



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

---

**To:** Community Safety Committee **Date:** May 13, 2024  
**From:** Jim Wishlove **File** 09-5140-01/2024-Vol  
Fire Chief 01  
**Re:** **Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – April 2024**




---

### Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – April 2024”, dated May 13, 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 April staff engaged in the following activities:

- Hosted a table top exercise with Fortis BC to discuss communication protocols following a gas leak incident from a Fortis BC facility in Delta in January of this year. Following this, staff participated in a full scale exercise with Fortis BC. This exercise supported relationship building and confirmation of emergency contacts and response procedures in the event of an emergency involving Fortis BC.
- Led an introduction to the Incident Command System (ICS) as part of the Public Works (PW) Supervisory Leadership Program. This presentation introduced 18 Public Works staff to the basic theory and implementation of ICS to further enhance the interoperability of RFR and PW personnel when jointly responding to events.
- Participated in a table top exercise hosted by a local large industrial facility. This table top simulated a hazardous materials leak following a seismic event. This exercise provided increased awareness of the capabilities and resources of both the facility and the City, confirmed points of contact and initial response actions leading to better communication, response times and collaboration.
- Met with members of the Canadian Armed Forces, the South West Provincial Emergency Operations Center and an aerial wildfire fighting provider to discuss resources, capabilities, response times and conditions under which the City would provide and access support and resources in the event of a wildfire. This resulted in plans for future collaboration through table top exercises, confirmation of contacts and increased awareness of response capabilities available to the City.
- Met with staff from the Health Protection Team with Vancouver General Health to discuss the preparations for the upcoming heat and wildfire season and learn more about each other's roles and determine the best way to share knowledge and resources.

Public Outreach & Education

During the month of April staff engaged in the following activities:

- Facilitated outreach events to provide educational opportunities to the community, including fire hall and vehicle tours for six organizations.
- Hosted the Burning of Chametz with Chabad Richmond, a family friendly community event and outreach event.
- Participated in the Sky’s No Limit event. A large outreach event to inspire future women leaders in Aviation, Aerospace, Marine and Defence held at Abbotsford International Airport.
- Additionally, staff continued with life safety educational social media videos and posts.

Internal Staff Training

In April 2024, staff organized in-house training events including: Emergency Scene Management, Technical Water Rescue, Fire Service Leadership, Emergency Medical Assistants Change of Scope and ongoing recruit training 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 2024, there were 1,008 reported incidents of all types, representing an overall increase of 10 per cent in incidents between April 2023 and April 2024 (Table 1).

	<b>Incident Totals April (2024)</b>	<b>Incident Totals April (2023)</b>	<b>Number Change from April 2023 to 2024</b>	<b>Percentage Change from April 2023 to 2024</b>	<b>5 Year Average for April</b>
Active Alarm	149	149	0	0	124
Explosion	0	1	-1	-100	0
Fire	46	30	+16	+53	42
Hazardous Materials	7	2	+5	+250	5
Medical	530	524	+6	+1	375
Motor Vehicle Incident	89	80	+9	+11	63
Public Hazard	8	5	+3	+60	8
Public Service	89	59	+30	+51	68
Response Cancelled/Unfounded	87	63	+24	+38	54
Specialized Transport	3	1	+2	+200	2
Technical Rescue	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,008</b>	<b>914</b>	<b>+94</b>	<b>+10</b>	<b>741</b>

The average time on scene in April 2024 for emergency response crews was 34 minutes per event, which is higher than the number recorded in April 2023: 30 minutes. The time spent on scene can vary due to the nature and severity of each incident.

In April 2024, there were 46 fire incidents reported to the Office of the Fire Commissioner, this is more than the number reported in April 2023. The average number of fires reported each April over the last five years is 42.

Fire damage and property losses during April 2024 are estimated at \$1,170,735. This total includes \$737,640 for building/asset loss and \$433,095 for content loss. The total building/asset and content value at risk is estimated to be \$198,896,667 and the total value preserved from damage was \$197,725,932. 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.

<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>
Residential: Single family	5	3,062,350	549,700	2,136,645	368,990	4,280,305
Residential: Multi family	6	2,422,250	-	889,950	-	3,312,200
Commercial / Industrial	5	106,750,690	67,200	83,476,487	63,050	190,096,927
Outdoor	24	8,240	8,240	2,555	1,055	1,500
Vehicle/Vessel	6	147,500	112,500	-	-	35,000
<b>Totals*</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>112,391,030</b>	<b>737,640</b>	<b>86,505,637</b>	<b>433,095</b>	<b>197,725,932</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 2024 incidents:

- April 5, 2024 – Beach Fire on Iona Beach.** Emergency crews responded to reports of a large fire at the end of Iona Beach. Multiple crews were dispatched, including the Wildland Unit to the scene. Due to the location of the fire, the closest hydrant was approximately three kilometers away. Crews were able to shuttle tanks of water back and forth, as well as drafting water from the nearby river to provide extinguishment. RFR crews were able to extinguish the fire with the aid of an excavator, which attended the scene. RFR crews continued to soak the entire area before beginning the demobilization. Crews liaised with the Port Authority and Metro Vancouver crews at the scene. The scene was made safe for the public using the park area. There were no reports of injury to the public or RFR personnel.

- **April 14, 2024 – Vehicle Fire on Cooney Road.** Emergency crews responded to an electric motorcycle on fire beside a house. The fire had spread up a tree and into a porch area of the building. The fire was extinguished rapidly and did not extend into the interior of the building. A Fire Investigator attended. There were no reports of injury to the public or RFR personnel.
- **April 15, 2024 – Residential Fire on Granville Avenue.** Emergency crews responded to reports of a home under construction with flames showing through the roof of the building. Crews made a quick attack and were able to extinguish the fire. A large hedge had caught fire and was also quickly extinguished. Once crews were able to enter the building they continued to extinguish the fire spread. The scene was secured by a security company. A Fire Investigator attended. There were no reports of injury to the public or RFR personnel.
- **April 16, 2024 – Structure Fire on Wellington Crescent.** Emergency crews responded to a structure fire on Wellington Crescent. On arrival the fire had been partially extinguished by a nearby City Works crew and then was fully extinguished by the first on scene RFR crews. The quick actions by the City Works crew and application of initial firefighting significantly reduced the total amount of damage to the structure while RFR emergency response crews were arriving. A Fire Investigator attended. There were no further reports of injury to the public or RFR personnel.
- **April 24, 2024 – Residential Fire on Easterbrook Road.** Emergency crews responded to a structure fire on Easterbrook Road. First in crews took a defensive position as the home was completely engulfed in flames. Crews worked quickly to protect the neighbouring houses and containing the fire. The fire was extinguished and the scene was secured by a security company. One occupant, who suffered smoke inhalation, was provided treatment by BC Emergency Health Services. A Fire Investigator attended. There were no reports of injury to the public or RFR personnel.
- **April 29, 2024 – Structure Fire on Blundell Road.** Emergency crews responded to a greenhouse fire on Blundell Road. First in crews quickly deployed a hose line to contain the fire and prevent spread to a neighbouring wildland area. The initial fire attack to the greenhouse was difficult due to a significant electrical hazard in the area. Once the power was disconnected by BC Hydro, crews were able to complete the extinguishment of the fire. A Fire Investigator attended. There were no reports of injury to the public or RFR personnel.

### Financial Impact

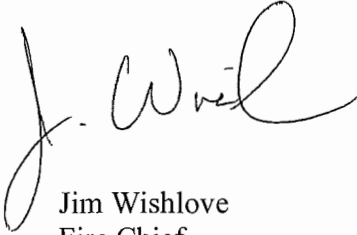
None.

May 13, 2024

- 6 -

**Conclusion**

Richmond Fire-Rescue continues to monitor activities to identify and create public outreach programs to respond to emerging trends and to regularly 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)

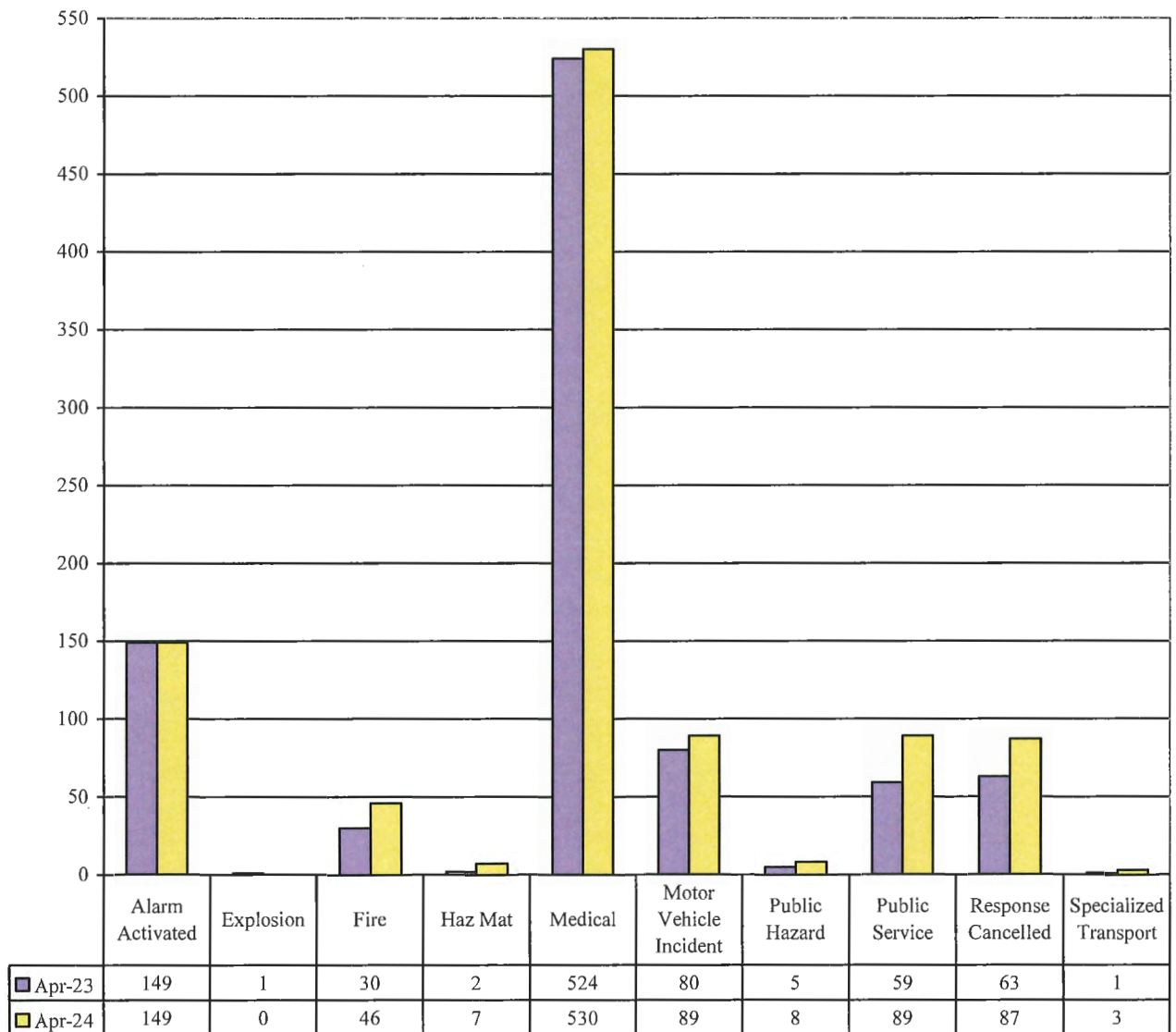
Att. 1: Emergency Response Activity for April 2024.

### Emergency Response Activity for April 2024

#### Incident Volumes

The following chart provides a month-to-month comparison regarding incidents occurring in April 2023 and 2024. In April 2024, there were 1,008 total incidents, compared to 914 in April 2023. This represents an overall increase of 10 per cent between last year and 2024.

Table 3: April 2023 & April 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

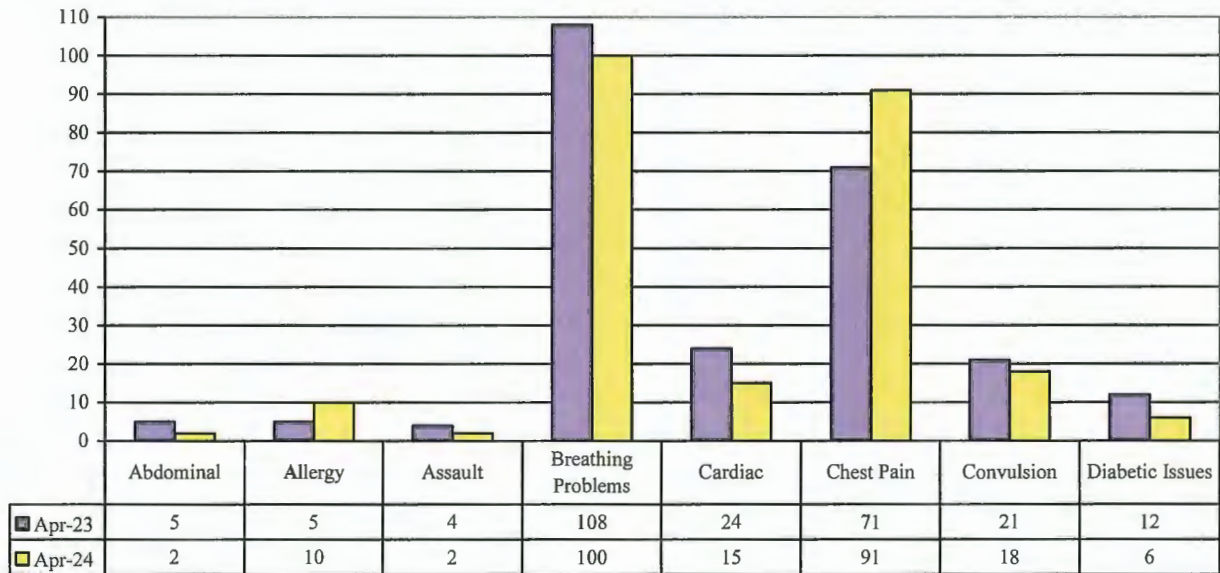
**Public Hazard** includes: object removal, or power lines down

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

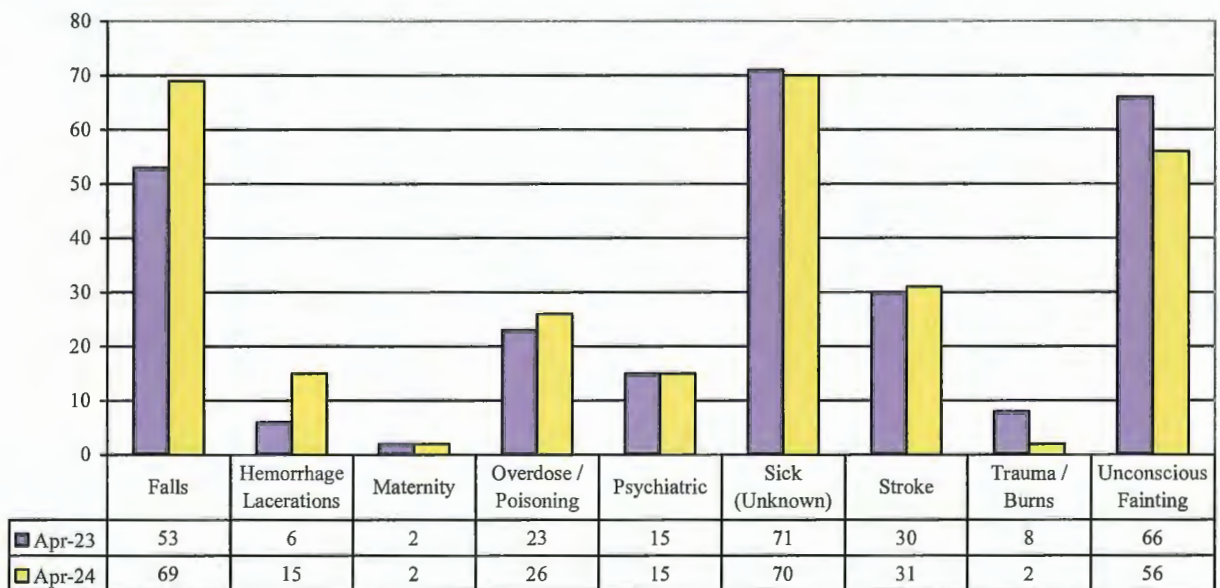
First Responder Totals

Medical first responder incidents comprised 53 per cent of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of April 2024. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for April 2023 and 2024 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were 530 medical incidents in April 2024 compared to 524 in April 2023, an increase of 1 per cent.

**Table 4a: April 2023 & April 2024 Medical Calls by Type**



**Table 4b: April 2023 & April 2024 Medical Calls by Type**





The following chart provides the overdose/poisoning incident volume breakdown for April 2024. During April 2024, Naloxone was not administered (zero doses) by RFR staff.

<b>Table 4c: Overdose / Poisoning Incidents By Type – April 2024</b>	
Opioid overdose incidents that RFR attended located in an OUTDOOR environment.	9
Opioid overdose incidents that RFR attended located in an INDOOR environment.	4
All other OD / Poisoning Incidents	13
<b>Totals</b>	<b>26</b>

#### Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for April 2024 are listed below:

<b>Table 5: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – April 2024</b>			
	<b>Suspicious</b>	<b>Accidental</b>	<b>Undetermined</b>
Residential - Single-family	-	5	-
Residential - Multi-family	-	5	1
Commercial/Industrial	1	3	1
Outdoor	15	5	4
Vehicle	1	4	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>7</b>

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

<b>Table 6: Hazardous Materials Incidents By Type – April 2024</b>	
	<b>Details</b>
Gasses (Natural / Propane)	6
Standby/Support for other agency	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7</b>

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

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

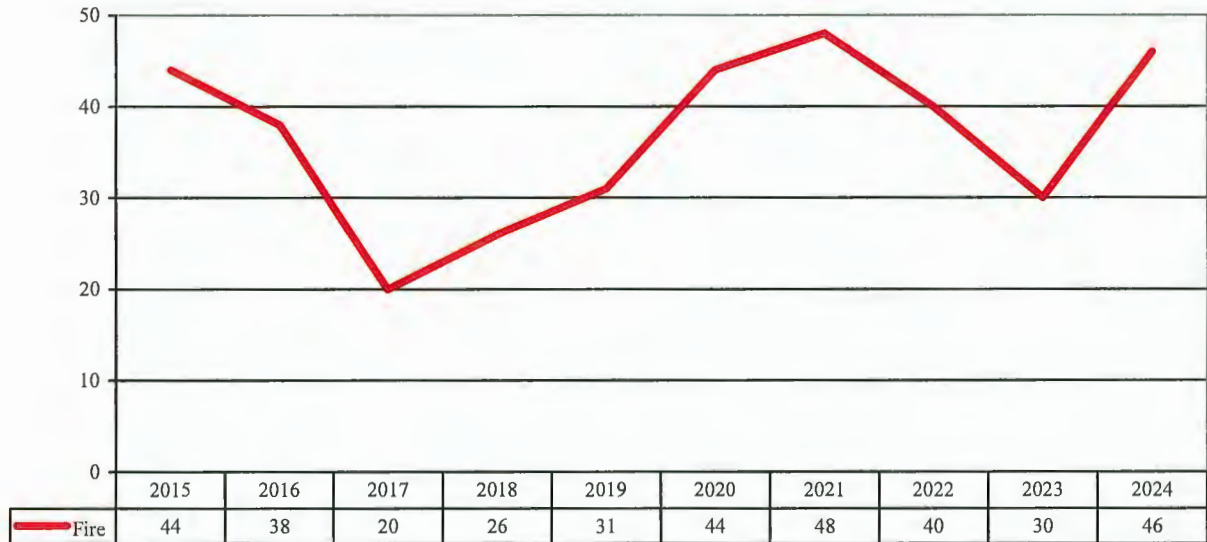


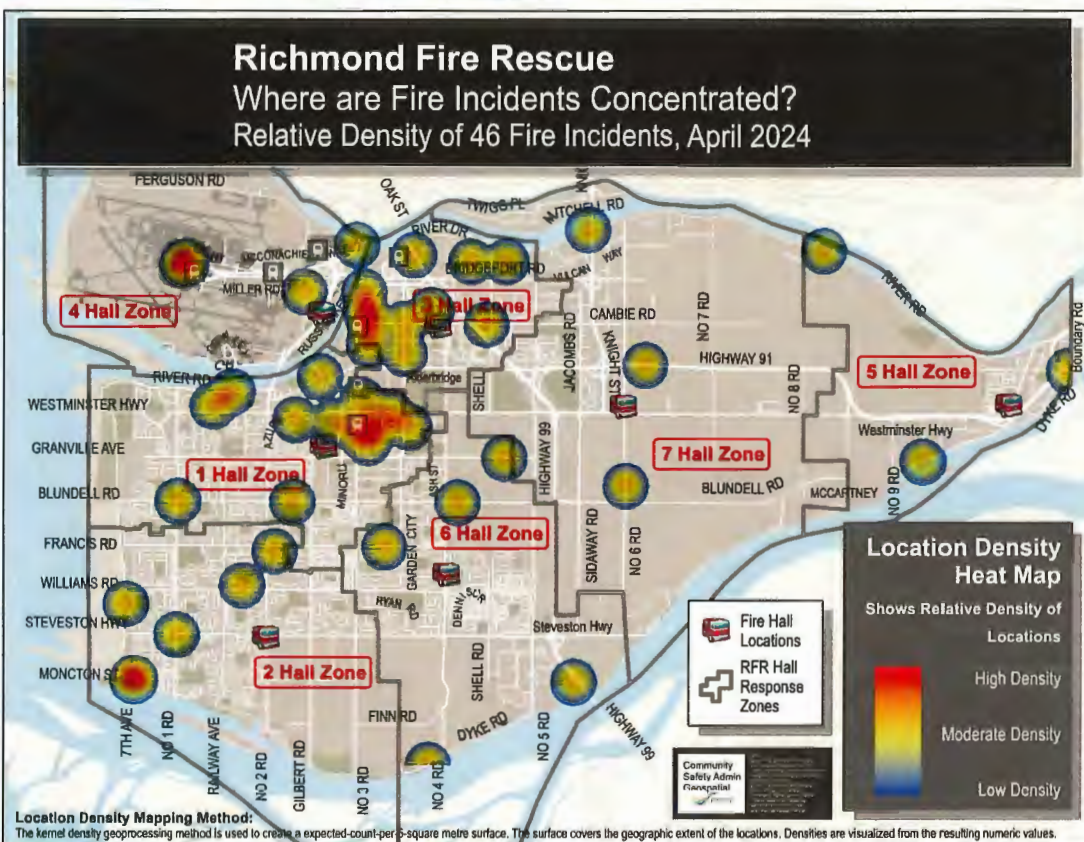
Table 7b: Total Medical Calls for Service in April from 2015 to 2024



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

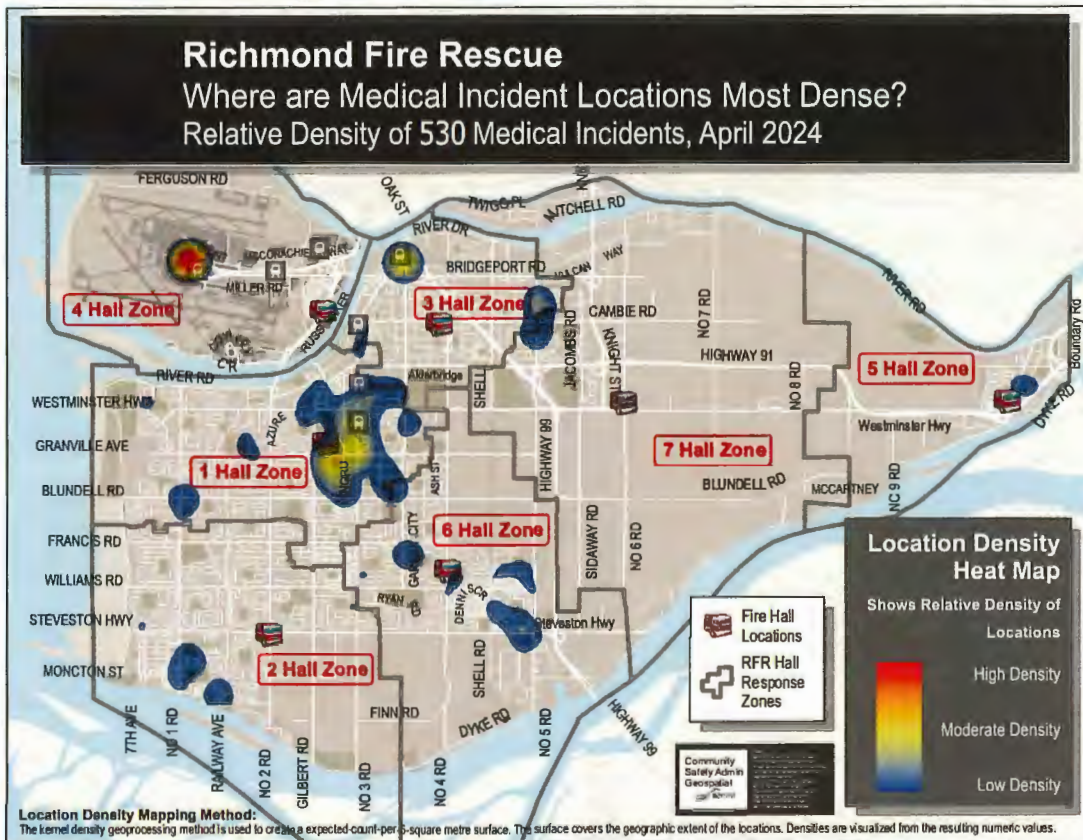
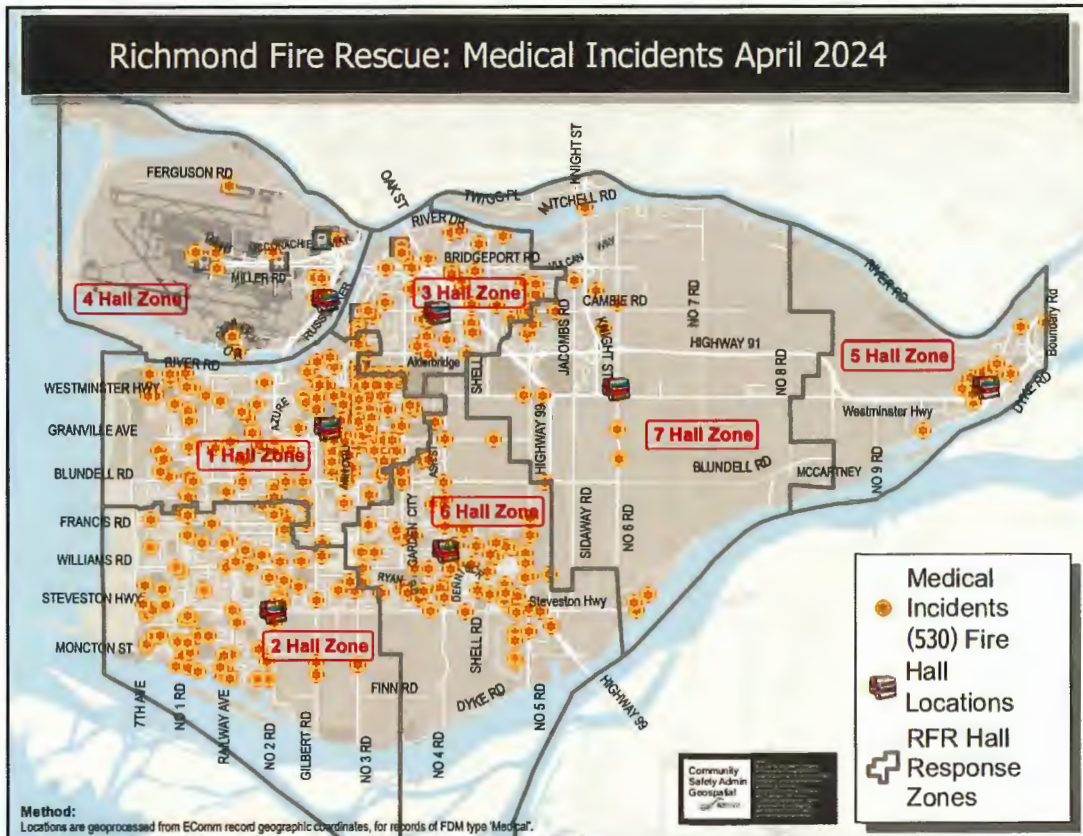
Start of Covid-19 pandemic

Figure 1: Location of reportable fire incidents attended in April 2024 (total 46)



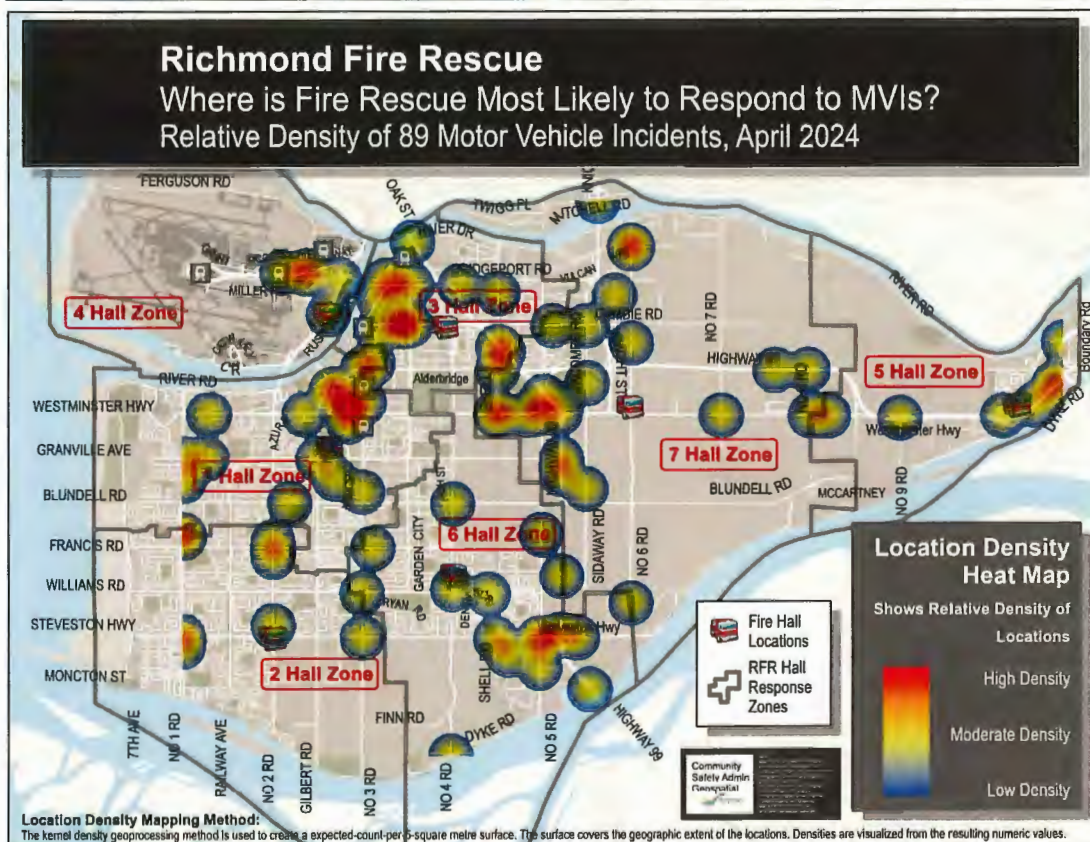
7672426

Figure 2: Location of reportable medical incidents attended in April 2024 (total 530)



7672426

Figure 3: Location of reportable motor vehicle incidents (MVIs) attended in April 2024 (total 89)



7672426

Figure 4: Location of reportable overdose / poisoning incidents attended in April 2024 (total 26)

