



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

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**To:** Community Safety Committee **Date:** May 2, 2013  
**From:** John McGowan **File:** 09-5000-01/2012-Vol  
Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue 01  
**Re:** Richmond Fire-Rescue – March 2013 Activity Report

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### Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled Richmond Fire-Rescue – March 2013 Activity Report, dated May 2, 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 DIRECTORS	INITIALS: DW
REVIEWED BY CAO	INITIALS: 

### Staff Report

#### Origin

The purpose of this report is to keep Council informed on matters pertaining to public safety services in the community of Richmond.

*Council Term Goals for 2011-2014 identify the desire to ensure Richmond remains a safe and desirable community to live, work and play in, through the delivery of effective public safety services that are targeted to the City's specific needs and priorities*

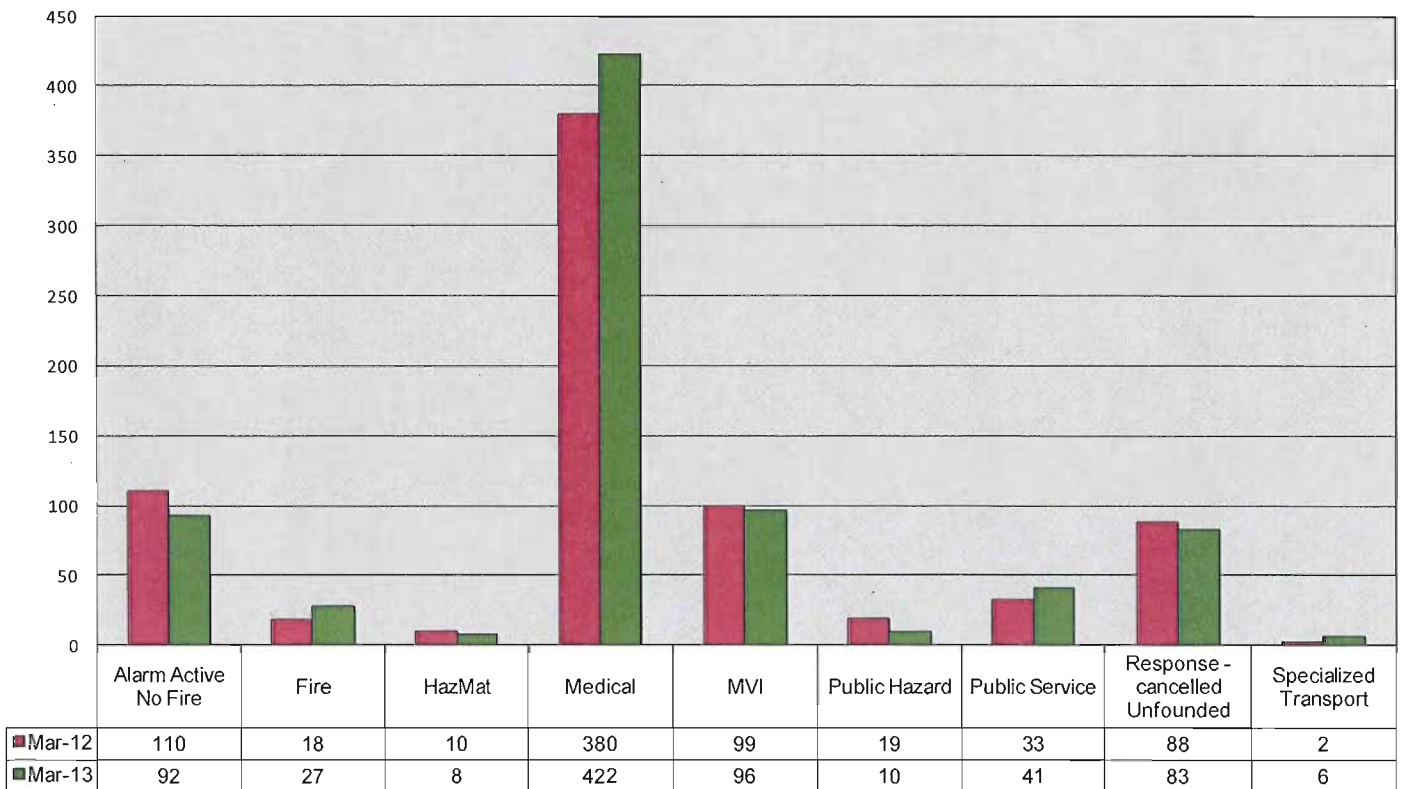
#### Analysis

Fire-Rescue's report for March 2013 is set out below.

#### Suppression Activity

The following is a month to month comparison chart of the number of incidents that occurred in March 2012 and March 2013. For March 2013, there were a total of 786 incidents compared to 759 in March 2012, representing an increase of 3.6%.

**March 2012 & 2013 Calls for Service Volumes**



**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

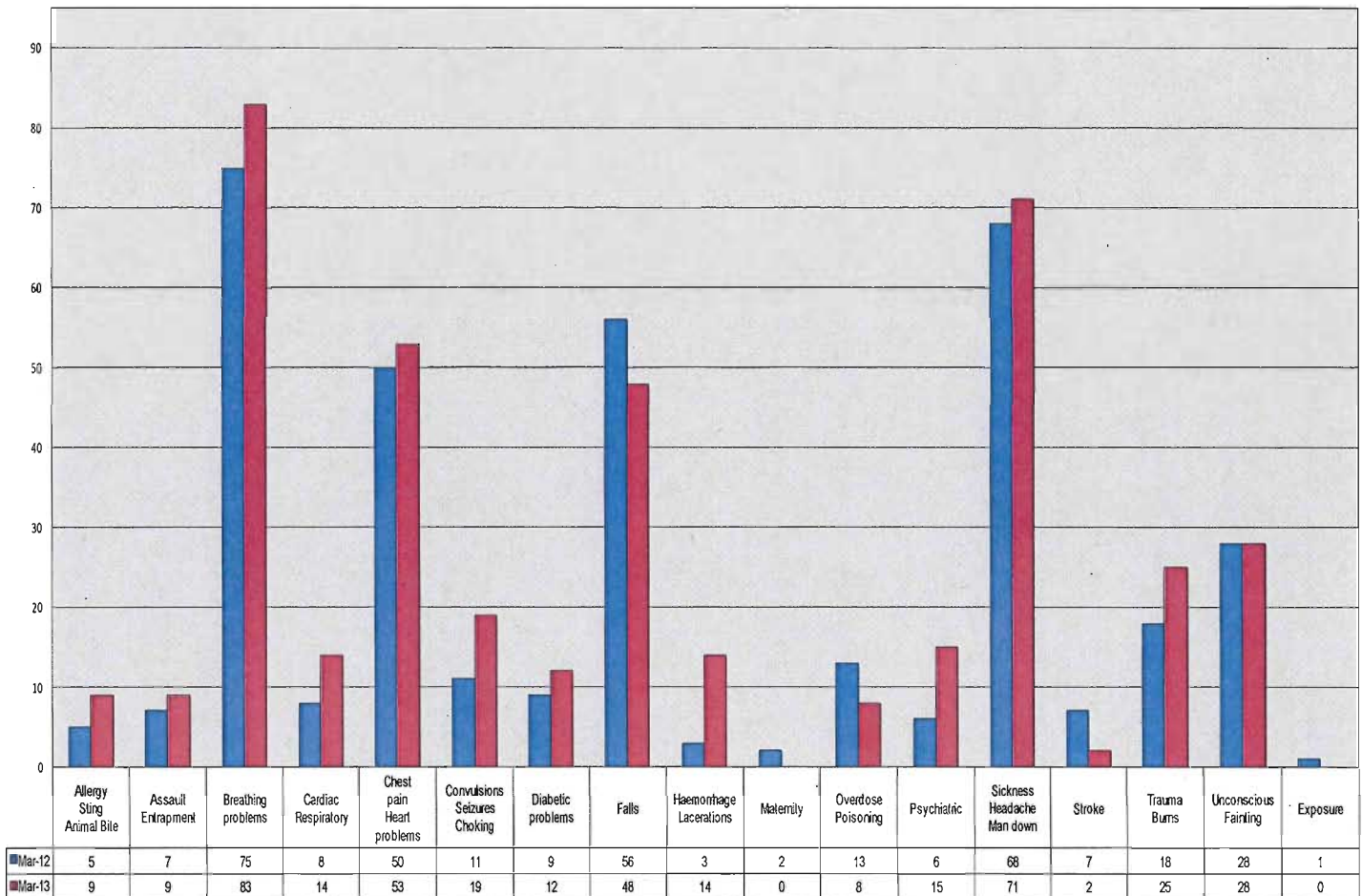
*Public Hazard* includes: aircraft emergency, bomb removal standby, object removal, or power lines down

*Public Service* includes: assisting public, ambulance or police, locked in/out, special events, trapped in elevator, water removal

### First Responder Totals

Medical calls comprise 53.7% of total calls for RFR. A detailed breakdown of the medical calls for March 2012 and 2013 by sub-type is set out in the following table, with a total of 422 medical calls for March 2013. This represents an increase of 11.1% over the same period in 2012. Analysis of increases in the breathing and sickness categories demonstrated no defined reason other than the average patient's age (63+) and the potential factor of the flu season. A review of the hemorrhage and lacerations category showed significant increase in accidental injuries.

March 2012 & 2013 Medical Calls by Type



### Incidents

Notable emergency incidents which involved RFR for March 2013 were:

#### Medical

RFR crew attended to a young male that had been pepper sprayed and stabbed in the abdomen. RFR decontaminated the patient and treated the wound. Patient care was transferred to BC Ambulance Services (BCAS) and RCMP managed scene safety.

Fires – Residential / Commercial / Outdoor

RFR crews responded to a townhouse fire on Jack Bell Drive. The fire was located in the kitchen and had breached the front wall of the building. There was heavy smoke in the unit. The quick actions by first alarm units limited loss to the kitchen area, and prevented collateral damage to adjoining units. During the course of this incident there were five other calls for service in the City, including an aircraft standby at YVR airport. The Battalion Chief notified E-Comm that RFR was reducing service and would not be able to respond to minor incidents and medicals. These would have to be queued by priority by E-Comm.

RFR crews responded to smoke in a two level medical building on Cook Road. Upon arrival power was observed to be out in two buildings, and there was significant electrical smelling smoke in the structure. RFR evacuated the remaining occupants and investigated. RFR then ventilated and searched for cause. Hydro was summoned, and with their expertise it was determined that there was a major electrical fault in the mechanical room. Power was shut down, and the building was secured and turned over to the property management for repair.

Four RFR units responded to a fire on Westminster Highway. Crews located black smoke and electrical burning on the third floor. It was found that a bathroom fan had burnt and that the fire was almost burnt out. There were significant amounts of smoke in the unit so the crews removed the smoke. A Fire Prevention Officer investigated for fire cause and origin.

RFR crews responded to a one story house on Granville Avenue, where a fire had started in the kitchen. The rapid attack by RFR crews resulted in quick extinguishment. No injuries and no casualties occurred though there was extensive fire and smoke damage to the property. Two family pets were also saved.

RFR crews responded to a house fire on Mang Road which had been contained to the rear exterior of the first floor. RFR crews cleared the first floor of fire and proceeded to ventilate the premises. The home had multiple animals, and the home owner was very happy with the care taken in removing two large dogs and five cats.

Multiple RFR crews responded to a house fire on Williams Road. Crews worked quickly to mitigate the fire, check for victims and set up ventilation on scene. It was discovered that the house was vacant. The fire is under investigation.

For March 2013, the estimated total Fire Loss was \$338,500, which includes \$290,000 for building loss and \$48,500 for content loss. The total building and content value at risk was \$59,340,500 and the total value preserved was \$59,002,000, which translates to 99.4% of value protected.

<b>Fire Calls By Type and Loss Estimates – March</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>
Residential:						
- Single-family	6	3,890,000	278,000	450,500	47,500	4,015,000
- Multi-family	5	20,000,000	-	10,000,000	-	30,000,000
Fire structure total:	11					
Commercial/Industrial	3	13,000,000	12,000	12,000,000	1,000	24,987,000
Fire – Outdoor	11	-	-	-	-	-
Vehicle	2	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Totals*</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>36,890,000</b>	<b>290,000</b>	<b>22,450,500</b>	<b>48,500</b>	<b>59,002,000</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 March 2013 are listed below:

<b>Total Fire Investigation Statistics – March</b>			
	<b>Suspicious</b>	<b>Accidental</b>	<b>Undetermined</b>
Residential - Single-family	-	5	1
Residential - Multi-family	-	3	2
Commercial/Industrial	-	-	3
Fire – Outdoor	4	1	6
Vehicle	-	-	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>14</b>

HazMat

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

<b>HazMat Calls By Type – March</b>	
<b>HazMat Calls</b>	<b>Details</b>
Natural Gas/Propane Leaks (small)	6
Flammable/Combustible Liquids	1
Misc. (empty containers to unknown powder)	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>

### Motor Vehicle Incidents (MVI)

RFR crews responded to two dump trucks, both towing pup-trailers, which had collided in the George Massey Tunnel. An additional vehicle involved in the incident which had significant damage was also involved. There were no serious injuries; however, both northbound lanes in the tunnel were shut down for several hours. Vehicles in the tunnel were unable to get out. A pregnant woman (expected delivery in days) was in the line of vehicles, and phoned 911 stating she was going into labour. The RFR crew returned to the scene in the opposing lane and walked their way up the line of vehicles to find her. Fortunately, it appeared to be a false labour and the woman's discomfort subsided.

### **Training and Education**

RFR training staff attended two organizational meetings at YVR for the training exercise on April 17. A schedule has been created for all suppression staff to attend a two day training course on Aircraft Firefighting.

RFR training staff completed the training of all suppression staff in Module 4 (Emergency Scene Management) of the Hi-Rise program.

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

Richmond Fire-Rescue participated in numerous events and activities for public education during March 2013. Some of the events attended by the Fire Chief, Deputy Chiefs, RFR crews and Prevention Officers were as follows:

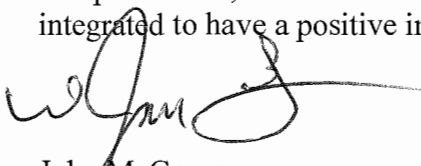
- 30 car seat inspections provided at Fire Hall No.1
- Pumper visited by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Group
- Fire extinguisher training held by the Community Relations Officer
- Hall Tours provided for the *Richmond Scouts* and *CCM Sports - Spring Break Kids Camp*
- Attended *Activate Wellness Fair 2013* with 500-100 seniors

### **Financial Impact**

None

### **Conclusion**

Richmond Fire-Rescue continues 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.



John McGowan  
Fire Chief  
(604-303-2734)