



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** June 13, 2022
From: Jim Wishlove
Fire Chief **File:** 99-Fire Rescue/2022-
Vol 01
Re: **Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – May 2022**

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – May 2022”, dated June 13, 2022, 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 supports Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #1 A Safe and Resilient City:

Enhance and protect the safety and well-being of Richmond.

Analysis

Emergency Programs

Emergency Programs Open House May 7, 2022

Emergency Programs (EP) hosted an Open House at Brighthouse Fire Hall No. 1 as a culminating event to our participation in the National Emergency Preparedness Week. Agencies who participated in the event and attended the open house included:

- Richmond Detachment RCMP
- Canadian Coast Guard
- BC Emergency Health Services
- St. John Ambulance
- ECOMM 9-1-1
- Rotary Club of Richmond
- Richmond Fire-Rescue
- ECOMM 9-1-1
- Canadian Red Cross
- Canadian Armed Forces, Shell Road Armoury
- St. John Ambulance
- Canadian Disaster Animal Response Team

Other City departments, such as Public Works and Engineering also participated in the Open House to inform Richmond residents of the City's flood response and ongoing mitigation projects.

Approximately 400 members of the public attended the Open House. Staff received positive feedback from partners and attendees who expressed interest in next year's Open House, including the 30 community residents who signed up for the Emergency Notification System (ENS).

Heat Plan Review & Preparation

Emergency Programs conducted a review and update of the City's Extreme Heat and Poor Air Quality Response Plan in preparation for implementation in the summer months.

Public Outreach and Education

In May, EP hosted the following Workshops on Emergency Preparedness:

- Presentation to seniors at Minoru Centre for Active Living (MCAL);
- Public Webinar with the Co-operative Housing Federation of British Columbia;
- Speaking engagement and outreach presentation at Supporting Richmond's Children Symposium.

In May, staff participated in speaking Engagements on Emergency Management and Richmond's Emergency Programs at the:

- Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee
- Youth Civic Engagement Program

Canadian Red Cross (CRC) National Inclusive Resiliency Project Update

Emergency Programs concluded the senior’s “Ask the Expert about Earthquakes” activity by finalizing a banner display and handout in both English and Traditional Chinese from the first phase of the project. The display had a booth at the EP Open House on May 7 as well as during the Wellness Clinic on May 17 at the Seniors Centre in the MCAL.

Canim Place Fire

On May 26, RFR and EP were alerted of a structure fire with the potential for displaced residents needing ESS support:

- Ten residents were displaced from their homes due to the fire.
- The on call RFR EP Duty Officer worked with RFR to facilitate coordination of emergency social services (ESS) through Canadian Red Cross (CRC).
- ESS was not required in the end, but the coordination and shared operations was acknowledged as a point to sustain by RFR in future responses.

ESS Reporting Information

Date	Address	Volunteers Deployed	ESS Services Deployed	# of Evacuees	Services Delivered
May 18, 2022	Williams Rd.	Y	Y	9 Adults, 10 Children	Lodging (Accent Inn), Food/Clothing/Incidentals (Superstore)

Training and Public Education

During May 2022, fire-training staff delivered educational activities and programs including Incident Command System 100, 200 and 300, Officer Pool Group training and recruit eight month exams. All recruits were successful in the completion of the eight-month examinations and are preparing for the completion of the one-year final evaluations.

During May 2022, Public Education staff attended an Old Navy Super Safety Event held in the Richmond Centre and had meaningful educational opportunities with approximately 50 people/groups. Public Education staff also provided an educational school visit with the students of Maple Lane Elementary.

Emergency Response

Richmond Fire-Rescue’s goal is to respond to incidents in a manner where loss of life, reduction of property damage and protection of the environment is mitigated. In May 2022, there were a total of 889 reported incidents, representing a 25 per cent increase in incidents from May 2021 (Attachment 1).

Due to changes in the Provincial Health Orders and Medical Health Officer’s direction, Richmond Fire-Rescue continues to experience a gradual return to normal levels of service of medical event types and responses to medical calls. RFR continues to monitor all activities to identify and create programs to incorporate emerging trends.

The average time on scene for RFR crews was 32 minutes, which was lower than the 33 minutes recorded in 2021. The time spent on scene can vary due to the nature and severity of each incident.

	Totals (2022)	Percentage Change from May 2021	Number Change from May 2021 to 2022	5 Year Average for May
Alarm Active No Fire	130	+25	+26	116
Explosion	0	-	0	0
Fire	31	-39	-20	43
Haz-Mat	8	+700	+7	7
Medical	508	+47	+162	342
MVI	59	-21	-16	68
Public Hazard	10	+11	+1	11
Public Service	92	+28	+20	70
Response Cancelled/Unfounded	50	-4	-2	61
Specialized Transport	1	-	-	2
Tech Rescue	0	-	-	0
Totals	889	+25	+178	720

In May 2022, there were 31 fire incidents which were reported to the Office of the Fire Commissioner representing a 39 per cent decrease from May 2021. The average number of fires reported in May over the last five years is 43.

Richmond Fire-Rescue's emergency fire response goal is to contain a fire to the room of origin. The room of origin standard is especially important in terms of fire loss and damage, which increases significantly once a fire extends beyond the room of origin.

Fire damage and property losses during May 2022 are estimated at \$1,100,135. This total includes \$64,866,472 for building/asset loss and \$270,135 for content loss. The total building/asset and content value at risk was estimated to be \$71,993,647 and the total value preserved from damage was \$70,893,512. These numbers translate to 98 per cent of value protected (Table 2); this value is lower than the value observed in 2021; 99 per cent.

Incident Type Breakdown	Incident Volume	Estimated Building/ Asset Value (\$)	Estimated Building/ Asset Loss (\$)	Estimated Content Value (\$)	Estimated Content Loss (\$)	Estimated Total Value Preserved (\$)
Residential: Single family	4	1,228,000	277,500	60,065	3,065	1,007,500
Multi family	5	2,264,300	-	310	310	2,264,300
Commercial/Industrial	7	60,694,844	552,000	7,061,290	261,250	66,942,884
Outdoor	13	664,328	-	5,510	5,510	664,328
Vehicle/Vessel	2	15,000	500	-	-	14,500
Totals*	31	64,866,472	830,000	7,127,175	270,135	70,893,512

* 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).

Significant Events

Fire crews minimized harm and limited fires to the place of origin in these notable May 2022 incidents:

May 1, 2022 – Commercial fire on Sea Island Way. Crews responded to a commercial property with heavy black smoke coming from a cooking grill vent. RFR crews immediately put a ladder to the roof with a hose line to stop the fire spread. The fire was extinguished with no extension outside of the cooking hood. Crews experienced some challenges with grease traps inside the cooking hood area and used CO2 extinguishers to extinguish the fire inside the hood. A Health Inspector and a Fire Inspector attended. There were no injuries to any public or RFR personnel reported.

May 8, 2022 – Residential property flood on No. 4 Road. Crews responded to a residence with water flowing from the front of the house. Upon investigation crews found that the house was empty and had been vandalized. Crews continued their investigation to find an open door. Inside the property, water was freely running out of a water pipe that had been sawn through. The power and gas were shut off to the house and the water was shut off at the street as there was no longer a shut off valve inside the house. RFR Crews requested the City's Works Yard attend to secure the property. There were no injuries to the public or RFR personnel reported.

May 18, 2022 – Motor Vehicle Incident on Williams Road. Upon arrival, crews found a vehicle had driven into a structure and damaged the gas meter and lines. There was no fire reported. The gas and electricity were shut off to the premises, which is a residential duplex with a total of four tenant suites. Building Approvals staff deemed the building "Not Safe to Occupy" and the tenants were provided assistance by the Red Cross. The property was secured by Public Works.

May 21, 2022 – Motor Vehicle Incident on Highway 91. RFR crews were dispatched a single motor vehicle incident. The vehicle was off the road on the south side of Highway 91A. There were a few bystanders on scene who were directed to wait for RCMP to provide statements. Upon investigation, crews found the vehicle had sustained serious damage due to its high velocity impact with a steel highway sign. Crews spoke with the driver who was visibly shaken and in shock. One passenger had been removed from the vehicle and was lying outside the car before RFR crews arrived. RFR crews attended to the patient, who had sustained serious injuries and was unconscious. BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) took over patient care with RFR crew's assistance. The unconscious patient was transferred to hospital. The RCMP took command of the scene and closed down all traffic to Highway 91A Eastbound.

May 22, 2022 – Vehicle Fire on Westminster Highway. RFR crews responded to a vehicle fire approximately one foot from a house. Arriving crews upgraded the incident response to include all units making this a first alarm response and were able to extinguish the fire with no extension to the house. There were no injuries to the public or RFR personnel. Due to the suspicious nature of the fire, a Fire Investigator attended. RCMP attended the scene to assist with the investigation.

May 26, 2022 – RCMP assist request at Bridgeport Station. RFR crews were requested to assist RCMP and Vancouver Police at the Bridgeport transit station. On arrival, crews found a male on a sky train pillar, which had shut down the sky train and nearby bus loop. RFR crews set up the aerial ladder in a position for the male to descend but he was reluctant to do so. The male had thrown an object, which had injured a firefighter. The firefighter was taken to Richmond General Hospital to receive stitches. After a period of time the male descended the pillar and was taken into police custody. RFR crews remained to demobilize the scene.

May 26, 2022 – Residential Fire on Canim Place. RFR crews attended and extinguished a fire in a residential property. Due to the fast fire attack and rapid confinement, the fire was contained to the room of origin (kitchen). Crews proceeded to perform an overhaul of the scene. There were ten displaced residents, who found alternative accommodation. Emergency Programs were available to assist and ESS services were not required. A Fire Investigator attended the scene to determine the origin and cause. A Security company attended to secure the scene. No injuries to residents or RFR staff were reported.

May 29, 2022 – Residential fire on Bridgeport Road. RFR crews responded to a report of a small fire in a parkade of an elderly care facility. Arriving crews were able to quickly extinguish the fire and cleared all other RFR apparatus. The fire was suspicious in nature and a Fire Investigator attended the scene. After clearing the scene, evidence from the site was relocated for further investigation. There were no injuries to the public or RFR personnel.

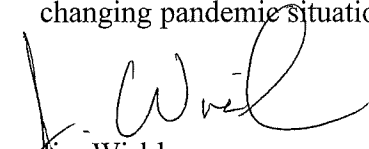
May 31, 2022 – Commercial fire on No. 9 Road. Crews arrived on scene to a fire in a tower at an industrial plant. Fast action by the first and second arriving units quickly extinguished the fire. After the utilities were locked out, RFR crews carried out a thorough inspection of the fire area to ensure there was no fire extension. The plant sustained considerable damage to the electrical equipment in the burn tower. The facility was turned over to the plant manager and superintendent. There were no reported injuries to onsite staff or RFR personnel. A Fire Investigator attended the scene.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

Richmond Fire-Rescue continues to monitor activities to identify and create programs to respond to emerging trends. RFR staff remain ready to continue to work through and adapt to the ever-changing pandemic situation.



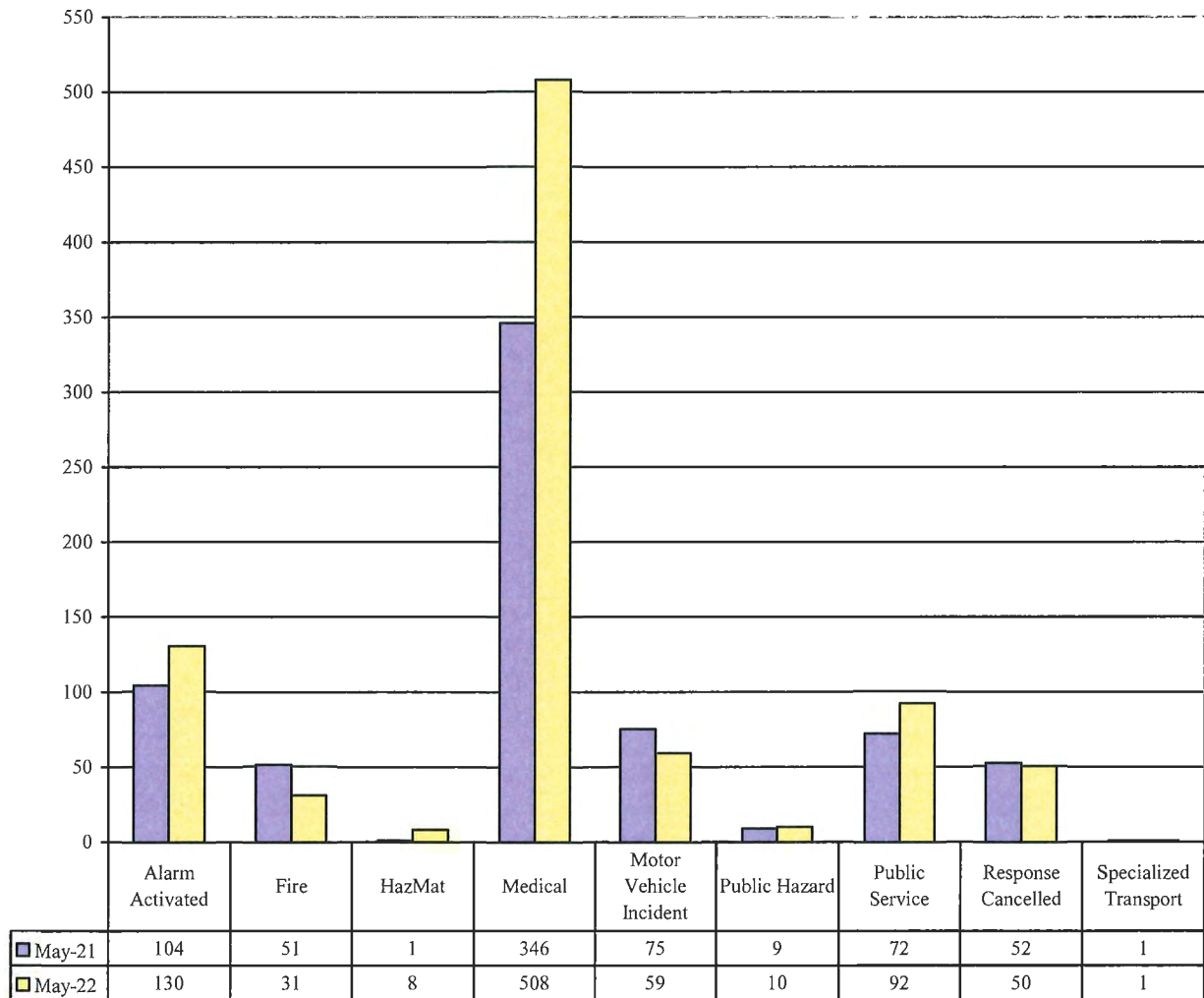
Jim Wishlove
Fire Chief
(604-303-2715)

Att. 1: Suppression Activity, including location of May's Fire, Medical and MVIs

Incident Volumes

The following chart provides a month-to-month comparison regarding incidents occurring in May 2022 and 2021. In May 2022, there were a total of 889 incidents, compared to 711 in May 2021. This represents an increase of 25 per cent. RFR continue to see incident numbers returning to normal levels due to gradual changes in the Provincial Medical Health Officer orders in response to the pandemic.

Table 3: May 2021 & May 2022 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: 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 first responder incidents comprised 57 per cent of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of May 2022. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for May 2021 and 2022 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 508 medical incidents in May 2022 compared to 346 in May 2021, an increase of 47 per cent. RFR continue to see incident numbers returning to normal levels due to gradual changes in the Provincial Medical Health Officer orders in response to the pandemic.

Table 4a: May 2021 & May 2022 Medical Calls by Type

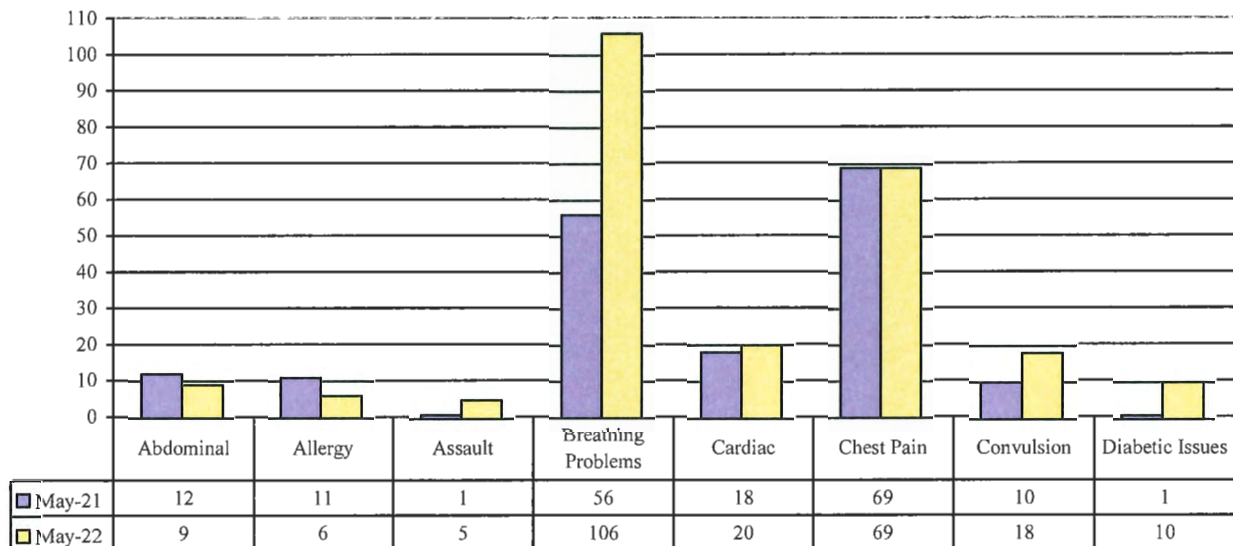
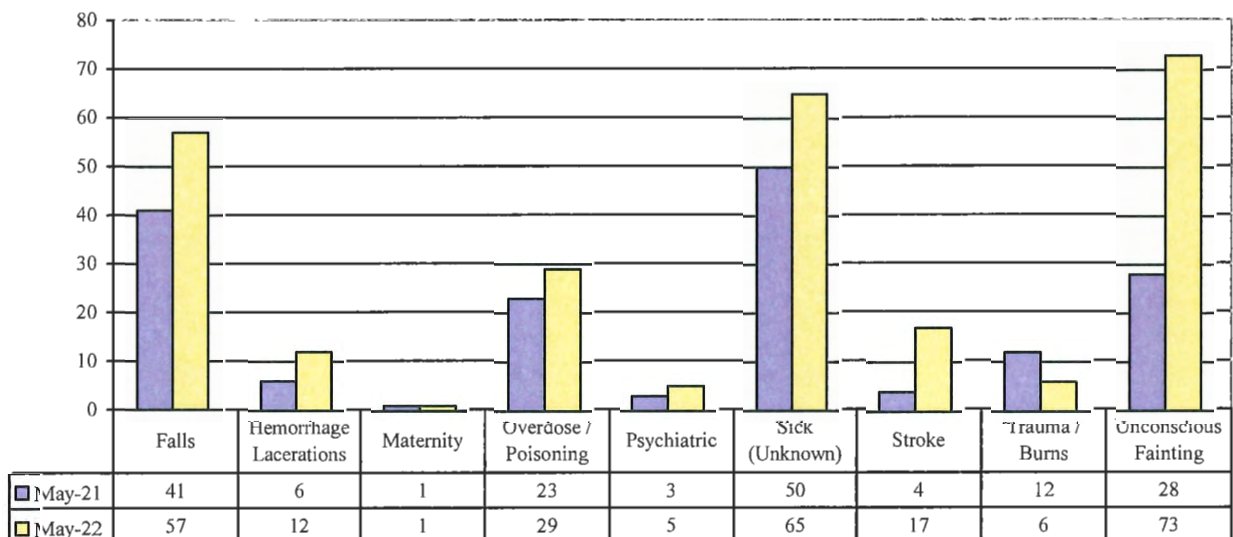


Table 4b: May 2021 & May 2022 Medical Calls by Type



Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for May 2022 are listed below:

Table 5: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – May 2022			
	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	-	4	-
Residential - Multi-family	-	5	-
Commercial/Industrial	2	3	2
Outdoor	3	7	3
Vehicle	-	1	1
Totals	5	20	6

Richmond Fire-Rescue investigators report all suspicious fires to the RCMP, while working alongside RCMP staff to address potential risks to the community.

Hazardous Materials

Table 6: Hazardous Materials Incidents By Type – May 2022	
	Details
Natural Gas / Vapour / Propane Leaks (small)	6
Hazard Miscellaneous	1
Standby/Support for other Agency	1
Totals	8

Figure 1: Location of reportable fires attended in May 2022 (total 31)

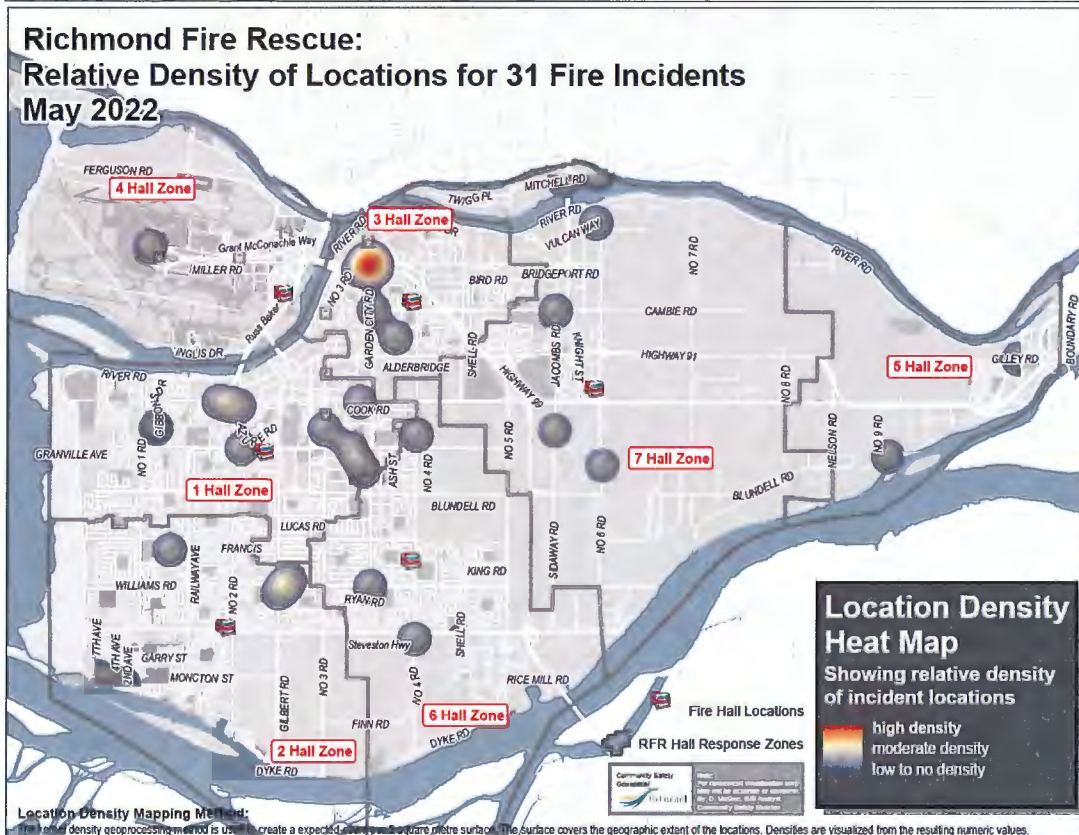
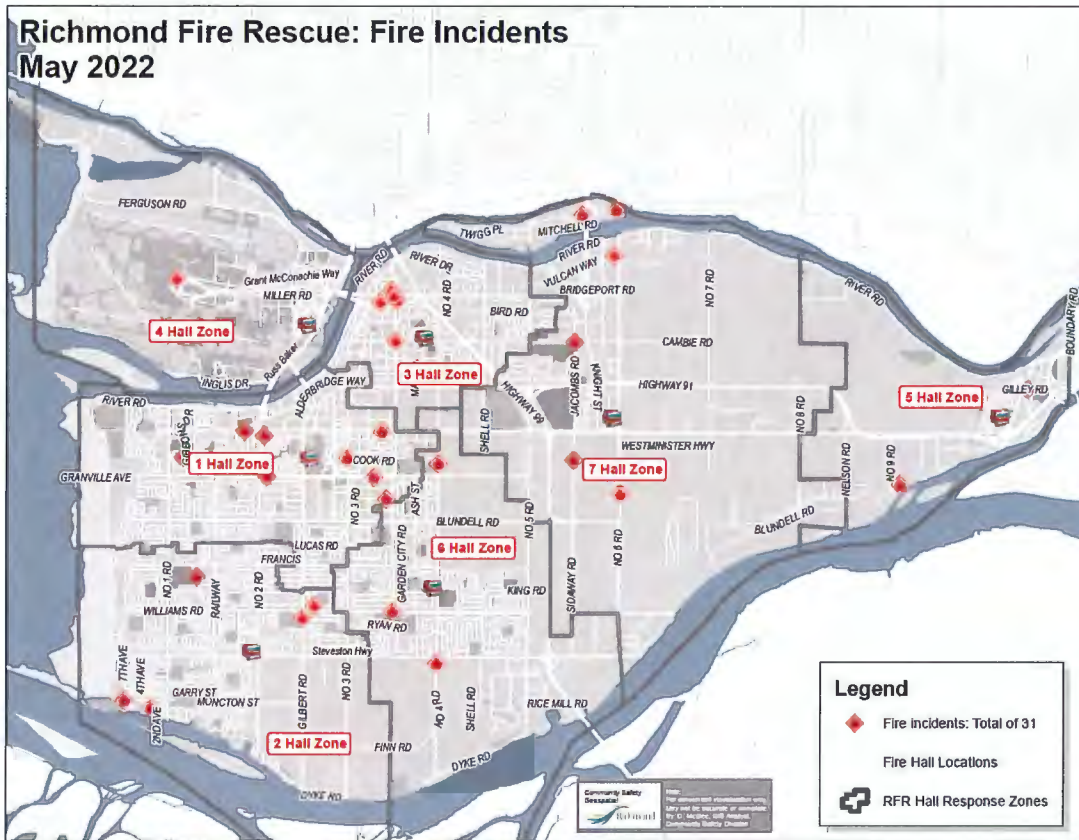


Figure 2: Location of Medical Incidents in May 2022 (total 508)

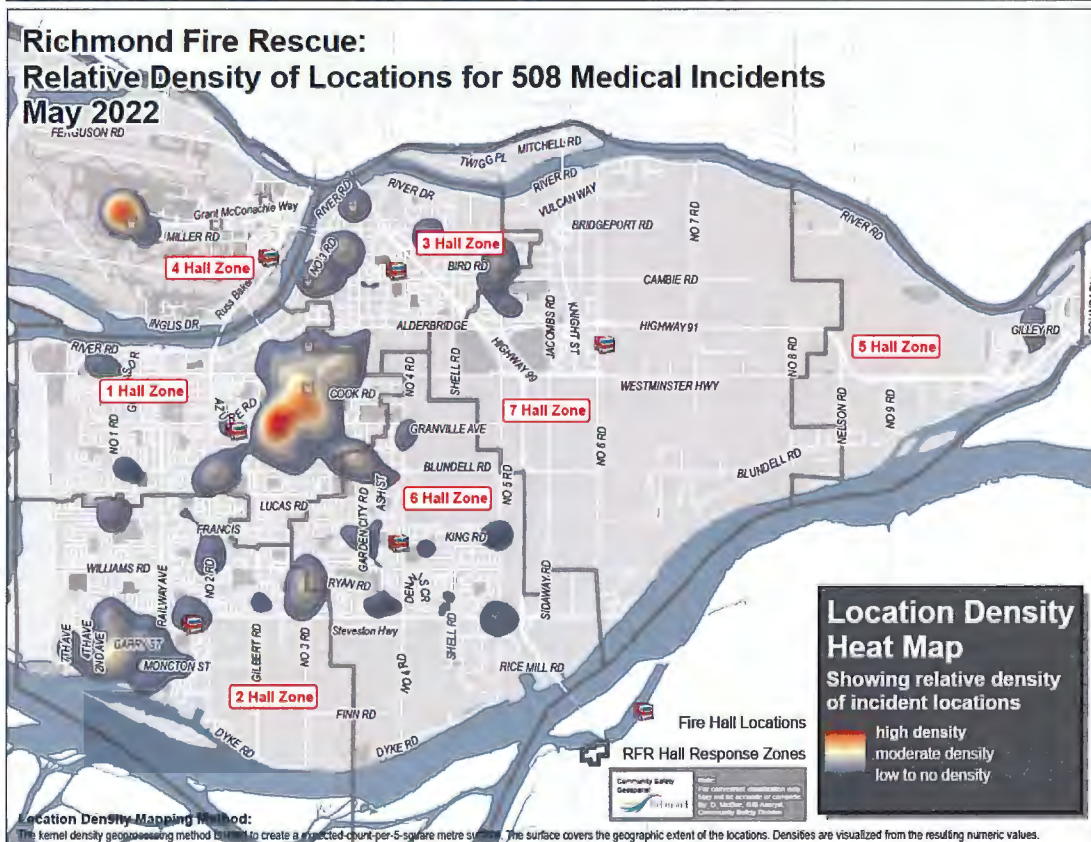
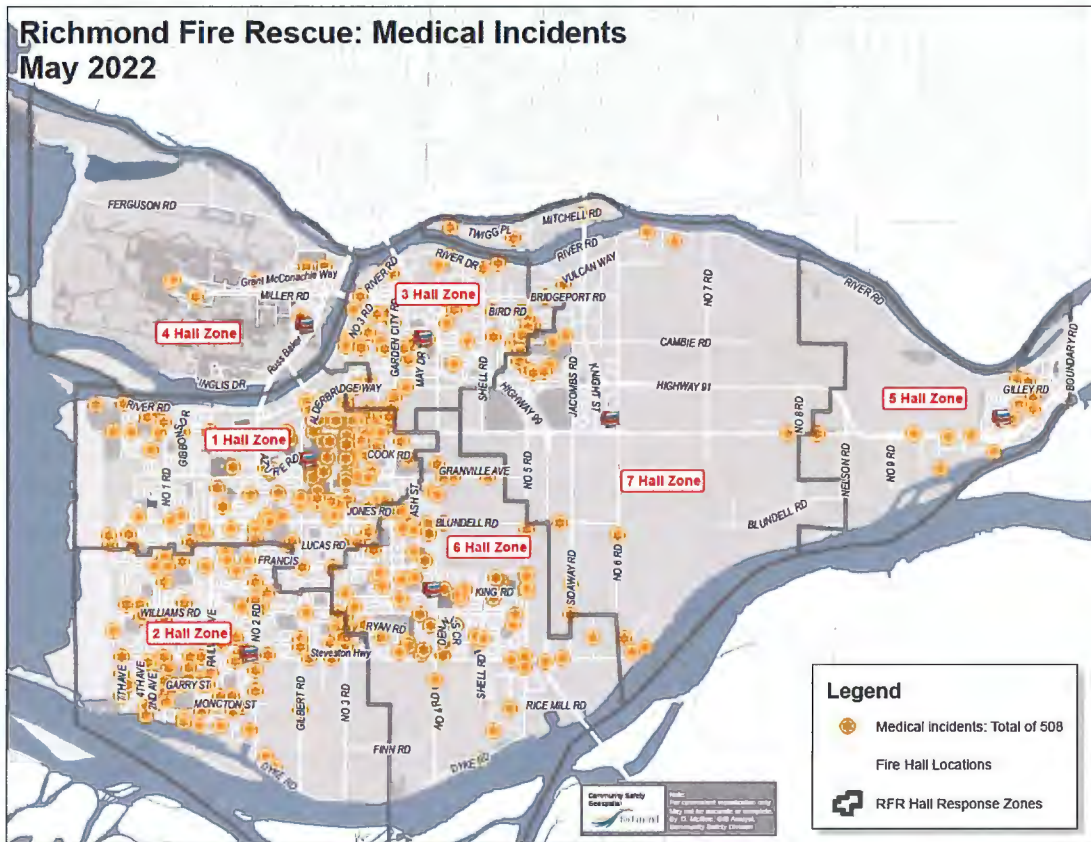


Figure 3: Location of MVI Incidents in May 2022 (total 59)

