



**To:** Community Safety Committee **Date:** May 11, 2026  
**From:** Anthony Capuccinello Iraci **File:** 09-5140-01/2025-Vol  
General Manager, Law and Community Safety 01  
**Re:** **Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – April 2026**

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**Staff Recommendation**

That the report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue Activity Report – April 2026”, dated May 11, 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 April 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 April 2026 incidents<sup>1</sup>:

##### *Structure Fire on No. 3 Road.*

On April 11, RFR emergency crews responded to a structure fire on No. 3 Road. The first-in apparatus responded to the report of a fire in the awning of a commercial store located on No. 3 Road. Upon arrival crews observed flames and heavy smoke above the main entrance. 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. A Fire Investigator attended to identify the cause and origin of the fire. RCMP attended the scene.

##### *Vehicle Incident on River Road*

On April 14, RFR emergency crews responded to a car in a ditch on River Road. The first-in apparatus found a vehicle partly submerged in a ditch on the south side of River Road. The crews were able to remove the passenger from the vehicle. BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) staff responded and assisted with patient care. One lane of River Road was temporarily closed while the vehicle was removed.

##### *Hazardous Materials Incident on Brunswick Drive*

On April 16, RFR emergency crews responded to a report of a gas leak at an elementary school. The first-in apparatus located a main gas line that had been damaged and confirmed a natural gas leak. The gas line to the school was shut off and the school was ventilated. A Fortis BC representative attended the scene to investigate. Fortis BC later declared that the building was clear of any dangerous levels of gas. School staff called for the students to be picked up early due to a slight smell of gas in the building.

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

### *Structure Fire on Bennett Road*

On April 23, RFR emergency crews responded to a structure fire on Bennett Road. The first-in apparatus observed a ground fire outside the building in addition to the fire located on a 3rd floor balcony. RFR crews quickly extinguished the exterior fire and then proceeded inside the building to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. When crews reached the unit with the balcony fire, it was discovered the door was locked and the occupant inside was refusing entry to RFR crews. RCMP attended the scene. Prior to RCMP arrival a second occupant of the unit provided a key to gain access. Once crews gained access, the fire was quickly extinguished. Richmond Emergency Support Services was notified to provide support for the displaced residents.

### Emergency Response

Table 1 provides incident data and comparisons for April 2025 and April 2026. In April 2026, there were 1,030 reported incidents of all types, representing an overall decrease of 2 per cent compared to the previous year.

<b>Table 1: Total Incidents - April 2026</b>					
	<b>Incident Totals April (2026)</b>	<b>Incident Totals April (2025)</b>	<b>Number Change from April 2025 to 2026</b>	<b>Percentage Change from April 2025 to 2026</b>	<b>5 Year Average for April</b>
Active Alarm	143	156	-13	-8	145
Explosion	0	0	-	-	-
Fire	49	45	+4	+9	42
Hazardous Materials	5	10	-5	-50	5
Medical	562	573	-11	-2	522
Motor Vehicle Incident	64	84	-20	-24	76
Public Hazard	9	8	+1	+13	8
Public Service	98	86	+12	+14	84
Response Cancelled/Unfounded	96	85	+11	+13	72
Specialized Transport	4	3	+1	+33	2
Technical Rescue	0	0	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,030</b>	<b>1,050</b>	<b>-20</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>957</b>

The average time on scene for emergency response crews in April 2026 was 27 minutes per event, the average time on scene in April 2025 was 29 minutes. The time spent on the scene can vary due to the complexity and severity of each incident.

In April 2026, 49 fire incidents were reported to the BC Office of the Fire Commissioner, up from 45 in April 2025. The average number of fires reported each April over the last five years is 42.

Fire damage and property losses during April 2026 are estimated at \$18,175. The total building/asset and content value at risk is estimated at \$544,010, and the total value preserved from damage is \$525,835. These numbers translate to 97 per cent of the value protected (Table 2).

<b>Table 2: Fire Incidents By Type and Loss Estimates - April 2026</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	4	261,100	4,500	182,760	-	439,360
Multi-Family Residence	3	17,500	1,000	-	-	16,500
Commercial	3	66,000	3,500	-	-	62,500
Outdoor	35	8,650	1,175	-	-	7,475
Vehicle/Vessel	4	8,000	8,000	-	-	-
<b>Totals<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>49</b>	<b>361,250</b>	<b>18,175</b>	<b>182,760</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>525,835</b>

RFR Public Outreach & Education

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

- April 16 - Fire and life safety educational visit with the “Big Rig” was provided to a K/1 class of 23 students from Whiteside Elementary for completion of the online education program.
- April 18 - FireSmart education and awareness initiatives information presentation was given at the Richmond Public Library. The education booth was set up at the Richmond Public Library with information for homeowners and books for children. Over 85 attendees visited the booth.
- April 22 - Fire and life safety educational visit with the “Big Rig” was provided to a K/1 class of 22 students from McKay Elementary for completion of the online education program.
- April 23 - Fire and life safety educational hall visit was provided to three classes of students from Tomsett Elementary for completion of the online education program. Over 66 students visited Cambie Fire Hall No 3.
- April 24 - Fire and life safety educational visit with the “Big Rig” was provided to a K/1 class of 21 students from McKinney Elementary for completion of the online education program.

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<sup>2</sup> 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.

- April 25 - A fire and life safety presentation was given to Imperial Grand Strata group, including discussions and questions about fire safety inside their building, test fire drills and voluntary resident evacuations. Over 100 residents attended.
- April 29 - Fire and life safety educational hall tour of Brighthouse Fire Hall No. 1 was provided to 40 Air Cadets providing information on smoke detectors, cooking at home and the medical ID program. Over 66 students visited Cambie Fire Hall No 3.

### Emergency Programs

There was one Emergency Support Services (ESS) response for April 2026. One person was supported for a total of 3 nights through the Provincial ESS program.

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

- April 1 – Completed the Connect & Prepare facilitator training for Building Resilient Neighborhoods Connect & Prepare program. Delivery of the first workshop is planned for the Fall in partnership with staff from the Richmond Family Place.
- April 1 – Hosted an Emergency Programs information booth to reach community members who were attending the Burning of the Chametz event held at Brighthouse Fire Hall No. 1. Attendees were provided with information on personal preparedness. Approximately 15-20 members of the public attended.
- April 1 & 2 – To strengthen inter-agency operational consistency staff delivered Incident Command Safety (ICS) 200 training, alongside the Delta Police Department. This cross-agency training will enable staff to deliver ICS 200 training courses to City Staff going forward.
- April 10 & 27 – Provided radio equipment support to major events including the Cherry Blossom Festival at Garry Point on April 10 (35 radios), and to the Ships to Shore Program on April 27 (82 radios).
- April 11 – Facilitated an Emergency Support Services training exercise with Canadian Red Cross at Sea Island Community Centre. Volunteers simulated setting up a reception center with the associated actions and support services in scenario to emulate the response to an apartment fire. There were more than 25 attendees.
- April 16 – Participated in a “Final Whistle” tabletop emergency exercise at Vancouver International Airport. The exercise transitioned to a debrief and evaluation session, supporting inter-agency coordination and airport-related emergency preparedness.

- April 16 - Provided support to a Canadian Red Cross emergency preparedness presentation for a senior's group of 30 attendees with S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Staff assisted with answering questions from attendees related to emergency preparedness and provided printed materials from Prepared BC in both English and Chinese languages.
- April 17 & 19 – Participated in training and knowledge-sharing sessions focused on Emergency Support Services coordination, evacuation support, and volunteer management. Team members attended the 2026 Network of Emergency Support Services Teams conference in Kamloops, to strengthening connections with emergency management partners across British Columbia.
- April 20 – Participated in a Vancouver Fraser Port Authority Operations tour to gain insight into port operations, emergency preparedness, and incident management structures. This opportunity highlighted inter-agency coordination, risk considerations, and response protocols relevant to municipal emergency management and large-scale incidents impacting port lands and surrounding communities.
- April 22, 29 – Designed a curriculum delivered over two full day workshops to develop the City's All-Hazards Incident Management Team and prepare to support the City for any emergency events during the Richmond Celebrates Soccer period (June 11 to July 19). These workshops emphasized applied incident management principles, Emergency Operations Center (EOC) roles and responsibilities, the EOC planning process, and walk-through scenario training.
- April 24 – Attended a Justice Institute of BC course for Emergency Operations Centre Planning, hosted by TransLink. Staff were able to complete this training in preparation of the Richmond Celebrates Soccer activities. The training provided the opportunity to work collaboratively and gain familiarity with partners at TransLink to work through an emergency scenario, strengthening the relationship with this external partner.

### **Budgetary Implications**

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

### **Conclusion**

During April 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

May 11, 2026

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### **Report Contributors**

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

Endorsed by Serena Lusk, CAO

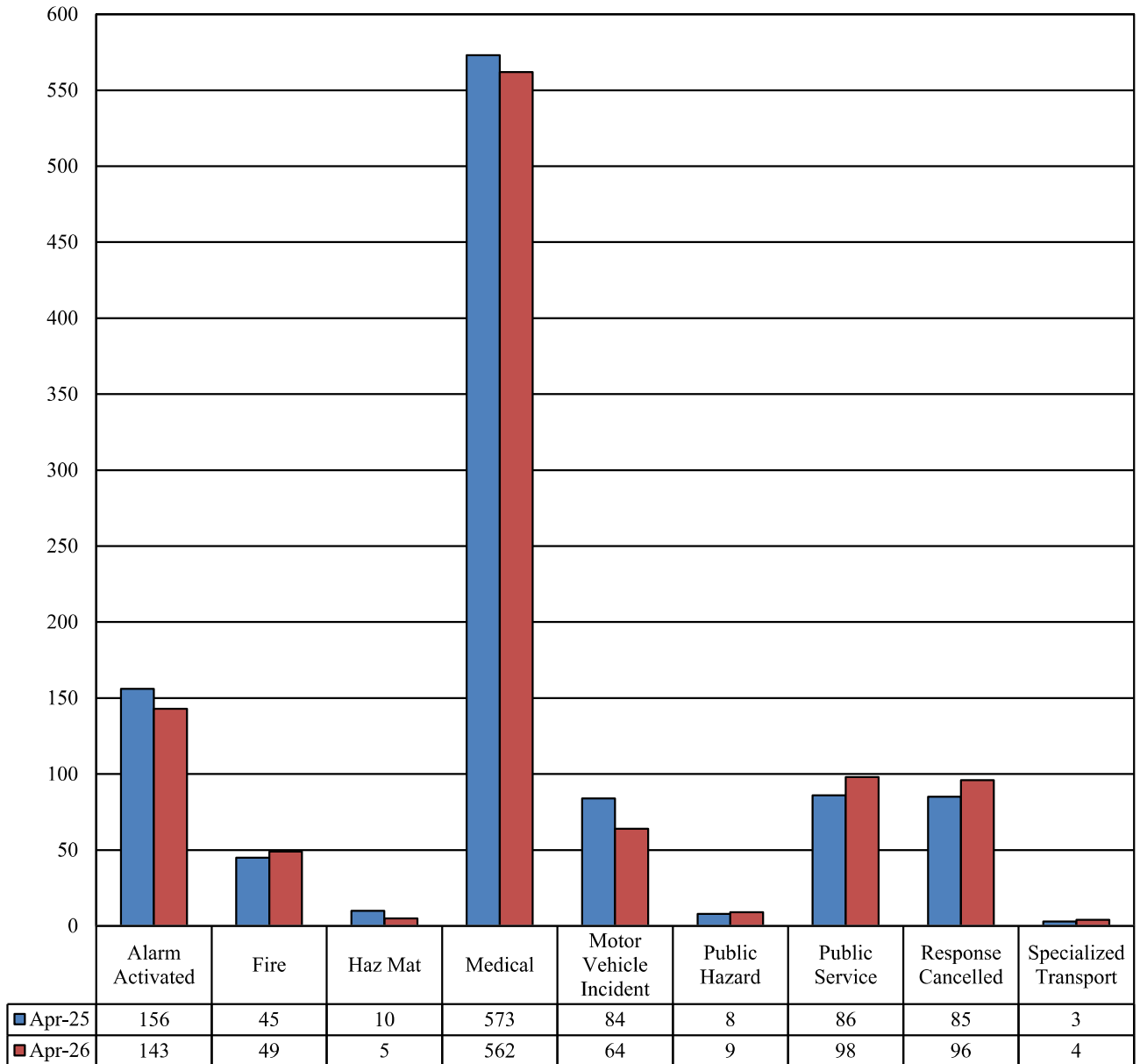
Att. 1 – Emergency Response Activity for April 2026

**Emergency Response Activity for April 2026**

Incident Volumes

The following chart provides a month-to-month comparison of incidents occurring in April 2025 and 2026. In April 2026, there were 1,030 total incidents, compared to 1,050 in April 2025. This represents a decrease of 2 per cent between last year and 2026.

Table 3: April 2025 & April 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 55 per cent of the total emergency responses from RFR during April 2026. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for April 2025 and 2026, by sub-type, is set out in the following table. There were 562 medical incidents in April 2026 compared to 573 in April 2025, a decrease of 2 per cent.

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

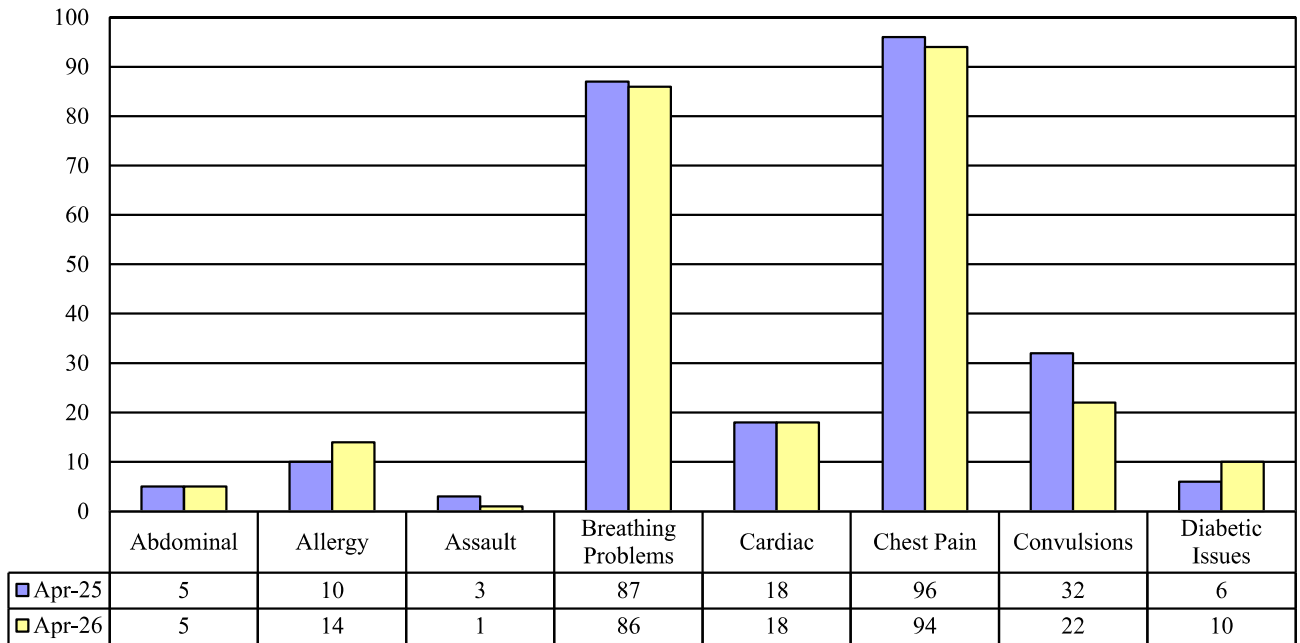
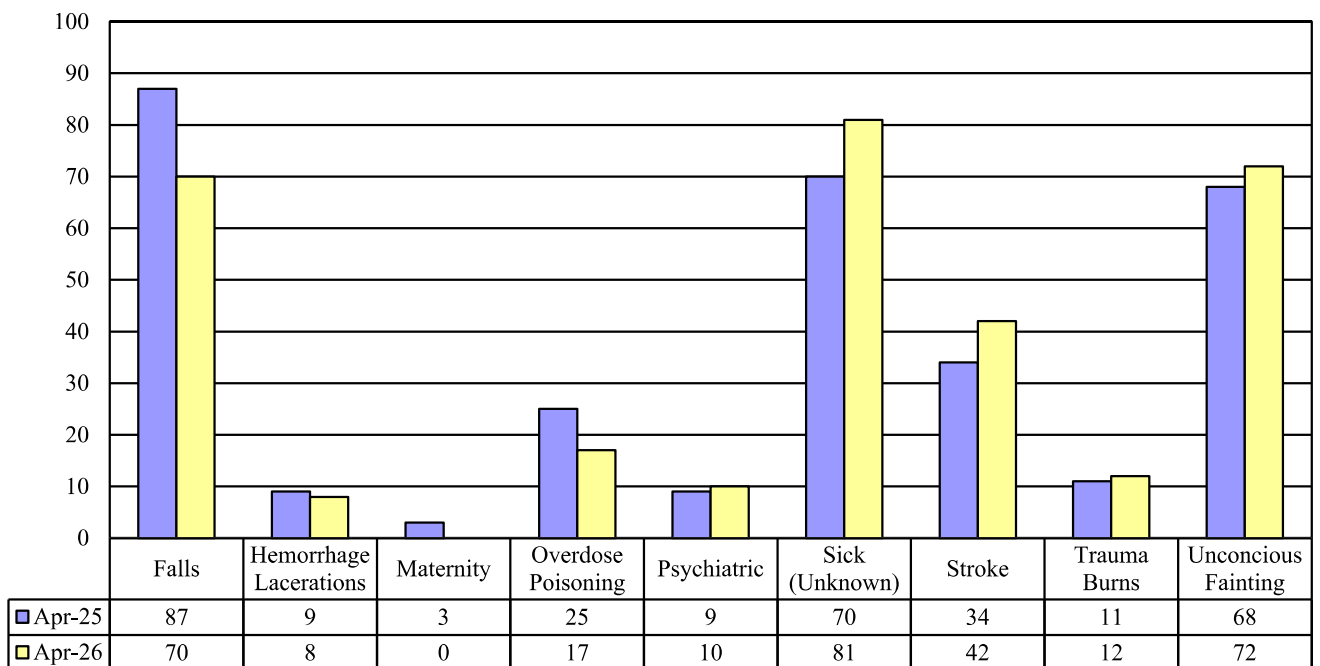


Table 4b: April 2025 & April 2026 Medical Calls by Type



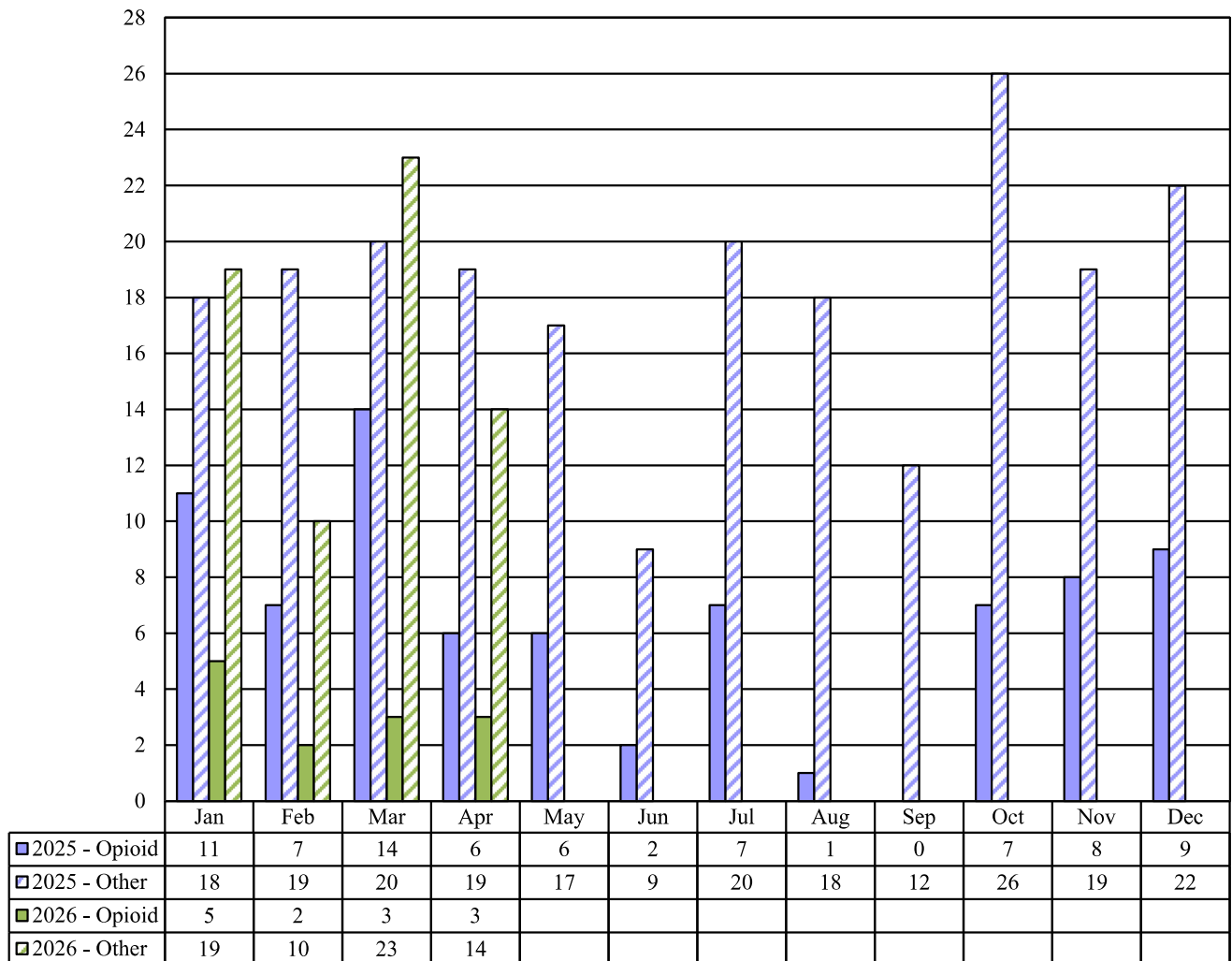
Overdose / Poisoning

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 April 2026, RFR staff administered one dose of Naloxone.

Table 4c: Overdose / Poisoning Incidents by Type – April 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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Other	19	10	23	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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



Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for April 2026 are listed below:

<b>Table 5: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – April 2026</b>			
	<b>Suspicious</b>	<b>Accidental</b>	<b>Undetermined</b>
Residential - Single-family	-	4	-
Residential - Multi-family	1	2	-
Commercial/Industrial	1	2	-
Outdoor	13	18	4
Vehicle	-	3	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>5</b>

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

<b>Table 6: Hazardous Materials Incidents by Type – April 2026</b>	
	<b>Details</b>
Gases (Natural / Propane)	5
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5</b>

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

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

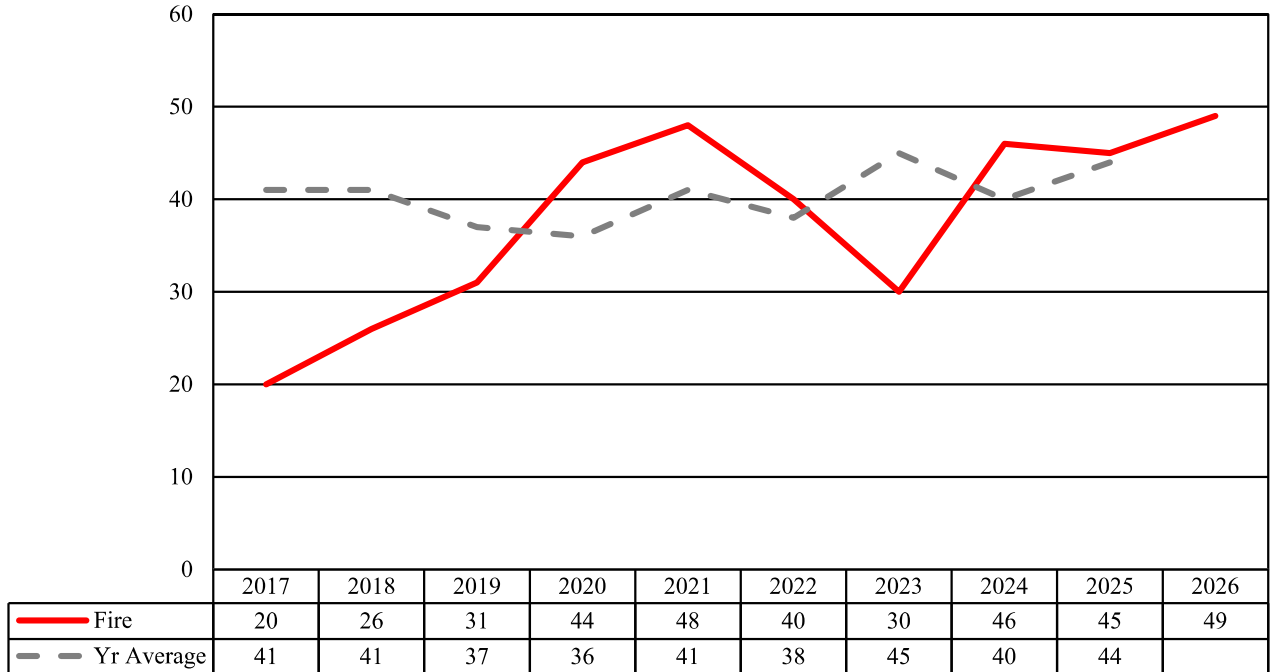
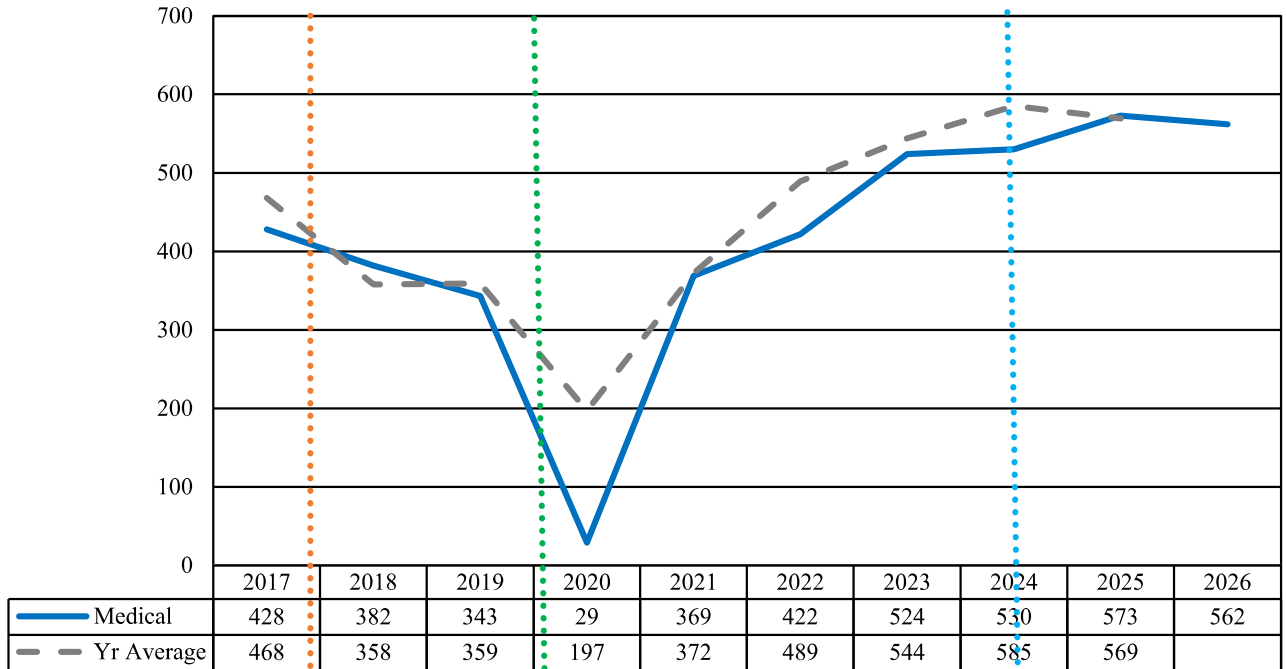


Table 7b: Total Medical Calls for Service in April and year averages from 2017 to 2026



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 April and year averages from 2017 to 2026

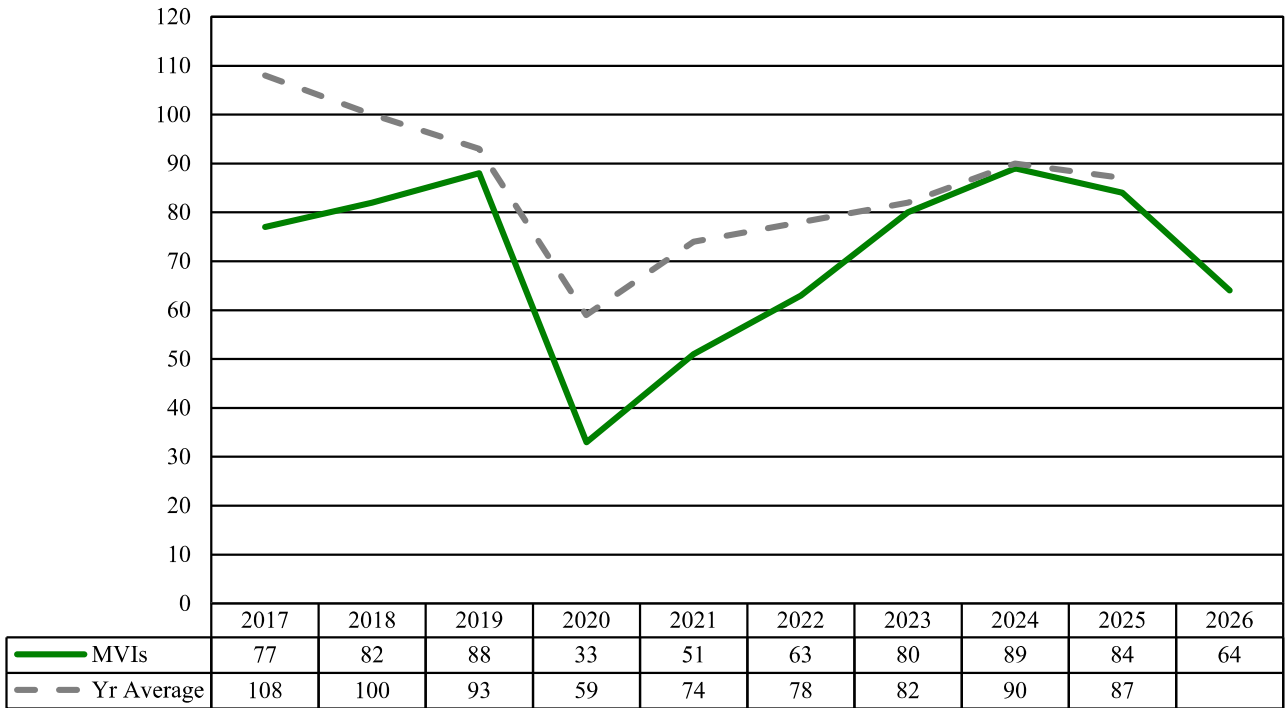


Table 7d: Total Overdose/Poisoning(ODP) Calls for Service in April and year averages from 2017 to 2026

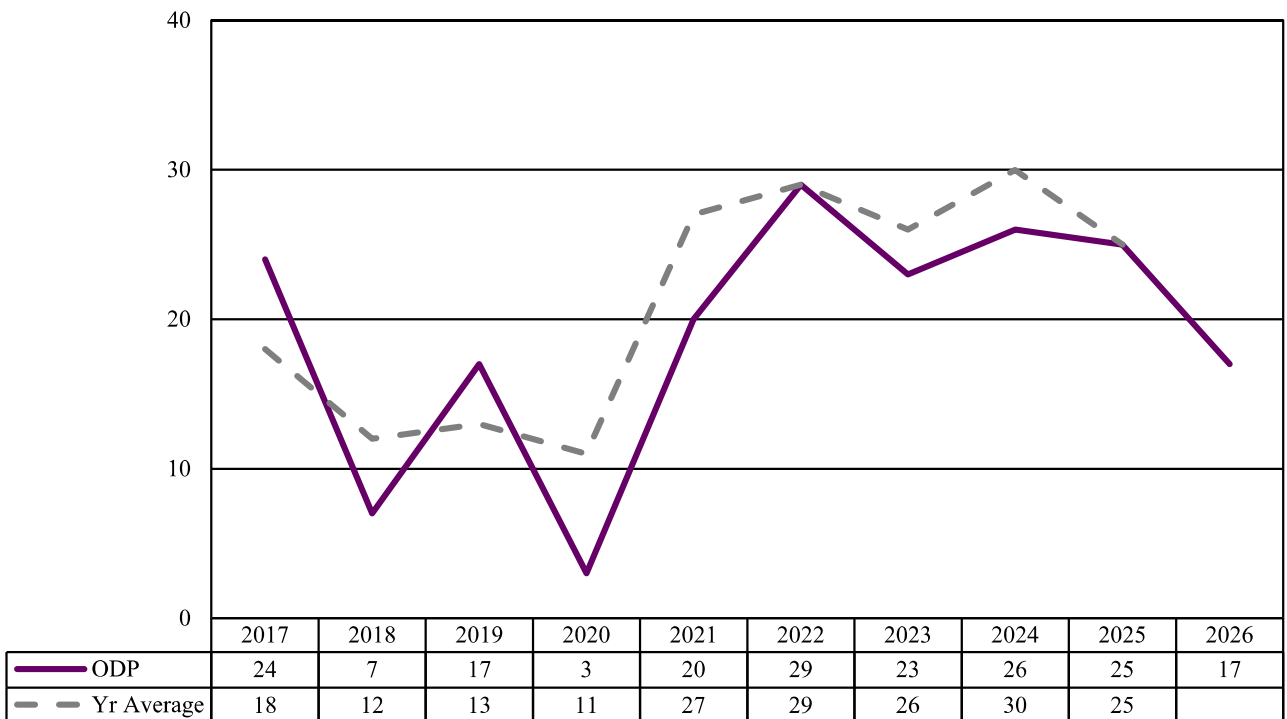




Figure 1b: Density of reportable fire incidents attended in April 2026 (total 49)

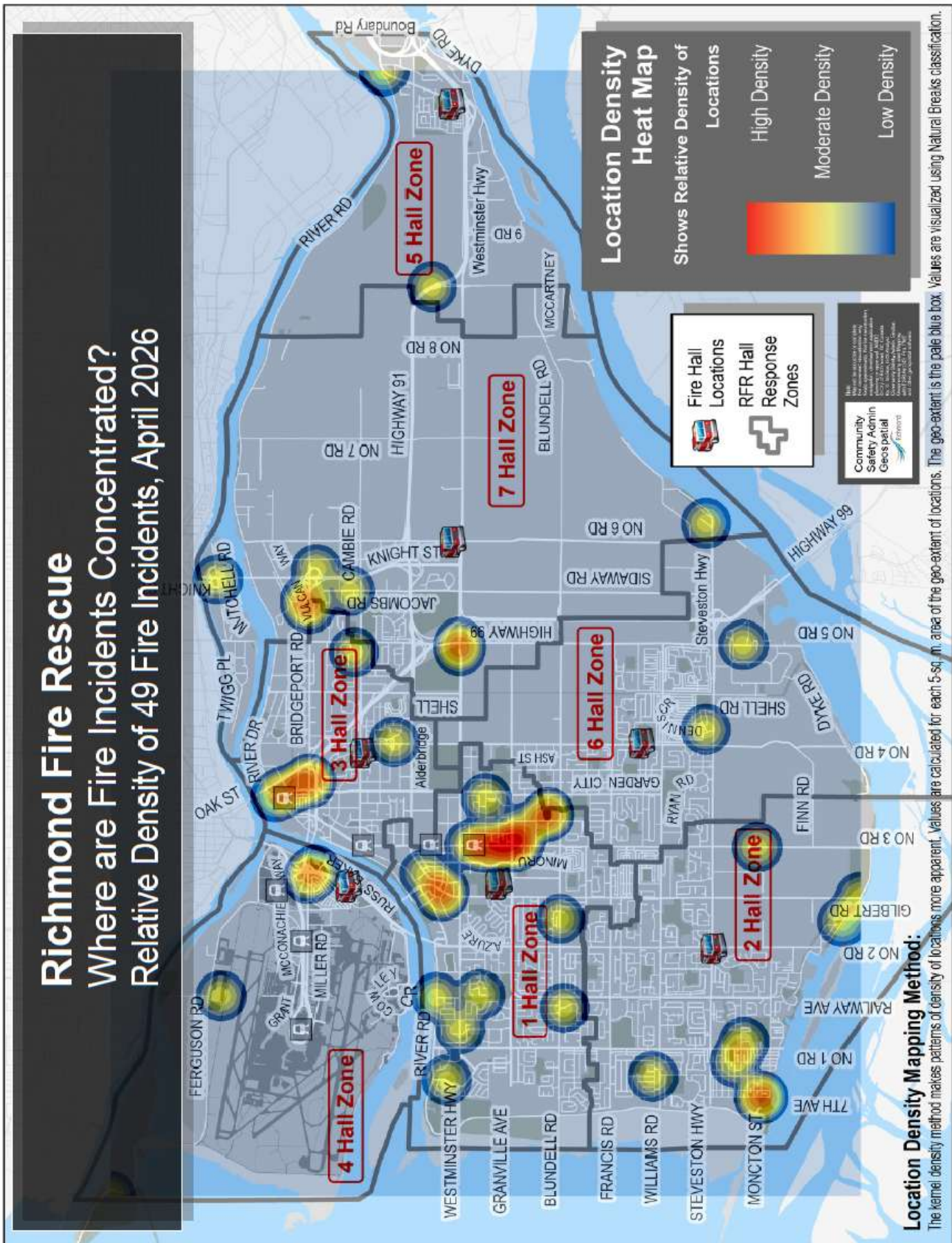


Figure 2a: Location of reportable medical incidents attended in April 2026 (total 562)

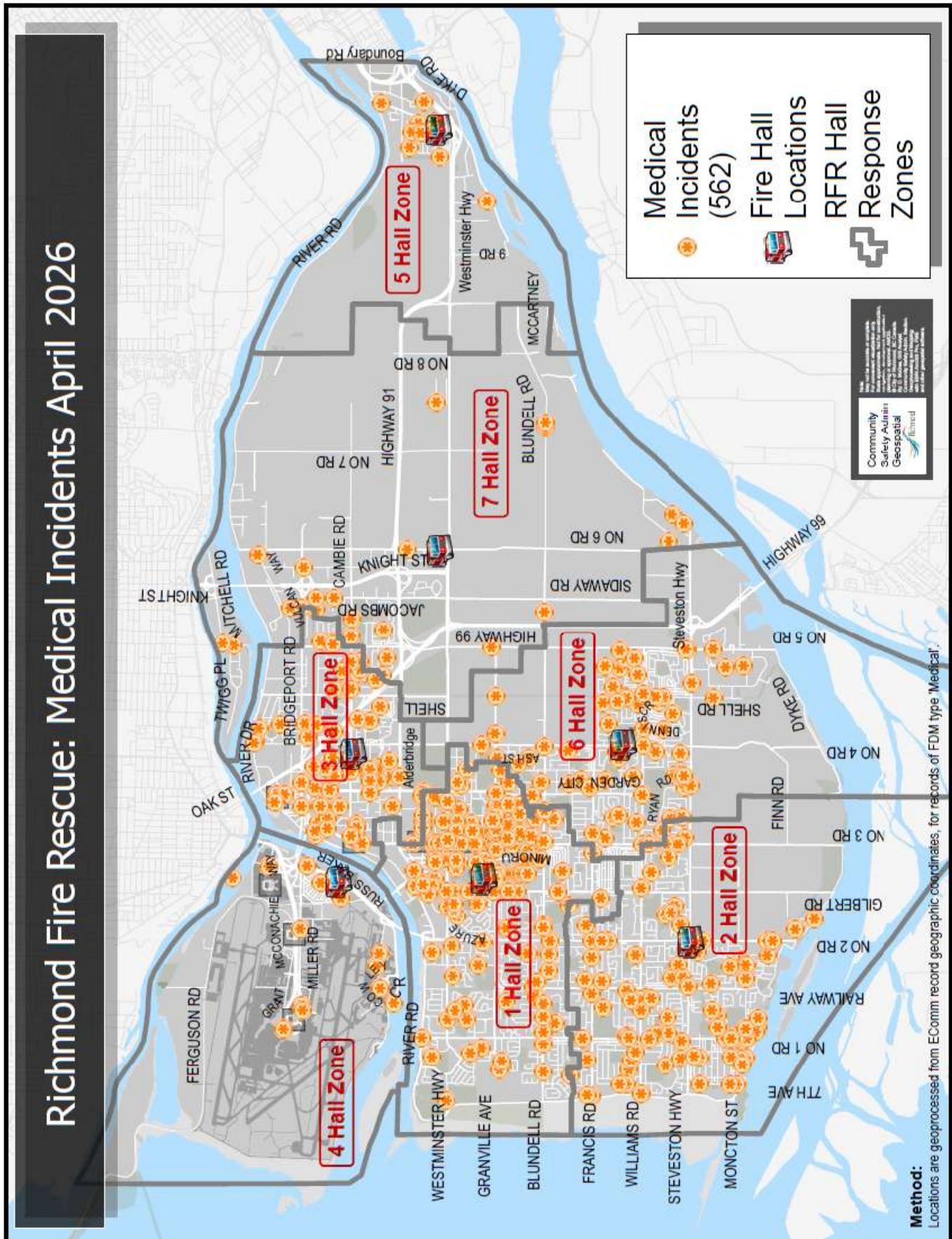






Figure 3b: Density of reportable motor vehicle incidents (MVIs) attended in April 2026 (total 64)

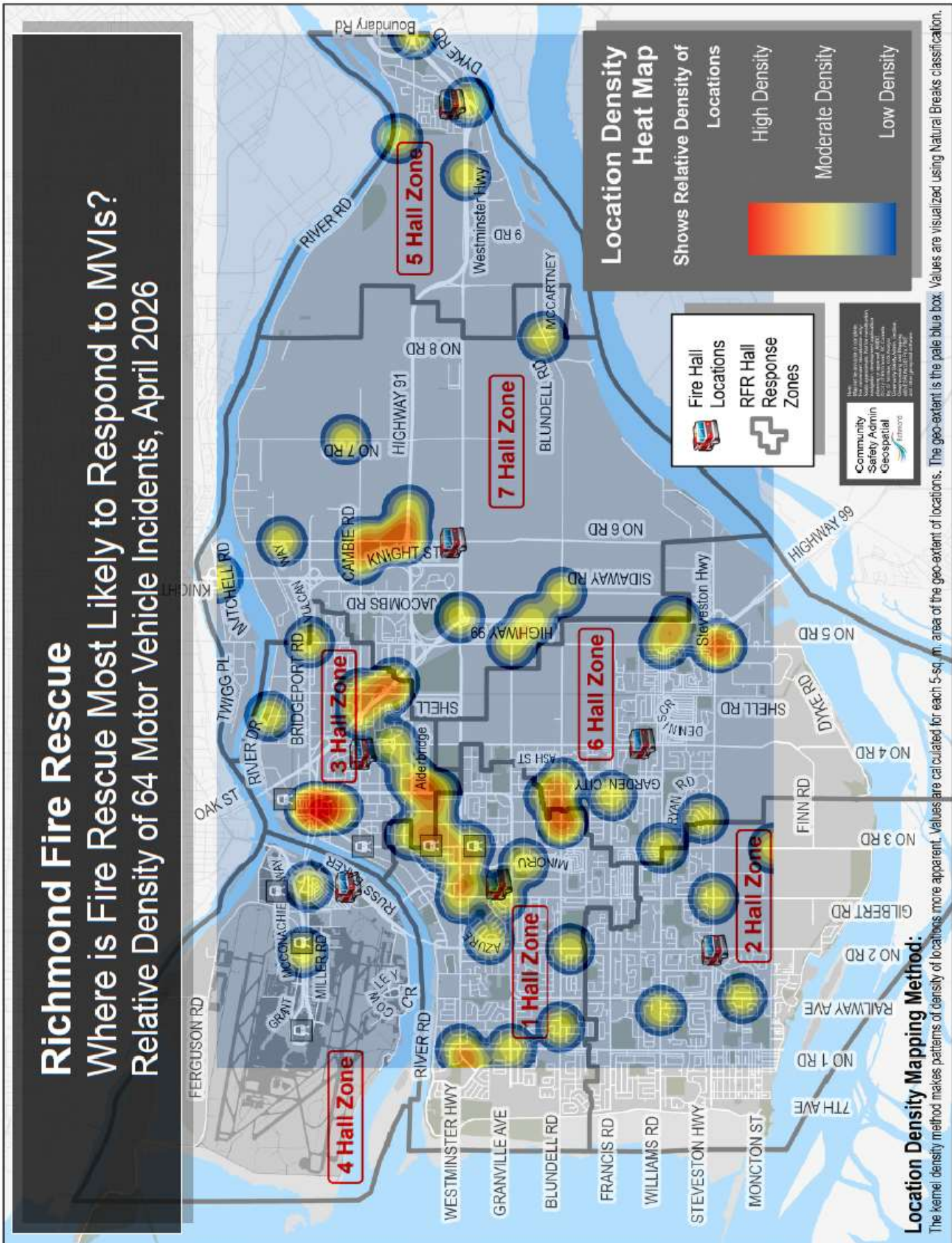


Figure 4a: Location of reportable overdose/poisoning incidents attended in April 2026 (total 17)

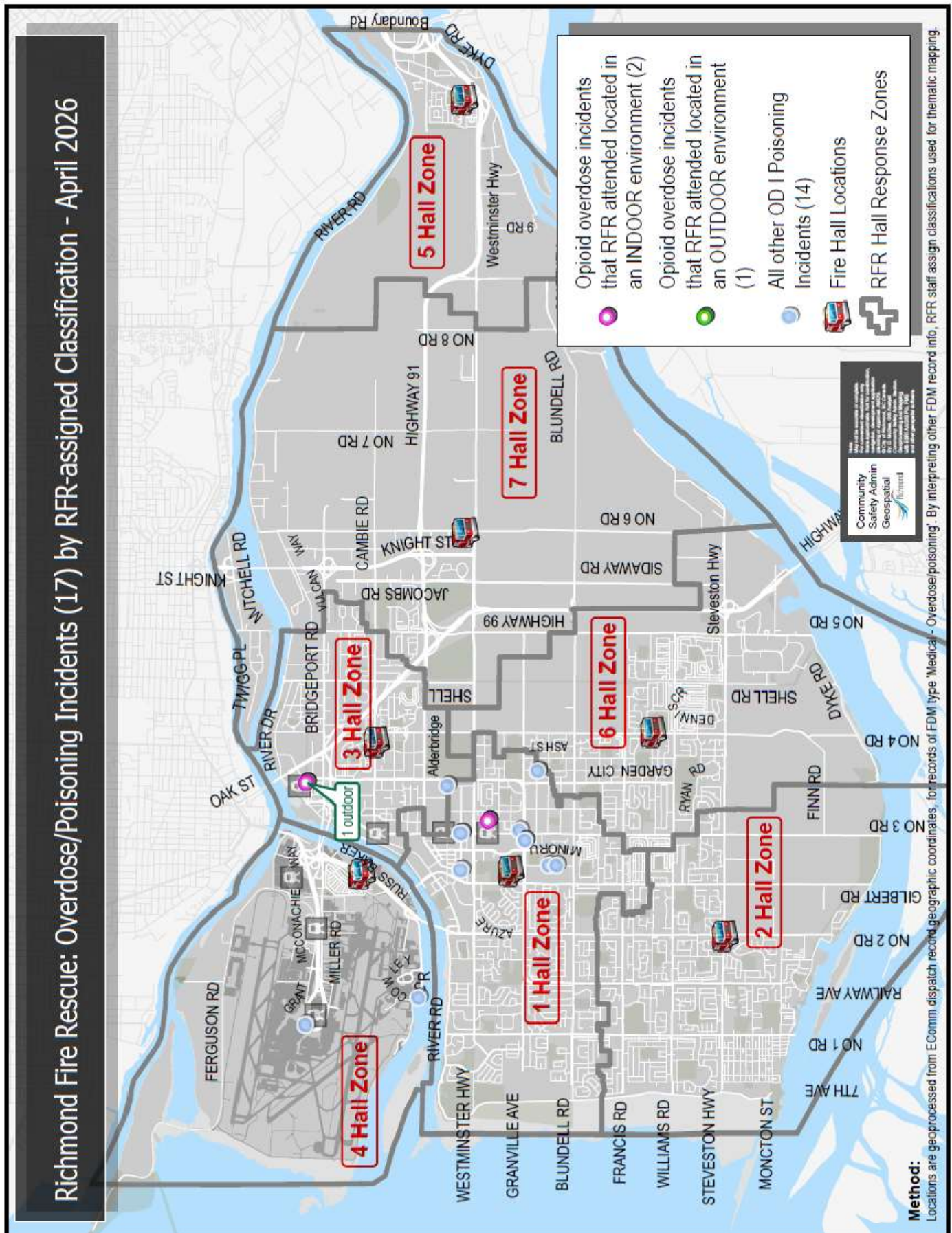


Figure 4b: Density of reportable overdose/poisoning incidents attended in April 2026 (total 17)

