



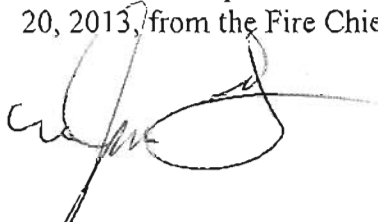
City of Richmond

Report to Committee

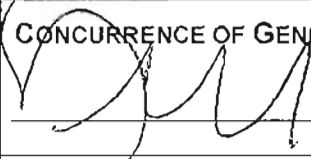


To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** March 20, 2013
From: John McGowan **File:** 09-5000-01/2012-Vol
 Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue 01
Re: Richmond Fire-Rescue ~ February 2013 Activity Report

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled Richmond Fire-Rescue – February 2013 Activity Report, dated March 20, 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 (RFR) activities.

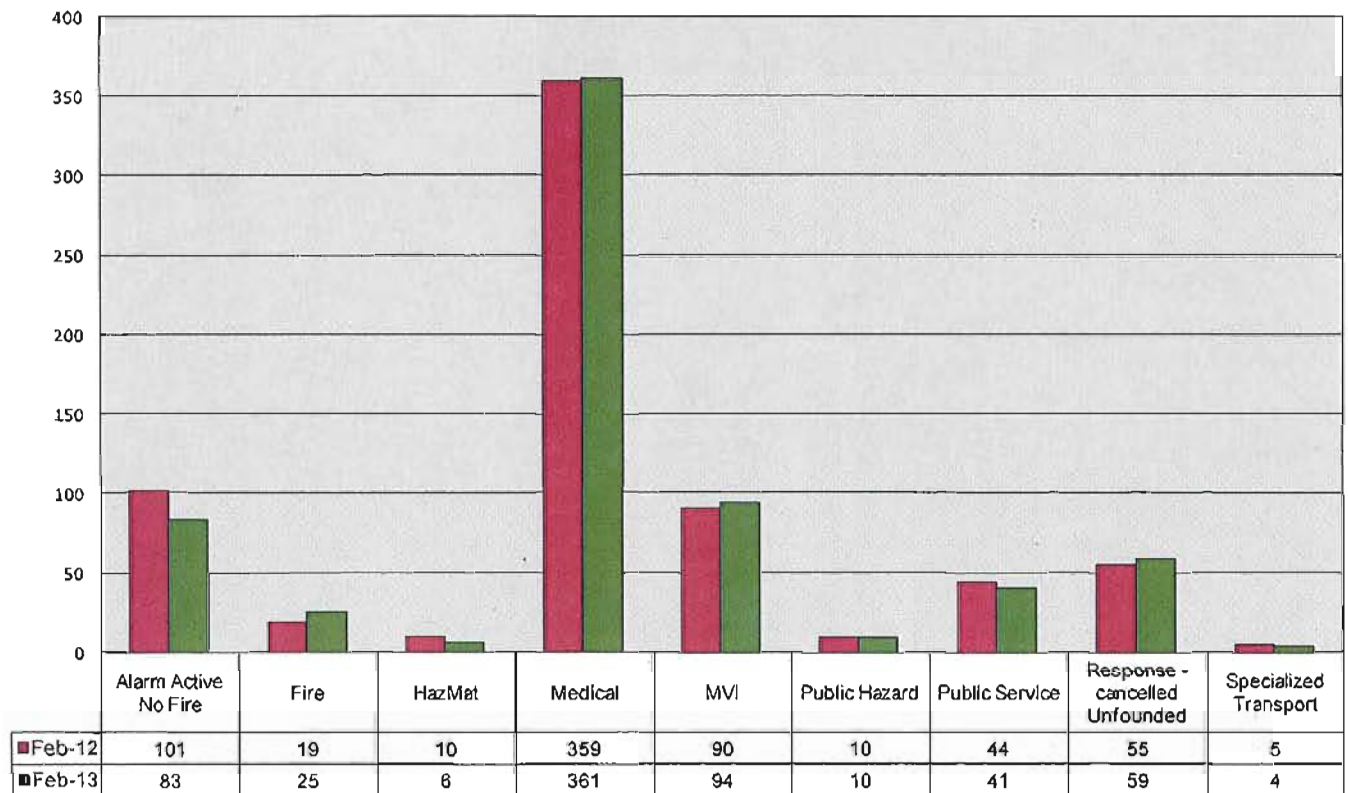
Analysis

Fire-Rescue's report for February 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 February 2013, there were a total of 683 incidents compared to 693 in February 2012, a decrease of 1.4%. 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 reduction for Alarm Active/No Fire may be due to RFR's False Alarm Reduction program.

February 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

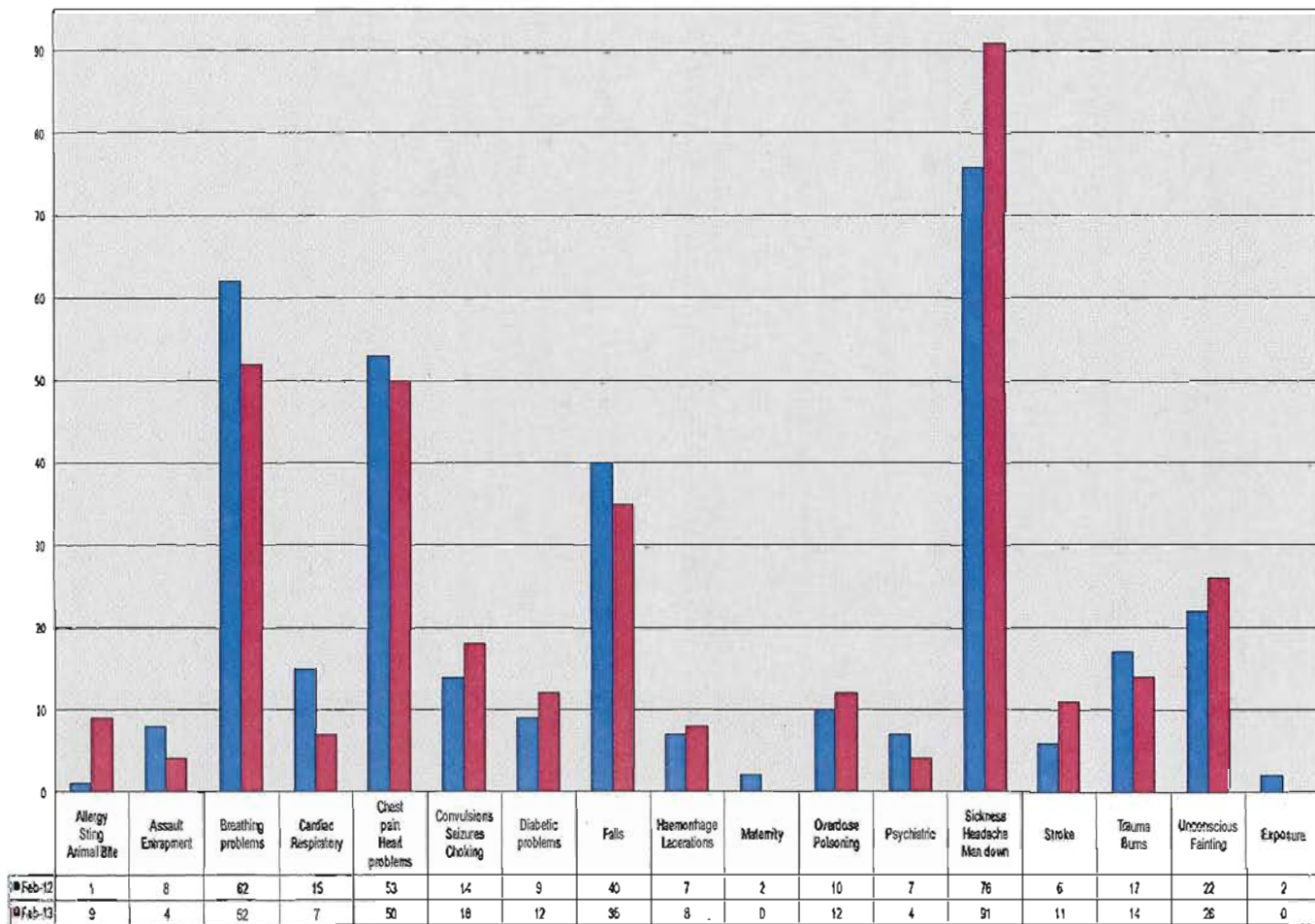
Public Hazard includes: aircraft emergency, bomb removal standby, object removal, or power lines down

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

First Responder Totals

A detailed breakdown of the medical calls for February 2012 and 2013 by sub-type is set out in the following table, with a total of 361 medical calls. Medical calls comprise 52.9% of total calls for RFR. In February 2013 there was an increase in medical calls of 0.6% over the same period in 2012. Analysis of the two categories with significant increases showed an increase in food allergy incidents. For sickness/headache/man down results, there was no defined reason other than the average patient's age (63+). The flu season is also a potential factor.

February 2012 & 2013 Medical Calls by Type



Incidents

Notable emergency incidents which involved RFR for February 2013 were:

Medical

Crews responded to an assault of a young man who had been punched in the head and knocked unconscious. There were several minors at the scene and alcohol was believed to be a factor. RFR staff worked alongside BC Ambulance Service (BCAS) and RCMP, who were also in attendance.

RFR crews responded to: two different incidents assisting BCAS with medical issues involving cardiac problems; a female without a helmet who had fallen from her bike, resulting in a skull contusion; and a cyclist who had been struck by a car and was found lying in the street.

Fires – Residential / Commercial / Outdoor

Crews responded to a total of 25 fire calls during February, including a house fire on Bromfield Place. The fire started in the furnace room and heavy smoke was showing from the eaves. RFR command was set up and the fire was promptly extinguished. No occupants were trapped, but one person did receive treatment for smoke inhalation. RFR crews worked alongside RCMP, BCAS, Teresen Gas and Hydro. The fire was later investigated by an RFR inspector and found to be accidental.

A large number of RFR crews responded to a house fire on Azure Road. RFR crews were unable to enter the premises due to personal belongings blocking the entrance. During the incident, crews protected the neighbouring homes from exposure from fly ash by using two ladder trucks. The home was later demolished for safety reasons. After the event, the Community Relations Officer distributed 400 leaflets to the surrounding community, with educational messages regarding the dangers of hoarding.

RFR crews responded to a fire with heavy smoke coming from a secondary suite of a single family residence. A crew entered and determined that a pot was left unattended on the stove and a small fire had started. The fire was brought under control by the RFR Attack Team, and efforts immediately began to limit smoke damage to the rest of the home using portable fans. The occupants then reported that their dog was missing. Crews re-entered and found the small canine alive, hiding under a desk. RFR returned the pet to the occupants, and provided first responder care to a patient for smoke inhalation.

RFR crews responded to four separate kitchen fire related incidents during February, located at: Jones Road, Minoru Boulevard, Thormanby Crescent, and McNeely drive. All incidents were quickly mitigated.

During February there were four incidents of outdoor fires, including bark mulch fires reported at Ash Street and No 3 Road; reports of an illegal burn at Scotch Pond on 7th Avenue; and a shed fire at Palmberg Road.

A vehicle fire occurred at No 1 Road, where the fire was extinguished by the driver. The driver sustained minor burns and treatment was provided by RFR crew. Crews also responded to a fully involved car fire located at the east entry of a parking lot at YVR South Terminal. The fire crew extinguished the fire and coordinated with RCMP to arrange towing to a secure site for follow up investigation.

For February 2013, the estimated total Fire Loss was \$977,275, which includes \$717,200 for building loss and \$260,075 for content loss. The total building and content value at risk was \$119,168,400 and the total value preserved was \$118,191,125, which translates to 99.2% of value protected.

Fire Calls By Type and Loss Estimates – February						
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					
- Multi-family	7	52,500,000	-	12,360,000	75	64,859,925
Fire structure total:						
Commercial/Industrial	2	31,000,000	100	18,000,000	-	48,999,900
Fire – Outdoor	7	700,000	200	150,000	-	849,800
Vehicle	3	-	-	-	-	-
Totals*	25	87,908,400	717,200	31,260,000	260,075	118,191,125

*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 February 2013 are listed below:

Total Fire Investigation Statistics – February			
	Suspicious #	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	2	3	1
Residential - Multi-family	-	7	-
Commercial/Industrial	-	1	1
Fire – Outdoor	5	1	1
Vehicle	-	2	1
Totals	7	14	4

HazMat

Crews responded to a total of six HazMat calls during February, including a report of the smell of gas. On arrival RFR crew found approximately 180 gallons of gasoline stored in four 45 gallon drums in the garage of a townhouse unit located on Bryson Drive. Due to the high fire load, explosion potential, and suspicious nature of the call, RFR crew requested that RCMP attend. In coordination with the RCMP, it was decided that the product be removed to the City Works yard for safe keeping, as the owners had no way to move the product.

When City employees started relocating the product, some precursors to meth production were found, and the call was escalated to a full Hazmat call. RFR and the RCMP Hazmat team were deployed, and the call lasted for several hours. Eventually the RCMP decided the call did not warrant the Hazmat status.

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

HazMat Calls By Type – February	
HazMat Calls	Details
Natural Gas/Propane Leaks (small)	4
Flammable/Combustible Liquids	1
Misc. (empty containers to unknown powder)	1
Total	6

Motor Vehicle Incidents (MVI)

Crews responded to a total of 94 motor vehicle incidents in February, including a motor vehicle incident on the Steveston and 99 Highway overpass. A vehicle had struck the curb edge on the overpass, causing concrete debris and a wheel from the vehicle to fall to the highway below. A large portion of guard rail was left hanging precariously over the highway, held only by a small piece of rebar. RFR shut down the two endangered lanes of the highway, provided patient care, and stabilized the vehicle on the overpass above. The driver of the vehicle was found unconscious outside of the vehicle, and was treated and transported to hospital by BCAS.

Crews attended a significant two vehicle ‘T-Bone’ collision on St Albans Road. The driver of the side-impacted vehicle was trapped. RFR stabilized the vehicle, deployed heavy rescue equipment, maintained spinal management of patient, removed the door, and freed the occupant. The driver was transported to hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

During February, RFR crews also responded to a four vehicle motor vehicle incident with injuries on No 3 Road. The “Jaws of Life” were used to extricate a passenger. A person with a weapon/fire arm fled the scene. Multiple RCMP and plain-clothed detectives were on scene.

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

Training and Education

RFR training staff completed the training of all suppression staff in Module 3 (Hose Deployment) of the Hi-Rise program.

RFR training staff continue to develop the iMobile training program in a more sustainable way by reconfiguring it to be more portable and reliable. All instructional materials have been revised and updated, and will be delivered during breaks in other training schedules. To date, 70 RFR crews have received the updated instruction.

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

Community Relations / Public Education

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

- 34 car seat inspections were carried out in February at No 1 Hall.
- Pumper visits included the St Paul's Kindergarten School and the Saunders Road (English as a Second Language Program).
- Hall Tours were provided for the 33rd Richmond Scouts Group, the Beaver Scouts (Fire Safety and Environment Tour) and the South Arm Junior Out of School Care Group.
- Community and Fundraising events attended included the *Golden Dragon and Lion Dance* event held at Aberdeen Centre, *Hockey Day in Canada* held at the Oval, Touchstone's *Eating Together Kick-Off* Breakfast, the British Columbia Professional Fire Fighters Association (BCPFFA) *Firefighter Memorial Statue* presentation held at the Legislative Buildings in Victoria. RFR crews also showed their support and participated in the *Pink Shirt – Anti-Bullying day* by wearing pink shirts and visiting local schools to promote educational messaging of anti-bullying.

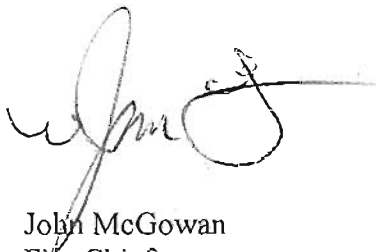
Financial Impact

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