



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee
From: John McGowan
Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue
Date: August 26, 2013
File: 09-5000-01/2012-Vol
01
Re: Richmond Fire-Rescue – July 2013 Activity Report

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled Richmond Fire-Rescue – July 2013 Activity Report, dated August 26, 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.

This report supports Council Term Goal #1: *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.*

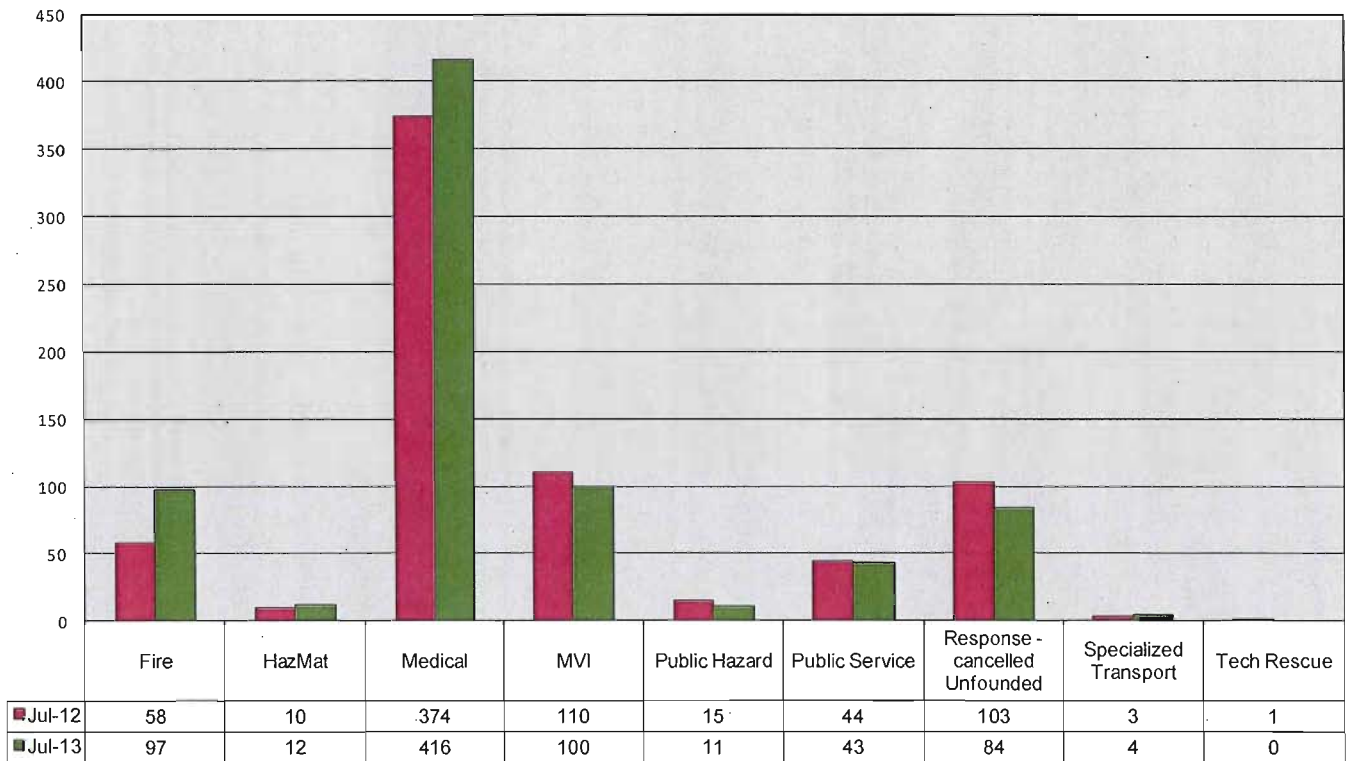
Analysis

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

Suppression Activity

The following chart provides a month to month comparison of the number of incidents that occurred in July 2012 and July 2013. In July 2013 there were a total of 885 incidents, compared to 833 in July 2012. This represents an increase of 6.2%. The rise in incidents is primarily due to an increase in outdoor fires and an increase in medical issues.

July 2012 & 2013 Calls for Service Volumes



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

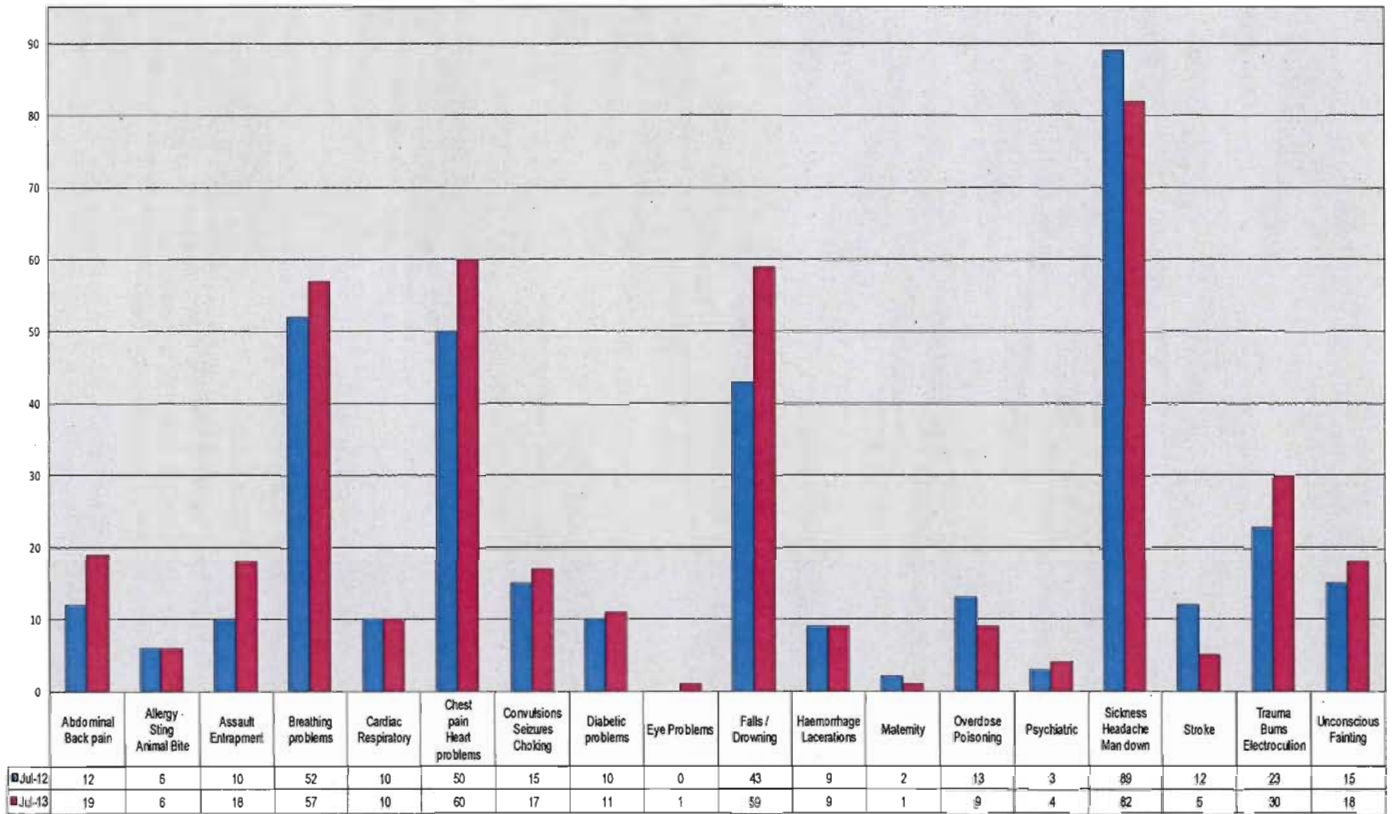
Public Hazard includes: aircraft emergency, bomb removal standby, object removal, or power lines down

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

First Responder Totals

Medical calls comprise 47.0% of total calls for RFR. A detailed breakdown of the medical calls for July 2012 and July 2013 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 416 medical calls in July 2013, representing an increase of 11.2% when compared to the same period in 2012.

July 2012 & 2013 Medical Calls by Type



Incidents

Notable emergency incidents which involved RFR for July 2013 were:

Medical

During July, RFR responded to an incident where a male fell from scaffolding at an industrial site, and complained of hip pain. RFR, BC Ambulance Service (BCAS), RCMP and WorkSafe attended the incident. The patient was stabilized from movement, put on a stretcher and taken to hospital for treatment.

A report was received that a 73 year old male had fallen from a ladder, and possibly broken his neck. RFR crews assisted BCAS to stabilize the patient from movement, and prepared him for transport to hospital.

RFR crews responded to a report of a drowning at an outdoor swimming pool on No. 1 Road. Crews used Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) to successfully regain a pulse.

Motor Vehicle Incidents (MVI)

In July, RFR crews responded to a two vehicle Motor Vehicle Incident on Shell Road, which resulted in a female patient being trapped inside a car. All of the passenger side door posts were removed using shears. The patient had a laceration to her arm, and was removed from the vehicle with the assistance of BCAS.

An incident was reported of a cyclist who had been reportedly struck by a Jeep on Railway Avenue and Blundell Road. The patient suffered a broken finger and several deep lacerations to his arm. RFR crew members assisted BCAS with patient care and preparing the patient for transportation.

Also in July, a two vehicle MVI occurred involving a semi trailer that rolled over on the Highway 91A on-ramp to Highway 91 Westbound. Eastbound traffic was stopped, and absorbent material was spread onto the fluids that leaked from the automobiles onto the road surface. One patient suffered minor injuries.

Fires – Residential / Commercial / Outdoor

There were 76 outdoor fires reported in July. These fires included bark mulch, brush, grass and ground fires. The significant increase in outdoor fires compared to previous months is largely due to dryer weather. Richmond Fire-Rescue continues to promote fire safety messages through media releases and Community Relations training opportunities. A media release regarding the hazards of discarded smoking materials was released by RFR. Deputy Chief Howell participated in a local news interview highlighting the risks of hot weather and fire safety.

RFR crews responded to a report of a kitchen fire. On arrival crews encountered black smoke showing from the house. The fire was quickly located, confined and extinguished. The crews used little water during extinguishment and therefore minimal damage was caused. However, there was extensive smoke damage throughout the unit.

Crews also responded to reports of a car fire located on No. 9 Road. The fire was mitigated, and an RFR Investigator and RCMP were notified of the incident.

A fire call involving two sheds and a garage was reported at Corless Place. The fires were brought under control by RFR crews. There were a small value of goods lost, and no casualties.

For July 2013, the estimated total Fire Loss was \$58,620. This includes \$37,100 for building loss and \$23,020 for content loss. The total building and content value at risk was \$64,895,000, and the total value preserved was \$64,836,380. These numbers translate to 99.9% of value protected.

Fire Calls By Type and Loss Estimates – July						
Incident Type Breakdown	Call Volume	Estimated Building Value \$	Estimated Building Loss \$	Estimated Content Value \$	Estimated Content Loss \$	Estimated Total Value Preserved \$
Residential:						
- Single-family	7	1,300,000	5,000	600,000	20	1,894,980
- Multi-family	8	39,200,000	10,100	12,210,000	16,000	51,383,900
Commercial/Industrial	4	3,010,000	5,000	3,005,000	2,000	6,008,000
Fire – Outdoor	76	3,320,000	15,500	2,250,000	5,000	5,549,500
Vehicle	2	1,500	1,500	-	-	-
Totals*	97	46,831,500	37,100	18,065,000	23,020	64,836,380

*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 July 2013 are listed below:

Total Fire Investigation Statistics – July			
	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	-	6	1
Residential - Multi-family	-	8	-
Commercial/Industrial	1	2	1
Fire – Outdoor	18	46	12
Vehicle	1	-	1
Totals	20	62	15

HazMat

RFR crews responded to a HazMat call located on Miller Road. A product leaked from the top shelf to shelving below, and had crystallized. No workers were experiencing any effects from the leaked substance when crews arrived. The RFR HazMat team entered in full Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) after consulting with CANUTEK. The product in question was a cleaning product similar to bleach. It was removed, and the employees were informed of the findings. This particular call went well for RFR, and was a good test of the equipment and resources needed in this type of emergency.

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

HazMat Calls By Type – July	
HazMat Calls	Details
Natural Gas/Propane Leaks (small)	5
Flammable/Combustible Liquids	1
Corrosive	1
Misc. (empty containers to unknown powder)	5
Total	12

Training and Education

Throughout the month, RFR's training team led several new initiatives and continued to support the management of regular training within RFR's current training plan.

RFR's Training Team processed the completion of 12 First Responder packages. These packages included lesson plans for the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and Public Access Defibrillator (PAD) programs for all crew members.

Technical Water Rescue (TWR) training was provided by the Training Team to 16 crew members on the Fraser River.

A HazMat Technician (HZM120) course was coordinated for 12 members. This was carried out over five days, which was broken down into two days of training at City Hall, and three days at the Justice Institute of BC. The total HAZMAT Technician course equates to 480 hours.

Technical High Angle Rope Rescue (THARR) and Confined Space Rescue (CSR) training was carried out by the Training Team. A secured tower crane was used for the training of 32 members in THARR.

Community Relations / Public Education

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

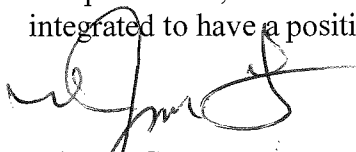
- 23 car seat inspections at Fire Hall No.1
- Pumper visits for: *Multifaith Food Drive at Blundell Centre Safeway; River Rock Family Day at London Farms; SummerSlam Tournament; Armenian Dance Camp; Tim Horton's Swim at South Arm; and the Richmond Multicultural Service Summary Program Event*
- A Safety and training event for the *Bentley Wynd Public Education for Seniors*
- Special Events: *Steveston Salmon Fest Parade; Steveston Salmon Fest Firefighter obstacle course and public education site; and the Steveston Ships to Shore*

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)

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