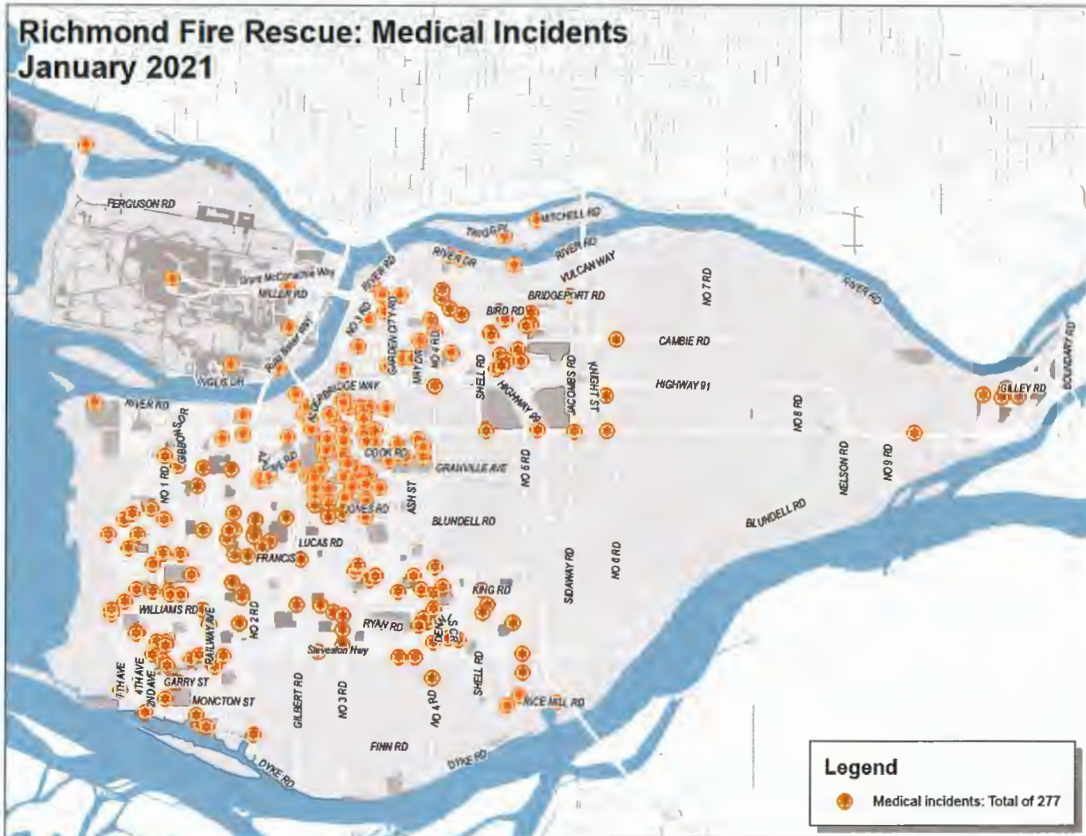


Figure 1: Location of reportable fires attended in January 2021 (total 27)



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Figure 2: Location of medical calls in January 2021 (total 277)



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Figure 3: Location of MVI calls in January 2021 (total 67)

