



To:	Community Safety Committee	Date:	June 12, 2026
From:	Anthony Capuccinello Iraci General Manager, Law and Community Safety	File:	09-5140-01/2025-Vol 01
Re:	Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – May 2026		

Staff Recommendation

That the report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue Activity Report – May 2026”, dated June 12, 2026, from the General Manager, Law and Community Safety, be received for information.

Executive Summary

This report highlights activities, information, and statistics related to calls for service in the community and Richmond Fire-Rescue's community safety and prevention initiatives in May 2026.

Staff Report

Origin

This 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

Significant Events

Richmond Fire-Rescue (RFR) emergency response crews minimized harm, limited damage and stopped fire spread from the point of origin, and performed life-saving interventions in these notable May 2026 incidents¹:

Structure Fire on Heather Street

On May 6, RFR emergency crews responded to a structure fire on Heather Street. The first-in apparatus responded to a report of a fire in the wall between two units. On-scene crews attacked and quickly extinguished the fire. The crews checked for fire extension and found that the fire had not extended into the building. Two families were displaced at this time and Emergency Support Services (ESS) were deployed to attend the scene and facilitate two displaced families; six people in total. The fire crews were able to rescue one cat, which was reunited with the owner from one of the affected units. The scene was secured and a Fire Investigator attended to identify the cause and origin of the fire.

Commercial Machinery Fire on Mitchell Road

On May 15, RFR emergency crews responded to a commercial machinery fire on Mitchell Road. The first-in apparatus responded to the report of a shredding machine fire. On-scene crews located the fire, which was approximately 40ft in the air and quickly extinguished it. Crews checked for any extension and carried out cleanup operations. A Fire Investigator attended to identify the cause and origin of the fire.

Animal Rescue on Minoru Park

On May 16, RFR emergency crews responded to reports of an animal stuck at the baseball diamond at Minoru Park. The first-in apparatus located a duck stuck in the netting, approximately 75ft in the air. The location was inaccessible by fire apparatus and unable to support a ground ladder. The City's Works Yard staff were deployed, along with equipment to reach the duck. Works Yard crew were able to retrieve the duck, and it was set free at Fire Hall No. 1. The duck appeared to be tired, but in good health and eventually flew away.

¹ Unless otherwise noted, no injuries were reported by the public or RFR personnel in the listed incidents.

Structure Fire on Twigg Place

On May 17, RFR emergency crews responded to a structure fire on Twigg Place. The first-in crews saw large flames, and heavy smoke as they approached. On arrival crews located the fire, in a pile of metal scraps approximately 70ft high. Crews began extinguishment of the fire and remained on scene for some time to ensure full extinguishment. A property representative was also on scene. A Fire Investigator attended to identify the cause and origin of the fire.

Structure Fire on Smith Street

On May 27, RFR emergency crews responded to a structure fire on Smith Street. The first arriving crews discovered a smouldering mattress in a unit, with light smoke in the hallway leading to the room. Crews used water to fully extinguish the fire. Crews removed the mattress outside of the building and proceeded with ventilation of the areas affected. Once ventilation was completed crews carried out air monitoring of the affected area. A Fire Investigator attended to identify the cause and origin of the fire.

Emergency Response

Table 1 provides incident data and comparisons for May 2025 and May 2026. In May 2026, there were 1,074 reported incidents of all types, representing an overall decrease of 1 per cent compared to the previous year.

Table 1: Total Incidents - May 2026					
	Incident Totals May (2026)	Incident Totals May (2025)	Number Change from May 2025 to 2026	Percentage Change from May 2025 to 2026	5 Year Average for May
Active Alarm	172	150	+22	+15	156
Explosion	0	0	0	0	0
Fire	73	55	+18	+33	51
Hazardous Materials	5	5	0	0	6
Medical	539	568	-29	-5	552
Motor Vehicle Incident	86	87	-1	-1	76
Public Hazard	9	7	+2	+29	10
Public Service	102	106	-4	-4	101
Response Cancelled/Unfounded	84	107	-23	-21	80
Specialized Transport	3	1	+2	+200	2
Technical Rescue	1	0	+1	+100	0
Total	1,074	1086	-12	-1	1,035

The average time on scene for emergency response crews in May 2026 was 27 minutes per event, the average time on scene in May 2025 was 28 minutes. The time spent on the scene can vary due to the complexity and severity of each incident.

In May 2026, 73 fire incidents were reported to the BC Office of the Fire Commissioner, up from 55 in May 2025. The average number of fires reported each May over the last five years is 51.

Fire damage and property losses during May 2026 are estimated at \$28,020. The total building/asset and content value at risk is estimated at \$1,248,470, and the total value preserved from damage is \$1,220,450. These numbers translate to 98 per cent of the value protected (Table 2).

Table 2: Fire Incidents By Type and Loss Estimates - May 2026						
Incident Type Breakdown	Incident Volume	Estimated Building/Asset Value (\$)	Estimated Building/Asset Loss (\$)	Estimated Content Value (\$)	Estimated Content Loss (\$)	Estimated Total Value Preserved (\$)
Single Family Residence	2	105,000	-	53,900	-	158,900
Multi-Family Residence	6	105,000	15,000	73,500	5,000	158,500
Commercial	4	465,500	1,250	178,850	2,525	640,575
Outdoor	55	6,745	4,245	-	-	2,500
Vehicle/Vessel	6	250,000	-	9,975	-	259,975
Totals²	73	932,245	20,495	316,225	7,525	1,220,450

RFR Public Outreach & Education

During May, RFR staff conducted the following public outreach and education activities:

- May 2/3/4 - Participated in the Kaiwo Maru / Tall Ships Festival providing fire and life safety information as well as attendance of the “Big Rig” vehicle on site for the community to explore.
- May 6 - Participated with the “Big Rig” for the annual Ronald MacDonald children’s charity McHappy Day Event.
- May 12 - Fire and life safety education visit with the “Big Rig” to two K/1 classes at Brighthouse Elementary for students who had completed their online education program.
- May 13 - Fire and life safety education and turnout gear demonstration, along with the “Big Rig” to two classes at Gilmore Elementary for students who had completed their online education program.
- May 13 - Fire and life safety education visit to two K/1 classes from Homma Elementary for students who had completed their online education program.

² 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.

- May 14 - Fire and life safety education visit with the “Big Rig” to two K/1 classes from Blundell Elementary for students who had completed their online education program.
- May 17 - Fire and life safety education sessions for members of the Chinese Evangelical Church, focussing on home and community safety.
- May 19 - Fire Hall tour and safety education provided to K/1 students from Gilmore Elementary, who had completed their online education program.
- May 19 - Fire and life safety education visit with the “Big Rig” to two K/1 classes from McKay Elementary for students who had completed their online education program.
- May 20 – Participated in the life safety “Mock Car Crash” demonstration in partnership with ICBC, RCMP, BC Emergency Health Services. The event held at McMath Secondary, with over 250 grade 11 students were shown the risks of impaired driving. The demonstrators were able to create a mock car crash using real actors and vehicles to simulate what happens at an accident scene. RFR crews provided first aid and lifesaving measures and demonstrated auto extrication on one of the vehicles.
- May 20 - Fire and life safety education was provided to a group of newcomers to Canada along with the staff from SUCCESS Richmond Service Centre.
- May 21 - Fire and life safety education visit with students from Brighthouse Elementary who had completed their grade 2/3 online education program.
- May 22 - Attendance with the “Big Rig” and community booth at the Quilchena Community Carnival event for the community to explore and learn about life safety education.
- May 27 - Participated in the City’s “Project Wet” event, where Grade 6 classes learned about how multiple agencies use water within the city.
- May 28 - Fire and life safety education and turnout gear demonstrations were provided to two classes from Homma Elementary for students who had completed their online grade 2/3 education program.
- May 29 - Fire and life safety education visit to K/1 class from Hamilton Elementary for students who had completed their online education program.
- May 30 - Participated in the City’s Public Works Open House community event. An information booth along with the “Big Rig” were onsite to provide safety information to attendees.

Emergency Programs

There was one Emergency Support Services (ESS) response for May 2026. There were six evacuees, only three required support for supplies and a total of nine hotel nights through the Provincial ESS program.

Emergency Programs (EP) staff participated in the following engagement activities in May:

- May 2 - Over 100 people visited the EP booth to learn about Emergency Programs and emergency preparedness with a focus on extreme heat at the Richmond Cares Richmond Gives Community in Bloom at Lansdowne Mall. The indoor set up allowed engagement with various community partners to learn more about how we can work together to support the residents of Richmond.
- May 2 - Delivery of “The First 72 Hours: Practical Emergency Preparedness and Resilience for Caregivers” presentation to attendees of the Childcare Symposium: Supporting Resilience in Richmond. The presentation provided two scenarios, a major power outage and a large earthquake and discussed additional considerations that parents as well as childcare providers should include in their emergency plans and procedures.
- May 8 - Participation in the 2026 Metro Vancouver Regional Wildfire Workshop held by Metro Vancouver and BC Emergency Management and Climate Readiness. Participating in knowledge sharing sessions focused on the upcoming 2026 wildfire season, focusing on fire weather and drought conditions across BC, provincial wildfire readiness and support resources, and strengthening connections with emergency management partners across British Columbia.
- May 12 - Co-ordination of a functional exercise to develop the City’s All Hazards Incident Management Team (AHIMT) and prepare to support the city for any emergency events during the Richmond Celebrates Soccer period (June 11-July 19). This exercise culminated in the development of an Incident Action Plan for a severe heat and smoke incident, combined with a public health emergency, and emphasized applied incident management principles, Emergency Operations Center (EOC) roles and responsibilities, and the EOC planning process.
- May 16 - Participation in the Chinese Christian Mission (CCM) Safety & Secure Living Fair designed to engage members of the community on matters of safety. An information booth was set up to encourage people to build home emergency kits, create home emergency plans, and explain hazards which are unique to Richmond. The event was well attended in the Aberdeen Mall. This opportunity allowed staff to engage with the public and work towards building a more resilient community.
- May 19 - Delivery of a presentation to residents (including one service dog) at Copper Sky West. The presentation covered the five steps to household preparedness and provided additional information about extreme heat safety and earthquakes. One resident requested follow-up information with additional resources for service animals, which was provided.

- May 20 - Attended a virtual training exercise for the Integrated Partnership for Regional Emergency Management (IPREM) Communications Support Network. Attendees participated in scenario-based run-throughs of emergency coordination calls. The exercises provided attendees the opportunity to understand the role of the lead agency that would be chairing the call, as well as the role of supporting agencies/partners and how everyone will work together to co-ordinate consistent messaging to reduce conflicting information across jurisdictions and maintain situational awareness.
- May 20 - Provided an Emergency Preparedness Presentation to residents at the Sea Island Community Centre. The presentation covered the five steps to household preparedness with a focus on earthquakes and extreme heat. The presentation also provided an opportunity to introduce the Sea Island Community Resilience pilot.
- May 27-29 - Joint training of the Incident Command System (ICS) 300 training alongside Delta Police Department, fulfilling ICS 300 training credential requirements. The sessions strengthened inter agency operational consistency and will enable EP staff to deliver ICS 300 training courses and certification to city staff.
- May 30 - Over 300 people visited the Emergency Programs booth at the Public Works Open House, where visitors were provided an opportunity to participate in the “Map Your Preparedness” activity, demonstrate the “drop, cover, and hold” earthquake action, as well as learn more about emergency preparedness with a focus on extreme heat safety.

Budgetary Implications

Richmond Fire-Rescue continues to monitor all budget implications to ensure fiscal responsibility and oversight.

Conclusion

During May 2026, RFR experienced a negligible decrease in calls for service. RFR continues to monitor activities to identify and develop public outreach programs that respond to emerging trends and opportunities and promote effective prevention behaviours.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Wishlove, Richmond Fire-Rescue

Report Contributors

This report was prepared by Jim Wishlove, Fire Chief and reviewed by Community Safety Administration.

Endorsed by Serena Lusk, CAO

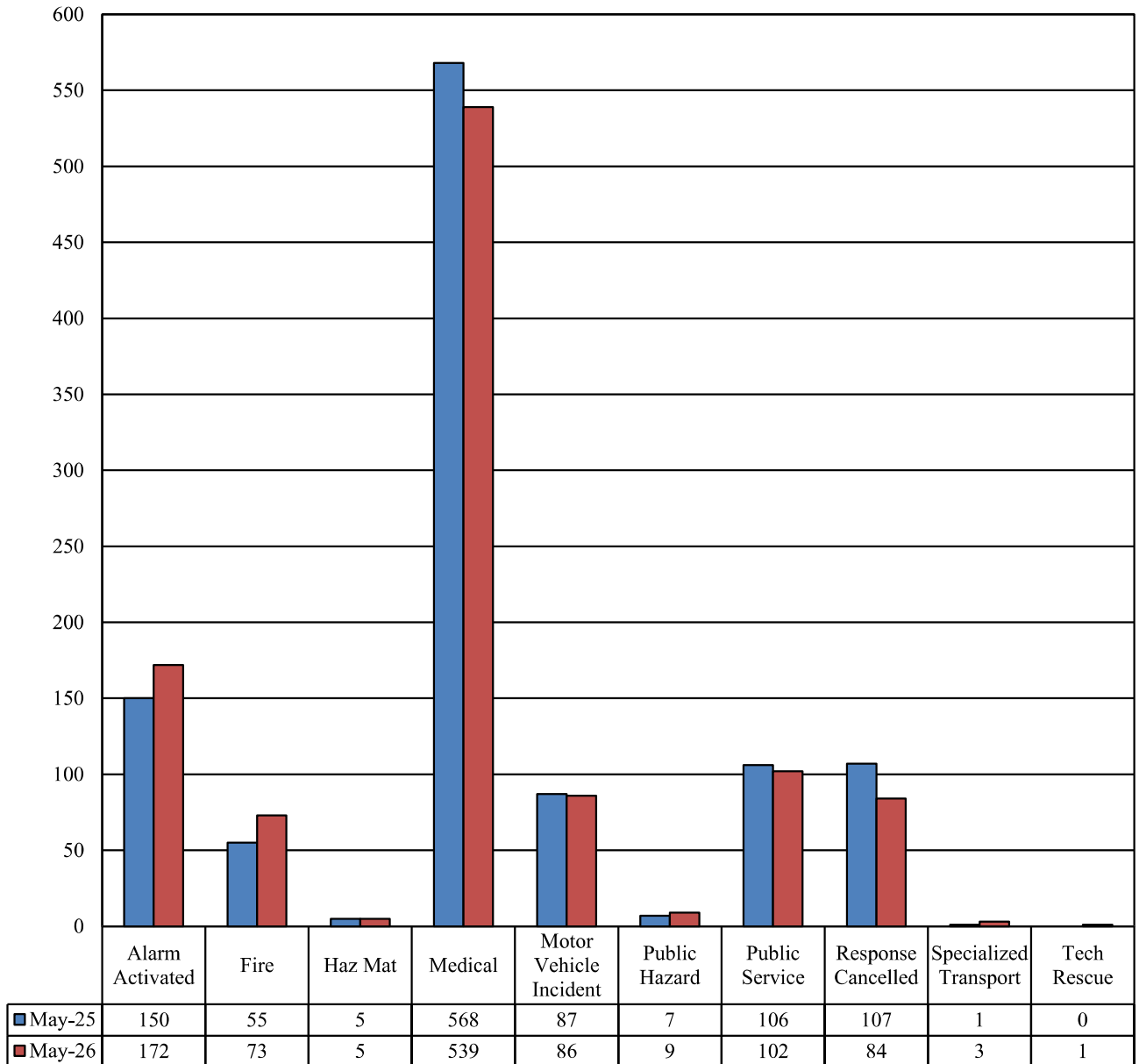
Att. 1 – Emergency Response Activity for May 2026

Emergency Response Activity for May 2026

Incident Volumes

The following chart provides a month-to-month comparison of incidents occurring in May 2025 and 2026. In May 2026, there were 1,074 total incidents, compared to 1,086 in May 2025. This represents a decrease of 1 per cent between last year and 2026.

Table 3: May 2025 & May 2026 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 the public, ambulance or police, locked in/out, special events, trapped in an elevator, and water removal.

First Responder Totals

Medical first-responder incidents accounted for 50 per cent of the total emergency responses from RFR during May 2026. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for May 2025 and 2026, by sub-type, is set out in the following table. There were 539 medical incidents in May 2026 compared to 568 in May 2025, a decrease of 5 per cent.

Table 4a: May 2025 & May 2026 Medical Calls by Type

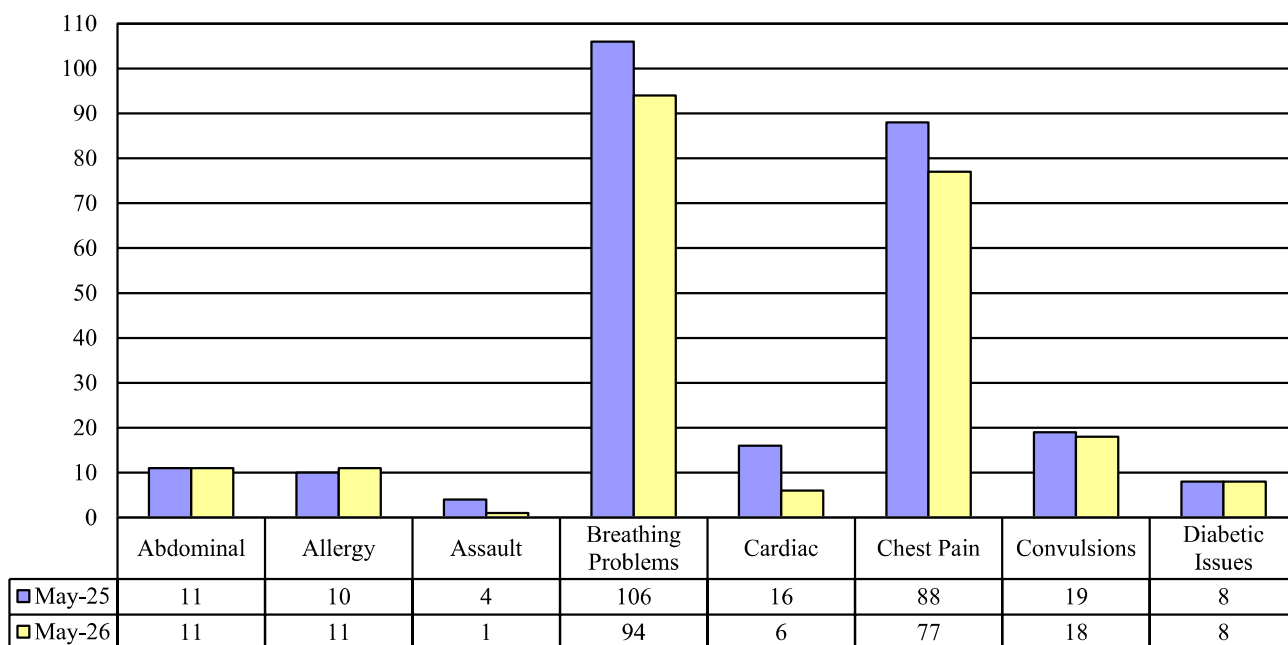
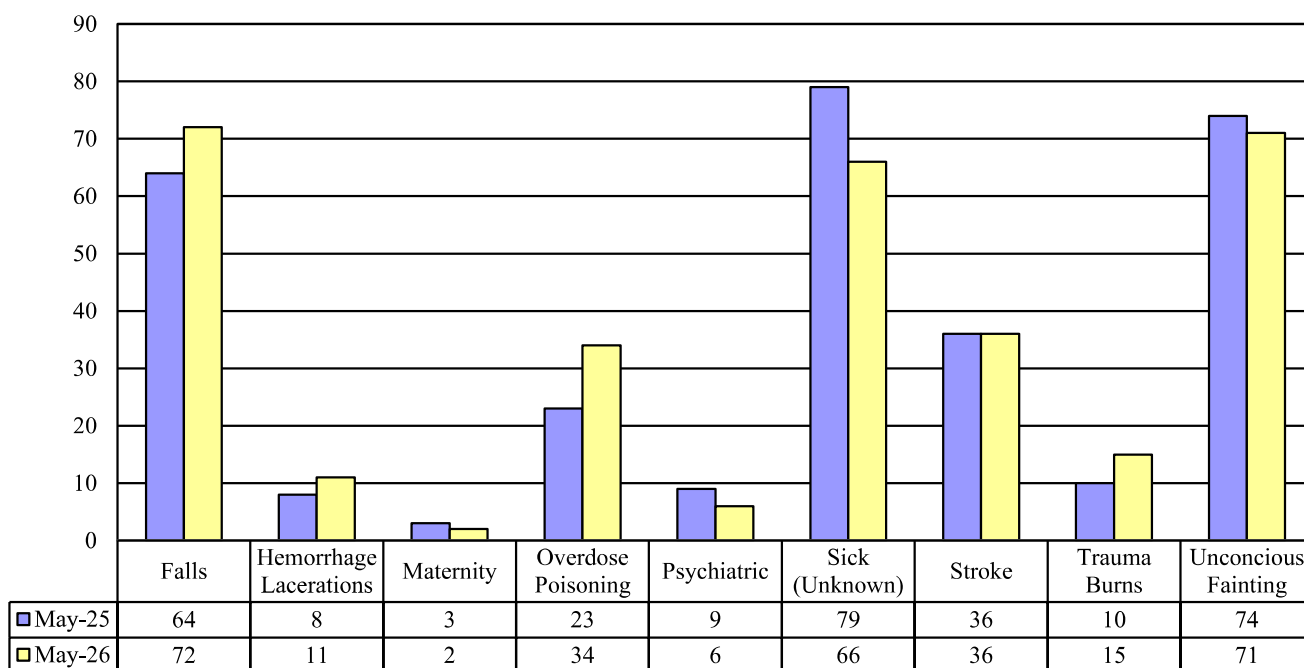


Table 4b: May 2025 & May 2026 Medical Calls by Type



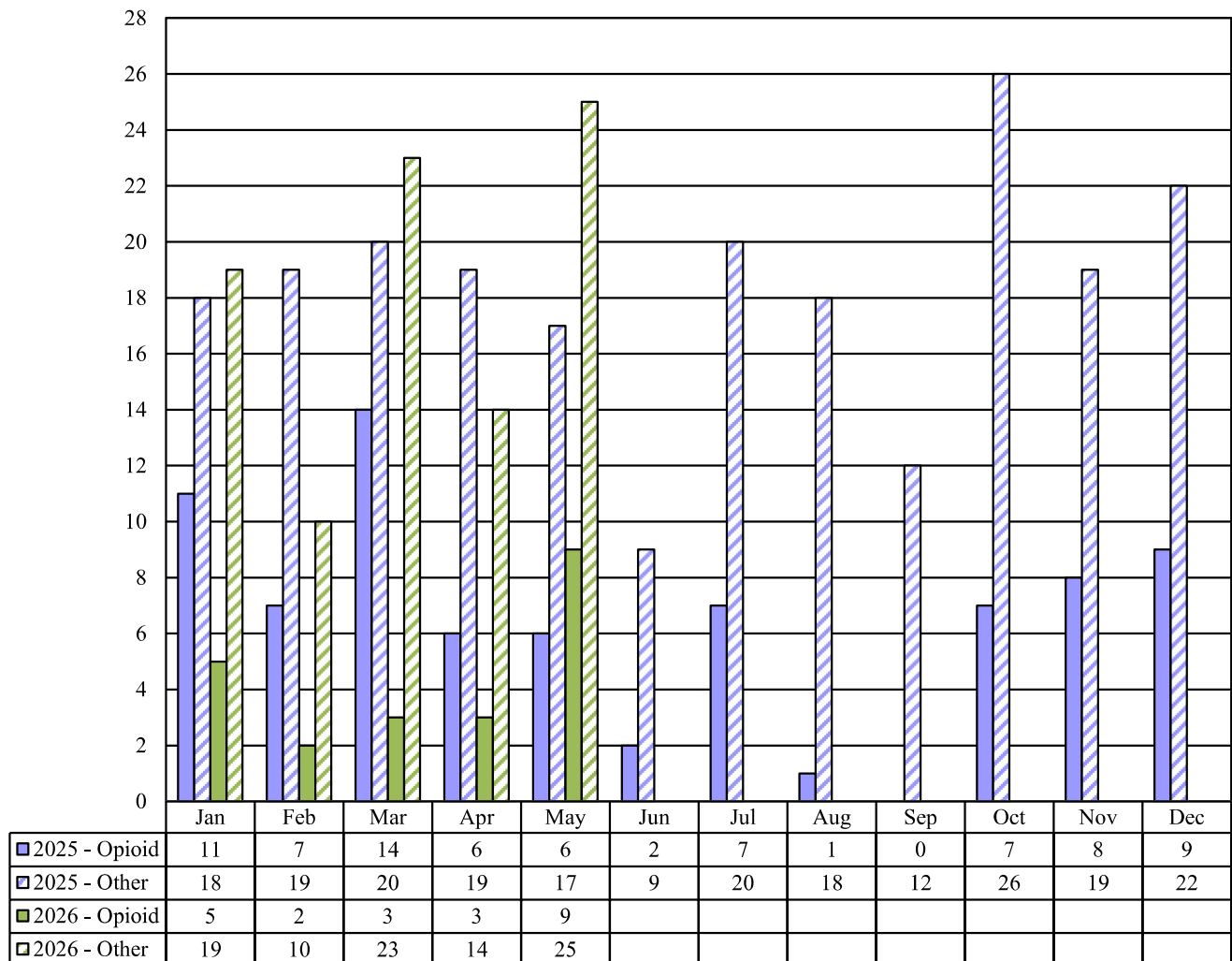
Overdose / Poisoning

The following tables provide a breakdown of overdose/poisoning incident volume by month for 2025 and 2026. The tables include Opioid and Other overdose incidents (other incidents include alcohol, medications, unknown or refusal of treatment, and other drug types).

During May 2026, RFR staff administered two doses of Naloxone.

Table 4c: Overdose / Poisoning Incidents by Type – May 2026													
Year	Type	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2025	Opioid	11	7	14	6	6	2	7	1	0	7	8	9
	Other	18	19	20	19	17	9	20	18	12	26	19	22
2026	Opioid	5	2	3	3	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Other	19	10	23	14	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 4d: 2025 & 2026 Overdose / Poisoning Incident Types



Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for May 2026 are listed below:

Table 5: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – May 2026			
	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	-	2	-
Residential - Multi-family	-	3	3
Commercial/Industrial	-	4	-
Outdoor	17	33	5
Vehicle	-	4	2
Totals	17	46	10

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

Hazardous Materials

Table 6: Hazardous Materials Incidents by Type – May 2026	
	Details
Gases (Natural / Propane)	4
Unclassified	1
Totals	5

The following charts provide year-to-year comparisons of total incident volumes for fires, medical, motor vehicle, and overdose/poisoning incidents in May, including year averages from 2017 to 2026.

Table 7a: Total Fire Calls for Service in May and year averages from 2017 to 2026

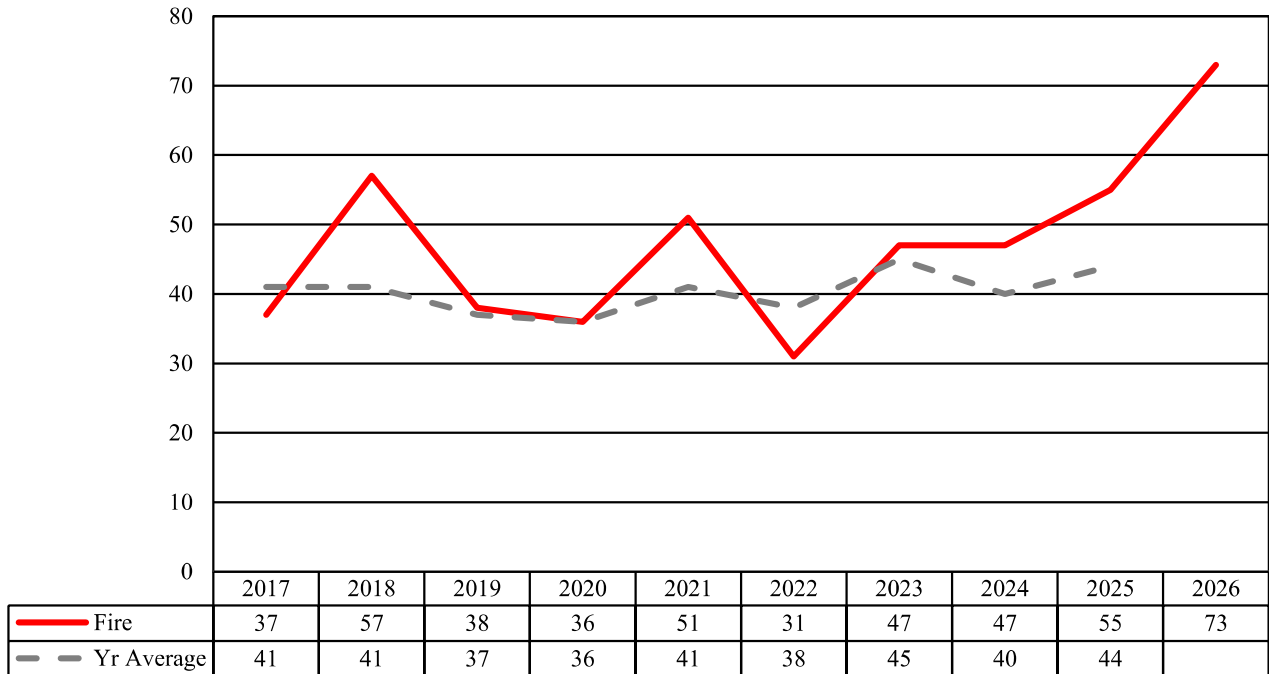
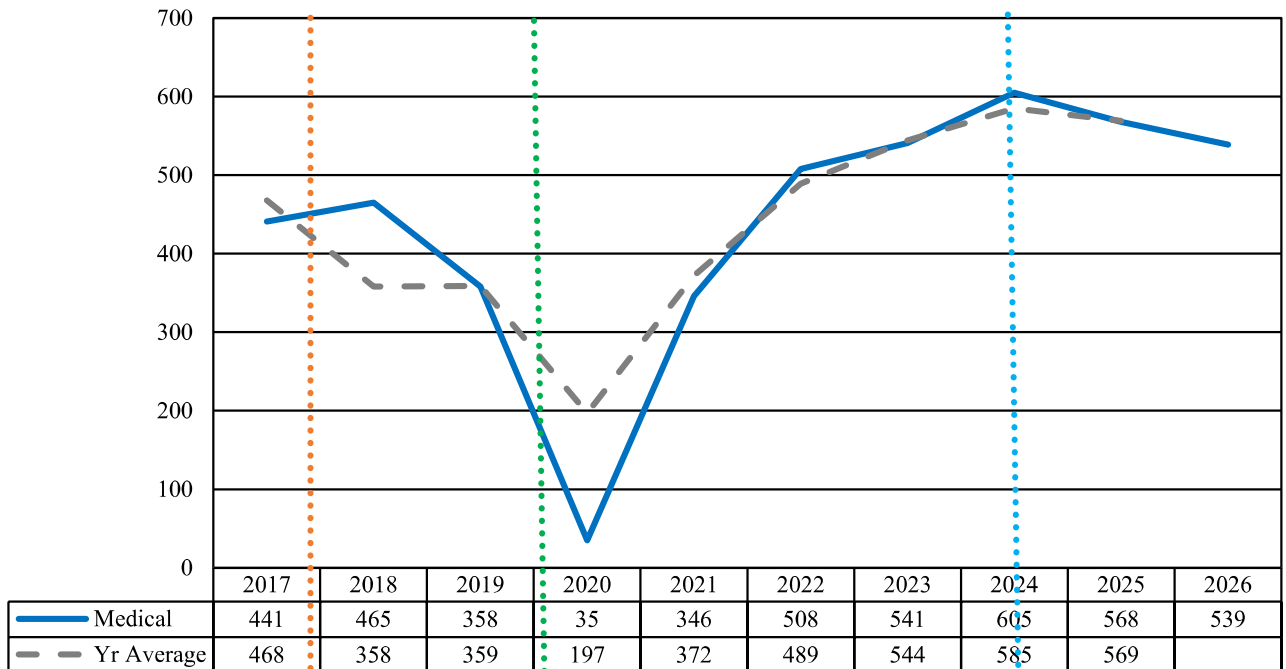


Table 7b: Total Medical Calls for Service in May and year averages from 2017 to 2026



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

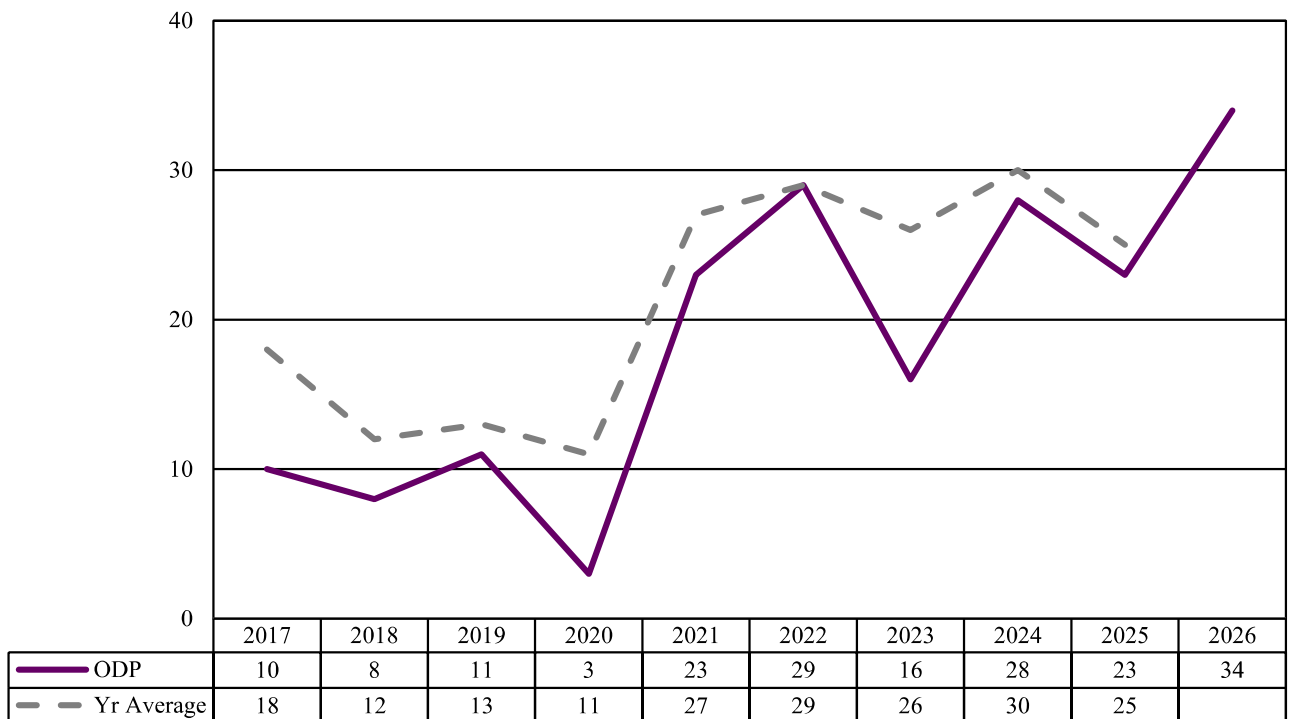
Start of
COVID-19
Pandemic

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

Table 7c: Total Motor Vehicle Incidents (MVI) Calls for Service in May
and year averages from 2017 to 2026



Table 7d: Total Overdose/Poisoning(ODP) Calls for Service in May
and year averages from 2017 to 2026



Richmond Fire Rescue

Where are Fire Incidents Concentrated?

Relative Density of 73 Fire Incidents, May 2026

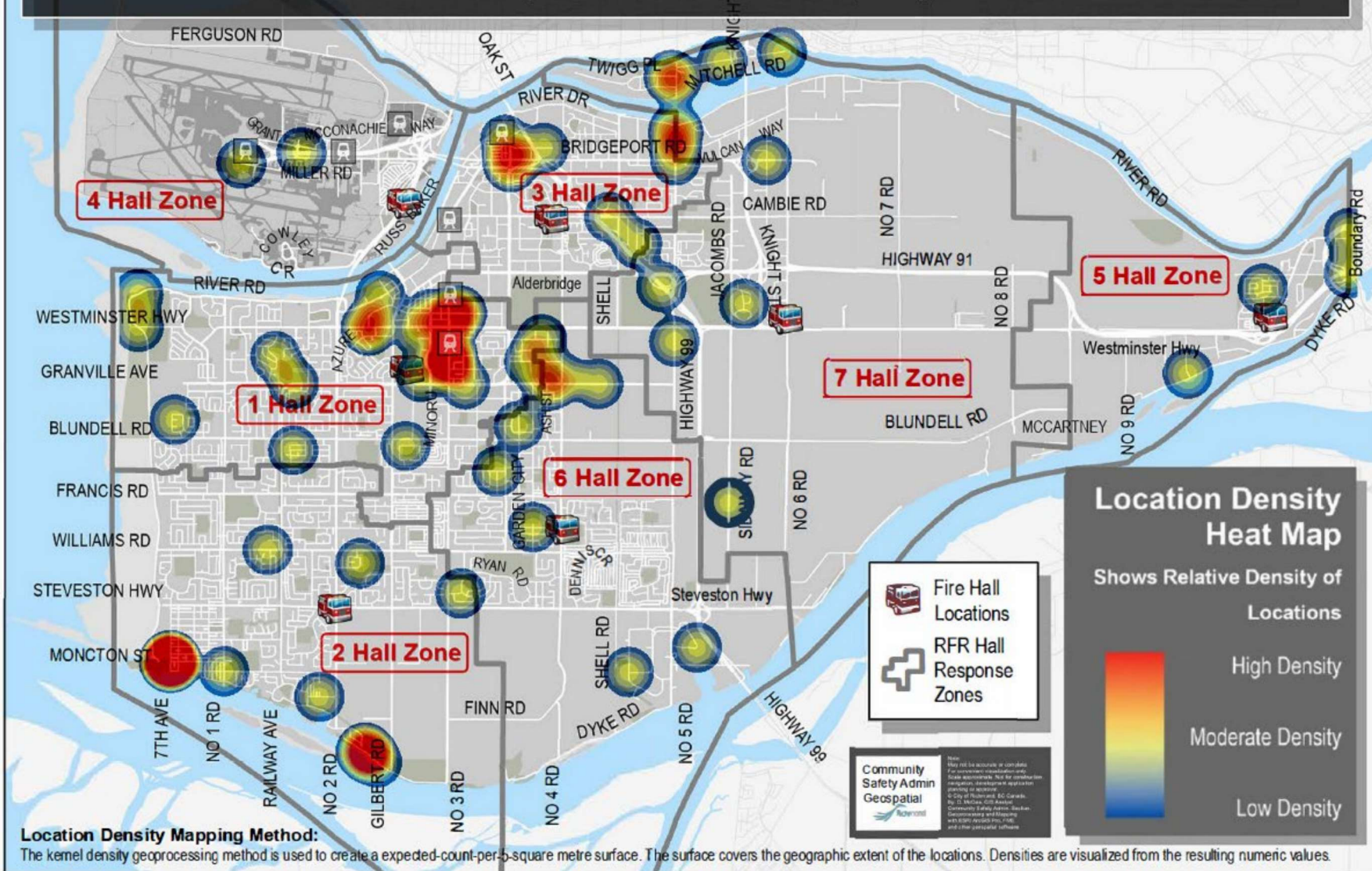


Figure 1b: Density of reportable fire incidents attended in May 2026 (total 73)

Richmond Fire Rescue: Medical Incidents May 2026

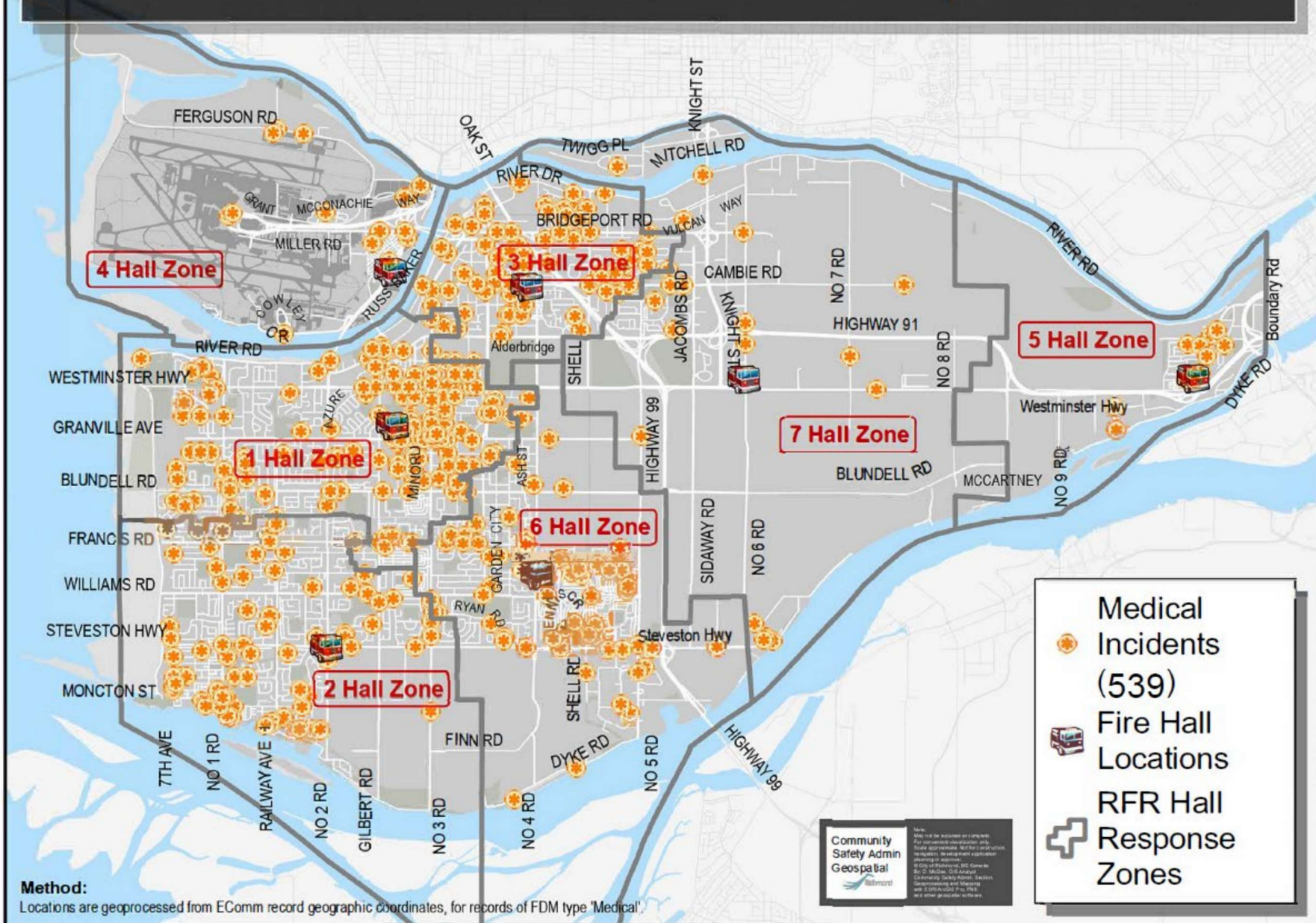


Figure 2a: Location of reportable medical incidents attended in May 2026 (total 539)

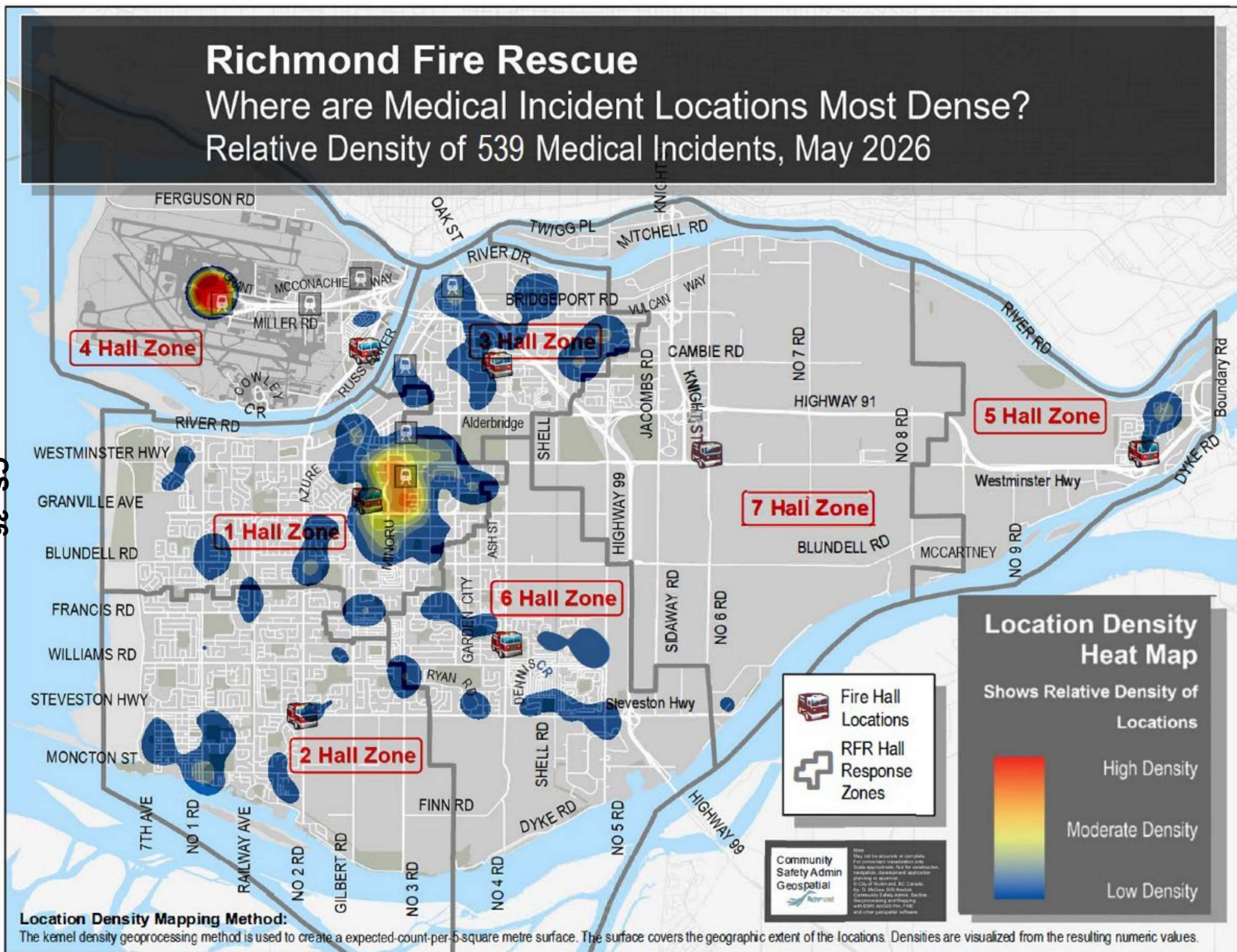


Figure 2b: Density of reportable medical incidents attended in May 2026 (total 539)

Richmond Fire Rescue: MVI Incidents May 2026

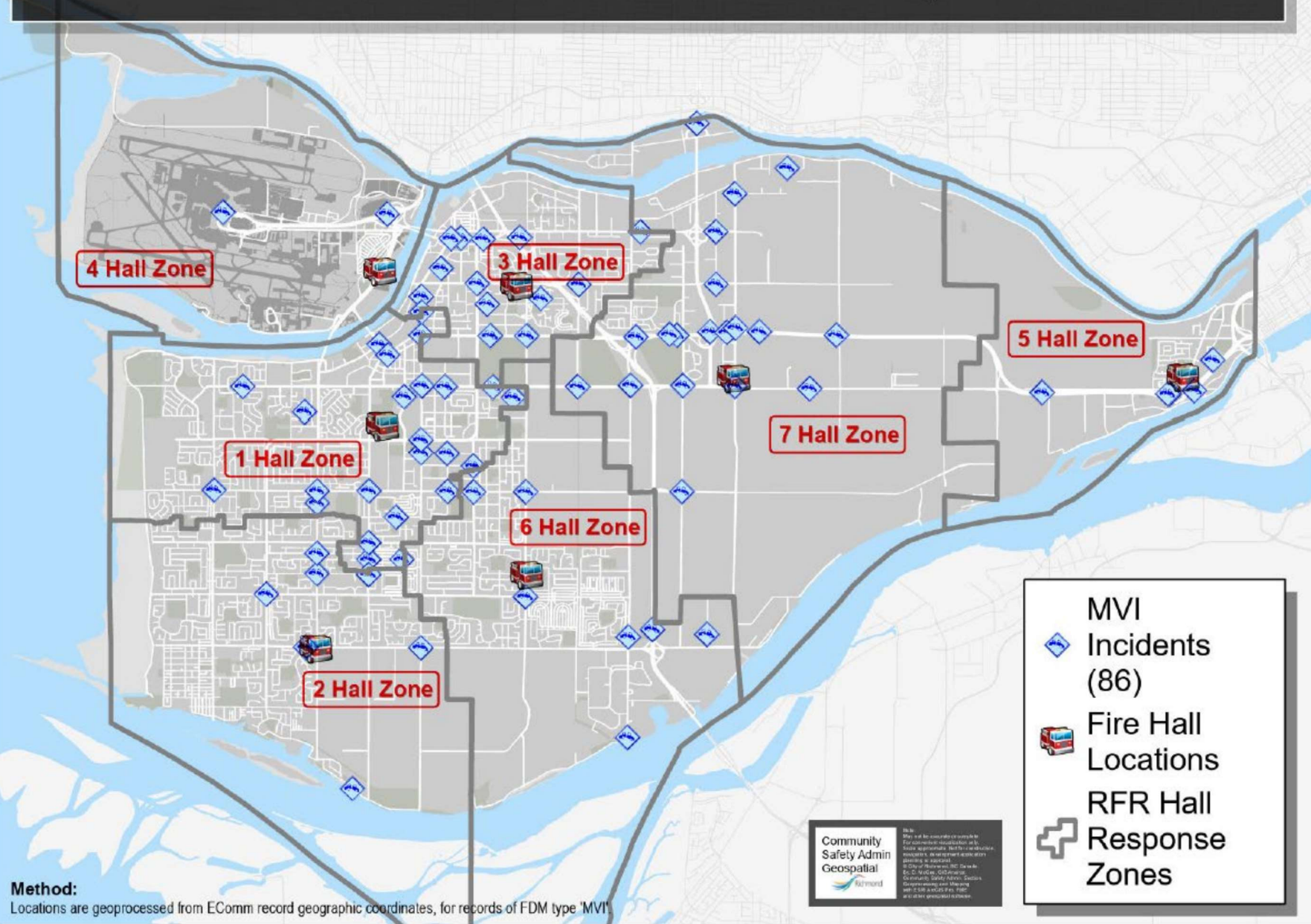


Figure 3a: Location of reportable motor vehicle incidents (MVIs) attended in May 2026 (total 86)

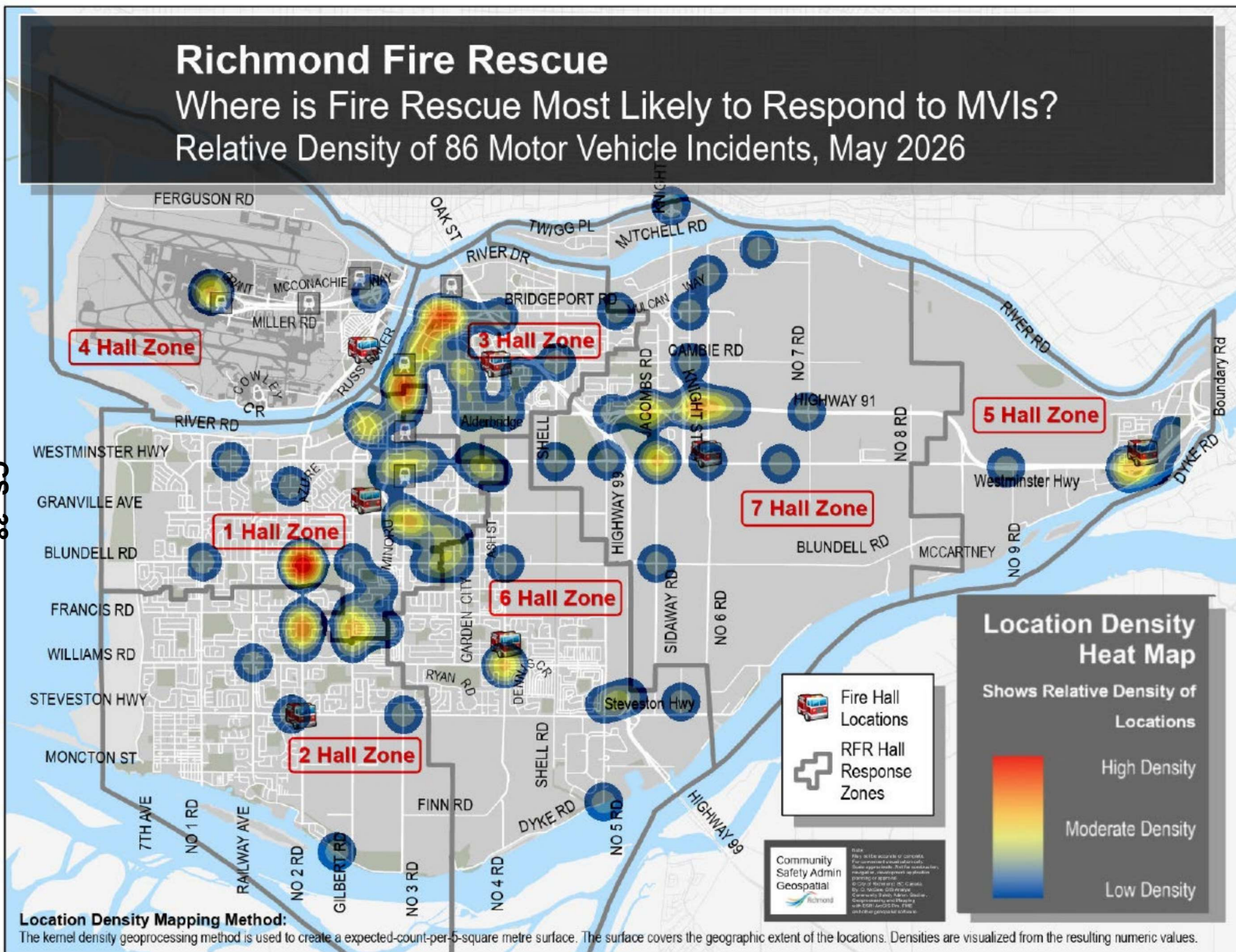


Figure 3b: Density of reportable motor vehicle incidents (MVIs) attended in May 2026 (total 86)

Richmond Fire Rescue: Overdose/Poisoning Incidents (34) by Classification - May 2026

CS-39

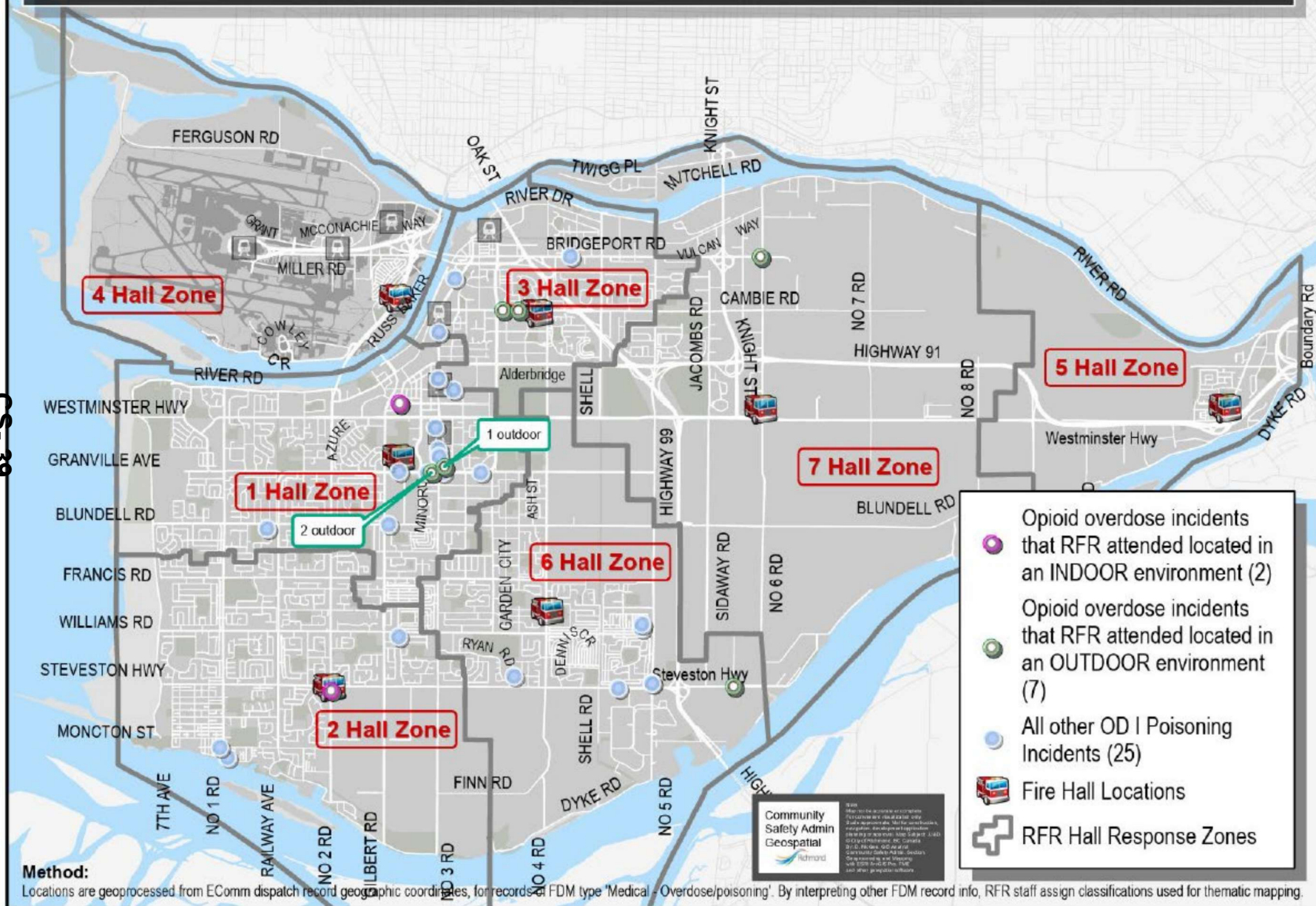


Figure 4a: Location of reportable overdose/poisoning incidents attended in May 2026 (total 34)

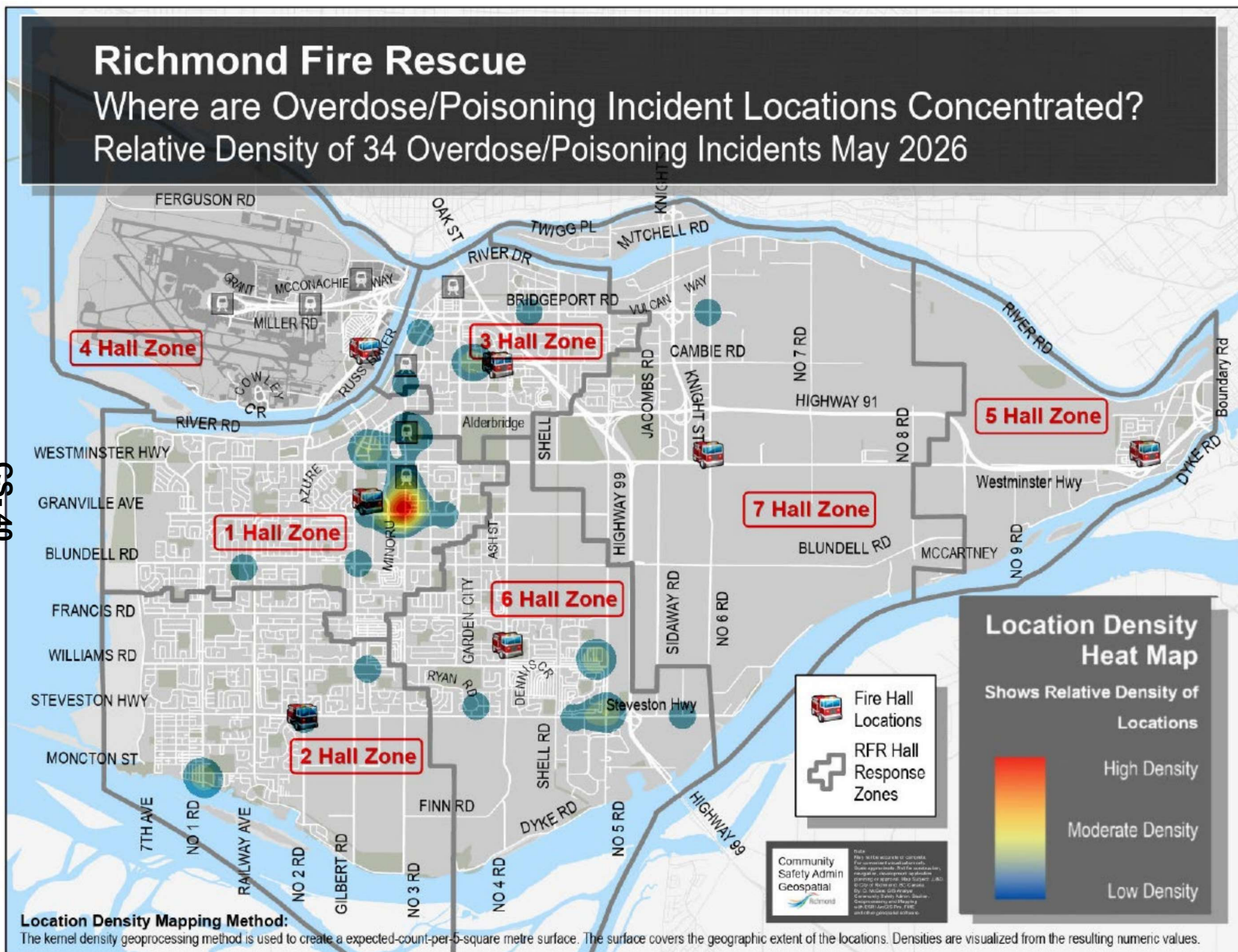


Figure 4b: Density of reportable overdose/poisoning incidents attended in May 2026 (total 34)