



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

---

**To:** Community Safety Committee **Date:** December 17, 2012  
**From:** John McGowan **File:** 09-5000-01/2012-Vol  
Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue 01  
**Re:** Richmond Fire-Rescue – November 2012 Activity Report

---

### Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled Richmond Fire-Rescue - November 2012 Activity Report (dated December 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

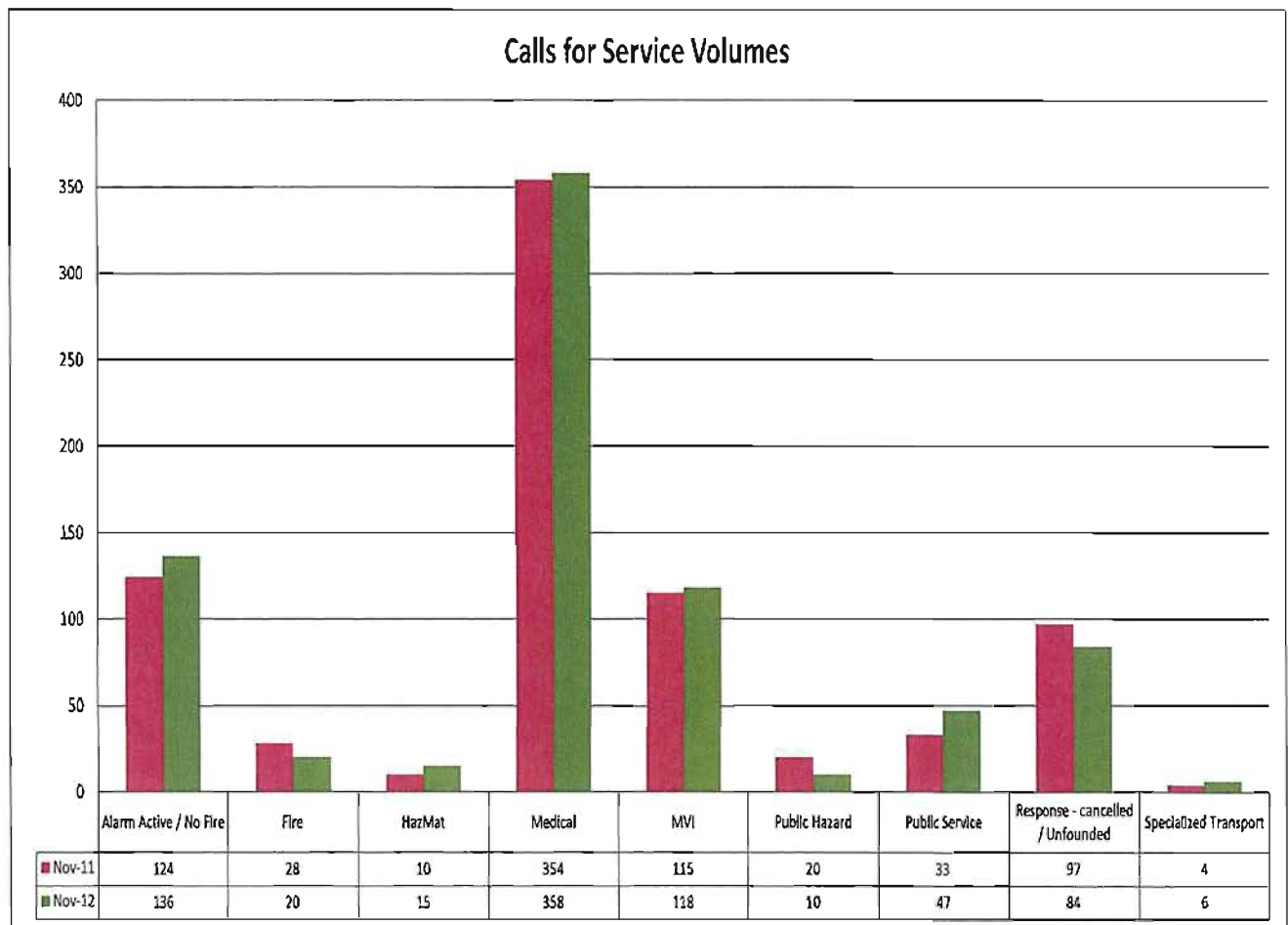
Fire-Rescue is committed to open and transparent reporting on its performance and progress. Monthly reports provide Council with current information on Richmond Fire-Rescue’s activities.

#### Analysis

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

#### Suppression Activity

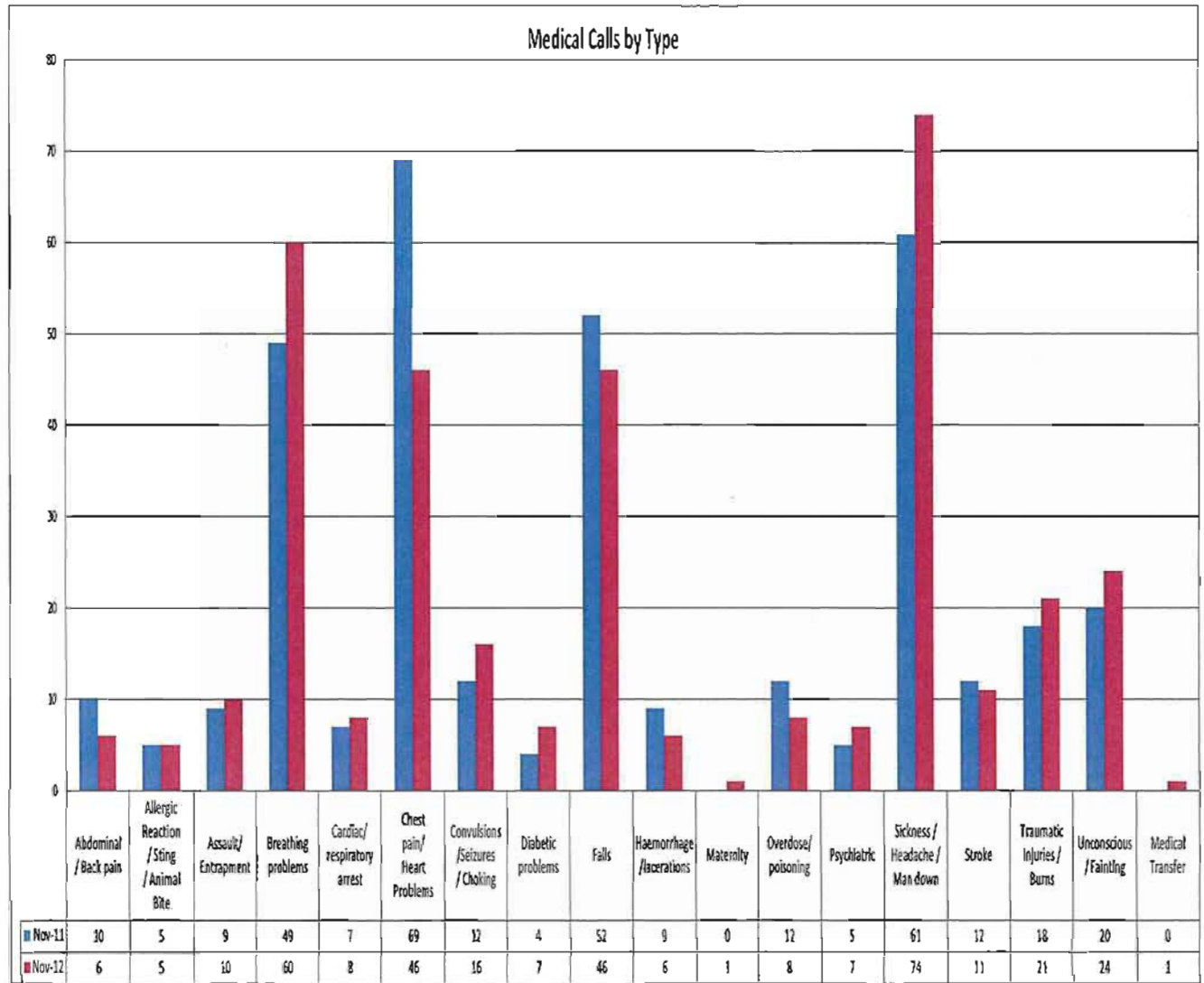
The following is a month to month comparison chart of the number of incidents that have occurred for the years 2011 and 2012. For November 2012, there were a total of 794 incidents compared to 785 in November 2011, an increase of 1.3%.



**Call Type Legend:**  
*Alarm Active/No Fire* 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

**First Responder Totals**

A detailed breakdown of the medical calls for November 2011 and 2012 by sub-type is set out in the following table. Medical calls comprise 45.0% of total calls for RFR. In November 2012 there was an increase in medical calls of 1.1% over the same period in 2011.



**Incidents**

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

Medical Events

In November, RFR crews responded to 358 medical calls. In November crews were called to two separate cardiac arrest incidents in which the patients’ pulse rates were restored.

RFR crews also frequently respond to medical assignments. For example, in November RFR crews attended to a suicide incident and an assault involving pepper spray.

### Fires – Residential / Commercial / Outdoor

In November, RFR crews responded to 20 fire calls, including a house fire in which the occupants suffered minor smoke inhalation. The occupants were later released from hospital.

RFR crews also responded to three separate incidences of car fires in November, including a car fire on Danforth Drive with heavy smoke and flames; a small car located in the middle of the road at Timore Place with flames showing from under the hood; and a car heading northbound on Highway 99.

Other incidents during November included: a deep fat fryer fire on River Road which was extinguished by the owner with an extinguisher; a thermal heating unit fire on Blundell Road inside an attached garage and a separate school fire which was confined to the room of origin.

For November 2012 the estimates were \$301,500 for building loss and \$28,540 for content loss, for a total loss of \$330,040. The total building and content value at risk was \$86,004,500 and the total value preserved was \$85,674,460, which translates to 99.99% of value protected.

Fire Calls By Type and Loss Estimates – November						
Incident Type Breakdown	Call Volume	Estimated Building Value \$	Estimated Building Loss \$	Estimated Content Value \$	Estimated Content Loss \$	Estimated Total Value Preserved \$
Residential:						
- Single-family	4	41,008,000	150,000	1,230,000	25,020	42,062,980
- Multi-family	3	8,500,000	30,000	3,000,000	3,400	11,466,600
Fire structure total:	7					
Commercial/Industrial	4	22,000,000	5,000	10,150,000	120	32,144,880
Fire – Outdoor	3	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicle	6	116,500	116,500	0	0	0
<b>Totals*</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>71,624,500</b>	<b>301,500</b>	<b>14,380,000</b>	<b>28,540</b>	<b>85,674,460</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).

The fire investigation statistics for November 2012 are listed below:

Total Fire Investigation Statistics - November			
	Suspicious #	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	-	2	2
Residential - Multi-family	-	1	2
Commercial/Industrial	1	1	2
Fire – Outdoor	2	-	1
Vehicle	2	1	3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>

# Passed to RCMP for further investigation.

### Hazmat

Crews responded to a total of 15 HazMat calls during November including an incident of a white powdery substance found on Cooney Road which was later identified as Ketamine (Special K). RFR crews coordinated with the RCMP to quickly mitigate the incident, which did not require any long-term hazmat team deployment.

During November RFR crews also responded to a ruptured Fortis gas line at a townhouse construction site. The escaping gas posed a hazard to neighbouring businesses and residents. RFR located the remote gas valve shut off, and with cooperation from Fortis turned off the gas flow.

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

<b>HazMat Calls By Type – November</b>	
<b>HazMat Calls</b>	<b>Details</b>
Natural Gas/Propane Leaks (small)	9
Flammable/Combustible Liquids	2
Misc. (empty containers to unknown powder)	3
Suspicious / Criminal	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

### Motor Vehicle Incidents

Crews responded to a total of 118 motor vehicle incidents in November, including a 15 year old pedestrian hit by a car and a pedestrian who had been struck by a car on No 3 Road, who was taken to Vancouver General hospital but later succumbed to his injuries.

RFR is continuing to work with external media messaging and emergency partners to promote pedestrian and vehicle safety.

### **Training and Education**

Throughout the month of November 2012, RFR's training team led several new initiatives and continued in support of managing of regular training within RFR's current training plan.

RFR training staff have also facilitated and continued to develop the High-Rise Firefighting / Elevator training. This training has been delivered to 158 staff, and is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2012.

Training was also provided to all suppression staff, for new Dragger Thermal Imaging Cameras.

## Community Relations / Public Education

Richmond Fire-Rescue participated in numerous events and activities for public education during November 2012. Some of the events attended by the Fire Chief, Deputy Chiefs, RFR crews and Prevention Officers were as follows:

- 32 car seat inspections were carried out in November at No 1 Hall with the Fire and Life Safety Educator in attendance.
- Fire Hall Tours included: No 6 Hall for Noah's Ark School with 30 children and 5 adults, and two separate visits to No 2 Hall for the 12th Richmond Scout Group with 60 children and 24 adults.
- Pumper Truck and educational visits were carried out with various community and school groups, including: Focus learning Montessori Pre-School, Blundell Adult Learning Centre, and Little Wings Daycare.
- Training Events included: *Beyond the Veil* attended by the Fire Chief and Deputy Chief Howell and *Richmond Wellness Clinic a Fire Prevention Presentation* for seniors frequenting the clinic by F&LSE and CRO with 40 adults.
- Fundraising events attended included: the *Movember 'Shave-Off' Fundraiser* held at City Hall, the *Bright Nights at Stanley Park VIP Night*, and the *Richmond Christmas Fund Drive-Thu Event* held at Lansdowne Mall.
- Memorial services attended included: the Richmond Remembrance Day Ceremony, the Life of Aerial Firefighter Legend Memorial and the Regimental Funeral of Surrey's RCMP Constable held in Langley.

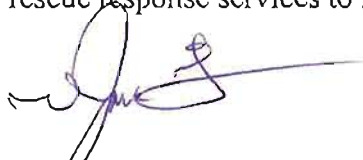
## Financial Impact

None

## Conclusion

Richmond Fire-Rescue continues to strive to deliver services and programs through an approach balancing 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. Also integral is the continued delivery and advancement of RFR core 911 emergency fire and rescue response services to Richmond.



John McGowan  
Fire Chief  
(604-303-2734)

JM:js