



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

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**To:** Community Safety Committee **Date:** June 27, 2012  
**From:** John McGowan **File:** 09-5000-01/2012-Vol  
Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue 01  
**Re:** Richmond Fire-Rescue – May 2012 Activity Report

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### Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity (dated June 27, 2012, 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 TAG SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: 
REVIEWED BY CAO	INITIALS: 

**Staff Report**

**Origin**

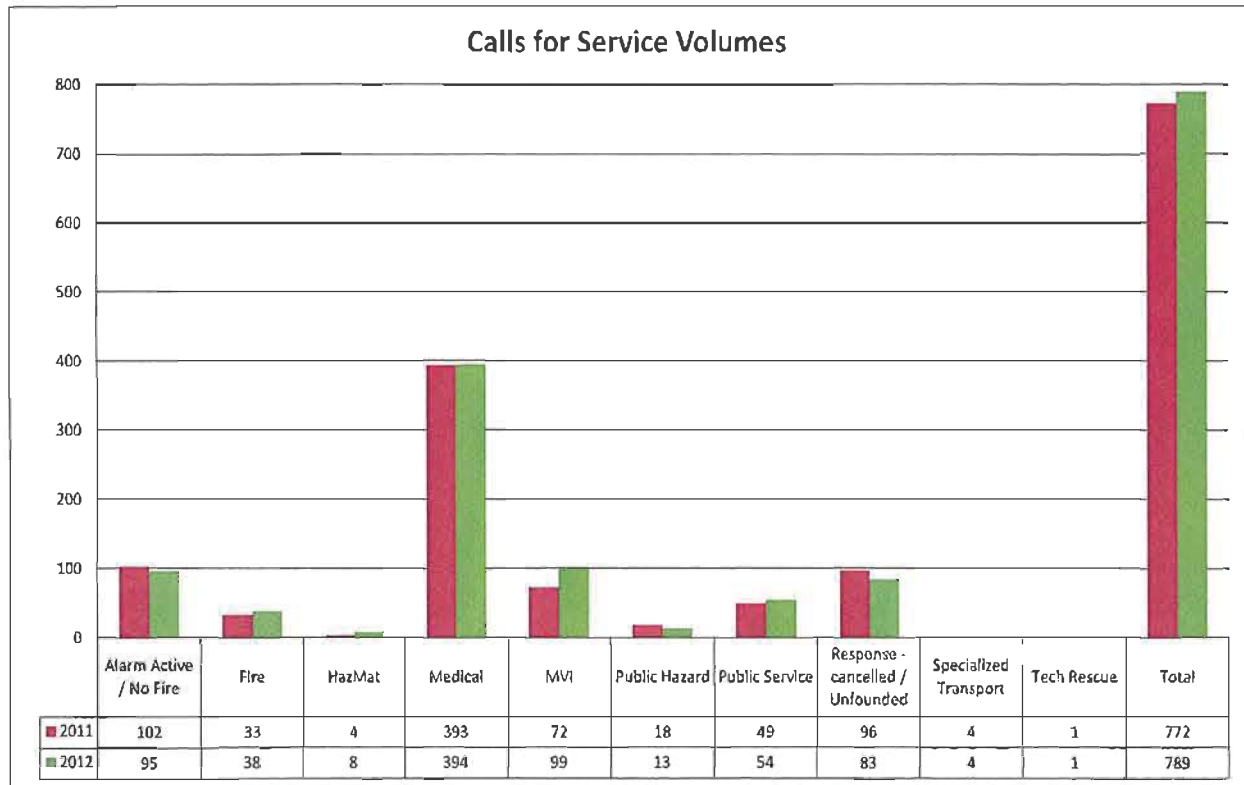
Fire-Rescue is committed to open and transparent reporting on its performance and progress. Monthly reports provide Council with current information on Richmond Fire-Rescue’s activities.

**Analysis**

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

**Suppression Activity**

The following is a month to month comparison chart on the number of incidents that have occurred for the years 2011 and 2012. For May 2012, there were a total of 789 incidents compared to 772 in 2011.



**Call Type Legend:**  
*Alarm Active/NoFire* 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

The month of May 2012 saw an increase in emergency response of 2.2% over the same period in 2011. The call volumes fluctuate from year to year and can be influenced by variables such as weather conditions.

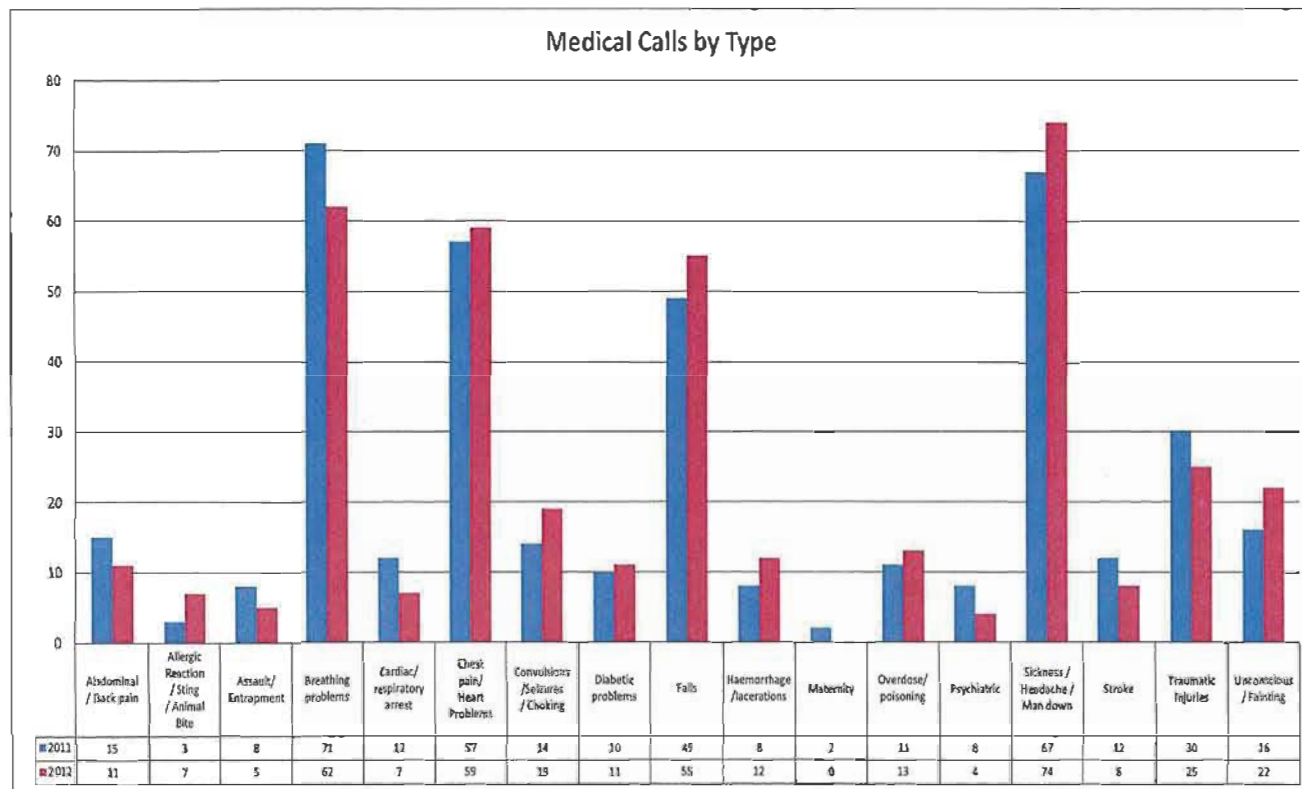
**Hazmat**

HazMat Calls By Type - May	
HazMat Calls	Details
Natural Gas/Propane Leaks (small)	5
Fuel Containment	1
Misc. (empty containers to unknown powder)	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>

All of the hazmat calls were quickly mitigated and did not require any long-term hazmat team deployment.

**First Responder Totals**

A detailed breakdown of the medical calls for May 2011 and 2012 by sub-type is set out in the following chart and table. The medical calls make up 49.9% of total calls for RFR. In May 2012 there was an increase in medical calls of 0.3% over the same period in 2011.



**Incidents**

Notable emergency incidents, which involved RFR for May 2012, were:

Fires – Residential / Commercial / Outdoor

A crew responded to reports of a boat fire on a 20m wood hull boat. The fire was fully involved when the crew arrived. The boat was towed 500m south away from the marina and was run aground several hundred feet from the shore where it posed no hazard. Operational crews continued to keep the fire confined to the vessel.

Other incidents during May included: an abandoned house fire on Bridge Street; brush fires on Alderbridge and Sexsmith; another fully involved house fire on Bridge Street which was quickly knocked down and brought under control; a structure fire with compressed gas tank explosion and a fire at a single level wood framed multi-unit commercial warehouse on Mitchell Island. Crews also responded to a large hedge fire along the property line adjacent to a home and garage on Beckwith Road. Quick response and efficient actions prevented the spread of the fire to property.

### Medical Events

RFR crews regularly respond to medical calls where CPR skills are required. In May, crews were able to resuscitate a patient who had suffered a cardiac arrest.

### Auto Extrication / Major Motor Vehicle Accident

Crews responded to a report of a fatal motorcycle incident on Highway 91. On arrival the patient was found unresponsive. On scene first aid was administered to patient before handing over to BCAS.

### HazMat

Crews responded to a propane leak at a school. Crews coordinated a response to ensure dissipation of gas and no injuries were reported.

### **Community Response**

The estimated building loss for May 2012 was \$608,050 and estimated content loss was \$57,050, for a total estimated loss of \$665,100. The total estimated building value at risk was \$41,226,400 and the total estimated value preserved was \$52,599,300.

<b>Fire Calls By Type and Loss Estimates – May</b>						
<b>Incident Type Breakdown</b>	<b>Call Volume</b>	<b>Estimated Building Value \$</b>	<b>Estimated Building Loss \$</b>	<b>Estimated Content Value \$</b>	<b>Estimated Content Loss \$</b>	<b>Estimated Total Value Preserved \$</b>
<b>Residential:</b>						
- Single-family	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Multi-family	5	38,300,000	1,000	10,000,000	1,050	48,297,950
Fire structure total:	5					
Commercial/Industrial	5	1,856,000	-	2,000,000	50,000	3,806,000
Fire – Outdoor	22	1,000	50	-	-	950
Vehicle	6	1,069,400	607,000	38,000	6,000	494,400
<b>Totals*</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>41,226,400</b>	<b>608,050</b>	<b>12,038,000</b>	<b>57,050</b>	<b>52,599,300</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).

## Fire Prevention

The total fire investigation statistics for May 2012 are listed below:

Total Fire Investigation Statistics - May			
	Suspicious (No further investigation required)	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family			
Residential - Multi-family		5	
Commercial/Industrial		5	
Fire – Outdoor	4	13	5
Vehicle		2	4
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>9</b>

## Training and Education

Throughout the month of May 2012, 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.

RFR Training staff produced and introduced the 12 month lesson plans for the next round of the evaluation program of the current cohort of nine new recruits. All nine recruits continue to perform well through the evaluation periods and are advancing to the next stage of training in their first-year syllabus.

The Marina Firefighting training initiative was concluded this month with 186 members overall being trained in water craft firefighting tactics, safety procedures, tactical considerations, marine law, as well as creating working partnerships with the Coast Guard and Steveston Harbour Authority. Training was initiated RFR emergency response members in Marina and Small Watercraft firefighting and response. RFR training staff scheduled and participated in both classroom and field exercises and developed and managed the safety response plan for this training initiative.

The training team organized, created and delivered the Lafarge Safety Orientation exercise through RFR's online learning platform. This orientation is a WorkSafe requirement, necessitating all RFR staff to be familiar with the plant site at Lafarge, including: possible hazards, site layout, response and the proper use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in preparation for RFR crews to support Lafarge employees during a confined space emergency.

## Community Relations / Public Education

Richmond Fire-Rescue participated in numerous events and activities for public education during May 2012. Some of the events attended by RFR crew and Prevention Officers were as follows:

- 27 car seat inspections were carried out in May at No 1 Hall with the Fire and Life Safety Educator in attendance.
- Shellmont Fire Hall tour and safety lectures and messaging provided to Richmond Society for Community Living.

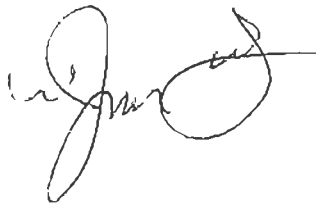
- Pumper and educational visits carried out with various schools groups, including: BC Muslim School, General Currie Elementary School, Core Education and Fine Arts Class, Thomas Kidd Spring Fair, Ackroyd Children's Learning Centre and Howard Debeck Childhood Discoveries.
- Participation at Police Day Open House at Detachment.
- Two full day attendances for Jimmy Ng Memorial Tournament.
- Attendance at Richmond Senior Expo Fair.
- Walk for ALS at Garry Point Park.
- Attendance at JAZZ Aviation annual fire drill observed with safety discussions with staff pertaining to safety and orderly fire drills.
- Staff attendance at McHappy Days at three locations.
- Steveston Fire Hall featured in the two day Doors Open Richmond event. Approximately 800 people visited the site, safety information was provided.
- Richmond Family Place, Fire Drill demonstration.
- Attendance at 'Move for Health'.
- Safety & Secure Living Fair attendance by crew held at Aberdeen Centre.
- Two safety presentations provided for the ELSA Group.
- Pamphlets provided for Wellness Fair held at Fairmont Airport Hotel.

### **Financial Impact**

None

### **Conclusion**

Richmond Fire-Rescue staff continue to strive towards protecting and enhancing the City's liveability through service excellence in prevention, education and emergency response through coordinated team efforts with City departments and community partners.



John McGowan  
Fire Chief  
(604-303-2734)

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