



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** Community Safety Committee  
**From:** John McGowan  
Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue  
**Date:** February 14, 2013  
**File:** 09-5000-01/2012-Vol  
01  
**Re:** Richmond Fire-Rescue – January 2013 Activity Report

### Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled Richmond Fire-Rescue – January 2013 Activity Report, dated February 14, 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: 
REVIEWED BY CAO	INITIALS: 

## Staff Report

### Origin

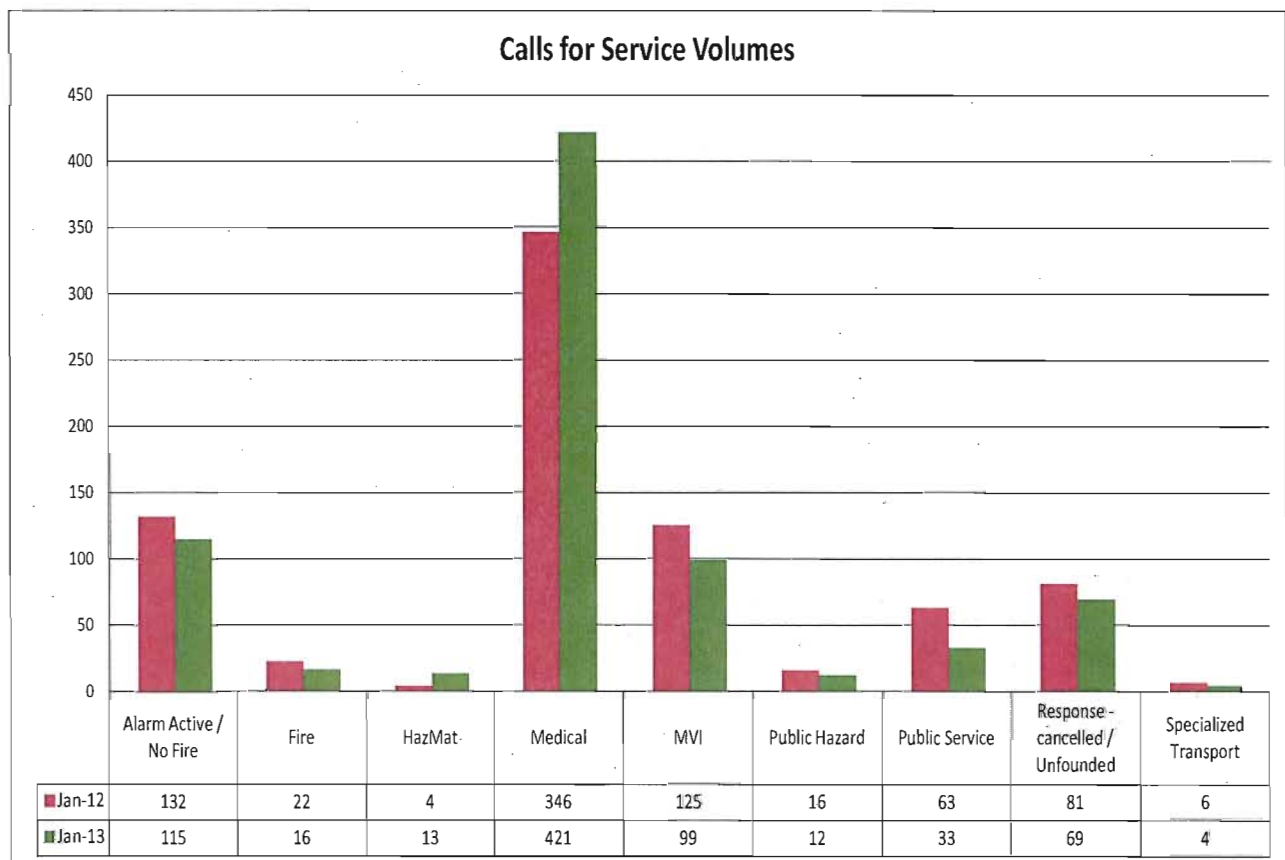
Fire-Rescue is committed to open and transparent reporting on its performance and progress. Monthly reports provide Council with current information on Richmond Fire-Rescue's activities.

### Analysis

Fire-Rescue's report for January 2013 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 2012 and 2013. For January 2013, there were a total of 782 incidents compared to 795 in January 2012, a decrease of 1.6%. 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 January.



#### Call Type Legend:

**Alarm Active/NoFire** includes: accidental, malicious, equipment malfunctions

**HazMat** includes: fuel or vapour; spills, leaks, or containment

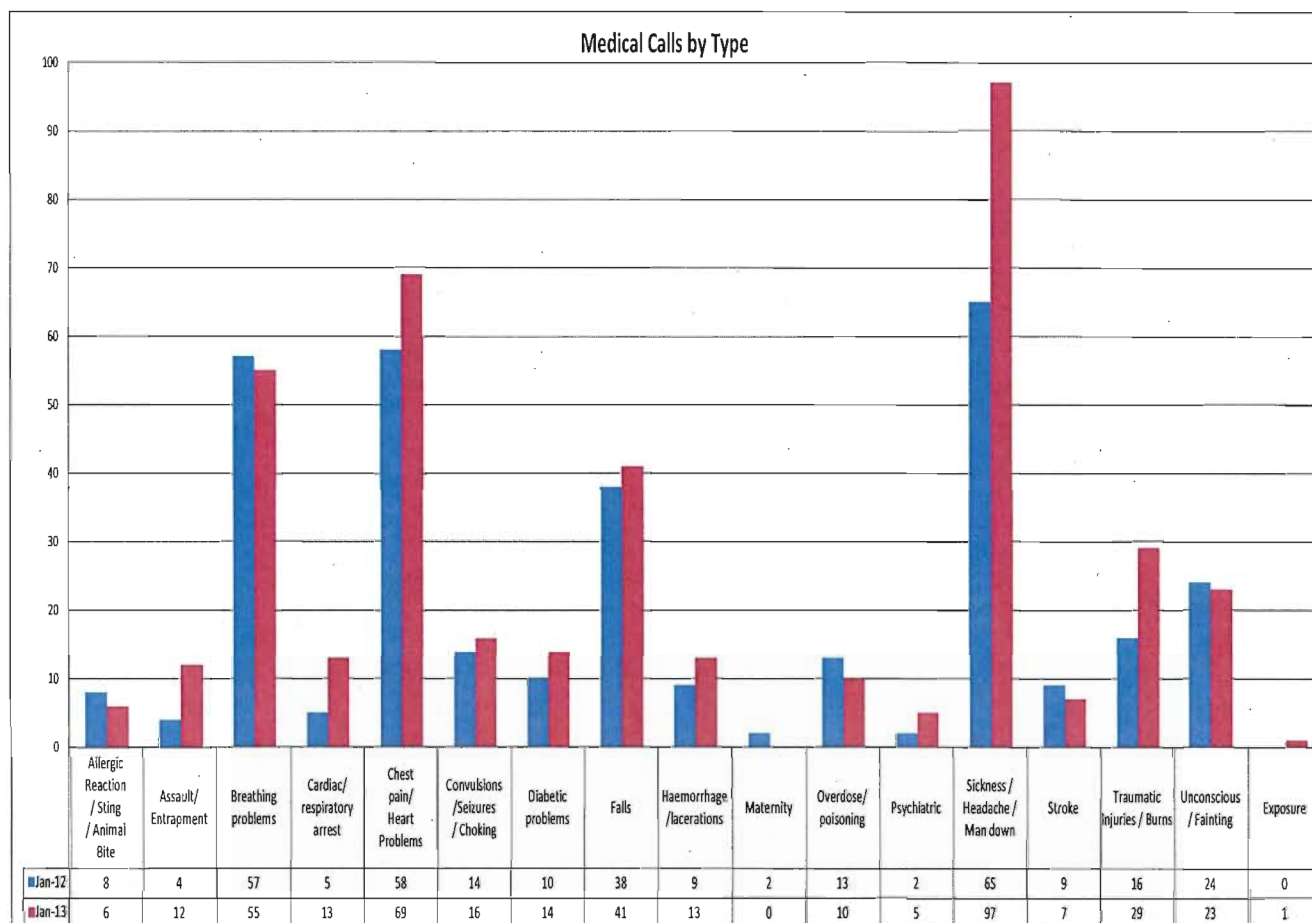
**Medical** includes: cardiac arrest, emergency response, home or industrial accidents

**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

## First Responder Totals

A detailed breakdown of the medical calls for January 2012 and 2013 by sub-type is set out in the following table. Medical calls comprise 53.8% of total calls for RFR. In January 2013 there was an increase in medical calls of 21.7% over the same period in 2012. In January 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 63+. A potential factor for the increase could be attributed to the flu season.



## Incidents

Notable emergency incidents, which involved RFR for January 2013, were:

### Medical

Crews responded to a total of 421 medical calls during January including; gunshot wounds to four people on River Road. Crews worked alongside BCAS and RCMP on this incident.

An RFR crew also responded to an elderly female that had fallen off a ladder while taking down Christmas lights on her home. Care was given and the patient was transported to hospital. The crew also remained behind to secure the home of the patient.

Fires – Residential / Commercial / Outdoor

Crews responded to a total of 16 fire calls during January including; a car fire on No 4 Road, a structure fire on Chatham Street and a light fixture fire located at YVR which resulted in the evacuation of 750 persons.

For January 2013 the estimated total Fire Loss was \$71,250, this included \$41,250 for building loss and \$30,000 for content loss. The total building and content value at risk was \$143,434,000 and the total value preserved was \$143,362,750, which translates to 99.95% of value protected.

<b>Fire Calls By Type and Loss Estimates – January</b>						
Incident Type Breakdown	Call Volume	Estimated Building Value \$	Estimated Building Loss \$	Estimated Content Value \$	Estimated Content Loss \$	Estimated Total Value Preserved \$
Residential:						
- Single-family	2	350,000	0	10,000	0	360,000
- Multi-family	4	30,000,000	50	8,000,000	0	37,999,950
Fire structure total:	6					
Commercial/Industrial	5	52,000,000	100	53,000,000	0	105,000,100
Fire – Outdoor	4	23,000	20,100	30,000	30,000	2,900
Vehicle	1	21,000	21,000	0	0	0
<b>Totals*</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>82,394,000</b>	<b>41,250</b>	<b>61,040,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>143,362,750</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 January 2013 are listed below:

<b>Total Fire Investigation Statistics - January</b>			
	Suspicious #	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	-	1	1
Residential - Multi-family	1	1	2
Commercial/Industrial	1	2	2
Fire – Outdoor	3	-	1
Vehicle	-	-	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>

Hazmat

Crews responded to a total of 13 HazMat calls during January including a Freon leak from a roof top compressor on Bridgeport and a 500 gallon tank leaking in a van, in underground parking located at Garden City Road.

<b>HazMat Calls By Type – January</b>	
HazMat Calls	Details
Natural Gas/Propane Leaks (small)	9
Flammable/Combustible Liquids	2
Misc. (empty containers to unknown powder)	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>

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

### Motor Vehicle Incidents

Crews responded to a total of 99 motor vehicle incidents in January including a high-speed rollover involving a car. RFR crew had to remove the door to extricate the patient. The patient was then transported to hospital with head injuries.

RFR also attended to a submerged vehicle in the North Arm of the Fraser River. The RFR water rescue team entered the water to search the vehicle, while awaiting arrival of the Coast Guard. No victims were found and RFR's water rescue team hooked the vehicle to a tow truck for extraction from the river.

RFR's water rescue team continued with a shore based search, while Coast Guard managed a water based search of the upstream and downstream vicinity. This is an example of cooperative efforts from multiple agencies: RFR, RCMP, BCAS, Fraser Port, Coast Guard and Rusty's Towing. The RFR Battalion Chief liaised with the Victoria Coast Guard Rescue Coordination Center and the Fraser Ports patrol vessel using portable VHF marine radio.

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

### Public Service

During January RFR crews responded to four separate public service calls of persons trapped in elevators. RFR crews were able to use their recent specialized Elevator Rescue training to gain access to the elevators and quickly resolve the incidents.

### **Training and Education**

RFR Training staff facilitated and supported the ventilation portion of their Hi-Rise Program. Preparation for the next two phases of the Hi-Rise program are ongoing.

RFR Training staff provided an asbestos awareness program to all suppression staff.

RFR Training staff also attended a training demonstration of the life rafts that are located at the Coast Guard Station. RFR will assist with the hook up of these life rafts in an emergency if the Coast Guard is unavailable. A training video produced by YVR will be given to RFR to train our members.

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

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

- 29 car seat inspections were carried out in January at No 1 Hall.
- Pumper visits included the Investors Group *Walk for Memories* event and the Moonbeams Preschool Kindergarten group safety presentation visit.
- Hall Tours were provided for the Richmond Girl Guides Safety Badge Course.
- Community and Fundraising events attended included the 31<sup>st</sup> annual *Richmond Firefighters Charitable Society Drive-Thru Tree Chipping* event held at Garry Point Park.

### **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)

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