



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** January 18, 2013
From: John McGowan **File:** 09-5000-01/2012-Vol
 Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue 01
Re: Richmond Fire-Rescue – December 2012 Activity Report

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled Richmond Fire-Rescue - December 2012 Activity Report (dated January 18, 2013, 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

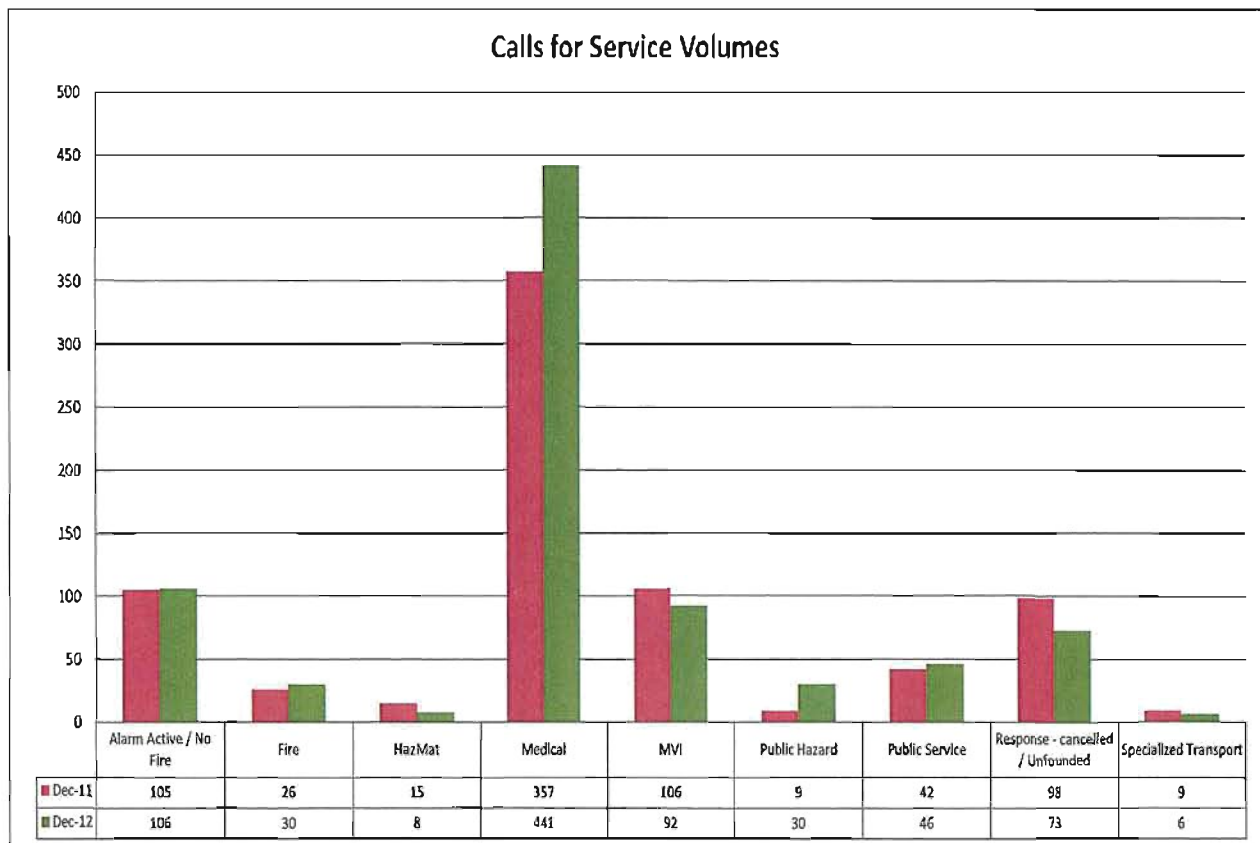
Fire-Rescue is committed to open and transparent reporting on its performance and progress. Monthly reports provide Council with current information on Richmond Fire-Rescue’s activities.

Analysis

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

Suppression Activity

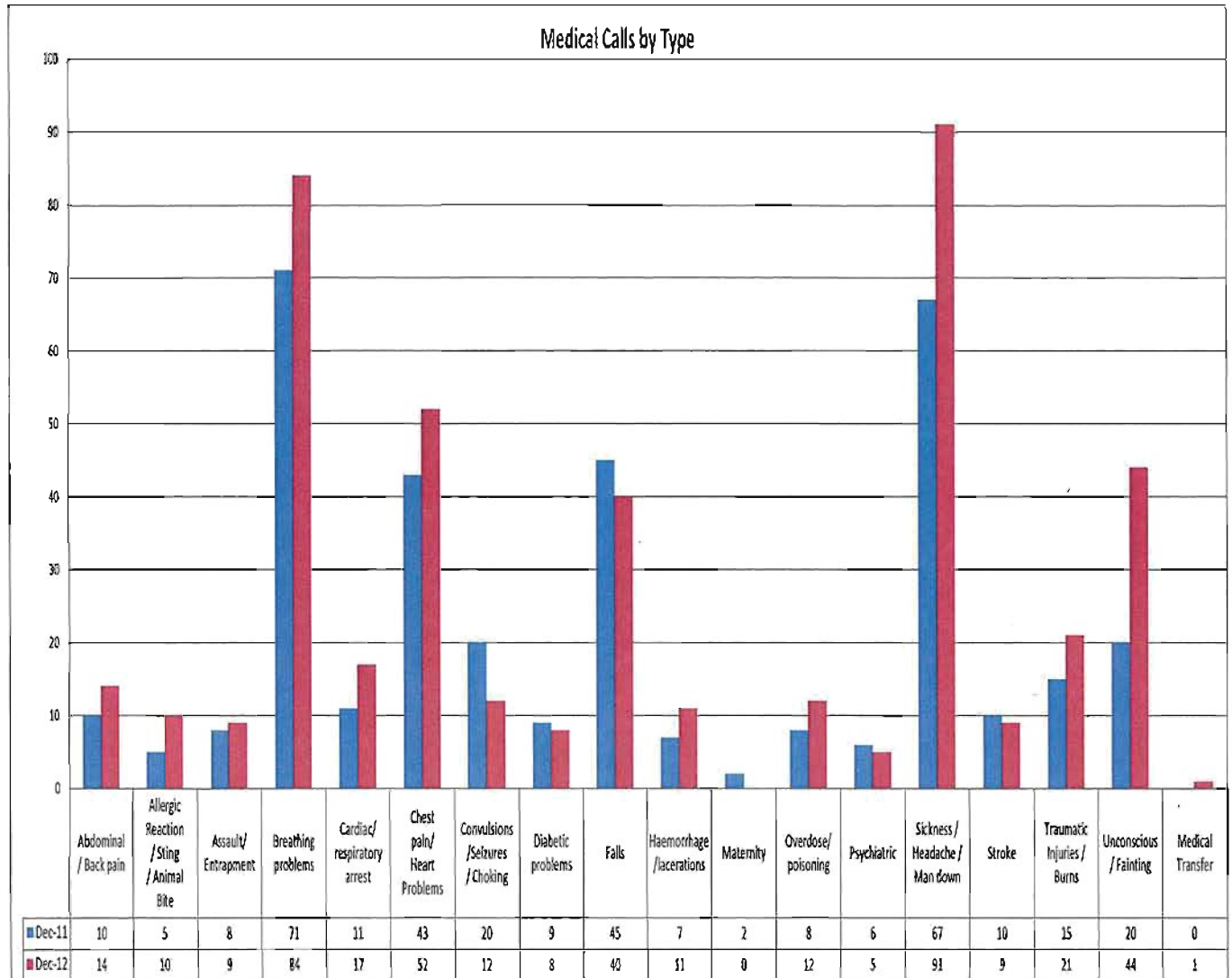
The following is a month to month comparison chart of the number of incidents that have occurred for the years 2011 and 2012. For December 2012, there were a total of 832 incidents compared to 769 in December 2011, an increase of 8.3%. Call volumes fluctuate from year to year as they are primarily driven by weather conditions such as extreme cold or the presence of ice, snow or rain. The increase of medical calls is primarily attributed to the inclement weather during December.



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 December 2011 and 2012 by sub-type is set out in the following table. Medical calls comprise 53.0% of total calls for RFR. In December 2012 there was an increase in medical calls of 23.8% over the same period in 2011. In December cooler temperatures may have been a contributing factor to the increase of breathing problems and sickness incidents. Analysis of the four categories, showing significant increases, resulted in no defined reason other than the average patient’s age is 62+.



Incidents

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

Fires – Residential / Commercial / Outdoor

In December, RFR crews responded to 30 fire calls, including a Structure Fire in an abandoned house on Alexandra Road. The house is known to be frequented by vagrants and drug users. A defensive strategy was used to minimize risk to RFR members and the quick action by the first alarm units prevented fire spreading to adjoining properties. This incident was one of eight events that occurred between 16:49 hours and 17:26 hours. These included an aircraft standby at YVR; a MVI on Knight Street Bridge; three medical calls and an alarm ringing in a commercial restaurant. Because of these multiple events, RFR had all resources committed and our neighbouring communities of Vancouver, New Westminster and Delta were put on Mutual Aid standby notice. Effective resource management and support from the oncoming duty crews put RFR back into operational readiness with sufficient reserves by 18:00 hours.

RFR crews also responded to seven separate incidences of stove/oven fires during December. As part of the Fire Hall Christmas Lights and Open house events RFR crews distributed educational information on kitchen/stove fires with attending members of the public.

Other incidents during December included: a fire in a bathroom on Granville Road; fire in a basement suite; a garbage fire on No 4 Road; an illegal burn on Mitchell Road; a Christmas tree burn on Smith Road and a car fire on Vulcan Way.

For December 2012 the estimated total Fire Loss was \$60,700, this included \$44,200 for building loss and \$16,500 for content loss. The total building and content value at risk was \$117,969,875 and the total value preserved was \$117,909,175, which translates to 99.95% of value protected.

Fire Calls By Type and Loss Estimates – December						
Incident Type Breakdown	Call Volume	Estimated Building Value \$	Estimated Building Loss \$	Estimated Content Value \$	Estimated Content Loss \$	Estimated Total Value Preserved \$
Residential:						
- Single-family	6	3,708,200	43,000	936,600	12,200	4,589,600
- Multi-family	9	52,500,000	1,000	10,255,000	2,100	62,721,900
Fire structure total:	15					
Commercial/Industrial	5	27,000,000	0	22,100,000	2,200	49,097,800
Fire – Outdoor	9	1,500,075	200	0	0	1,499,875
Vehicle	1	0	0	0	0	0
Totals*	30	84,708,275	44,200	33,261,600	16,500	117,909,175

*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 December 2012 are listed below:

Total Fire Investigation Statistics - December			
	Suspicious #	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	2	3	1
Residential - Multi-family	1	5	3
Commercial/Industrial	1	1	3
Fire – Outdoor	5	1	3
Vehicle	0	1	0
Totals	9	11	10

Passed to RCMP for further investigation.

Hazmat

Crews responded to a total of 8 HazMat calls during December. All of the hazmat calls for December were relatively minor, quickly mitigated and did not require any long-term hazmat team deployment.

HazMat Calls By Type – December	
HazMat Calls	Details
Natural Gas/Propane Leaks (small)	4
Flammable/Combustible Liquids	1
Misc. (empty containers to unknown powder)	3
Suspicious / Criminal	0
Total	8

Motor Vehicle Incidents

Crews responded to a total of 92 motor vehicle incidents in December. RFR is continuing to work with external media messaging and emergency partners to promote pedestrian and vehicle safety.

Public Service

During December RFR crews responded to a public service call of a person trapped in an elevator. RFR crews were able to use their recent specialized training to gain access to the elevator and quickly resolve the incident.

Training and Education

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

The delivery of the elevator Hi-Rise program was completed during December. RFR training team also completed the development of the second and third modules of the overall High-Rise training program (ventilation and apartment pack). These two modules will be delivered in January and will run until the end of February.

During December an asbestos 'Train-the-Trainer' program was delivered by the RFR training team. The program is being run concurrently with the High-Rise program and all shift training will be concluded during the first quarter of 2013.

RFR training facilitated the re-certification of four suppression staff for their Medical First Responder FR3 licenses. RFR training staff are also evaluating the Red Cross First Responder program for our department.

Community Relations / Public Education

In December RFR held five Fire Hall Christmas lighting and Open House events, focusing on the educational message of Kitchen Fire Safety. RFR were supported at all of these events by their local community centres including: City Centre, Steveston, Sea Island, Hamilton and South Arm. The events were very popular and it is estimated that approximately 540 members of the public attended.

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

- 16 car seat inspections were carried out in December at No 1 Hall with the Fire and Life Safety Educator in attendance.
- Pumper visits included a kindergarten group visit to L'Ecole Des Navigateurs, RFR crew attended including a French speaking firefighter.
- Community and Fundraising events attended included: Carol Singing at St. Alban's Church; the *Santa Clause Parade* in Steveston; the *Sunshine Dreams Charity Disneyland* assisted lift at YVR airport; the *CUPE 394 Kids Christmas Party* and Santa Clause drive at Minoru Pavillion; *Sunset Rotary Food Bank Drive*; *RFR Children's Christmas Party* and the *L1286 Retirees Luncheon and Annual General Meeting*.

Financial Impact

None

Conclusion

Richmond Fire-Rescue continues to strive to deliver services and programs through an approach balancing prevention, education and emergency response.

January 18, 2013

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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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John McGowan', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John McGowan
Fire Chief
(604-303-2734)

JM:js