



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

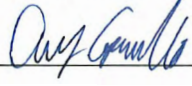


To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** September 9, 2024
From: Jim Wishlove **File** 09-5140-01/2024-Vol
 Fire Chief 01
Re: **Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – August 2024**

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – August 2024”, dated September 9, 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 August, staff engaged in the following activities:

- Staff collaborated with Public Works, Parks, Coast Guard, Community Services, Corporate Communications, and others to coordinate a response to potential threats due to debris and high stream flows following the dam breach of the Chilcotin River Landslide.
- Staff met with Emergency Programs staff from the City of Coquitlam to discuss the Emergency Support Services program delivery in both cities and share ideas on how to strengthen and collaborate the program in the future.
- Staff delivered Incident Command Systems (ICS 200) training to City staff and partner agencies for over twenty participants.
- Staff worked in the Emergency Command Centre (ECC) at the Maritime Festival, coordinating with First Aid, RCMP, RFR and event staff planning to ensure the safety of all attendees.
- Staff attended the Oval Community Day and were able to engage with members of the public and provide emergency preparedness information and resources to over 300 attendees.
- Staff met with the Emergency Management staff from Vancouver Fraser Port Authority (VFPA) for a tour of their facilities and to discuss communication methods and collaboration for preparatory initiatives to enhance future responses involving the Fraser River and VFPA properties.

Public Outreach & Education

During the month of August, 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 300 participants.
- Participated in multiple community events, with over 7,000 participants, including: the Maritime Festival, Cambie Carnival, Kiwanis Richmond, Steveston Block Party, Canada Post Safety Day and Kidworld.

- Additionally, staff continued with life safety educational social media videos and posts.

Internal Staff Training

In August 2024, staff organized in-house training events including Technical Water Rescue and ongoing recruit training evaluations.

In August 2023, staff organized training schedules, logistics, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and gear in preparation for the arrival of twelve firefighter recruits in early September.

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 August 2024, there were 1,195 reported incidents of all types, representing an overall increase of 12 per cent in incidents between August 2023 and August 2024 (Table 1).

	Incident Totals August (2024)	Incident Totals August (2023)	Number Change from August 2023 to 2024	Percentage Change from August 2023 to 2024	5 Year Average for August
Active Alarm	188	177	+11	+6	157
Explosion	0	1	-1	-100	1
Fire	52	68	-16	-24	55
Hazardous Materials	7	13	-6	-46	9
Medical	649	537	+112	+21	448
Motor Vehicle Incident	84	77	+7	+9	75
Public Hazard	12	7	+5	+71	9
Public Service	121	93	+28	+30	102
Response Cancelled/Unfounded	80	87	-7	-8	62
Specialized Transport	2	2	0	0	3
Technical Rescue	0	1	-1	-100	0
Total	1,195	1,063	+132	+12	921

The average time on scene in August 2024 for emergency response crews was 32 minutes per event, which is higher than the number recorded in August 2023: 30 minutes. The time spent on scene can vary due to the nature and severity of each incident.

In August 2024, there were 52 fire incidents reported to the Office of the Fire Commissioner. This is lower than the number reported in August 2023. The average number of fires reported each August over the last five years is 55.

Fire damage and property losses during August 2024 is estimated at \$39,705. The total building/asset and content value at risk is estimated to be \$112,443,674 and the total value preserved from damage was \$112,403,969. These numbers translate to 99 per cent of value protected (Table 3), which is higher than the value observed in 2023: 89 per cent.

Table 2: Fire Incidents By Type and Loss Estimates - August 2024

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	-	-	-	-	-	-
Residential: Multi family	9	49,431,600	245	34,601,730	-	84,033,085
Commercial / Industrial	4	16,662,520	1,000	11,663,414	-	28,324,934
Outdoor	36	54,410	8,460	-	-	45,950
Vehicle/Vessel	3	30,000	30,000	-	-	-
Totals*	52	66,178,530	39,705	46,265,144	-	112,403,969

* 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 August 2024 incidents:

- **August 15, 2024 – Marine Vessel Fire on 7th Avenue.** Emergency crews responded to a marine vessel fire at the South end of 7th Avenue. First arriving crews applied firefighting foam to the vessel and quickly extinguished the fire. The Harbour Authority was on scene to assist with the rescue of the two occupants. There were no reports of injury to the public or RFR personnel. A Fire Investigator attended.
- **August 27, 2024 – Structure Fire on No 9. Road.** Emergency crews responded to a report of a fire inside a Commercial property. On arrival, crews were able to access the area and get water on to the fire. The fire was extinguished and crews remained onsite to carry out overhaul and to ensure the fire was completely extinguished by checking hotspots. There were no reports of injury to the public or RFR personnel. A Fire Investigator attended.

Financial Impact

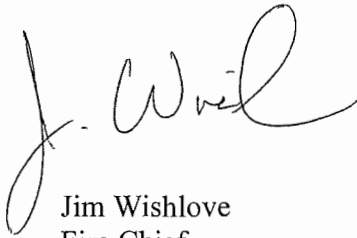
None.

September 9, 2024

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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 "W".

Jim Wishlove
Fire Chief
(604-303-2715)

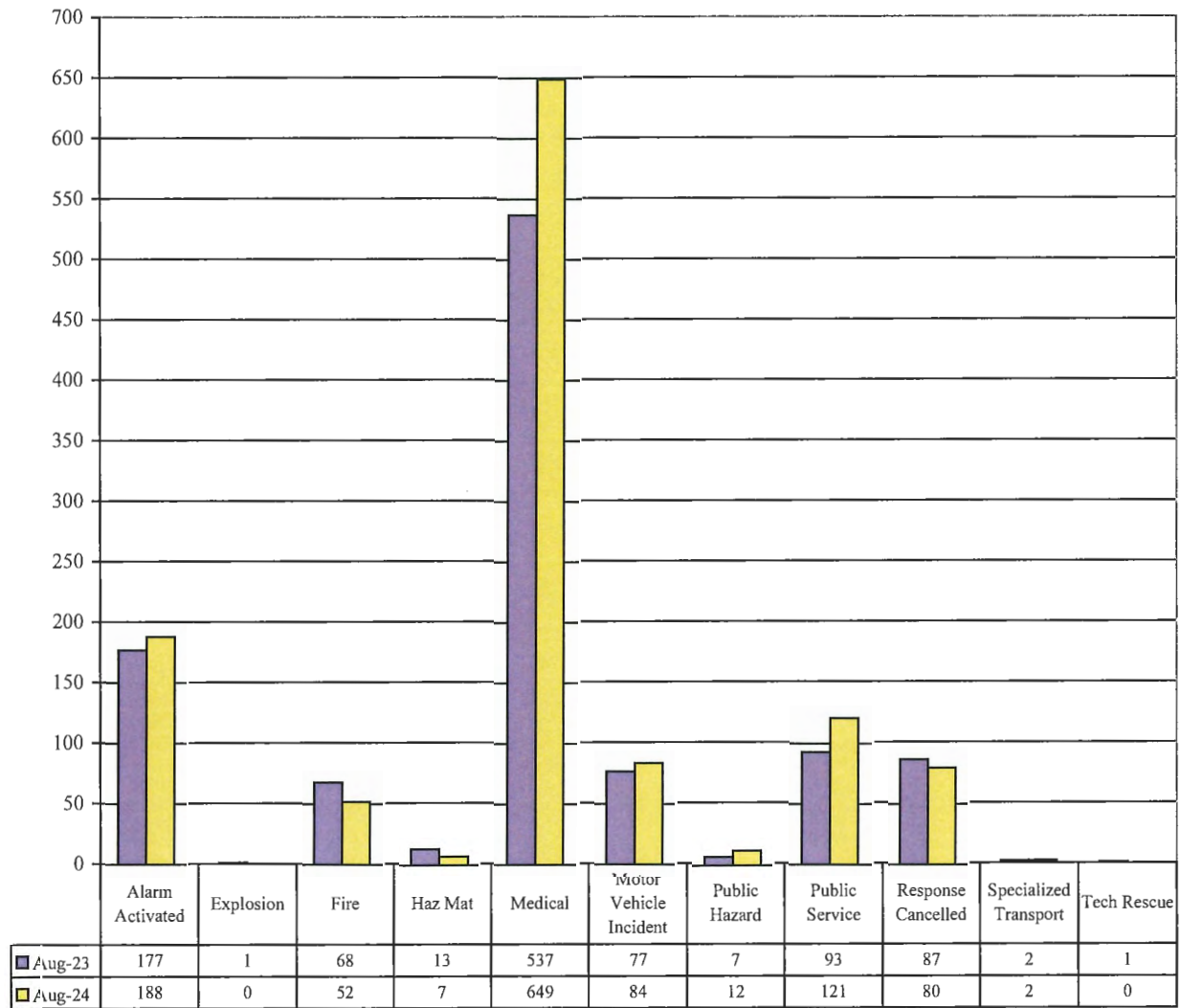
Att. 1: Emergency Response Activity for August 2024.

Emergency Response Activity for August 2024

Incident Volumes

The following chart provides a month-to-month comparison regarding incidents occurring in August 2023 and 2024. In August 2024, there were 1,195 total incidents, compared to 1,063 in August 2023. This represents an overall increase of 12 per cent between last year and 2024.

Table 3: August 2023 & August 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 54 per cent of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of August 2024. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for August 2023 and 2024 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were 649 medical incidents in August 2024 compared to 537 in August 2023, an increase of 21 per cent.

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

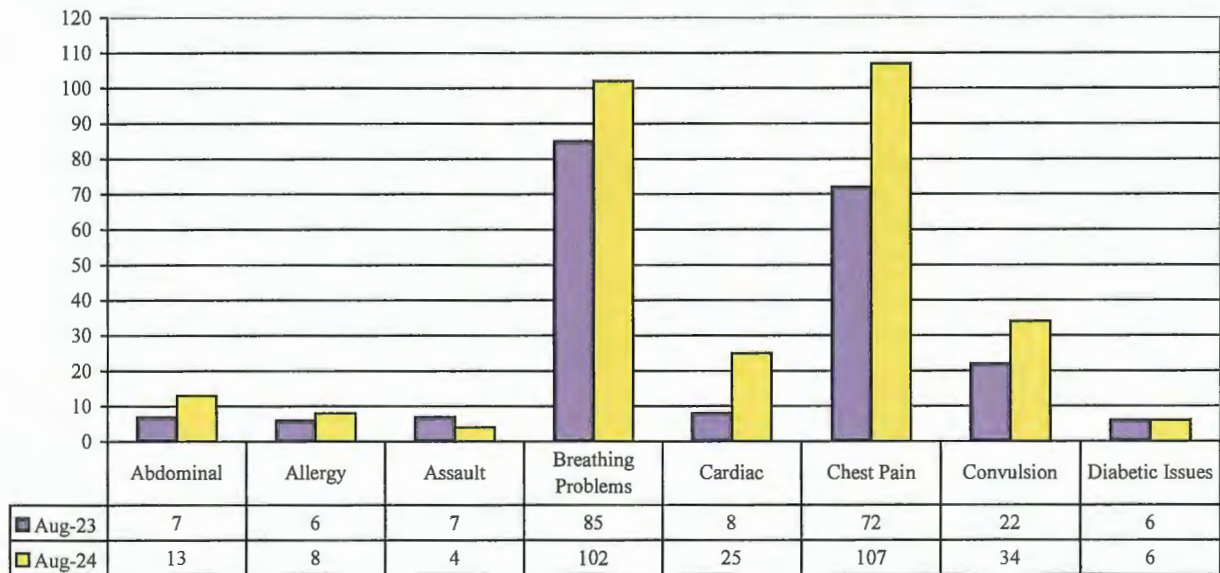
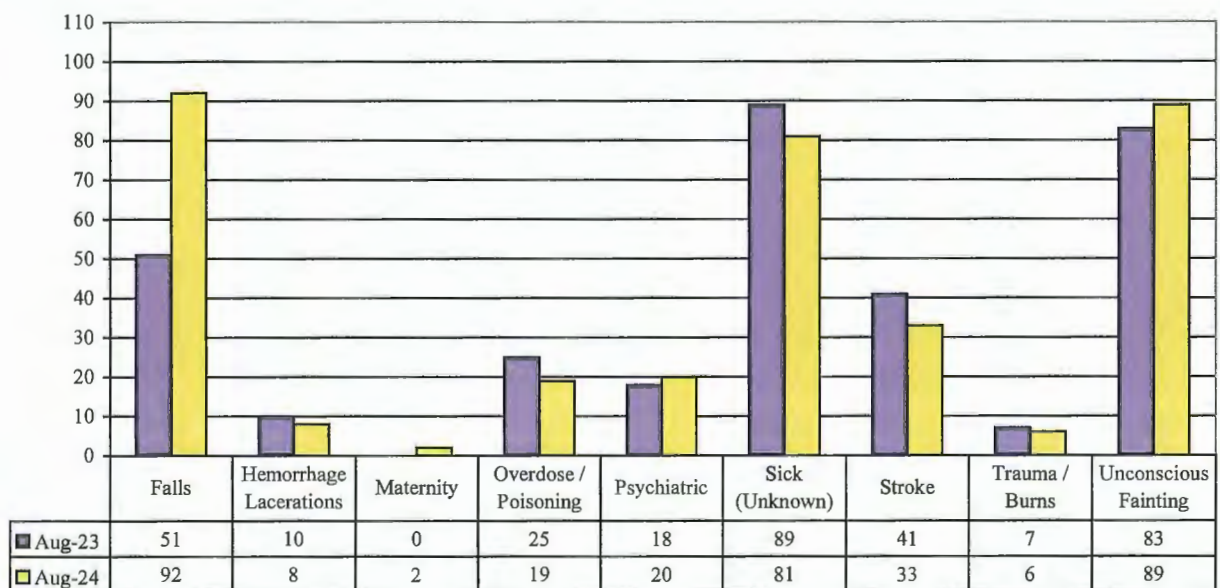


Table 4b: August 2023 & August 2024 Medical Calls by Type



The following chart provides the overdose/poisoning incident volume breakdown for August 2024. During August 2024, RFR staff administered Naloxone on two occasions.

Table 4c: Overdose / Poisoning Incidents By Type – August 2024	
Opioid overdose incidents that RFR attended located in an OUTDOOR environment.	4
Opioid overdose incidents that RFR attended located in an INDOOR environment.	5
All other OD / Poisoning Incidents	10
Totals	19

Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for August 2024 are listed below:

Table 5: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – August 2024			
	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	0	0	0
Residential - Multi-family	1	8	0
Commercial/Industrial	0	3	1
Outdoor	12	19	5
Vehicle	1	1	1
Totals	14	31	7

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 – August 2024	
	Details
Flammable / Combustible Liquids	1
Gasses (Natural / Propane)	5
Oxidizing Substances	1
Totals	7

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

This graph shows an overall decrease of 28 per cent of fires since 2015, 10 years.

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

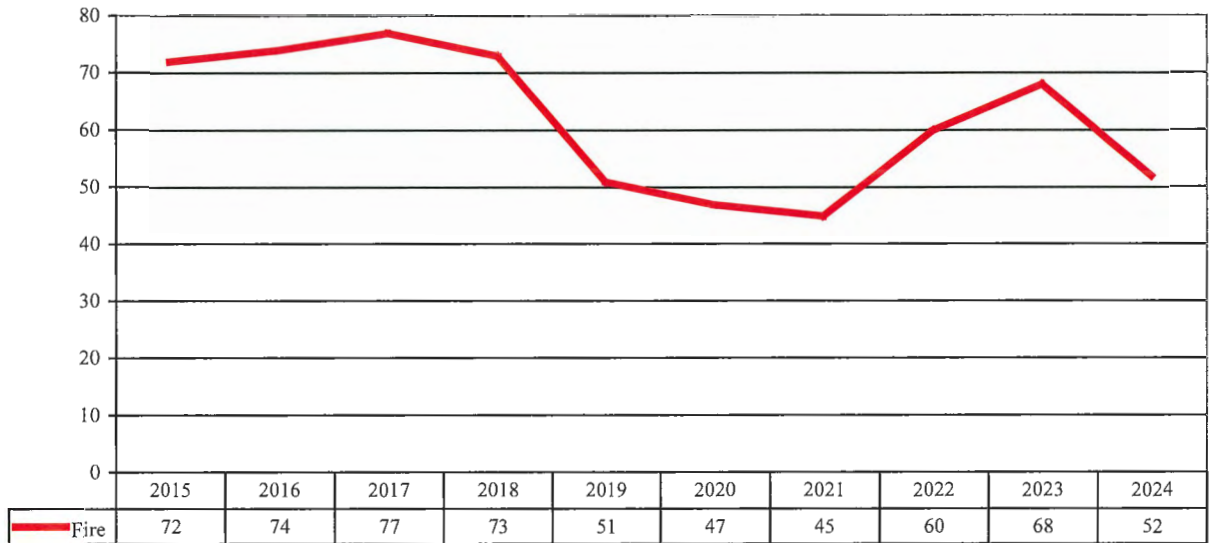
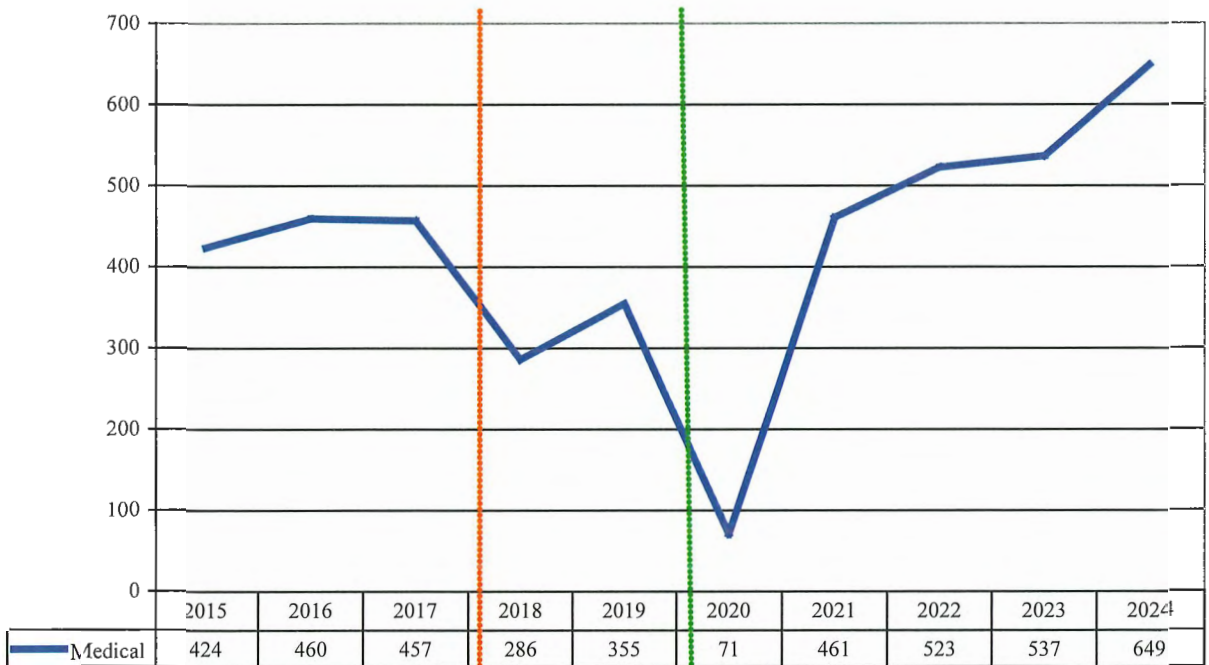


Table 7b: Total Medical Calls for Service in August from 2015 to 2024



Changes to BC Emergency Health Services Clinical Response Model dispatch system (2017-2018)
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Start of Covid-19 pandemic

Figure 1: Location of reportable fire incidents attended in August 2024 (total 52)

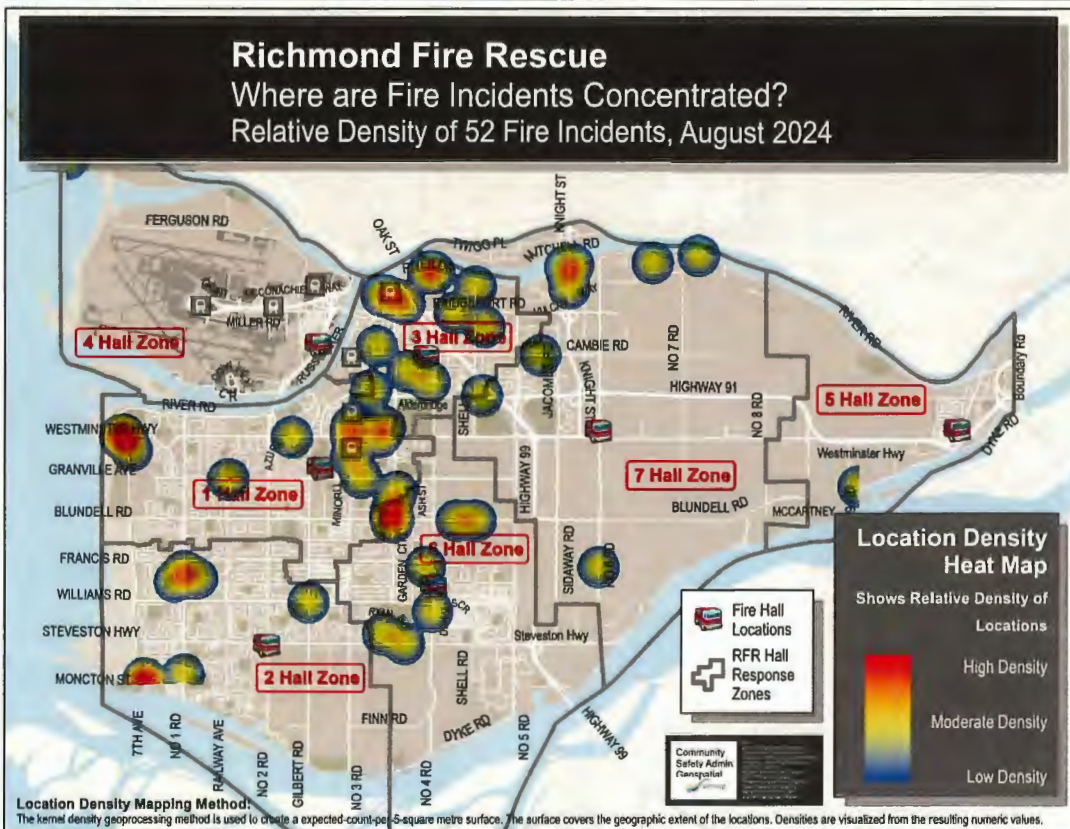


Figure 2: Location of reportable medical incidents attended in August 2024 (total 649)

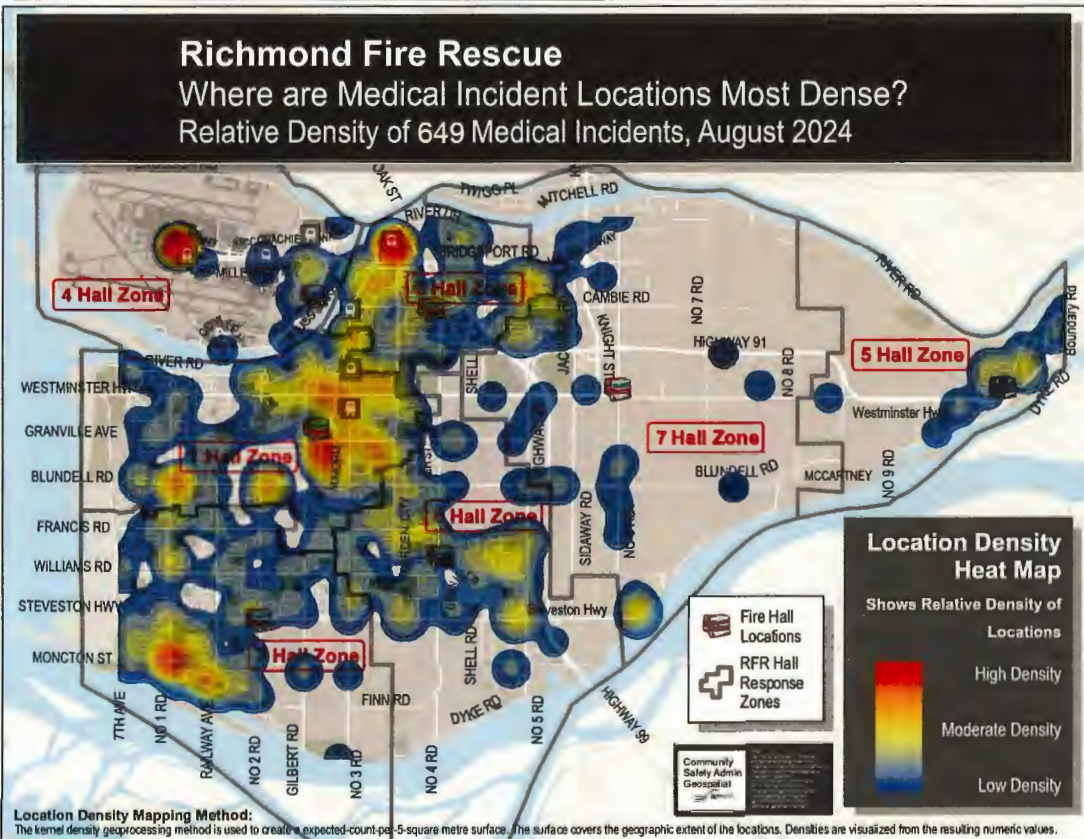
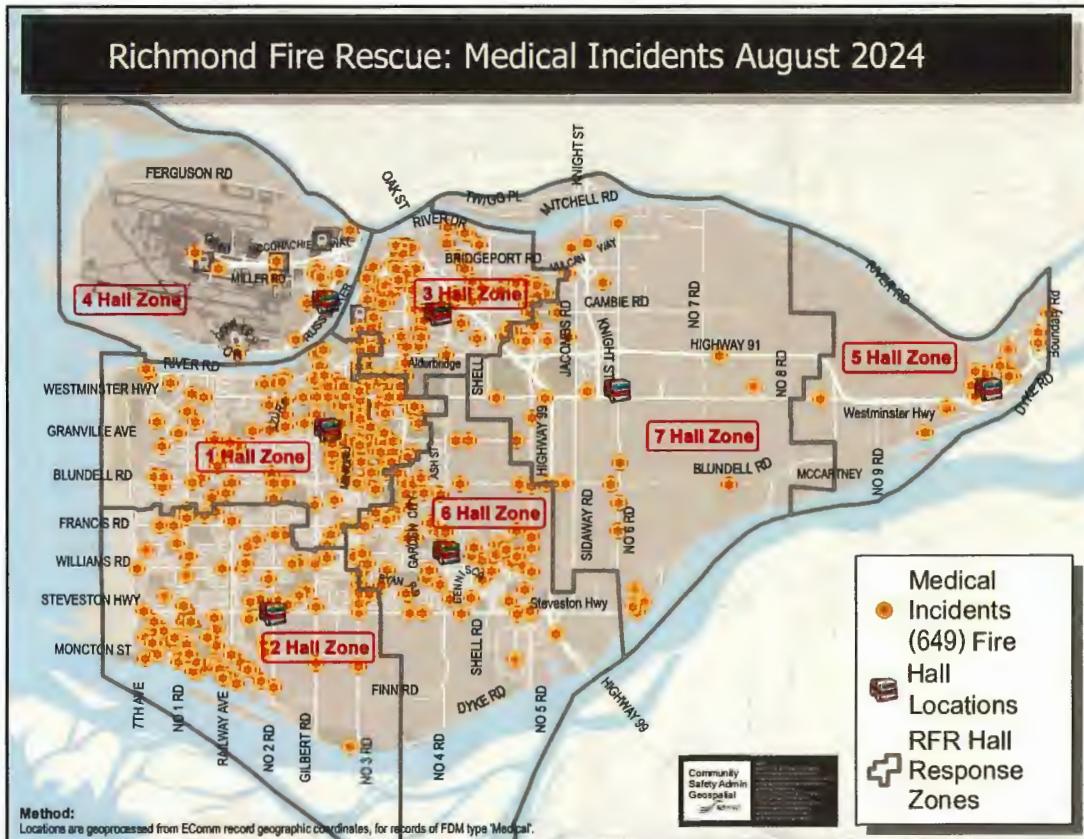
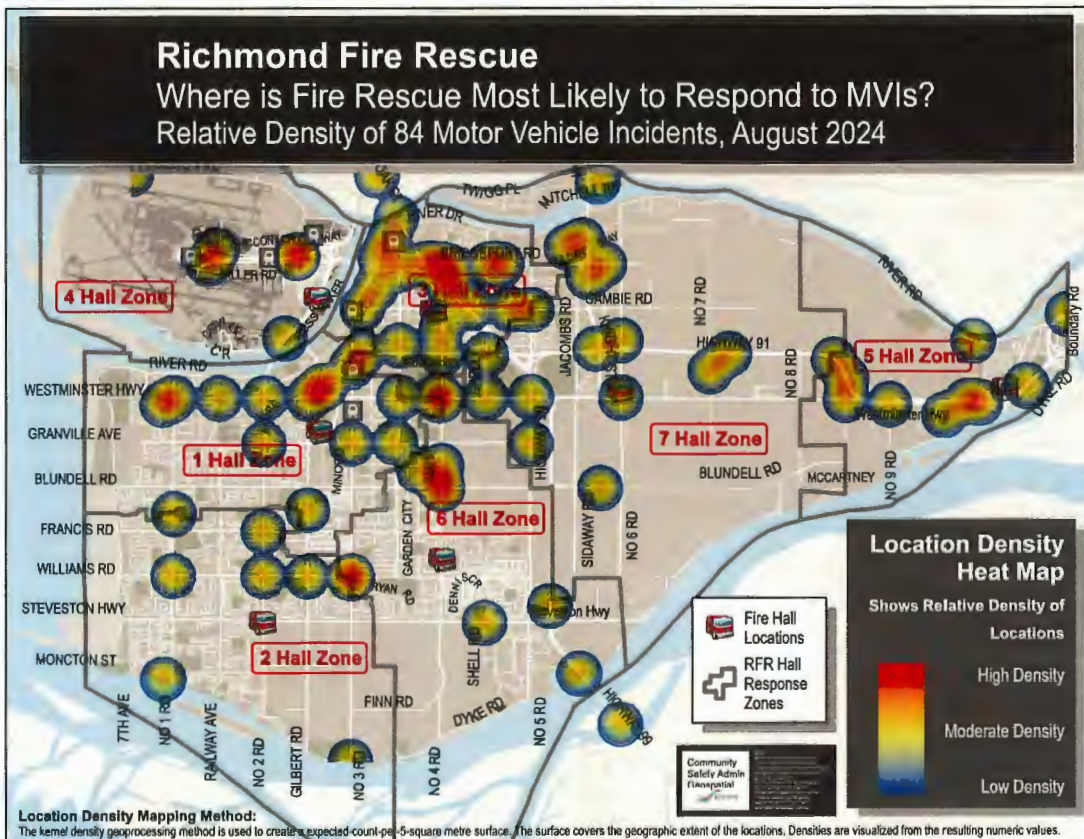


Figure 3: Location of reportable motor vehicle incidents (MVIs) attended in August 2024 (total 84)



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Figure 4: Location of reportable overdose / poisoning incidents attended in August 2024 (total 19)

