



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

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**To:** Community Safety Committee  
**From:** John McGowan  
Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue  
**Date:** March 22, 2012  
**File:** 09-5000-01/2012-Vol  
01  
**Re:** Richmond Fire-Rescue – February 2012 Report

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### Staff Recommendation

That the Richmond Fire-Rescue's February activity report dated March 22, 2012, from the Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue 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 Deputy</b>	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

### Staff Report

#### Origin

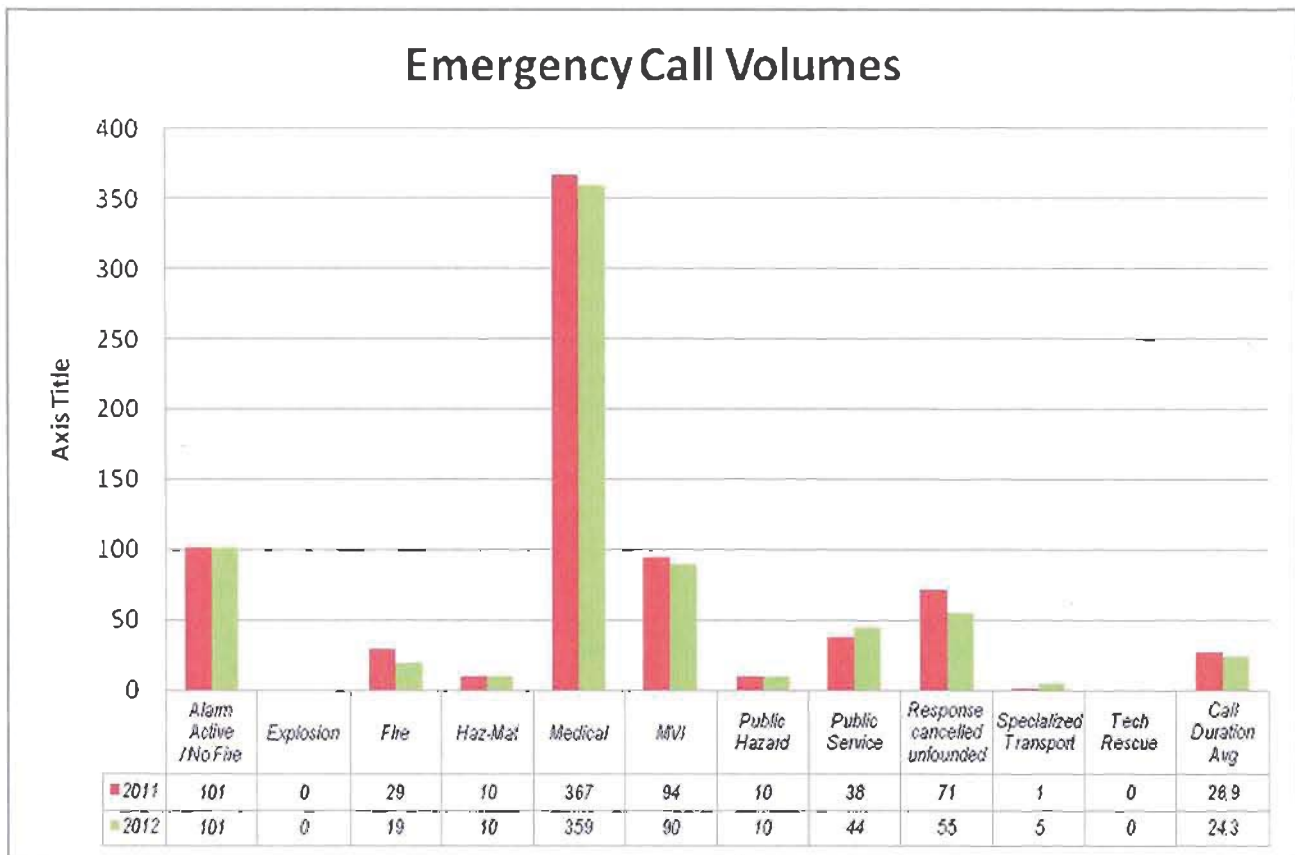
Fire-Rescue is committed to open and transparent reporting on its performance and progress. Monthly reports provide Council with current information on Richmond Fire-Rescue activities.

#### Analysis

Fire-Rescue’s report for February 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 February 2012, there were a total of 693 incidents compared to 721 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 February 2012 saw a decrease in Fire 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.

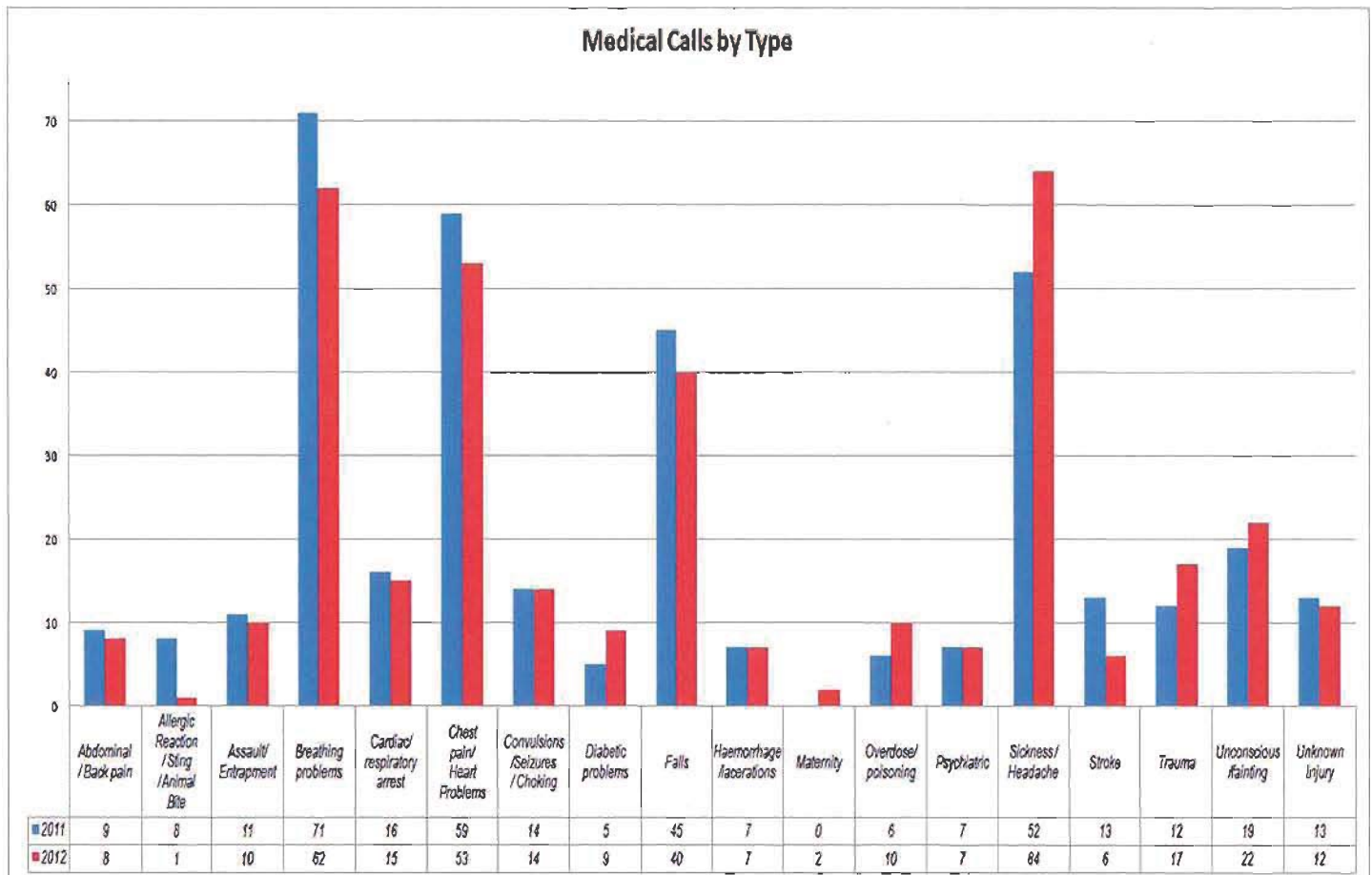
**Hazmat**

Hazmat Calls By Type - February	
HazMat Calls	Details
Natural Gas/Propane Leaks (small)	6
Fuel Containment	1
Misc. (empty containers to unknown powder)	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>

**First Responder Totals**

A detailed breakdown of the medical calls for February 2011 and 2012 by sub-type is set out in the following chart and table. The medical calls make up 51.8% of total calls for RFR.

In February 2012 there was a decrease in medical calls over the same period in 2011. However, there were significant increases in general sickness and decreases in chest pain and breathing problems.



**Incidents**

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

Medical Events

RFR crews regularly attend to medical assignments for social issues including a medical call for a stabbing; assistance provided to a call after an assault and reported fighting with a large group of people and an assault where pepper spray had been used.

Auto Extrication/Major Motor Vehicle Accident

Crews responded to an incident of a pedestrian being struck which resulted in a fatality and a car fire where the driver ended up being severely burnt.

Fires – Residential / Commercial

Crews attended many structure fire calls, including a fire reported on a boat at the Marine/Dock caused by an electrical fire; a small fire as a result of illegal wiring; a restaurant fire and a structure fire involving a motor home and adjoining buildings.

Hazmat

A crew attended a residential gas leak resulting in a block radius notification. A RFR crew and the RCMP also removed a small mailed package containing Ketamine Hydrochloride from an Architect’s office.

**Community Response**

The estimated building loss for February 2012 was \$26,700 and estimated content loss was \$13,100, for a total estimated loss of \$39,800. The total estimated value of buildings protected is \$14,317,200.

<b>Fire Calls By Type and Loss Estimates – February</b>					
<b>Incident Type Breakdown</b>	<b>Call Volume</b>	<b>Estimated Value of Building Protected</b>	<b>Estimated Building Loss</b>	<b>Estimated Content Loss</b>	<b>Estimated Loss Totals</b>
<b>Fire – Structure Total:</b>	<b>5</b>				
<b>Residential</b>					
- Single-family	4	\$1,765,000	\$4,000	\$100	\$4,100
- Multi-family	1	\$12,500,000	-	\$5,000	\$5,000
<b>Commercial/Industrial</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>\$8,000</b>
<b>Fire – Outdoor</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>\$10,200</b>	<b>\$700</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$700</b>
<b>Vehicle</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>\$37,000</b>	<b>\$17,000</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>\$22,000</b>
<b>Totals*</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>\$14,317,200</b>	<b>\$26,700</b>	<b>\$13,100</b>	<b>\$39,800</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**

RFR’s training team continued to support the development of the nine new recruits’ learning plans by facilitating their ongoing education as new operational staff. Regular training sessions for these new staff included:

- Firefighting and Rescue Training
- Medical Intervention Training
- Familiarization with Technical Rescue Equipment
- Preparation for the mid-term evaluations and written tests planned for mid-March.

The training team organized and facilitated the delivery of newly developed CPR protocols to all RFR in-house CPR/Medical First Responder Level III Instructors. The new protocols were created as part of the ongoing Resuscitation Outcomes Consortium study that RFR has participated in since early 2009. RFR is now capable of delivering the new CPR protocols to all operational staff through the use of in-house instructors, while staff are on-duty.

RFR partnered with Fortis Gas who delivered a train-the-trainer instruction natural gas emergency management program to in-house instructors. A total of 25 RFR personnel were trained to deliver the materials and information to all Company Officers and staff over the next four months while staff are on-duty.

RFR training staff facilitated the re-certification, administration and documentation of 10 RFR suppression staff to maintain their 3-year Medical First Responder III Licenses with appropriate endorsements. All relicensing training is done during the evening shifts while staff are on-duty, and the licenses allow RFR members to attend to patients who need emergency medical interventions. All operational staff in RFR are licensed to Medical First Responder levels to provide appropriate medical care when necessary.

The training team maintained the administration and logistics for 15 staff members to update their internal Airside Vehicle Operator Permit (AVOP) and Restricted Area Identification Card (RAIC) passes which allow RFR staff to operate in an emergency capacity on the YVR aerodrome. All RFR operational staff are issued the AVOP and RAIC passes to create an operational capacity to support YVR Emergency Operations Staff as well as respond to emergencies at YVR.

**Fire Prevention**

The total inspection statistics for February 2012 are listed below:

Fire Prevention Investigations

<b>Fire Investigations - February</b>			
Suspicious (No further investigation required)	3	Property at Risk	\$14,317,200
Accidental	12	Property Loss	\$26,700
Undetermined	3	Property Protected	\$14,290,500
Incendiary	1	Contents Risk	\$5,773,000
		Contents Loss	\$13,100
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>Contents Protected</b>	<b>\$5,759,900</b>

### **Community Relations / Public Education**

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

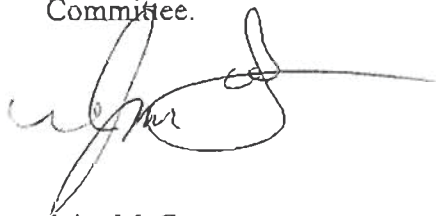
- Pink Shirt Day in support of the 'Bullying Stops Here' campaign. Fire crew, staff and mascot (Blaze) wore pink shirts to show their support. Suppression crews visited local schools to promote anti-bullying messaging.
- Attendance and participation at the Touchstone Family Eating Together campaign.
- Participation in the Pedestrian Safety Campaign, crew handed out slap bands and safety pamphlets to pedestrians at strategic areas in Richmond with RCMP.
- Attendance and safety message promotion with Richmond Food Bank Centre volunteers.
- 58 car seat inspections were carried out in February at No 1 Hall with the Fire and Life Safety Educator in attendance.
- Pumper visits and hall tours carried out with schools and Guide, Scout and Brownie groups.

### **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)

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