



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee

Date: October 17, 2012

From: John McGowan
Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue

File: 09-5000-01/2012-Vol
01

Re: Richmond Fire-Rescue – September 2012 Activity Report

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity (dated October 17, 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 SMT SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS:
REVIEWED BY CAO	INITIALS:

Staff Report

Origin

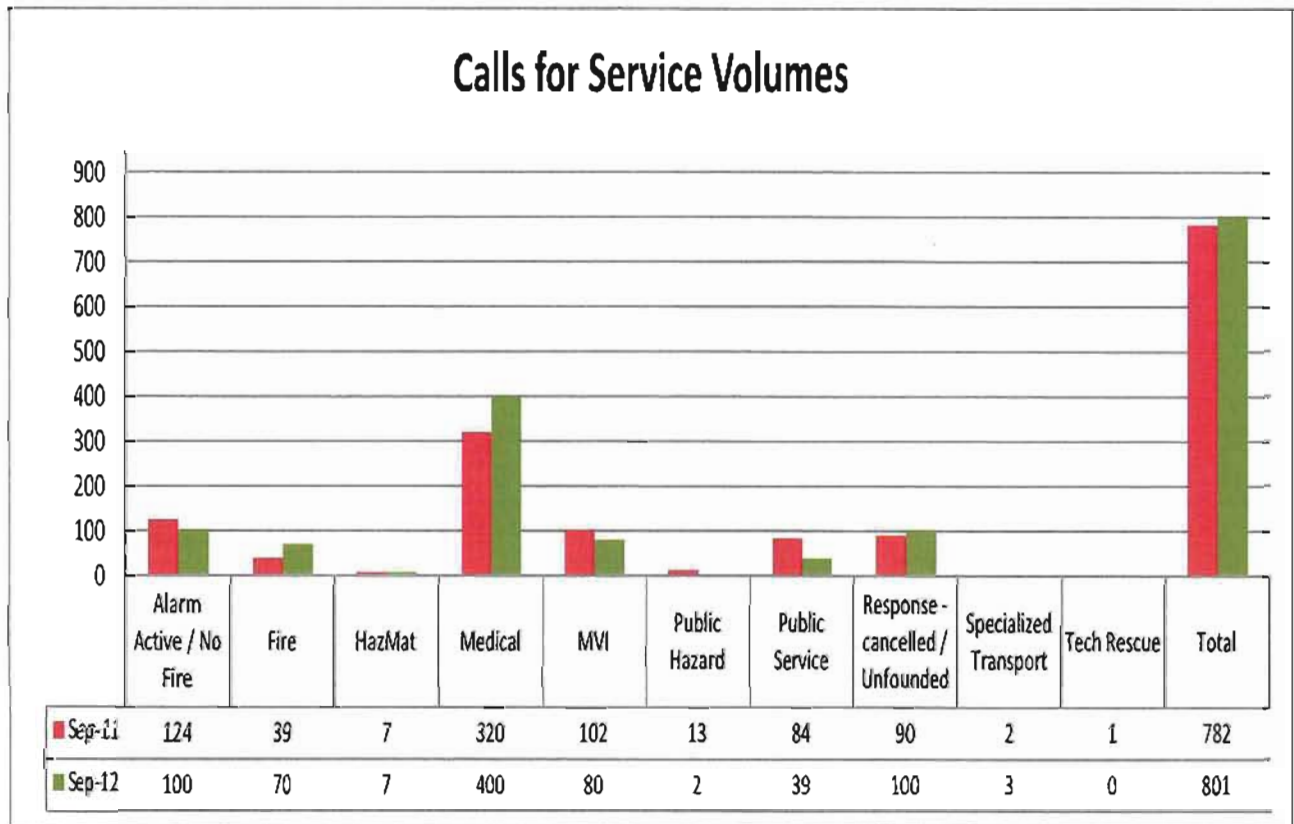
Fire-Rescue is committed to open and transparent reporting on its performance and progress. Monthly reports provide Council with current information on Richmond Fire-Rescue’s activities.

Analysis

Fire-Rescue’s report for September 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 September 2012, there were a total of 801 incidents compared to 782 in September 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 September 2012 saw an increase in emergency response of 2.4% over the same period in 2011.

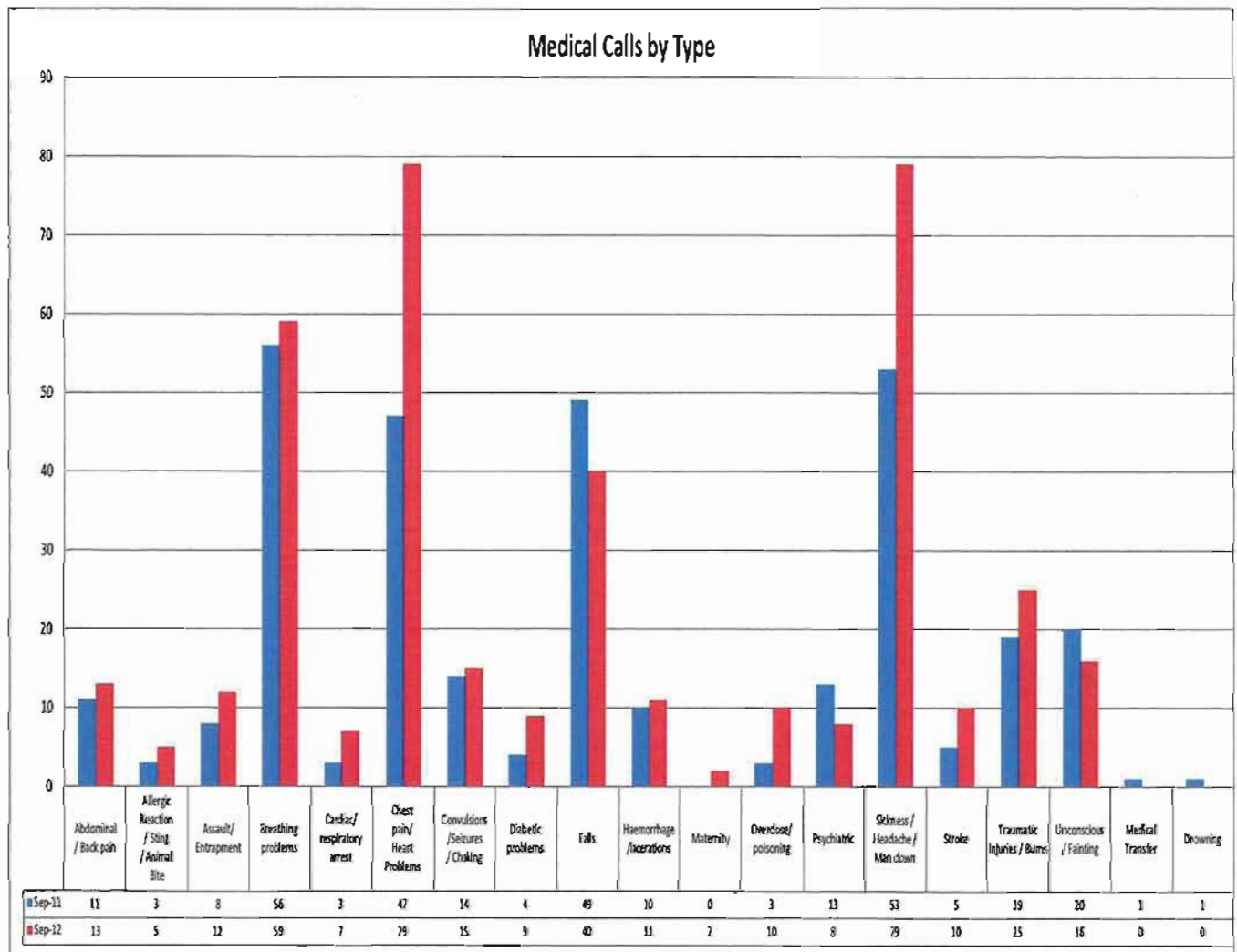
Hazmat

HazMat Calls By Type – September	
HazMat Calls	Details
Natural Gas/Propane Leaks (small)	4
Corrosive	1
Flammable/Combustible Liquids	1
Misc. (empty containers to unknown powder)	1
Total	7

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

First Responder Totals

A detailed breakdown of the medical calls for September 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 September 2012 there was an increase in medical calls of 25% over the same period in 2011.



Incidents

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

Fires – Residential / Commercial / Outdoor

In September, RFR crews responded to 70 fire calls including a van on fire located near a gas station. While re-fuelling the propane system on the van, excessive quantities of propane were released into the environment. The fuel pump hose burnt through and flames engulfed the vehicle. RFR crews managed to secure the main propane storage by forcing access to a manual valve. RFR crews cooled the propane vessels and averted a possible large scale failure.

Other incidents include: a construction site fire, involving large stack of PVC tubing on Elmbridge Road, a vehicle fire inside an Air Care facility, an electrical fire on Mitchell Road and 3 separate kitchen related pot on stove incidents.

RFR crews also responded to many outdoor fires during September including: 6 bark mulch fires, a hog fuel fire, 3 brush fires and a garbage fire on Williams Road.

Motor Vehicle Incidents

Crews responded to a total of 80 motor vehicle incidents in September including a rollover of a semi tractor trailer on Nelson and Westminster Highway.

Medical Events

In September RFR crews responded to 400 medical calls. RFR crews regularly respond to medical calls where CPR skills are required. In September crews were called to 3 separate cardiac arrest incidents in which the patients pulse rates were restored.

HazMat

Crews responded to a total of 7 HazMat calls during September. In September crews responded to a Nitric Acid spill on Jericho Road. A truck driver had reported a box containing Nitric Acid had fallen and broken. The spillage was contained to the immediate area and RFR crews neutralized the spilled product to ensure that no fire or cross contamination hazard existed. The driver received a minor splash of product and was attended to by RFR crews and BCAS.

Community Response

The estimated building loss for September 2012 was \$234,100 and the estimated content loss was \$2,025, for a total estimated loss of \$236,125. The total estimated building and content value at risk was \$20,570,600 and the total estimated value preserved was \$20,334,475. The total estimated value protected was 99%.

Fire Calls By Type and Loss Estimates – September						
Incident Type Breakdown	Call Volume	Estimated Building Value \$	Estimated Building Loss \$	Estimated Content Value \$	Estimated Content Loss \$	Estimated Total Value Preserved \$
Residential:						
- Single-family	3	900,000	15,000	575,000	2,000	1,458,000
- Multi-family	6	16,650,000	0	425,000	25	17,074,975
Fire structure total:	9	17,550,000	15,000	1,000,000	2,025	18,532,975
Commercial/Industrial	6	2,000,000	200,000	0	0	1,800,000
Fire – Outdoor	51	100	100	0	0	0
Vehicle	4	20,500	19,000	0	0	1,500
Totals*	70	19,570,600	234,100	1,000,000	2,025	20,334,475

*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 September 2012 are listed below:

Total Fire Investigation Statistics - September			
	Suspicious (No further investigation required)	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	0	2	1
Residential - Multi-family	0	6	0
Commercial/Industrial	0	3	3
Fire – Outdoor	3	24	24
Vehicle	0	2	2
Totals	3	37	30

Training and Education

Throughout the month of September 2012, RFR’s training team led several new initiatives and continued supporting the management of regular training within RFR’s current training plan.

RFR training staff facilitated and developed lesson plans for elevator training after the first phase of a High-Rise firefighting program including lesson plans and scheduling of all instructors for train the trainer training.

RFR's training staff facilitated 80 members through Drill 31 incorporating radio procedures in this training. During September Electronic Drill Reporting changes were completed by RFR training staff for Officers and Battalion Chiefs. One shift is currently trialing the new reporting system which will go live by the end of October.

All RFR training staff attended a 1 day Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting training session at YVR's fire hall to review their program to be delivered to all suppression staff.

Community Relations / Public Education

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

- 33 car seat inspections were carried out in September at No 1 Hall with the Fire and Life Safety Educator in attendance.
- Tour of Fire Halls was provided to BALC ELSA 3 School District with 18 adults in attendance and Talney School Kindergarten with 17 children and 2 adults in attendance.
- Pumper and educational visits carried out with various community and schools groups, including: Annual Street Party for Bethany Baptist Church, Paws for a Cause, Caelian Family Day BBQ, Terry Fox Run at Garry Point Park, Muscular Dystrophy Boot Drive, The Walk to Fight Familial Ataxias, 911 Memorial Ride, Country Fair – South Arm United Church and the Vancouver Sun Raise-a-Reader Day.
- Training Events include: Wellness Clinic with 50 seniors in attendance and the Delta Vancouver Airport Health & Wellness Fair with 200 adults in attendance.

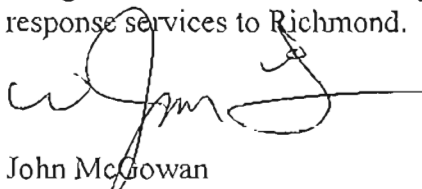
Financial Impact

None

Conclusion

Richmond Fire-Rescue continues to strive towards being a fire department that delivers services and programs through an approach that balances 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 along with the continued delivery and advancement of its core 911 emergency fire and rescue response services to Richmond.



John McGowan
Fire Chief
(604-303-2734)

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