



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee

Date: October 11, 2024

From: Jim Wishlove
Fire Chief

File 09-5140-01/2024-Vol
01

Re: Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – September 2024

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – September 2024”, dated October 11, 2024, 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 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 September, staff engaged in the following activities:

- Staff attended the Public Works Open House and provided emergency preparedness information and education to the attendees.
- Staff provided an emergency preparedness presentation to residents of Queen's Gate Complex. Approximately 30 residents learned about the five steps to preparedness and received pamphlets and brochures to assist with their planning readiness for a disaster.
- Staff participated in a familiarization tour of the Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue (RCMSAR's) new boathouse, and received a briefing on recent improvements to RCMSAR's response and support capabilities in partnership of Emergency Programs' ongoing efforts to maintain and improve operating relationships with key response partners.
- Staff collaborated with members from S.U.C.C.E.S.S. to deliver a presentation on emergency preparedness to newcomers to Canada. The presentation covered the steps to preparedness and with a focus on earthquakes. The staff from S.U.C.C.E.S.S. provided translation into Mandarin for the 35 attendees.

Public Outreach & Education

During the month of September, staff engaged in the following activities:

- Facilitated outreach events to provide educational opportunities to the community, including fire hall and vehicle tours for three organizations, with over 100 participants.
- Participated in multiple community events, with over 5,000 participants, including: Hamilton Night Out, the Public Works Open House, Play Like Ray Challenge Tournament and the Autism Walk.
- Additionally, staff continued with life safety educational social media videos and posts.

Internal Staff Training

In September 2024, staff organized in-house training events including; Hazardous Materials Certifications, Fire Service Instructor, Live Fire Training, Fire Leadership and ongoing firefighter recruit training.

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 September 2024, there were 1,045 reported incidents of all types, representing an overall decrease of 3 per cent in incidents between September 2023 and September 2024 (Table 1).

Table 1: Total Incidents - September 2024					
	Incident Totals September (2024)	Incident Totals September (2023)	Number Change from September 2023 to 2024	Percentage Change from September 2023 to 2024	5 Year Average for September
Active Alarm	158	179	-21	-12	155
Explosion	1	0	+1	+100	0
Fire	27	33	-6	-18	37
Hazardous Materials	11	5	+6	+120	7
Medical	542	548	-6	-1	447
Motor Vehicle Incident	92	88	+4	+5	82
Public Hazard	12	9	+3	+33	9
Public Service	117	99	+18	+18	96
Response Cancelled/Unfounded	82	114	-32	-28	72
Specialized Transport	2	2	0	0	2
Technical Rescue	1	0	+1	+100	1
Total	1,045	1,077	-32	-3	910

The average time on scene in September 2024 for emergency response crews was 30 minutes per event, which is lower than the number recorded in September 2023: 31 minutes. The time spent on scene can vary due to the nature and severity of each incident.

In September 2024, there were 27 fire incidents reported to the Office of the Fire Commissioner. This is lower than the number reported in September 2023. The average number of fires reported each September over the last five years is 37.

Fire damage and property losses during September 2024 is estimated at \$90,028. The total building/asset and content value at risk is estimated to be \$7,588,568 and the total value preserved from damage was \$7,498,545. These numbers translate to 99 per cent of value protected (Table 3), which is the same as the value observed in 2023: 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	3,419,800	1,000	2,368,860	1,100	5,786,560
Residential: Multi family	2	970,000	6,500	679,000	3,000	1,639,500
Commercial / Industrial	2	35,000	-	24,480	-	59,480
Outdoor	14	15,290	2,290	-	-	13,005
Vehicle/Vessel	5	76,138	76,138	-	-	-
Totals*	27	4,516,228	85,928	3,072,340	4,100	7,498,545

* 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 September 2024 incidents:

- September 11, 2024 – Vehicle fire on Mitchell Road.** Emergency crews responded to a car on fire parked under an industrial tent shelter. Crews worked quickly to attack and extinguish the fire. Once extinguished, crews used a Thermal Imaging Camera to check for hot spots and climbed onto the roof of a nearby structure to complete extinguishment of the fire. After the vehicle was completely extinguished, an onsite worker lower the vehicle down from its elevated position. Once lowered, crews were able to continue to cool the vehicle and check for hot spots. There were no reports of any injuries to the public or RFR personnel. A Fire Investigator attended.
- September 21, 2024 – Fire on Garry Point Beach.** Emergency crews responded to Garry Point beach for reports of a beach fire. On arrival, crews extinguished the fire and began overhaul of the scene. Crews used shovels to tunnel under the larger logs prior to cutting and rolling into the river. Once all burnt logs were in the river, crews continued to use water and the fire suppressant on the surrounding area. The non-toxic and environmentally friendly fire suppressant did not require any environmental mitigation measures given the sensitive river habitat. Once the crews were satisfied with extinguishment, crews cleaned up the site and returned to quarters. There were no reports of injury to the public or RFR personnel. A Fire Investigator attended.

October 11, 2024

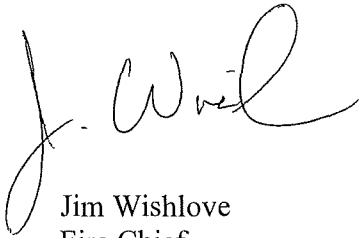
- 5 -

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 a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jim Wishlove
Fire Chief
(604-303-2715)

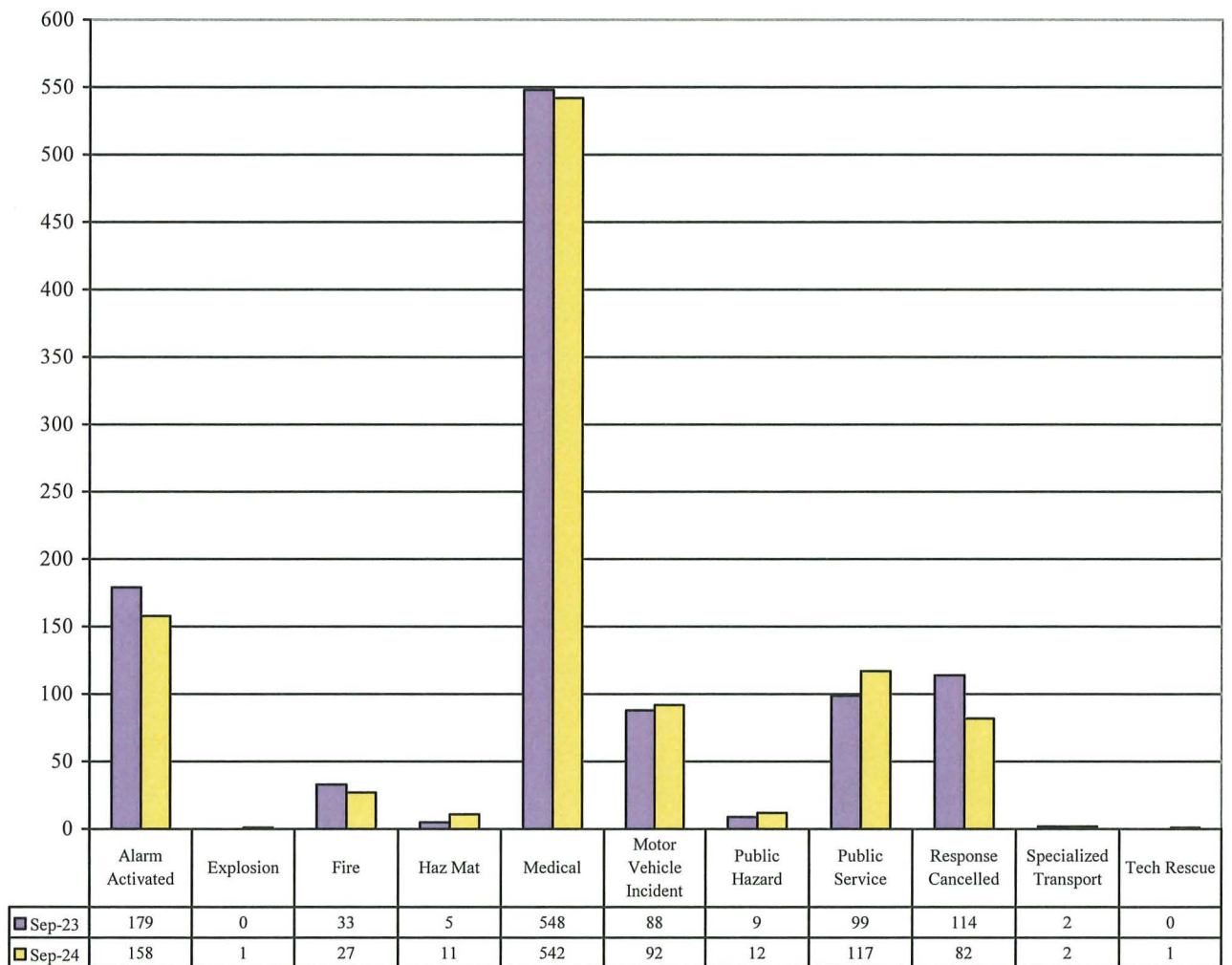
Att. 1: Emergency Response Activity for September 2024.

Emergency Response Activity for September 2024

Incident Volumes

The following chart provides a month-to-month comparison regarding incidents occurring in September 2023 and 2024. In September 2024, there were 1,045 total incidents, compared to 1,077 in September 2023. This represents an overall decrease of 3 per cent between last year and 2024.

Table 3: September 2023 & September 2024 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 52 per cent of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of September 2024. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for September 2023 and 2024 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were 542 medical incidents in September 2024 compared to 548 in September 2023, a reduction of 1 per cent.

Table 4a: September 2023 & September 2024 Medical Calls by Type

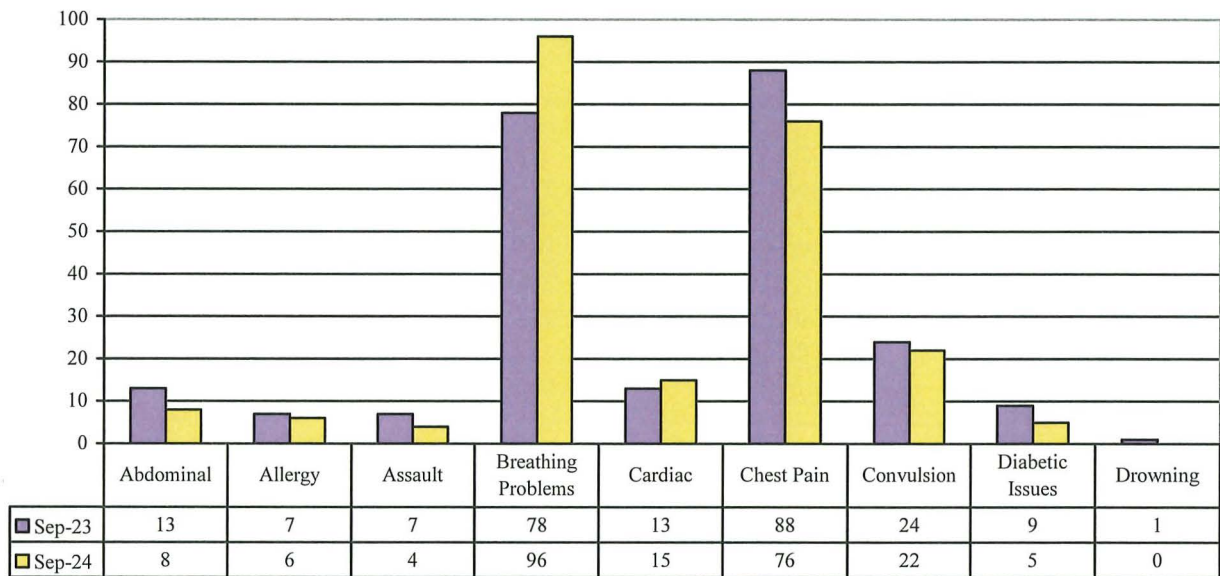
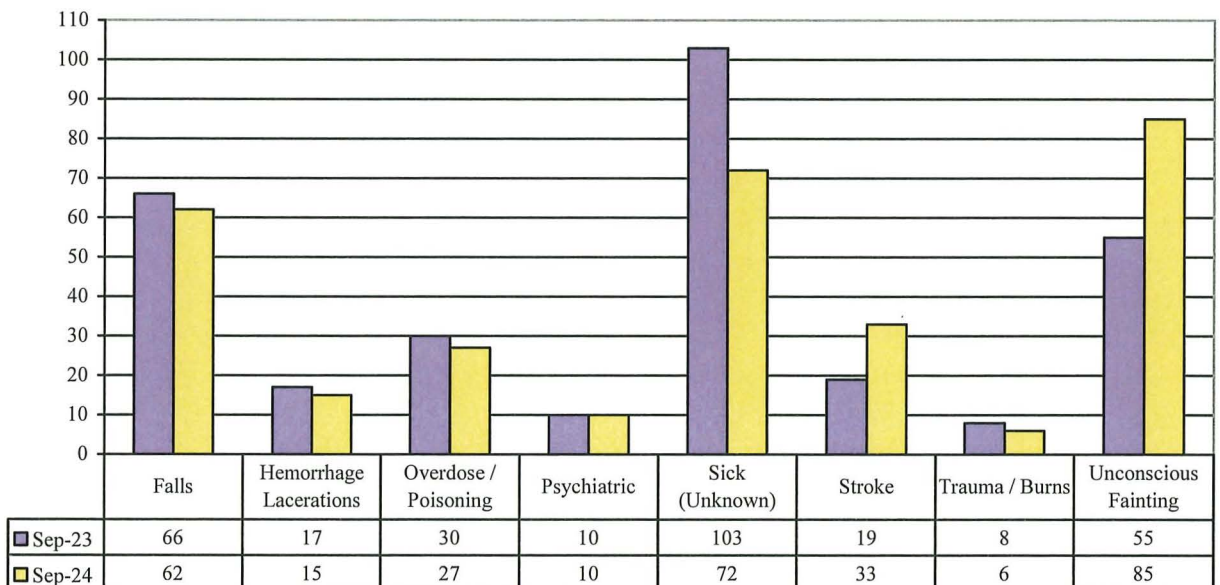


Table 4b: September 2023 & September 2024 Medical Calls by Type



The following chart provides the overdose/poisoning incident volume breakdown for September 2024. During September 2024, RFR staff did not administered Naloxone to any patients.

Table 4c: Overdose / Poisoning Incidents By Type – September 2024	
Opioid overdose incidents that RFR attended located in an OUTDOOR environment.	1
Opioid overdose incidents that RFR attended located in an INDOOR environment.	2
All other OD / Poisoning Incidents	24
Totals	27

Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for September 2024 are listed below:

Table 5: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – September 2024			
	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	-	4	-
Residential - Multi-family	-	2	-
Commercial/Industrial	1	1	-
Outdoor	6	6	2
Vehicle	-	4	1
Totals	7	17	3

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

Hazardous Materials

Table 6: Hazardous Materials Incidents By Type – September 2024	
	Details
Gasses (Natural / Propane)	10
Unclassified	1
Totals	11

The following charts provide total incident volumes for fires and medical incidents on a year-to-year comparison in September from 2015 to 2024.

This graph shows an overall decrease of 25 per cent of fires since 2015, 10 years.

Table 7a: Total Fire Calls for Service in September from 2015 to 2024

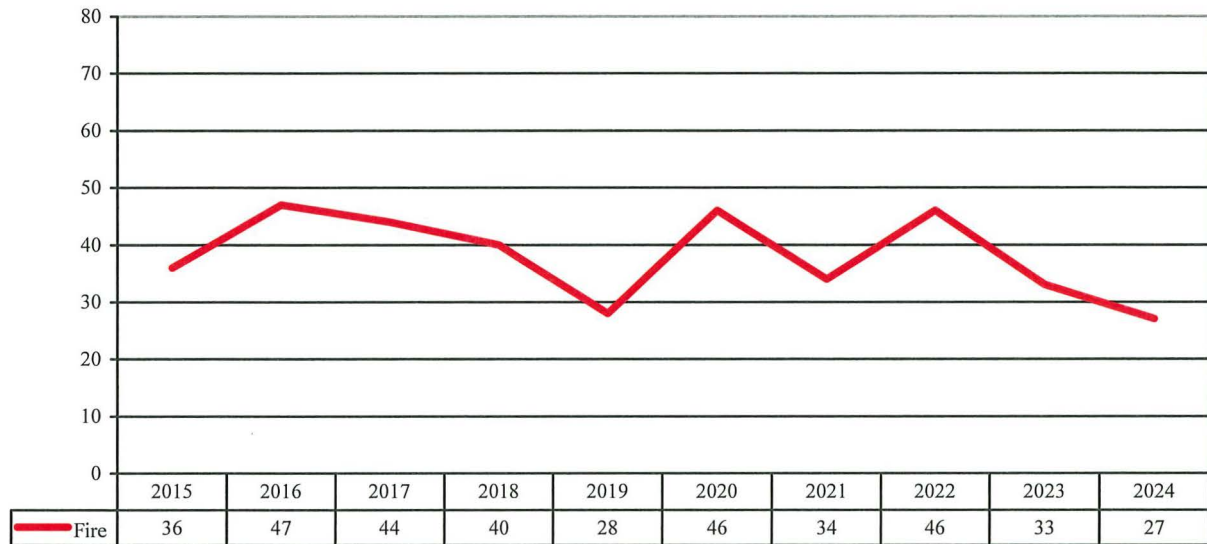


Table 7b: Total Medical Calls for Service in September from 2015 to 2024



Changes to BC Emergency Health Services Clinical Response Model dispatch system (2017-2018)
7832041

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 September 2024 (total 27)

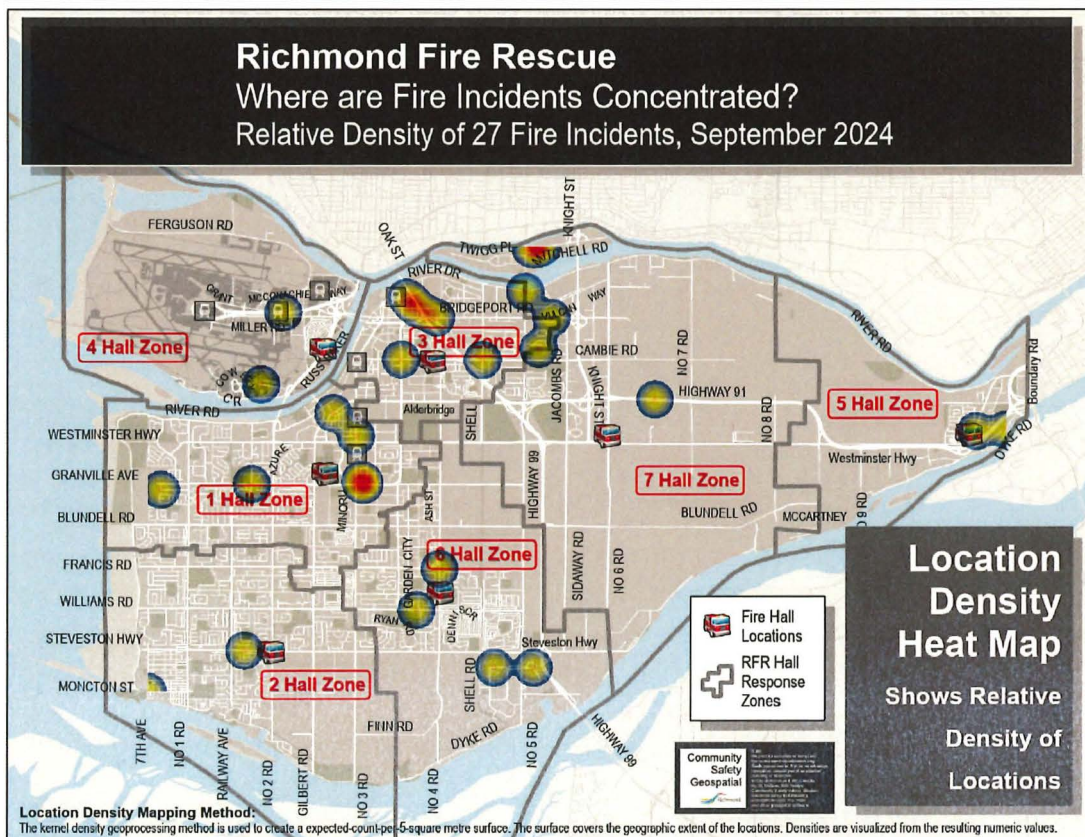
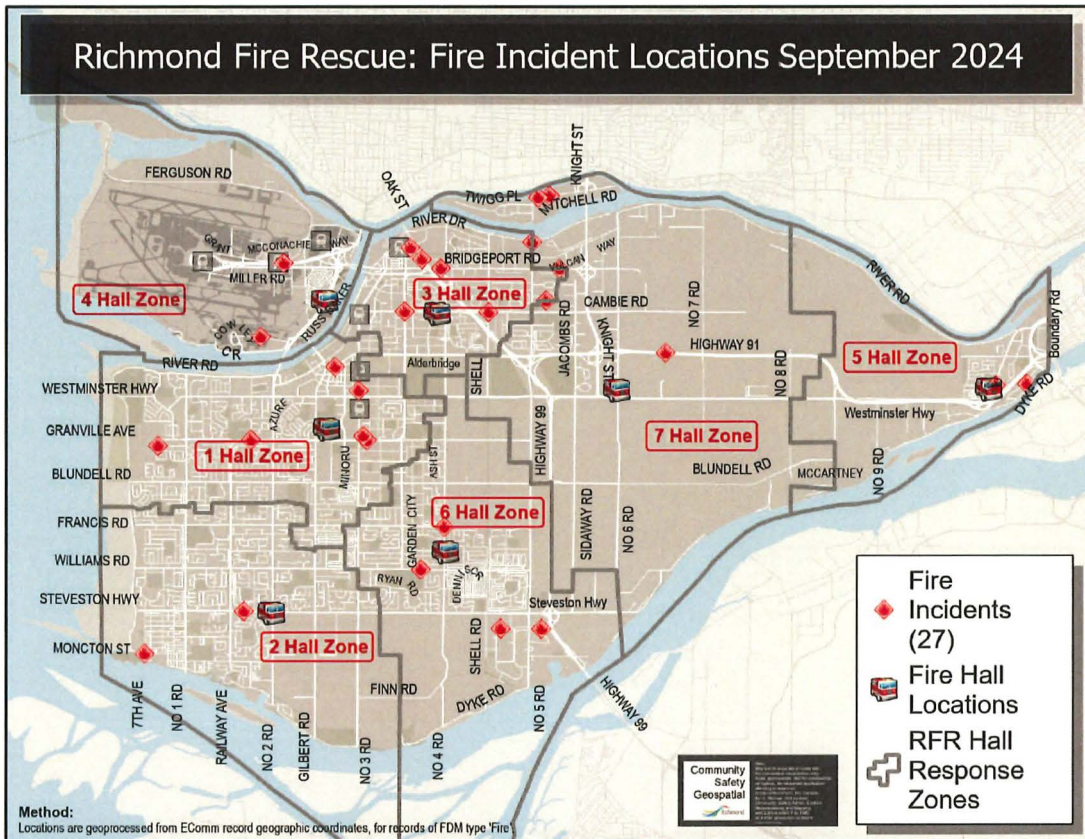


Figure 2: Location of reportable medical incidents attended in September 2024 (total 542)

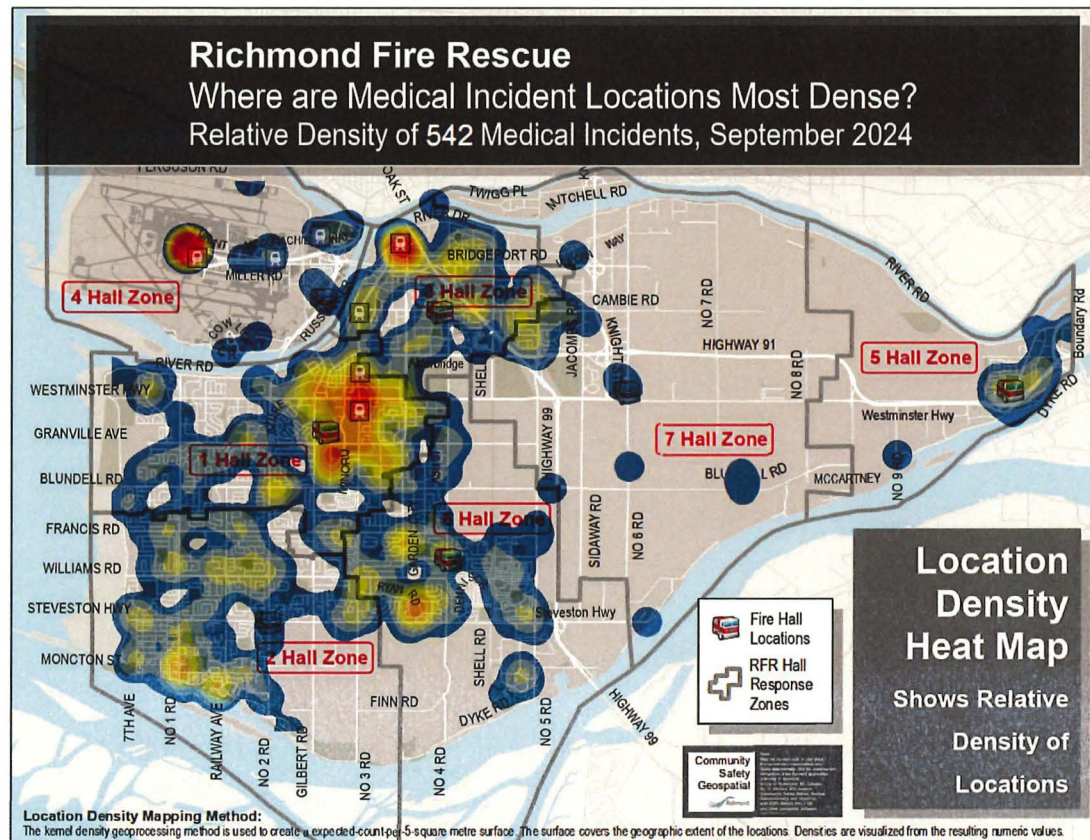
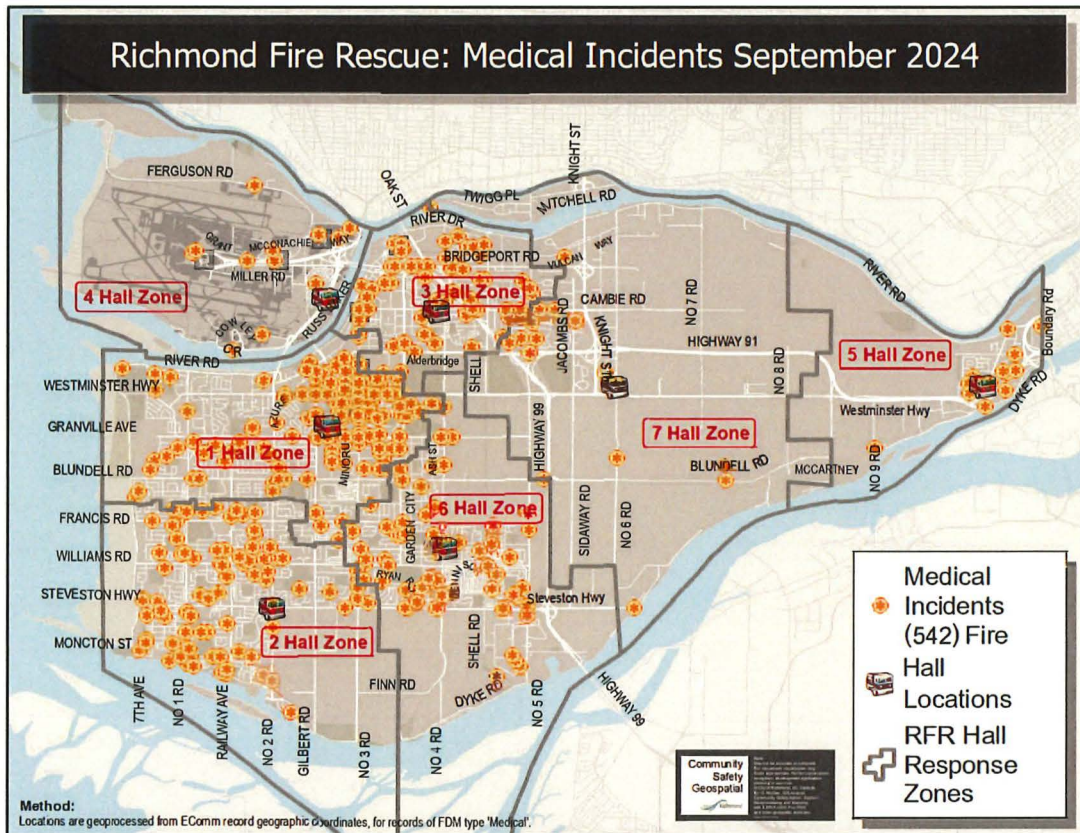


Figure 3: Location of reportable motor vehicle incidents (MVIs) attended in September 2024 (total 92)

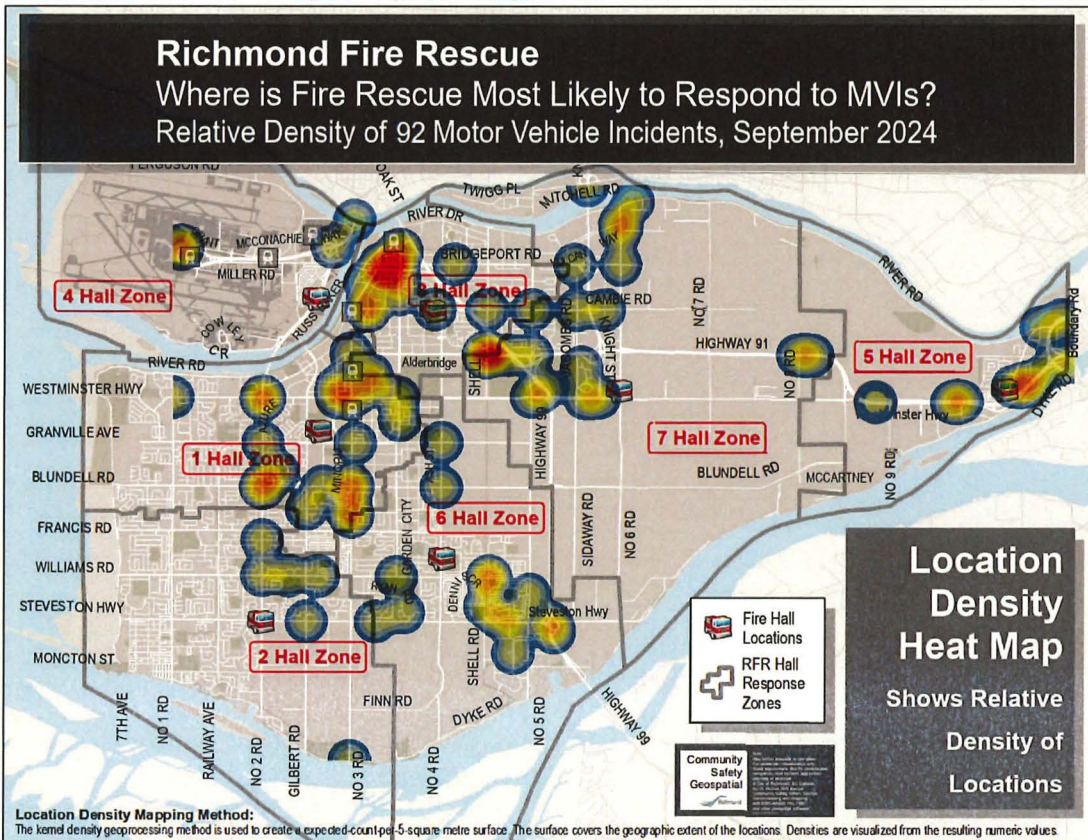
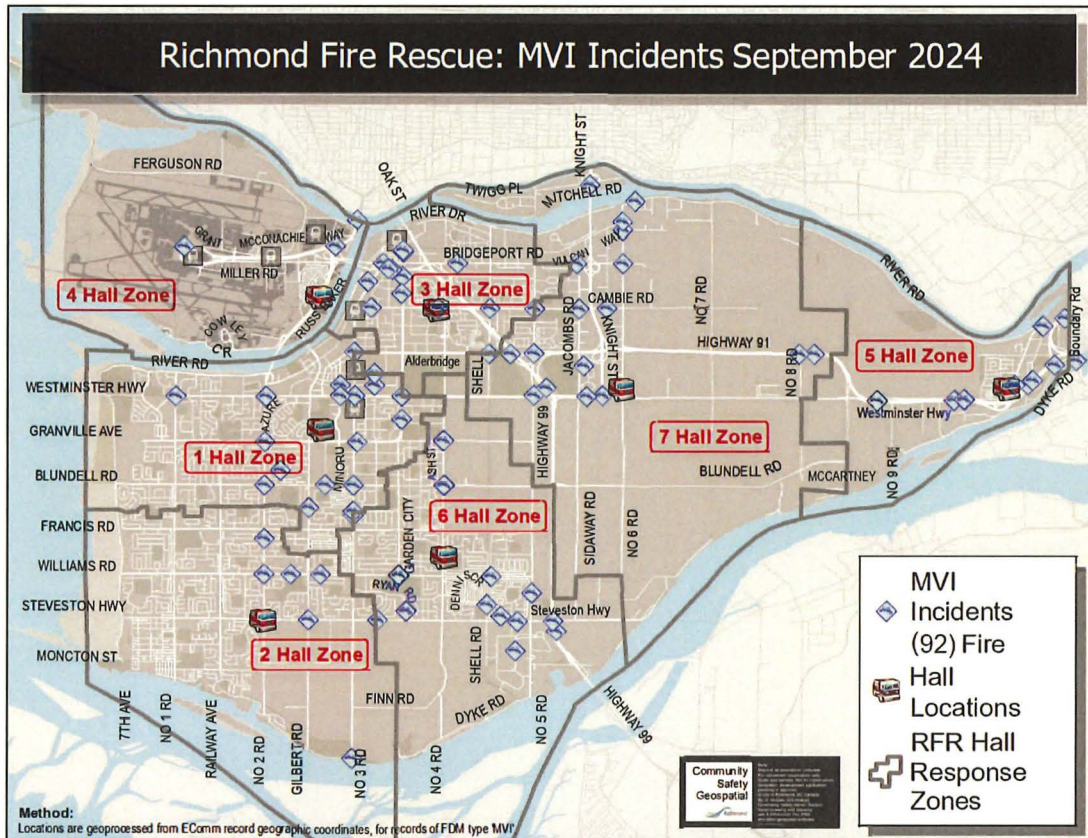


Figure 4: Location of reportable overdose / poisoning incidents attended in September 2024 (total 27)

