



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** Community Safety Committee

**Date:** May 23, 2025

**From:** Jim Wishlove  
Fire Chief

**File** 09-5140-01/2025-Vol  
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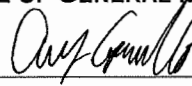


**Re:** Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – April 2025

### Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – April 2025”, dated May 23, 2025, from the Fire Chief, be received for information.

Jim Wishlove  
Fire Chief  
(604-303-2715)

Att. 1

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER 	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS: 
APPROVED BY CAO 	

## **Staff Report**

### **Origin**

This report highlights activities, information, and statistics related to calls for service by Richmond Fire-Rescue in April 2025.

This monthly report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #3, A Safe and Prepared Community:

*Community safety and preparedness through effective planning, strategic partnerships and proactive programs.*

### **Analysis**

#### **Emergency Programs**

During the month of April, the following engagement activities took place:

- Worked with representatives from a local food and community gardens to discuss a partnership on a series of presentations on heat safety to the seniors that work in community gardens.
- Provided presentations on personal / household emergency preparedness including the five steps to emergency preparedness and earthquake safety to:
  - a business with approximately 80 employees who attended the presentation, followed by an earthquake drill; and
  - a seniors' independent living residence with over 40 attendees, which also included information on staying safe in the heat.
- Participated in two table-top exercises: one that simulated a propane leak at an airport gas bar, and one that simulated an earthquake with infrastructure impacts at a nearby industrial gas facility.
- Presented to the Richmond Accessibility Advisory Committee (RAAC) on information regarding emergency preparedness and the support that can be provided to people with disabilities in emergency planning.

#### **Public Outreach & Education**

During the month of April, the following public outreach and education activities took place:

- Facilitated outreach events to provide educational opportunities to the community, including Fire Hall and vehicle tours for five organizations, with over 100 attendees.

- Hosted the Burning of Chametz with Chabad Richmond, a family friendly community and outreach event. Emergency preparedness information was also provided for those who attended.
- Provided information on the Online Fire & Life Safety Education Program to three schools with over 130 attendees.
- Co-hosted a Kids Safety Day event highlighting prevention education and awareness for local retail staff and visitors.
- Through RFR, the City continues to protect our Community from the growing threat of wildfires, particularly in urban-interface zones where homes and woodlands intersect. RFR Outreach recently attended the BC Wildfire Resiliency and Training Summit which brought together wildfire practitioners from across the Province, Canada and internationally. This summit included speakers and workshops presenting current strategies to make homes, communities, and the landscape more wildfire resilient. The costs of the summit were supported through grant funding that RFR is managing in support of the FireSmart program being developed in Richmond.
- Continued with life safety educational social media videos and posts, including the launch of the 2025 firefighter recruitment process.

### Internal Training

In April 2025, staff organized in-house training events including; Fire Service Leadership, Auto-Accident Patient Extrication, wildland firefighting, and ongoing firefighter recruit training and evaluations.

### Emergency Response

One of the City's emergency response goals is to arrive on-scene, in time and with enough resources to contain a fire to the room of origin. The room of origin standard is especially important in terms of preventing further fire loss and damage, which can be reduced when a fire is contained to the room of origin. Meeting this standard also assists in mitigating loss of life, reduction of property damage and protection of the environment.

In April 2025, there were 1,050 reported incidents of all types, representing an overall increase of 4 per cent in incidents between April 2024 and April 2025 (Table 1).

<b>Table 1: Total Incidents - April 2025</b>					
	<b>Incident Totals April (2025)</b>	<b>Incident Totals April (2024)</b>	<b>Number Change from April 2024 to 2025</b>	<b>Percentage Change from April 2024 to 2025</b>	<b>5 Year Average for April</b>
Active Alarm	156	149	+7	+5	139
Explosion	0	0	0	0	0
Fire	45	46	-1	-2	42
Hazardous Materials	10	7	+3	+43	6
Medical	573	530	+43	+8	484
Motor Vehicle Incident	84	89	-5	-6	73
Public Hazard	8	8	0	0	8
Public Service	86	89	-3	-3	78
Response Cancelled/Unfounded	85	87	-2	-2	65
Specialized Transport	3	3	0	0	2
Technical Rescue	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,050</b>	<b>1,008</b>	<b>+42</b>	<b>+4</b>	<b>896</b>

The average time on scene in April 2025 for emergency response crews was 29 minutes per event, which is lower than the number recorded in April 2024 (34 minutes). The time spent on scene can vary due to the nature and severity of each incident.

In April 2025, there were 45 fire incidents reported to the BC Office of the Fire Commissioner. This is 2 per cent lower than the number reported in April 2024 (46). The average number of fires reported each April over the last five years is 42.

Fire damage and property losses during April 2025 is estimated at \$6,344,809. The total building/asset and content value at risk is estimated to be \$98,710,441 and the total value preserved from damage was \$92,365,632. These numbers translate to 93 per cent of value protected (Table 2), which is lower than the value observed in 2024: 99 per cent.

<b>Table 2: Fire Incidents By Type and Loss Estimates - April 2025</b>						
<b>Incident Type Breakdown</b>	<b>Incident Volume</b>	<b>Estimated Building/Asset Value (\$)</b>	<b>Estimated Building/Asset Loss (\$)</b>	<b>Estimated Content Value (\$)</b>	<b>Estimated Content Loss (\$)</b>	<b>Estimated Total Value Preserved (\$)</b>
Single Family Residence	7	1,848,700	128,500	642,900	56,000	2,307,100
Multi Family Residence	2	35,000	-	-	-	35,000
Commercial/Industrial	8	56,741,846	3,662,470	39,426,795	2,492,139	90,014,032
Outdoor	25	10,200	700	-	-	9,500
Vehicle/Vessel	3	5,000	5,000	-	-	-
<b>Totals*</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>58,640,746</b>	<b>3,796,670</b>	<b>40,069,695</b>	<b>2,548,139</b>	<b>92,365,632</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). Values under a threshold limit of \$1,000 will not be noted in the table.

### Significant Events

Emergency response crews minimized harm, limited damage and stopped fire spread from the place of origin, and performed life-saving interventions in these notable April 2025 incidents:

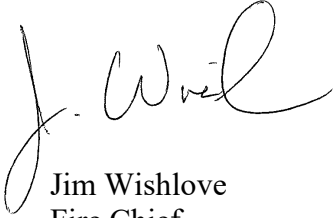
- **April 1, 2025 – Structure Fire on Emerald Place.** RFR emergency crews responded to a report of a fire in an attic. Upon investigation, emergency crews found a significant fire hidden in the attic of a home. After locating the fire, crews were able to confine and extinguish the fire. Crews were able to contain the fire to the attic area and stop the spread to other areas of the home. There were no reports of injury to the public or RFR personnel. A Fire Investigator attended.
- **April 15, 2025 – Structure Fire on Cambie Road.** Emergency crews responded to reports of smoke from a commercial storage facility on Cambie Road. On arrival, crews began to quickly attack the fire, but due to safety concerns with the structure of the building, had to withdraw and continue with exterior firefighting operations. There were no reports of injury to the public or RFR personnel. A Fire Investigator attended. During overhaul and site cleanup the following day, a small areas of fire was found and crews were dispatched to the same location to extinguish the small fire. In order to fully extinguish all fire, RFR engaged a contractor excavator to assist.
- **April 16, 2025 – Structure Fire on Granville Avenue.** Emergency crews were dispatched to a report of a residential home with flames showing. On arrival crews saw flames through the roof of the house. Crews attacked the fire defensively, while also protecting exposures. Crews checked for hot spots and prevented any spread of fire. The fire was extinguished. There were no reports of injury to the public or RFR personnel. A Fire Investigator attended.
- **April 22, 2025 – Structure Fire on Amethyst Avenue.** Emergency crews responded to a structure fire on Amethyst Drive. On arrival, crews saw light smoke coming from a house. All occupants had exited the residence and reported that there had been an oven fire. Fire staff inspected the kitchen before ventilating the house. BC Emergency Health Services were dispatched to the scene to evaluate some of the family members who had inhaled smoke, and two were sent to hospital. The fire was contained to the room of origin. There were no other reports of injury to the public or RFR personnel. A Fire Investigator attended.
- **April 28, 2025 – Vehicle fire under Knight Street Bridge.** Emergency crews responded to a vehicle fire under the Knight Street Bridge. On arrival the vehicle was fully engulfed and crews quickly attacked and extinguished the fire. RCMP were also on scene who took over custody of the vehicle as it had been involved in an incident earlier that day. There were no reports of injury to the public or RFR personnel. A Fire Investigator attended.

### **Financial Impact**

None.

## **Conclusion**

Richmond Fire-Rescue continues to monitor activities to identify and create public outreach programs to respond to emerging trends and to promote effective prevention behaviours.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Wishlove". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "J." and the last name "Wishlove" clearly distinguishable.

Jim Wishlove  
Fire Chief  
(604-303-2715)

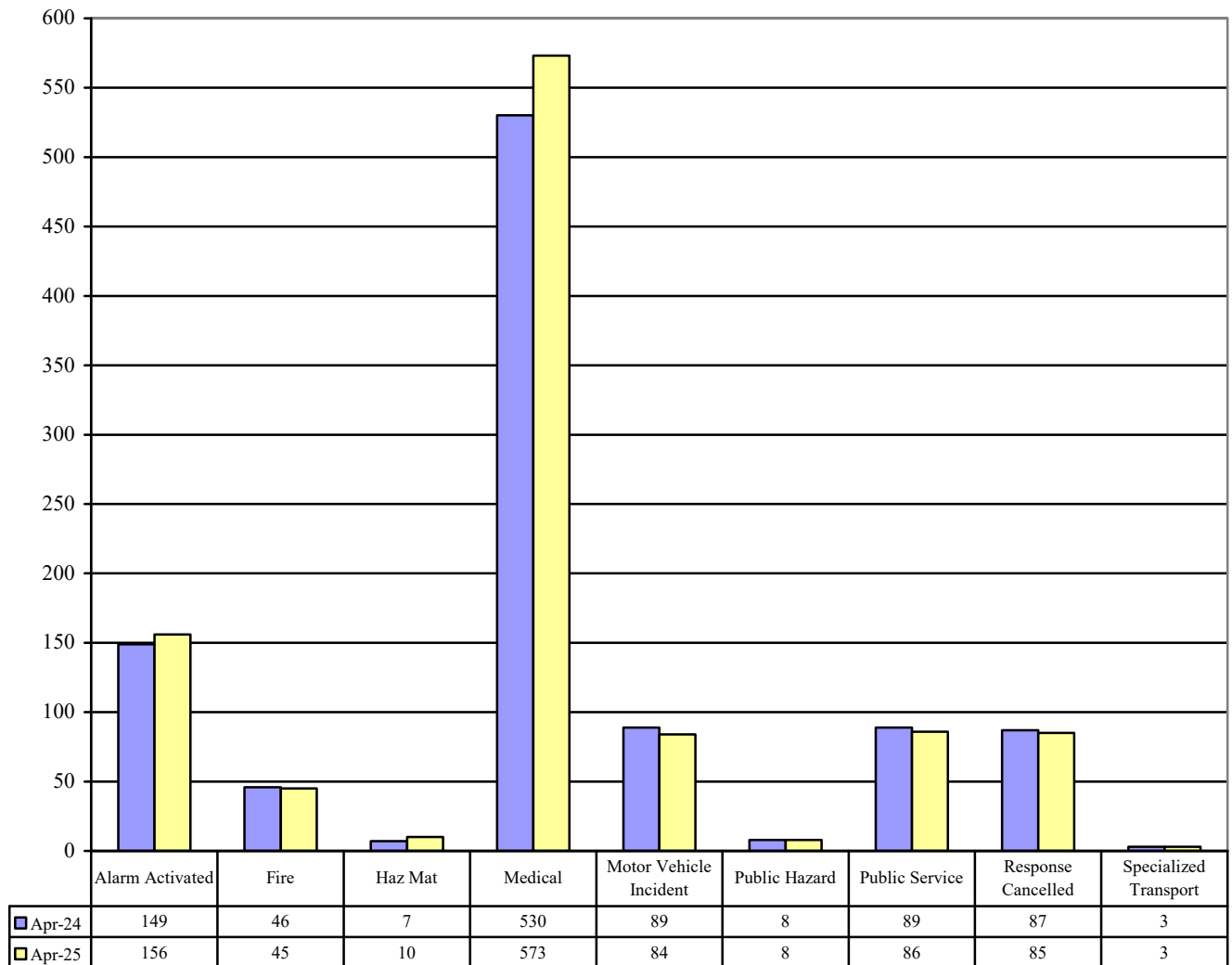
Att. 1: Emergency Response Activity for April 2025.

## Emergency Response Activity for April 2025

### Incident Volumes

The following chart provides a month-to-month comparison of incidents occurring in April 2024 and 2025. In April 2025, there were 1,050 total incidents, compared to 1,008 in April 2024. This represents an overall increase of 4 per cent between last year and 2025.

**Table 3: April 2024 & April 2025 Incident Volumes**



**Incident Type Legend:**

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

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

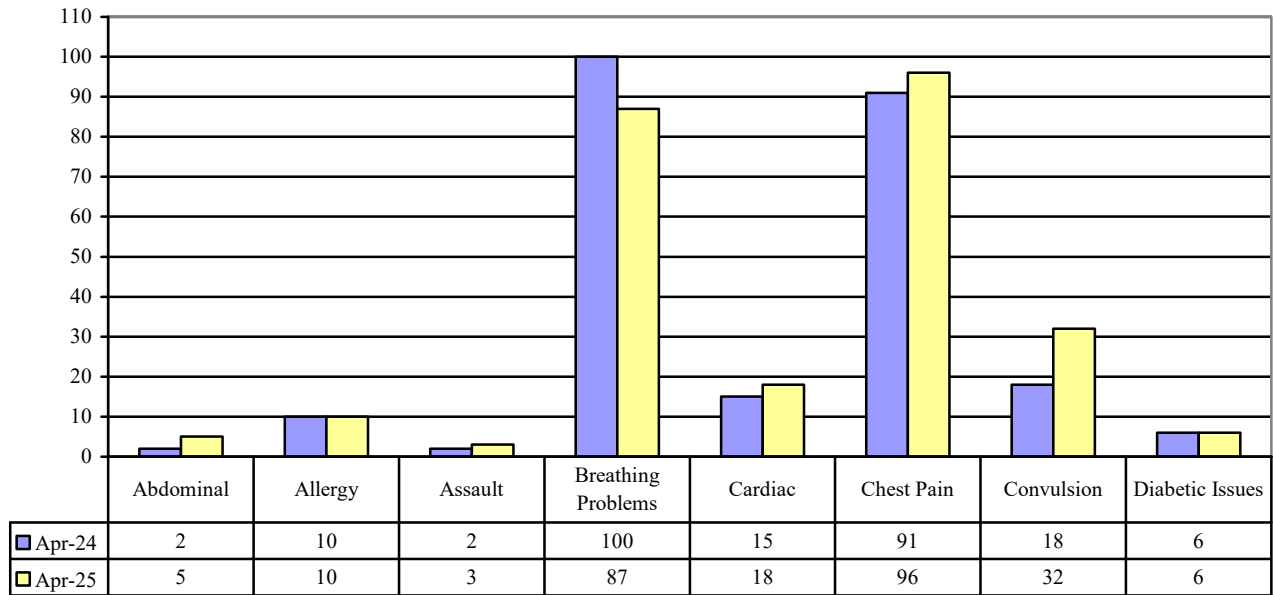
**Public Hazard** includes: object removal, or power lines down

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

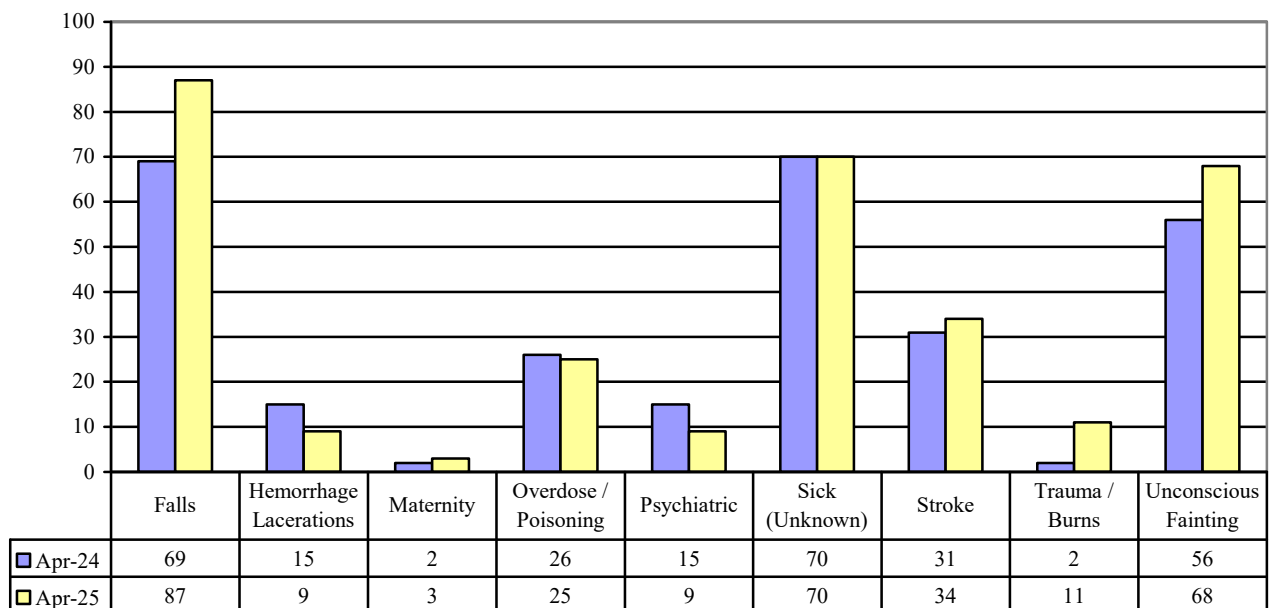
### First Responder Totals

Medical first responder incidents comprised 55 per cent of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of April 2025. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for April 2024 and 2025 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were 573 medical incidents in April 2025 compared to 530 in April 2024, an increase of 8 per cent.

**Table 4a: April 2024 & April 2025 Medical Calls by Type**



**Table 4b: April 2024 & April 2025 Medical Calls by Type**





The following chart provides the overdose/poisoning incident volume breakdown for April 2025. During April 2025, RFR staff did not administer Naloxone, in the month of April.

<b>Table 4c: Overdose / Poisoning Incidents By Type – April 2025</b>	
Opioid overdose incidents that RFR attended located in an OUTDOOR environment.	4
Opioid overdose incidents that RFR attended located in an INDOOR environment.	2
All other OD / Poisoning Incidents	19
<b>Totals</b>	<b>25</b>

#### Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for April 2025 are listed below:

<b>Table 5: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – April 2025</b>			
	<b>Suspicious</b>	<b>Accidental</b>	<b>Undetermined</b>
Residential - Single-family	-	5	2
Residential - Multi-family	-	2	-
Commercial/Industrial	1	3	4
Outdoor	6	17	2
Vehicle	1	1	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>9</b>

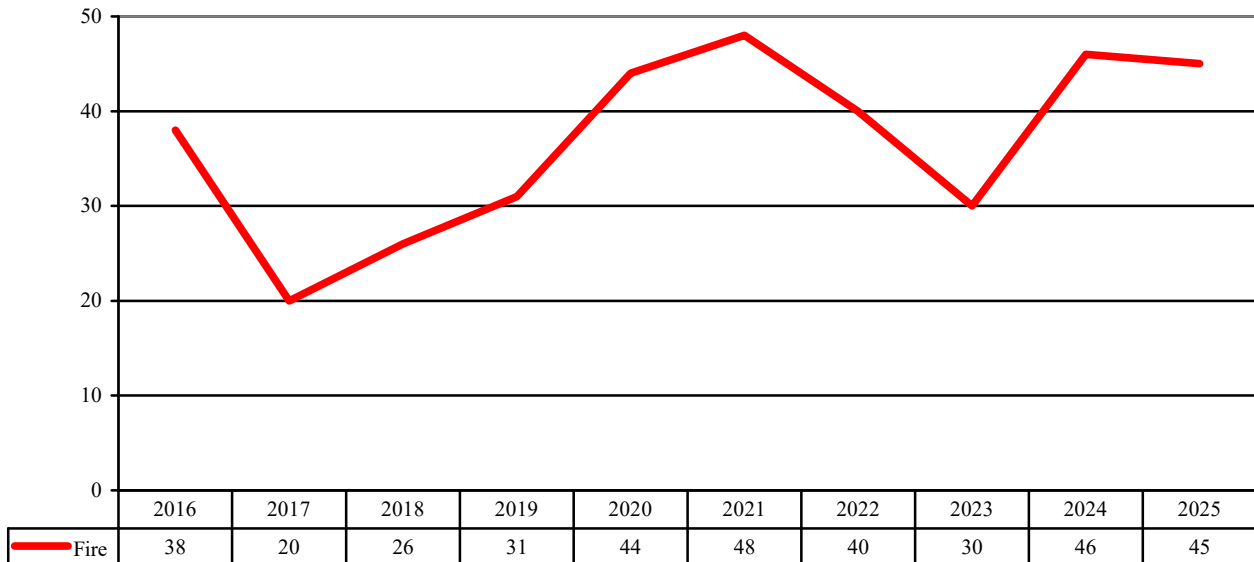
Richmond Fire-Rescue investigators report all suspicious fires to the RCMP, while working alongside RCMP to address potential risks to the community and coordinate appropriate fire investigations.

#### Hazardous Materials

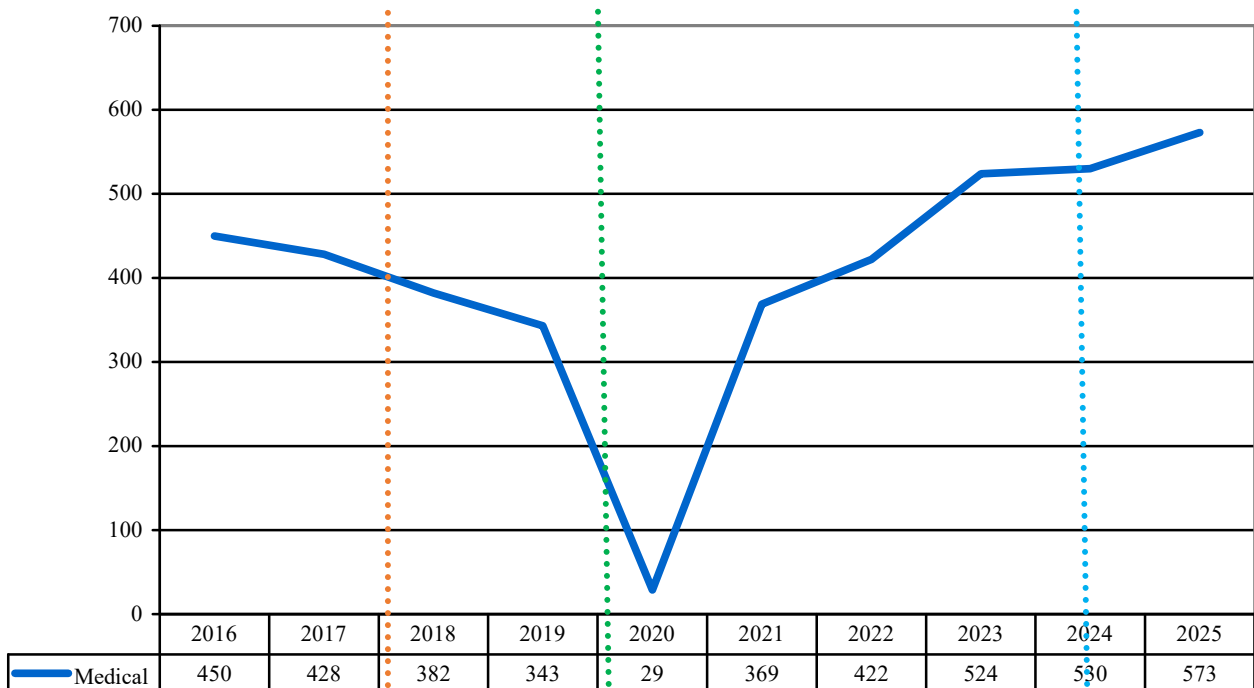
<b>Table 6: Hazardous Materials Incidents By Type – April 2025</b>	
	<b>Details</b>
Gasses (Natural / Propane)	8
Unclassified	1
Vapour Leac (Misc)	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>10</b>

The following charts provide total incident volumes for fires and medical incidents on a year-to-year comparison in April from 2016 to 2025.

**Table 7a: Total Fire Calls for Service in April 2016 to 2025**



**Table 7b: Total Medical Calls for Service in April from 2016 to 2025**



Changes to BC Emergency Health Services  
Model dispatch system (2017-2018)

Start of COVID-19  
Pandemic

July 26, 2024 - Provincial Health  
Officer ended public health  
emergency for COVID-19

Figure 1: Location of reportable fire incidents attended in April 2025 (total 45)

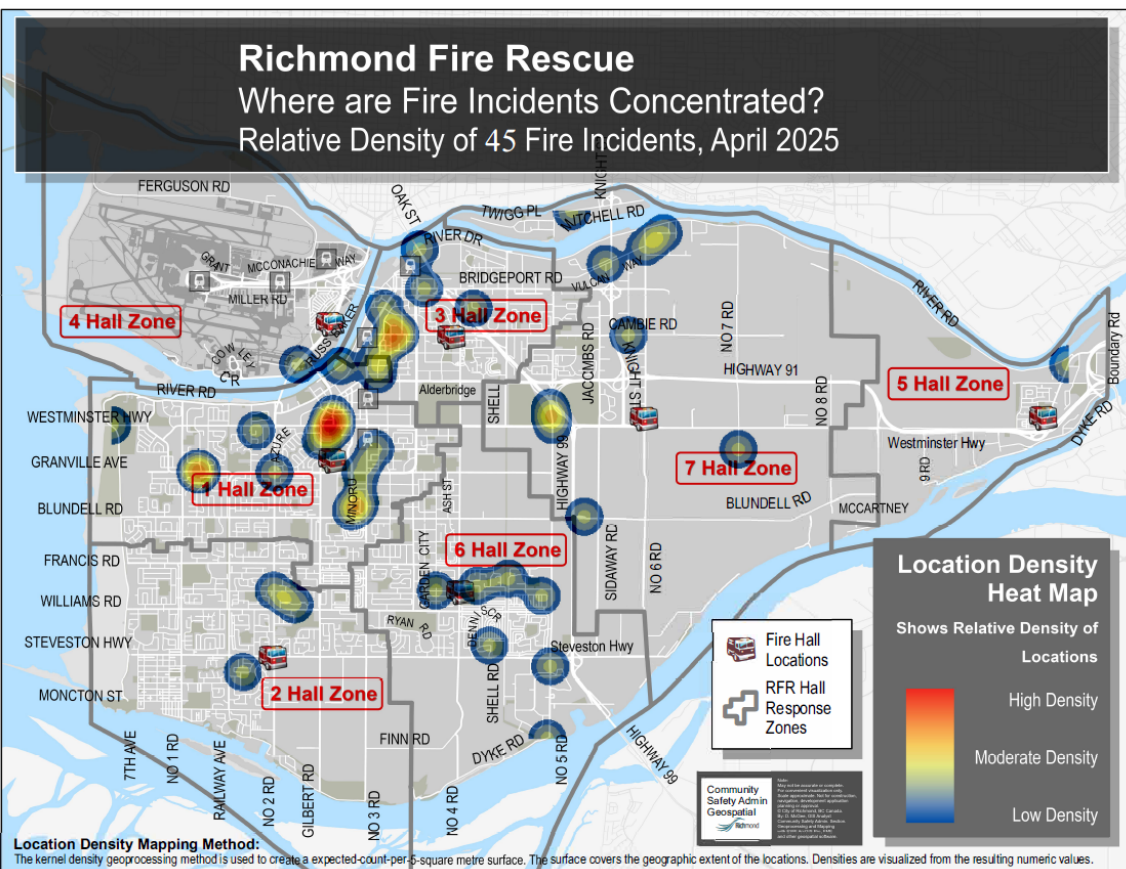
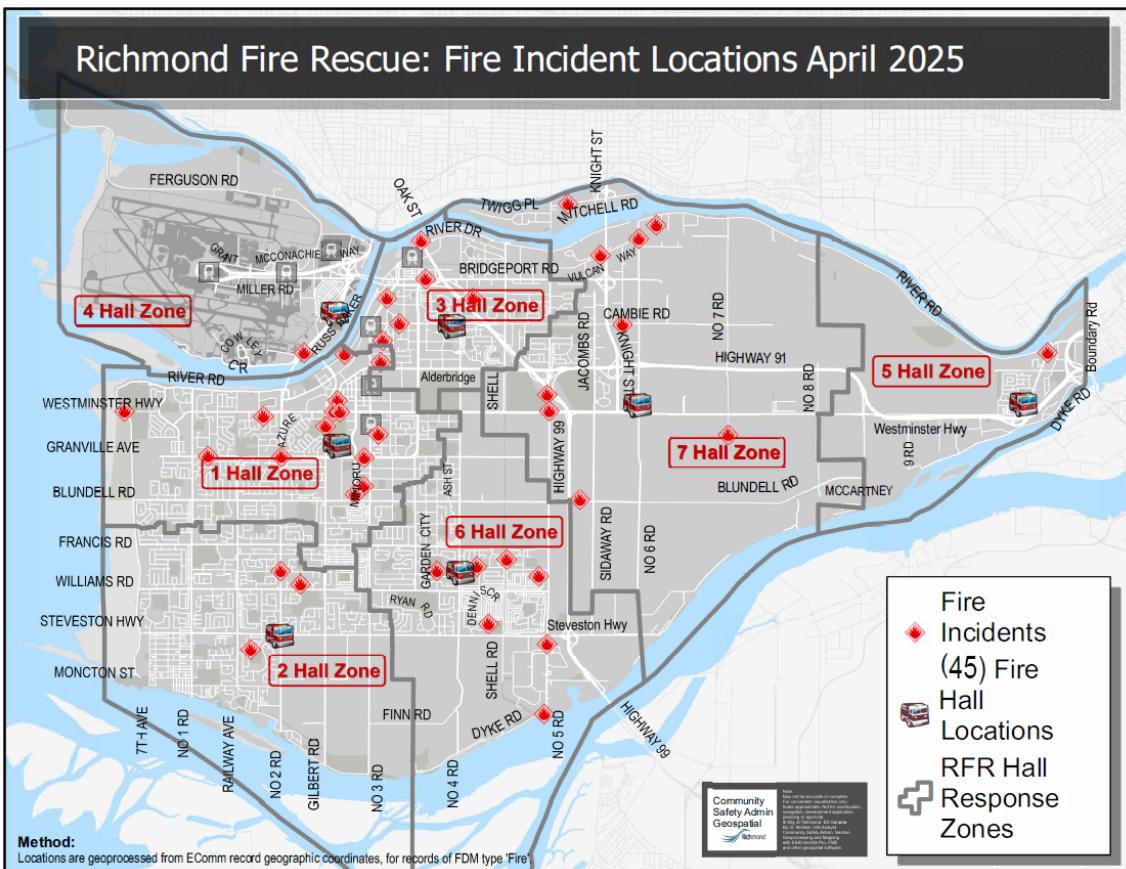


Figure 2: Location of reportable medical incidents attended in April 2025 (total 573)

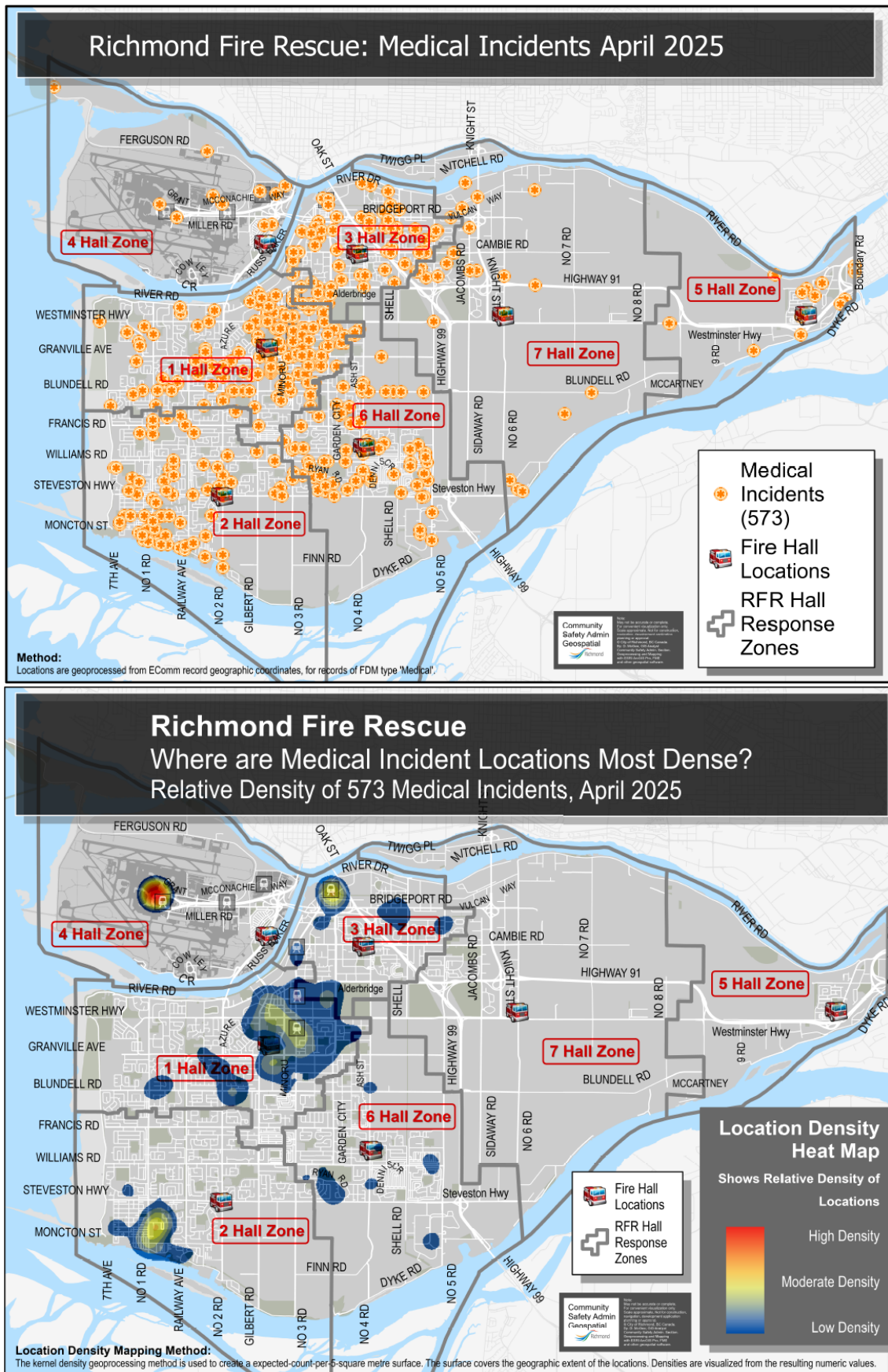




Figure 3: Location of reportable motor vehicle incidents (MVIs) attended in April 2025 (total 84)

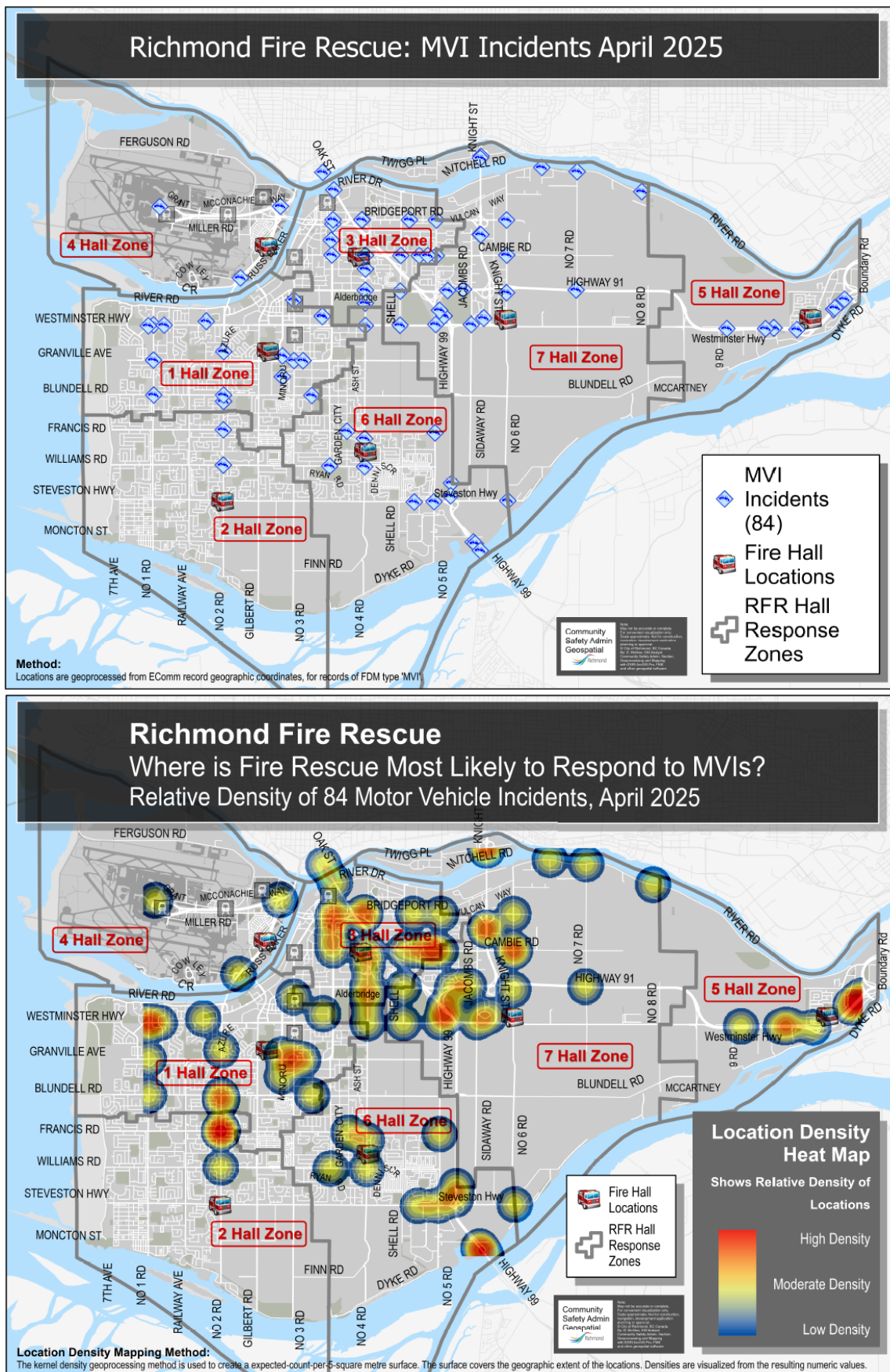


Figure 4: Location of reportable overdose / poisoning incidents attended in April 2025 (total 25)

