



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee

Date: March 11, 2025

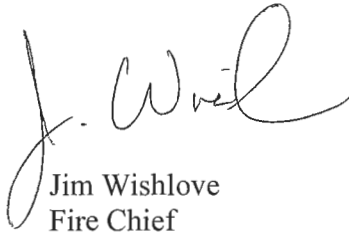
From: Jim Wishlove
Fire Chief

File 09-5140-01/2025-Vol
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Re: Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – February 2025

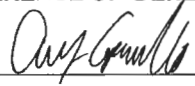

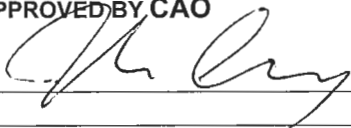
Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – February 2025”, dated March 11, 2025, 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 report highlights activities, information, and statistics related to calls for service by Richmond Fire-Rescue in February 2025.

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 February, staff engaged in the following activities:

- Exercised the Emergency Operations Centre at City Hall. Including refining the process set up and supporting documents as well as identify any missing or outdated supplies.
- Participated in the monthly Canadian Red Cross (CRC) Volunteer Meeting. Volunteers and staff worked together with Community Centre staff to complete a site survey of Thompson Community Centre to determine the suitability of that location as a Reception Centre or Group Lodging during an emergency. Volunteers then used the site survey information to complete a tabletop exercise designing a site layout of a Reception Centre.
- Collaborated with the City's Homelessness Outreach Team to learn more outreach work and operations. Staff were able to provide information on Emergency Program's Operations and how they might be able to support the outreach mission and planned to share details on upcoming seasonal hazard meetings.
- Provided a presentation on personal/household preparedness to a seniors group at West Richmond Community Centre. The presentation covered the five steps to preparedness and provided additional safety information regarding earthquakes and hot weather. The attendees received emergency kit items and reference information from Prepared BC.
- Supported Newcomers in Emergencies. Presented at the webinar hosted by Health Emergency Management BC and coordinated by S.U.C.C.E.S.S. The session discussed unique considerations that are involved when supporting newcomer populations during emergency events.
- Exercised the City's facility and personnel well-being check and provided timely information/status updates to the Mayor and Council, CAO, and Corporate Communications for internal and public messaging after the recent earthquake near Sechelt.

- Coordinated with School District 38 to learn more about the capabilities and preparation activities undertaken by the District and explore further mutual support initiatives.
- Met with volunteers at Lingyen Mountain Temple. Staff were able to learn more about the Temple and what services and support they can provide during and after an emergency.
- Participated in an online presentation with staff from Building Resilient Neighbourhoods (BRN) to learn more about the Connect & Prepare program. The team from BRN were able to provide information on lessons learned when the program was introduced to other lower mainland communities for consideration.

RFR Public Outreach & Education

During the month of February, 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 500 attendees.
- Provided information on the Online Education Program to two schools with over 150 attendees.
- Participated in the Mitchell Elementary School parade with 300 attendees.
- Hosted the RCMP Car Seat Day at Brighthouse Fire Hall No. 1. Lead by the RCMP, over 40 attendees learned how to correctly install their car seats.
- Additionally, staff continued with life safety educational social media videos and posts, including the launch of the 2025 firefighter recruitment process.

Internal Staff Training

In February 2025, staff organized in-house training events including; in house Medical Instructors Course, Auto-Accident Patient Extrication, Fire Service Leadership and ongoing firefighter recruit training and evaluations.

Staff hosted a government-funded fire research demonstration at the RFR training facility starting in February and concluding in early March, in collaboration with FPInnovations, University of British Columbia, GHL Consultants, and Dialog Design. The project was to test the fire performance of a hybrid timber floor system designed for sustainable high-rise construction. The demonstration aimed to collect thermal data on fire behaviour while measuring structural integrity. As mass timber construction gains prominence, this initiative helps emergency responders stay informed on evolving building materials, supporting both fire safety extinguishment and sustainable urban development.

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 February 2025, there were 1,056 reported incidents of all types, representing an overall increase of 4 per cent in incidents between February 2024 and February 2025 (Table 1).

Table 1: Total Incidents - February 2025					
	Incident Totals February (2025)	Incident Totals February (2024)	Number Change from February 2024 to 2025	Percentage Change from February 2024 to 2025	5 Year Average for February
Active Alarm	183	168	+15	+9	146
Explosion	1	1	0	0	1
Fire	23	37	-14	-38	30
Hazardous Materials	6	9	-3	-33	9
Medical	592	544	+48	+9	444
Motor Vehicle Incident	85	87	-2	-2	67
Public Hazard	3	6	-3	-50	7
Public Service	80	99	-19	-19	85
Response Cancelled/Unfounded	78	59	+19	+32	54
Specialized Transport	5	7	-2	-29	4
Technical Rescue	0	0	0	0	1
Total	1,056	1,017	+39	+4	848

The average time on scene in February 2025 for emergency response crews was 29 minutes per event, which is lower than the number recorded in February 2024: 30 minutes. The time spent on scene can vary due to the nature and severity of each incident.

In February 2025, there were 23 fire incidents reported to the BC Office of the Fire Commissioner. This is 38 per cent lower than the number reported in February 2024. The average number of fires reported each February over the last five years is 30.

Fire damage and property losses during February 2025 is estimated at \$2,029,655. The total building/asset and content value at risk is estimated to be \$30,801,685 and the total value preserved from damage was \$28,772,030. These numbers translate to 93 per cent of value protected (Table 2), which is lower than the value observed in 2024: 99 per cent.

Table 2: Fire Incidents By Type and Loss Estimates - February 2025

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	3	35,000	-	24,495	-	59,495
Commercial/Industrial	3	18,052,650	1,750,000	12,636,405	250,010	28,689,045
Outdoor	14	6,135	2,635	-	-	3,500
Vehicle/Vessel	3	45,000	25,010	2,000	2,000	19,990
Totals*	23	18,138,785	1,777,645	12,662,900	252,010	28,772,030

* 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 February 2025 incidents:

- February 6, 2025 – Structure Fire on Corvette Way.** Emergency crews responded to a multi story building with reports of fire. On arrival crews quickly established the location of the fire in a unit on the tenth floor with thermal camera. Crews began attacking the fire using high-rise equipment and within the north stairwell. Once extinguished, a primary search of the unit was carried out. Two onsite staff arrived on-scene and assisted with guest management. Crews worked to clear each affected floor and proceeded with air monitoring and ventilation. Once all floors were cleared, occupants were allowed to return to their units to retrieve their belongings. The RCMP were on scene for traffic management and a City bus was requested for the occupant displacement, until they had secured rooms at another site. Emergency Programs staff assisted with approximately 350-evacuee management. There were no reports of injury to the public or RFR personnel. A Fire Investigator attended.
- February 28, 2025 – Explosion on No. 5 Road.** Emergency crews responded to the scene of a commercial property where an explosion had occurred. First arriving crews found that there had been a steam explosion in a furnace. Crews were directed to the incident location and found a lead smelter with the lid off, which was still gassing. Due to the hazardous airborne nature of the site, emergency crews withdrew until the furnace had cooled down. Four RFR staff were sent for exposure assessment and cleared. All gear was decontaminated on return to quarters. There were no reports of injury to the public or RFR personnel. A Fire Investigator was not required to attend as there was no combustion. Work Safe BC were notified.

March 11, 2025

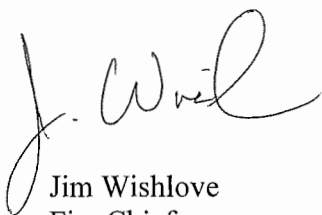
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Financial Impact

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 written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jim Wishlove
Fire Chief
(604-303-2715)

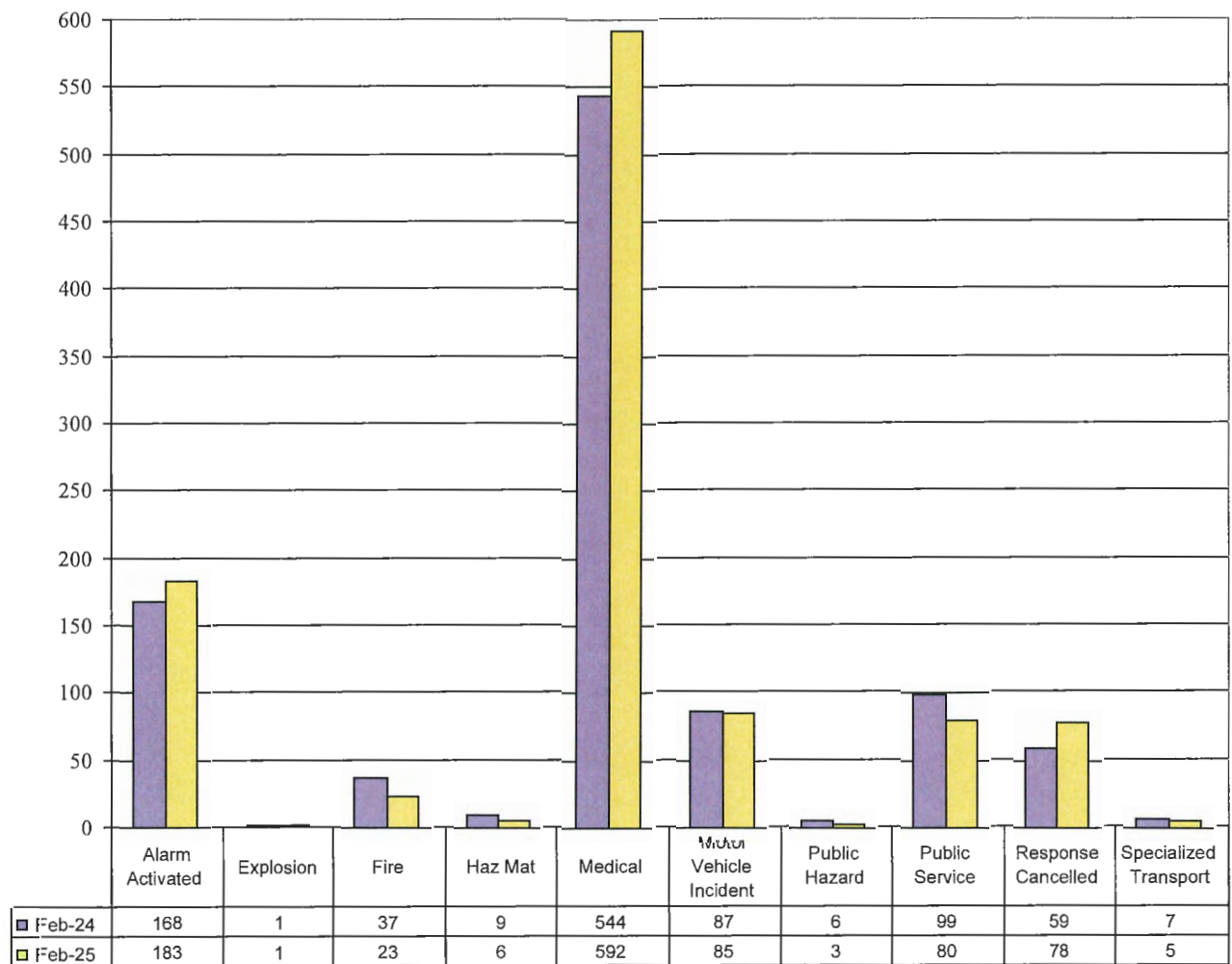
Att. 1: Emergency Response Activity for February 2025.

Emergency Response Activity for February 2025

Incident Volumes

The following chart provides a month-to-month comparison of incidents occurring in February 2024 and 2025. In February 2025, there were 1,056 total incidents, compared to 1,017 in February 2024. This represents an overall increase of 4 per cent between last year and 2025.

Table 3: February 2024 & February 2025 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 56 per cent of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of February 2025. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for February 2024 and 2025 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were 592 medical incidents in February 2025 compared to 544 in February 2024, an increase of 9 per cent.

Table 4a: February 2024 & February 2025 Medical Calls by Type

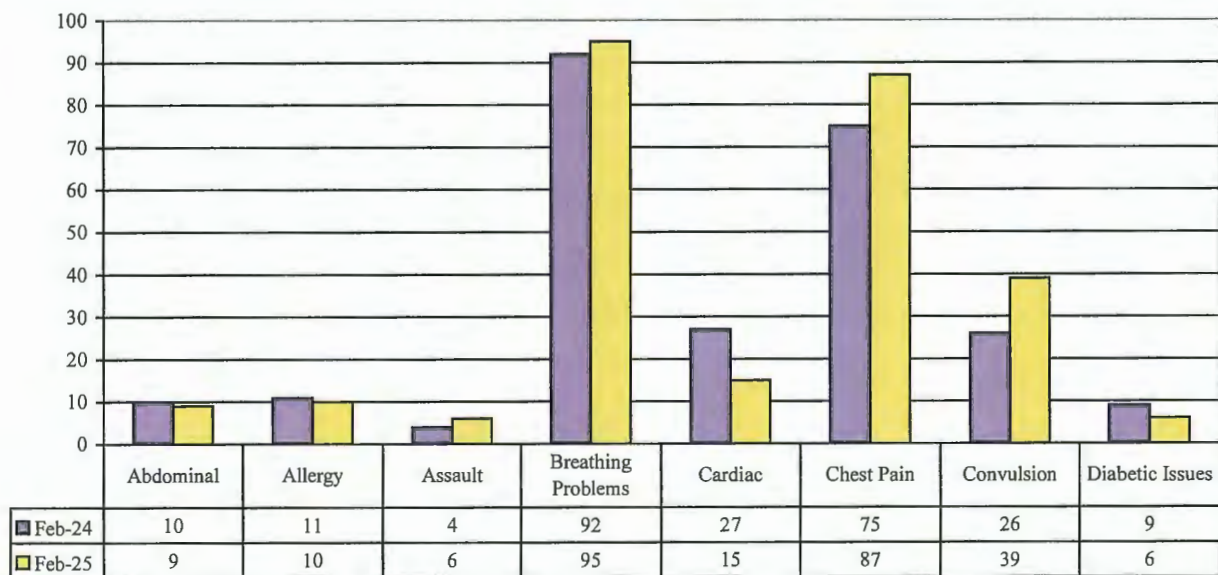
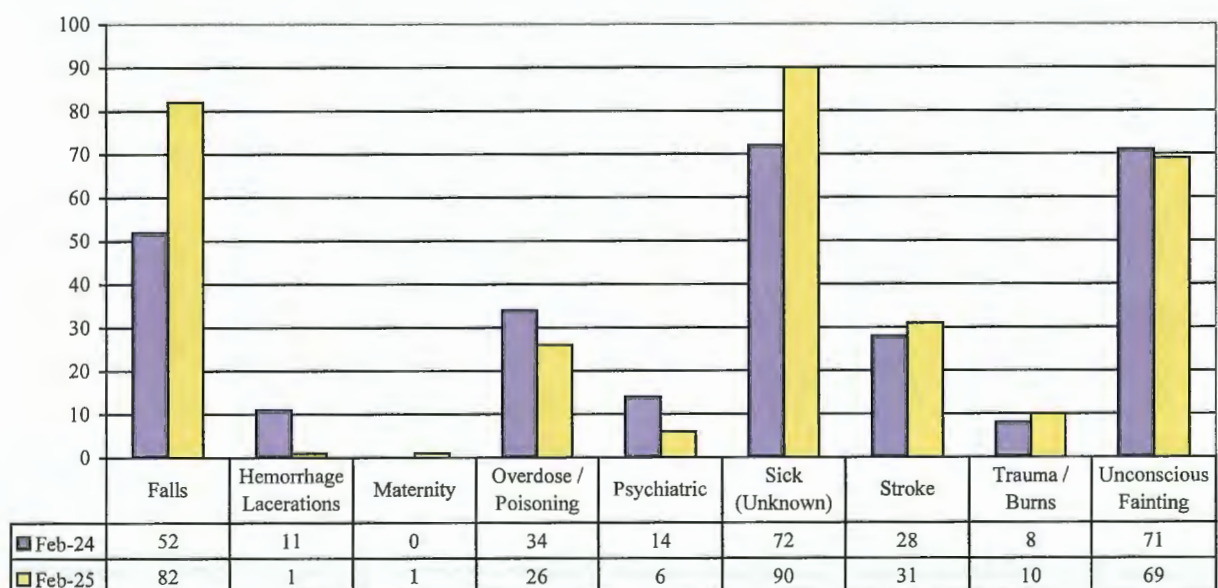


Table 4b: February 2024 & February 2025 Medical Calls by Type



The following chart provides the overdose/poisoning incident volume breakdown for February 2025. During February 2025, RFR staff did not administered Naloxone, in the month of February.

Table 4c: Overdose / Poisoning Incidents By Type – February 2025	
Opioid overdose incidents that RFR attended located in an OUTDOOR environment.	1
Opioid overdose incidents that RFR attended located in an INDOOR environment.	6
All other OD / Poisoning Incidents	19
Totals	26

Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for February 2025 are listed below:

Table 5: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – February 2025			
	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	-	-	-
Residential - Multi-family	-	3	-
Commercial/Industrial	1	2	-
Outdoor	6	7	1
Vehicle	2	1	-
Totals	9	13	1

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 – February 2025	
	Details
Flammable / Combustible Liquids	1
Gasses (Natural / Propane)	3
Unclassified	2
Totals	6

The following charts provide total incident volumes for fires and medical incidents on a year-to-year comparison in February from 2016 to 2025.

Table 7a: Total Fire Calls for Service in February 2016 to 2025

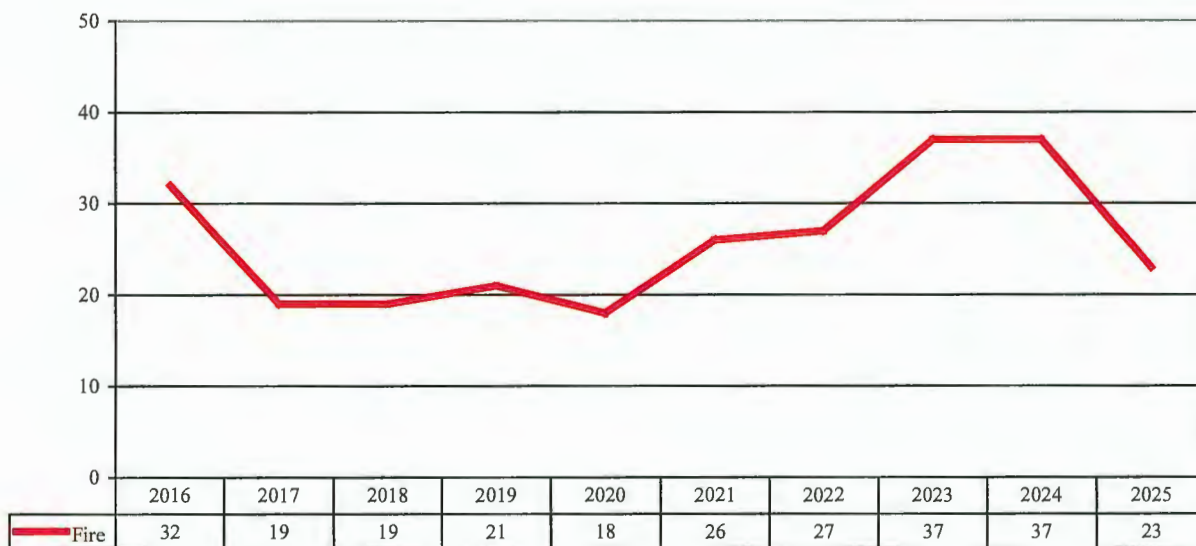
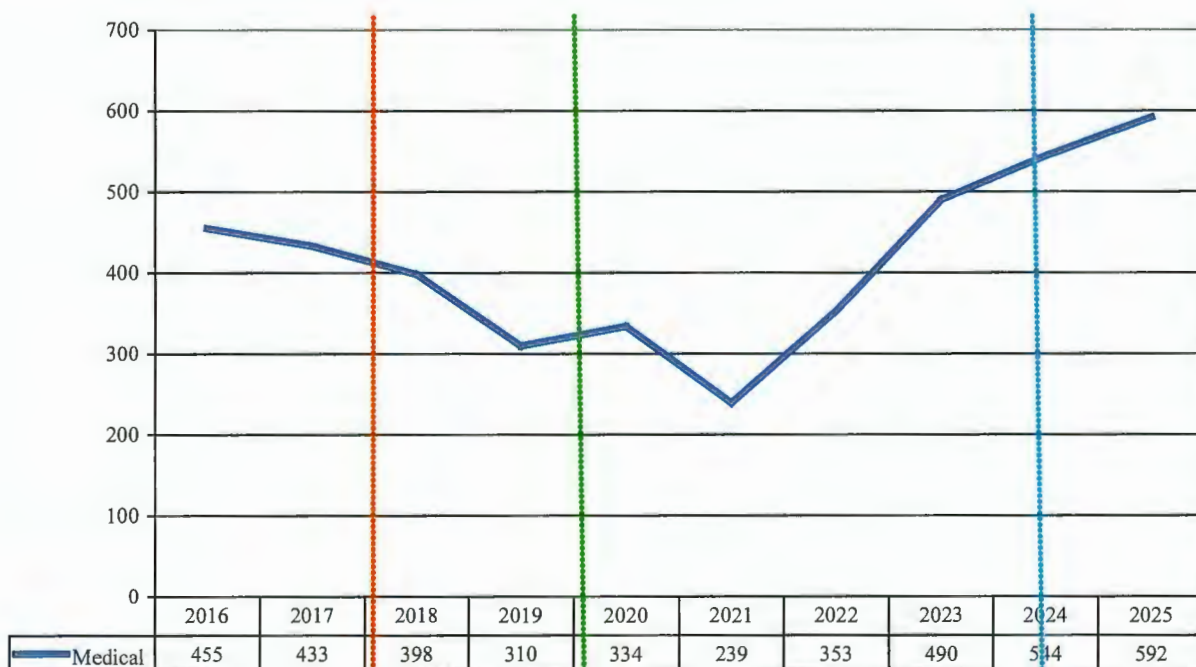


Table 7b: Total Medical Calls for Service in February from 2016 to 2025

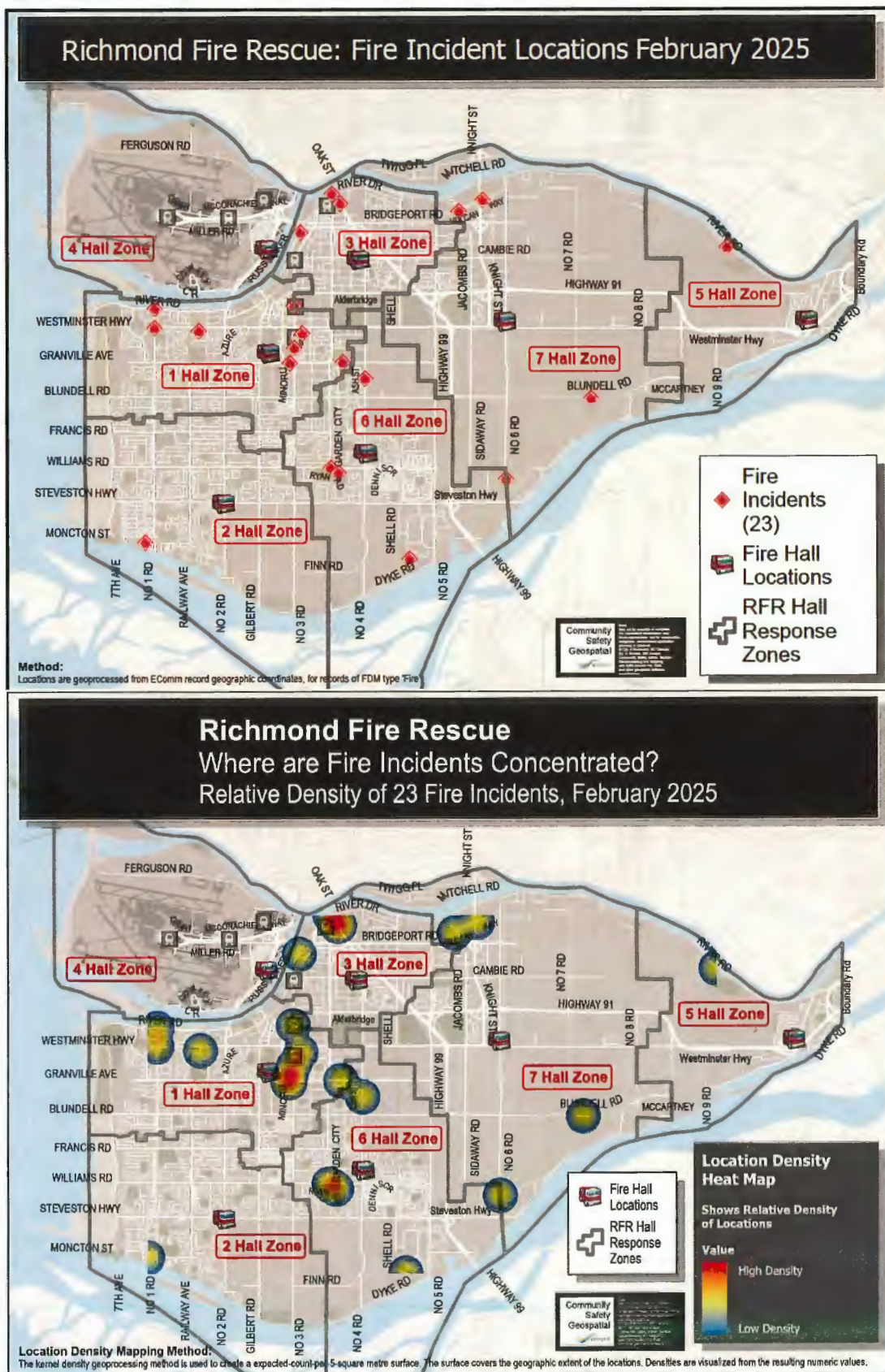


Changes to BC Emergency Health Services Clinical Response Model dispatch system (2017-2018)

Start of COVID-19 Pandemic

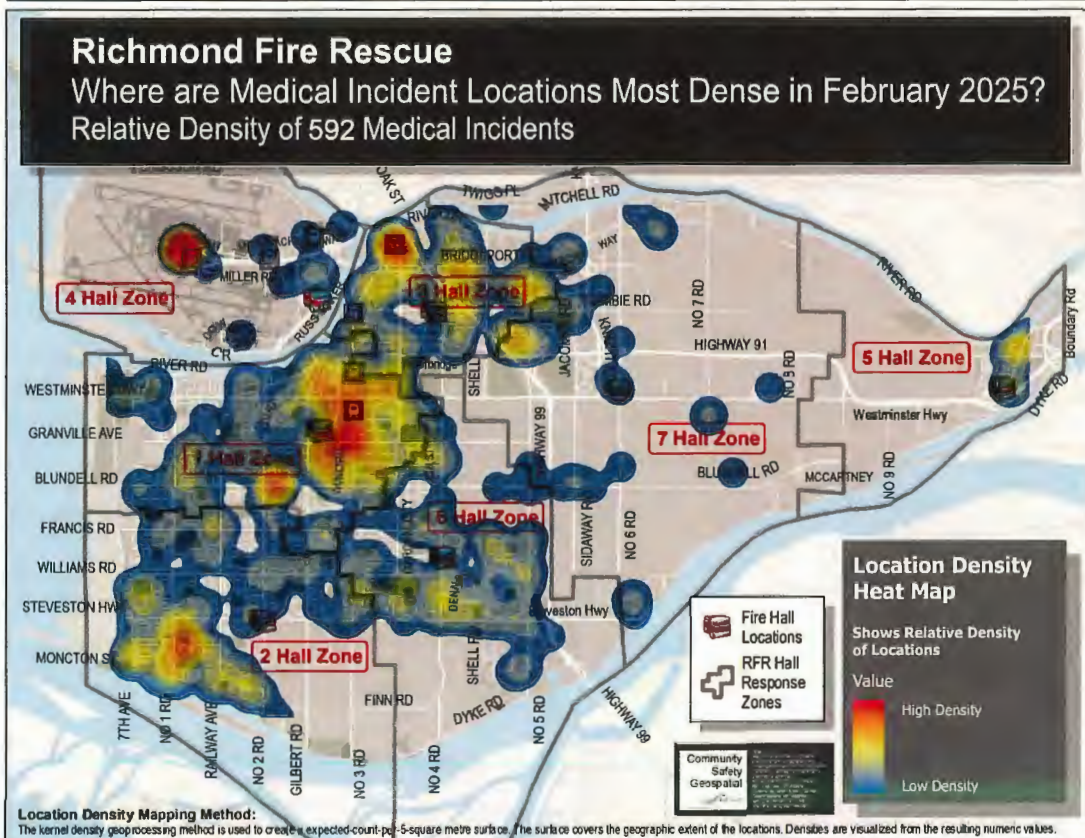
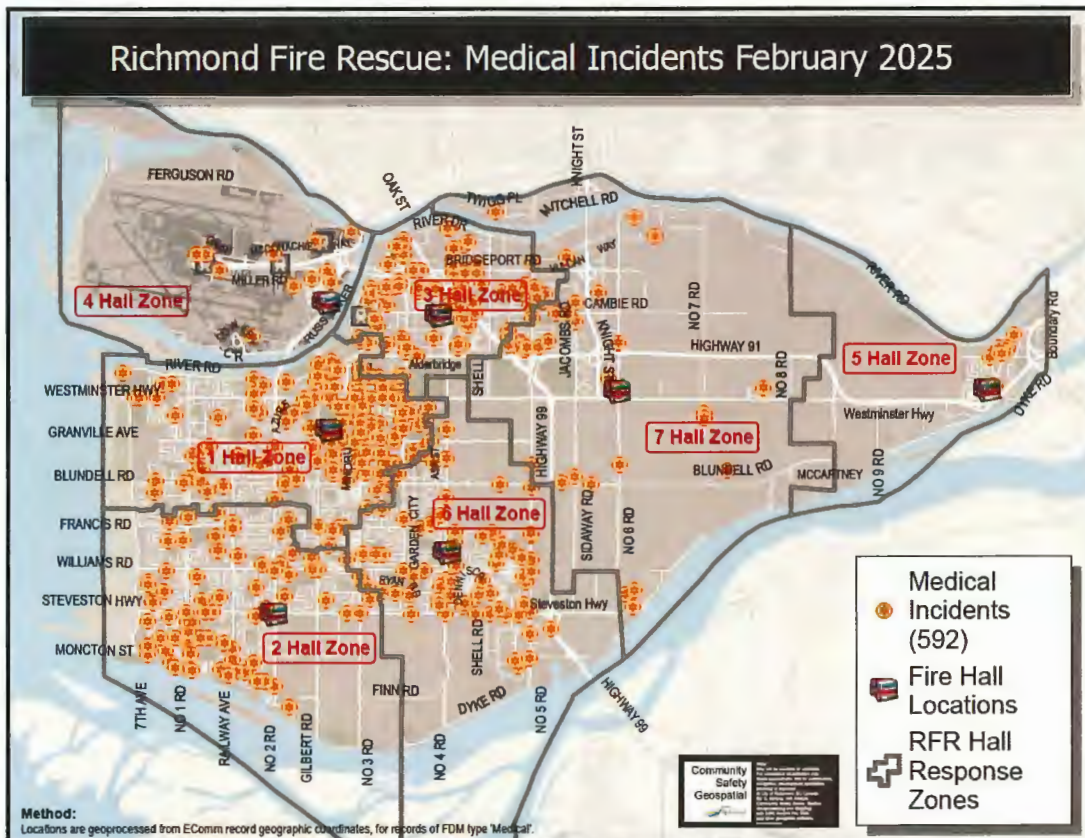
July 26, 2024 - Provincial Health Officer ended public health emergency for COVID-19

Figure 1: Location of reportable fire incidents attended in February 2025 (total 23)



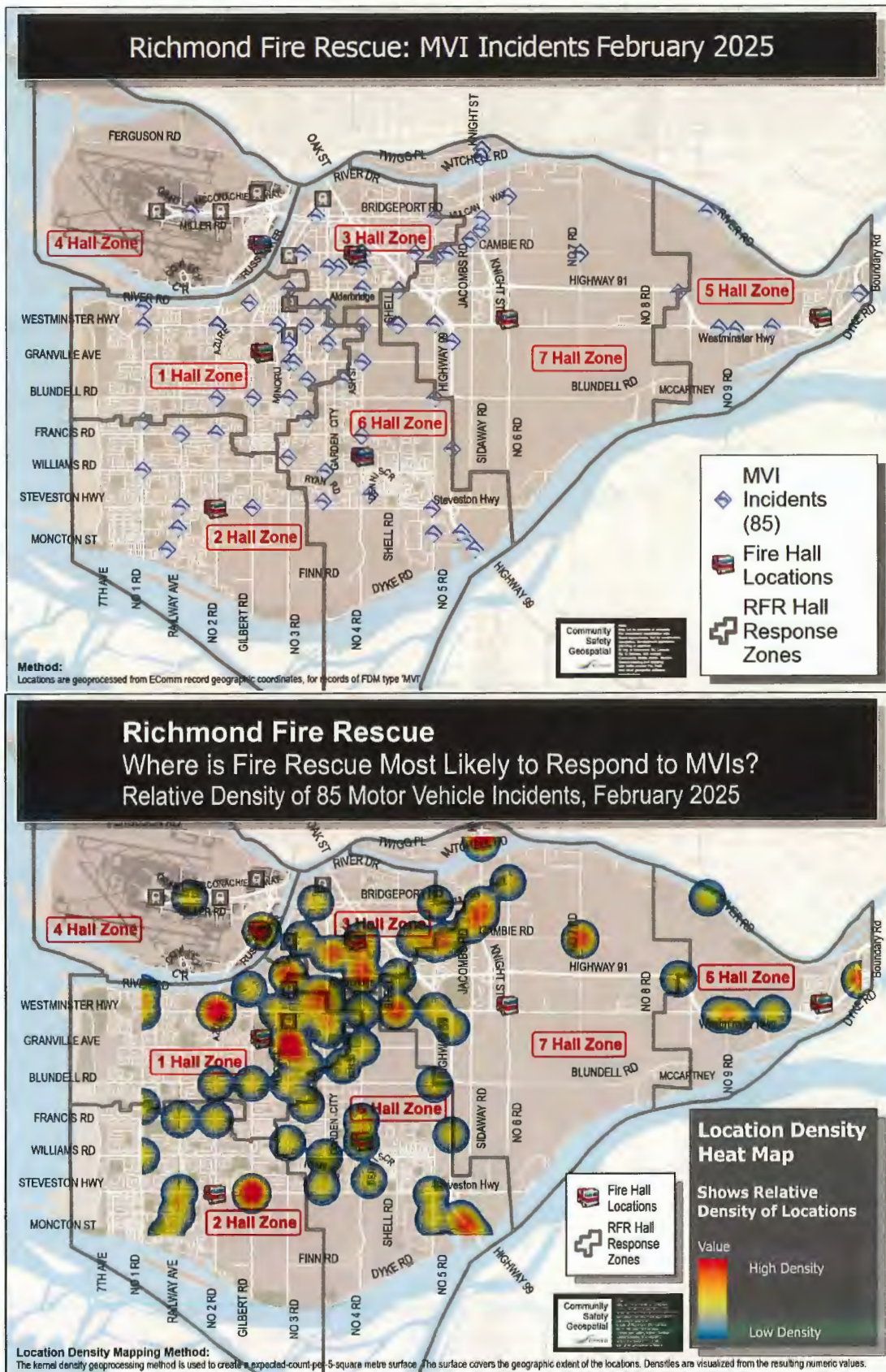
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Figure 2: Location of reportable medical incidents attended in February 2025 (total 592)



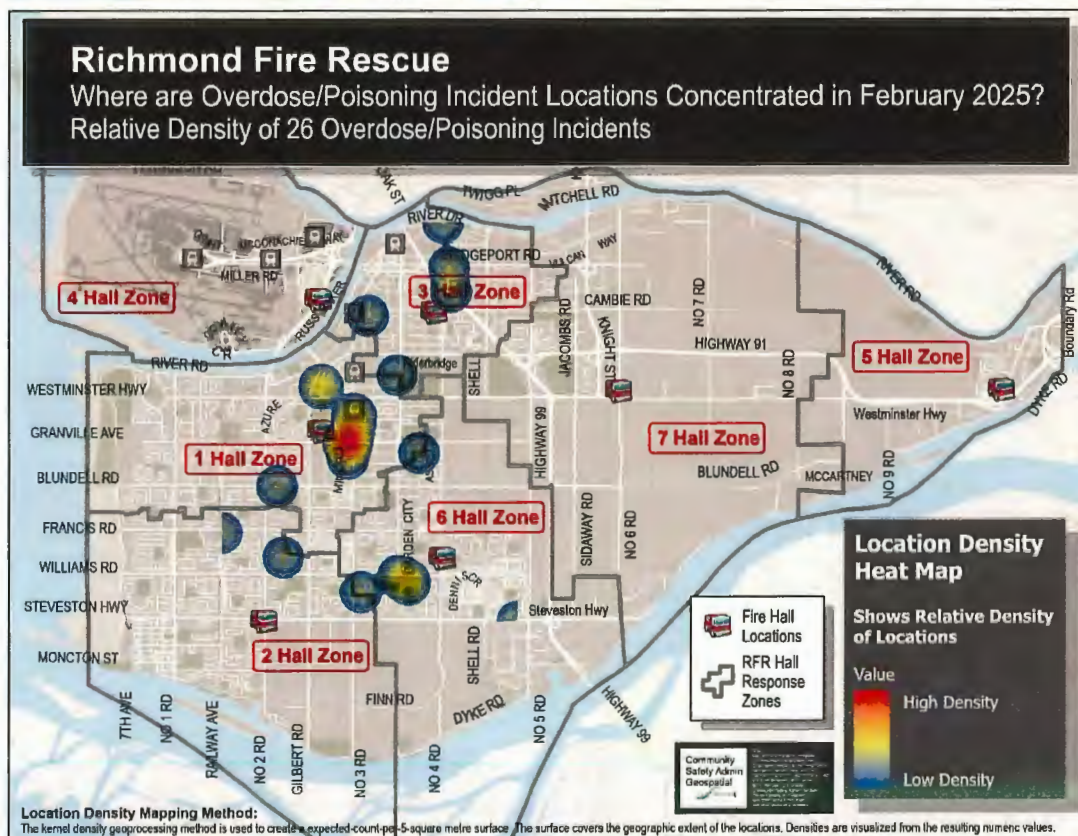
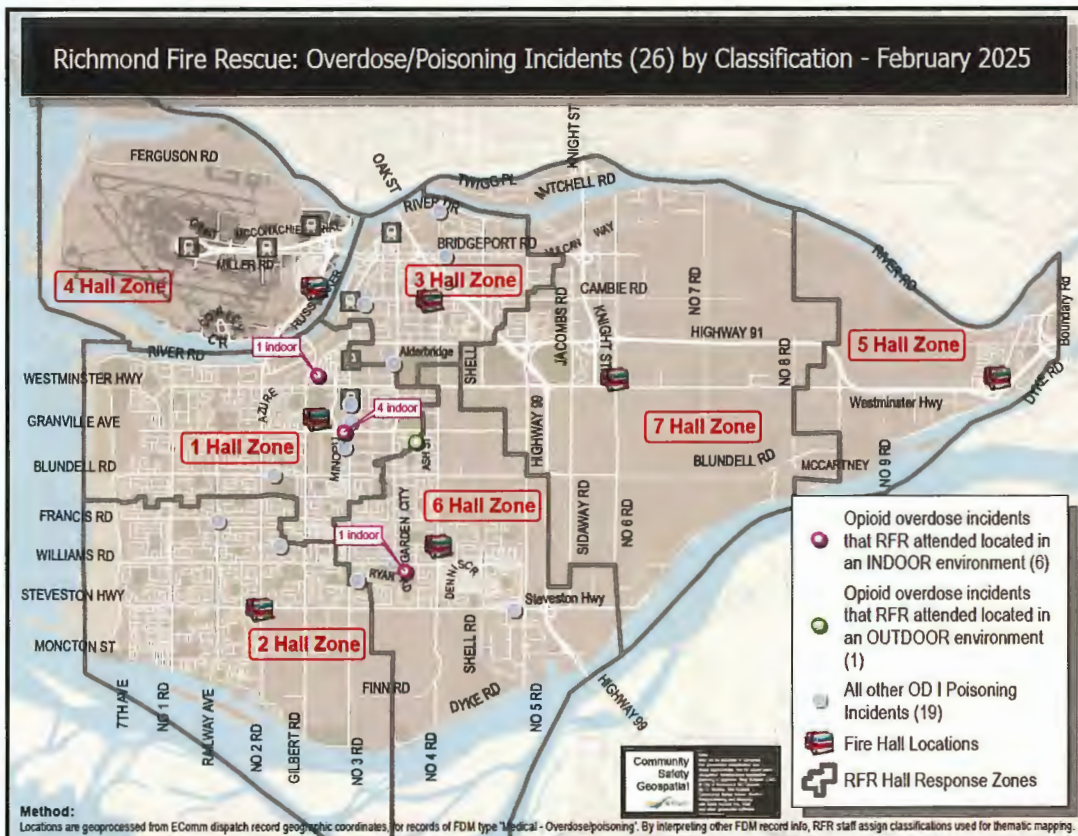
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Figure 3: Location of reportable motor vehicle incidents (MVIs) attended in February 2025 (total 85)



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Figure 4: Location of reportable overdose / poisoning incidents attended in February 2025 (total 26)



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