



City of Richmond

Report to Committee



To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** March 9, 2026
From: Jim Wishlove **File:** 09-5140-01/2026-Vol
Fire Chief 01
Re: Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – February 2026

Staff Recommendation

That the report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – February 2026”, dated March 9, 2026, from the Fire Chief, be received for information.

Jim Wishlove
Fire Chief
(604-303-2715)

Att. 1

REPORT CONCURRENCE
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER 
APPROVED BY CAO 

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 February 2026 incidents¹:

Structure Fire on Bridgeport Road

On February 10, 2026, RFR emergency crews responded to the report of a fire in a single-family residential property. On arrival, there was smoke in the area of the address and first-in crews encountered a lot of heavy smoke and fire in the parking area at the back of the property. The fire response was upgraded and crews attacked the fire, which involved two motor homes and two vehicles. There were no occupants in any of the vehicles. The fires were extinguished. A Fire Investigator attended to identify the cause and origin of the fire.

Structure Fire on Glenacres Drive

On February 14, 2026, RFR emergency crews responded to the report of a fire on the second floor of an apartment building. On arrival, it was discovered that the fire had been extinguished. Crews carried out ventilation and site overhaul. All but one of the residents were able to return back into their properties. A Fire Investigator attended to identify the cause and origin of the fire.

Marine Vessel Fire near Graybar Road

On February 20, 2026, RFR emergency crews responded to the report of a boat fire near Graybar Road. On arrival, the first in crews found a 20 ft boat fully engulfed in flames. Crews attacked and extinguished the fire and checked for any hot spots or fire extension. A nearby dock sustained some damage. BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) treated one patient for smoke inhalation. There were no other reported injuries. A Fire Investigator attended to identify the cause and origin of the fire.

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

Structure Fire on Blundell Road

On February 21, 2026, RFR emergency crews responded to the report of a structure fire, with a possible occupant trapped inside the structure. On arrival, the first-in crews found a fire in progress and made entry to carry out a primary search of the structure to locate the missing person. Crews found and removed the patient, who was transferred to BCEHS for treatment and further transport to hospital. Crews then attacked and extinguish the fire and, once the fire was controlled began to demobilize the site. Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) was initiated for staff who were involved in the rescue and resuscitation of the patient. There were no other reported injuries. A Fire Investigator attended to identify the cause and origin of the fire.

Structure Fire on Sexsmith Road

On February 22, 2026, RFR emergency crews responded to the report of a structure fire. On arrival, the first-in crews found the fire, along with multiple hazards around the property. A primary search was completed from the exterior of the single story home, which appeared to be vacant. The fire was extinguished and crews checked for hot spots. A Fire Investigator attended to identify the cause and origin of the fire.

Emergency Response

Table 1 provides incident data and comparisons for February 2025 and February 2026. In February 2026, there were 897 reported incidents of all types, representing an overall decrease of fifteen per cent compared to the previous year.

Table 1: Total Incidents - February 2026					
	Incident Totals February (2026)	Incident Totals February (2025)	Number Change from February 2025 to 2026	Percentage Change from February 2025 to 2026	5 Year Average for February
Active Alarm	149	183	-34	-19	154
Explosion	0	1	-1	-100	1
Fire	34	23	+11	+48	32
Hazardous Materials	6	6	0	0	7
Medical	473	592	-119	-20	490
Motor Vehicle Incident	80	85	-5	-6	73
Public Hazard	4	3	+1	+33	7
Public Service	83	80	+3	+4	86
Response Cancelled/Unfounded	62	78	-16	-21	57
Specialized Transport	6	5	+1	+20	5
Technical Rescue	0	0	0	0	0
Total	897	1056	-159	-15	912

The average time on scene for emergency response crews in February 2026 was 30 minutes per event, the average time on scene in February 2025 was 29 minutes. The time spent on the scene can vary due to the complexity and severity of each incident.

In February 2026, 34 fire incidents were reported to the BC Office of the Fire Commissioner, up from 23 in February 2025. The average number of fires reported each February over the last five years is 32.

Fire damage and property losses during February 2026 are estimated at \$129,275. The total building/asset and content value at risk is estimated at \$8,633,300, and the total value preserved from damage is \$8,504,025. These numbers translate to 98 per cent of the value protected (Table 2).

Table 2: Fire Incidents By Type and Loss Estimates - February 2026						
Incident Type Breakdown	Incident Volume	Estimated Building/Asset Value (\$)	Estimated Building/Asset Loss (\$)	Estimated Content Value (\$)	Estimated Content Loss (\$)	Estimated Total Value Preserved (\$)
Single Family Residence	5	35,000	-	243,080	-	278,080
Multi-Family Residence	4	35,000	50	9,995	-	44,945
Commercial	4	7,025,000	3,500	1,100,000	-	8,121,500
Outdoor	16	225	225	-	-	-
Vehicle/Vessel	5	175,000	115,500	10,000	10,000	59,500
Totals²	34	7,270,225	119,275	1,363,075	10,000	8,504,025

RFR Public Outreach & Education

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

- February 10, Fire Hall and vehicle tours were provided for the Embers (Girl Guide) group. Over 20 attendees participated in the event.
- February 11 & 18, provided fire and life safety presentation to Imperial Village Strata group, including discussions and questions about fire safety inside their building. Provided education to the residents about their fire safety plan to help them gain more specific knowledge of their building. Over 70 members of the public attended.
- February 12, over 100 cadets at BCIT Aerospace were provided with fire service career information, as well as fire and life safety education. This was followed by a tour of #4 firehall and fire extinguisher training.

² 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.

- February 21, provided FireSmart information at the Richmond Public Library. The education booth was set up at Richmond Public Library to discuss FireSmart initiatives in the city and what people can do at home to mitigate the risk of fires. Over 150 members of the public attended.
- February 28, in collaboration with the RCMP and volunteers, RFR attended along with the Big Rig for the RCMP Car Seat Day. Over 50 vehicles were checked to ensure their car seats were properly installed.

Emergency Programs

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

- February 5 – presented at the Integrated Partnership for Regional Emergency Management (IPREM) 'Planning Meeting for Decision Making Exercise' at Regional Administrators Advisory Committee (RAAC). This outcome will lead to coordinate actions during the upcoming training exercise involving all the CAO's of the lower mainland. The exercise helps ensure smooth communication between municipalities during a crisis.
- February 16 – coordinated the response with Richmond Public Works and YVR Operations for a burst water main near a property at Vancouver Airport South Terminal, with over one foot of depth flooding observed. There were no known impacts to City services or operations.
- February 18 - participated in an Integrated Partnership for Regional Emergency Management (IPREM) tabletop exercise on the Regional Decision Making Model for the CAOs of all membership local authorities, focusing on mutual aid for regional communications staffing. Richmond Emergency Programs utilized web-based Emergency Operations Centre (WebEOC) software and developed all associated scenario-briefing materials.
- February 21 - provided Emergency Support Services (ESS) Supplier Mutual Aid. Staff supported the City of Vancouver by coordinating accommodation for two adults through a City of Richmond hotel supplier.
- February 27 - participated in a YVR planning meeting for FIFA. This meeting served as the initial planning session for the integrated emergency exercise involving YVR and the City of Richmond in preparation for FIFA-related operations.
- Feb 28 to Mar 1 - collaborated with the 39th Service Battalion in a 'Domestic Response' Training Exercise to stress-test the WebEOC software system in a joint civilian-military environment. The trial successfully demonstrated a Common Operating Picture (COP), streamlining real-time resource tracking and inter-agency communication between Emergency Programs and military logistics. It was also an excellent opportunity to learn more about how our partners with the Canadian Armed Forces operate and what resources that they have available to provide aid during an emergency.

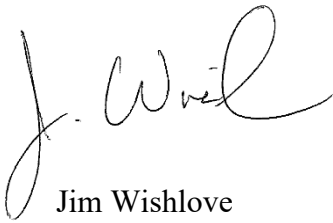
Financial Impact

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

Conclusion

During February 2026, the City continued to experience normalized calls for service for medical event types. RFR continues to improve the capacity and response capability to prioritize higher acuity calls for service, and trialling a risk-based approach with the E-Comm Calls Priority Re-assignment Pilot, to having the closest resources redeployed to specific event types.

Richmond Fire-Rescue continues to monitor activities to identify and develop public outreach programs that respond to emerging trends and opportunities and 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)

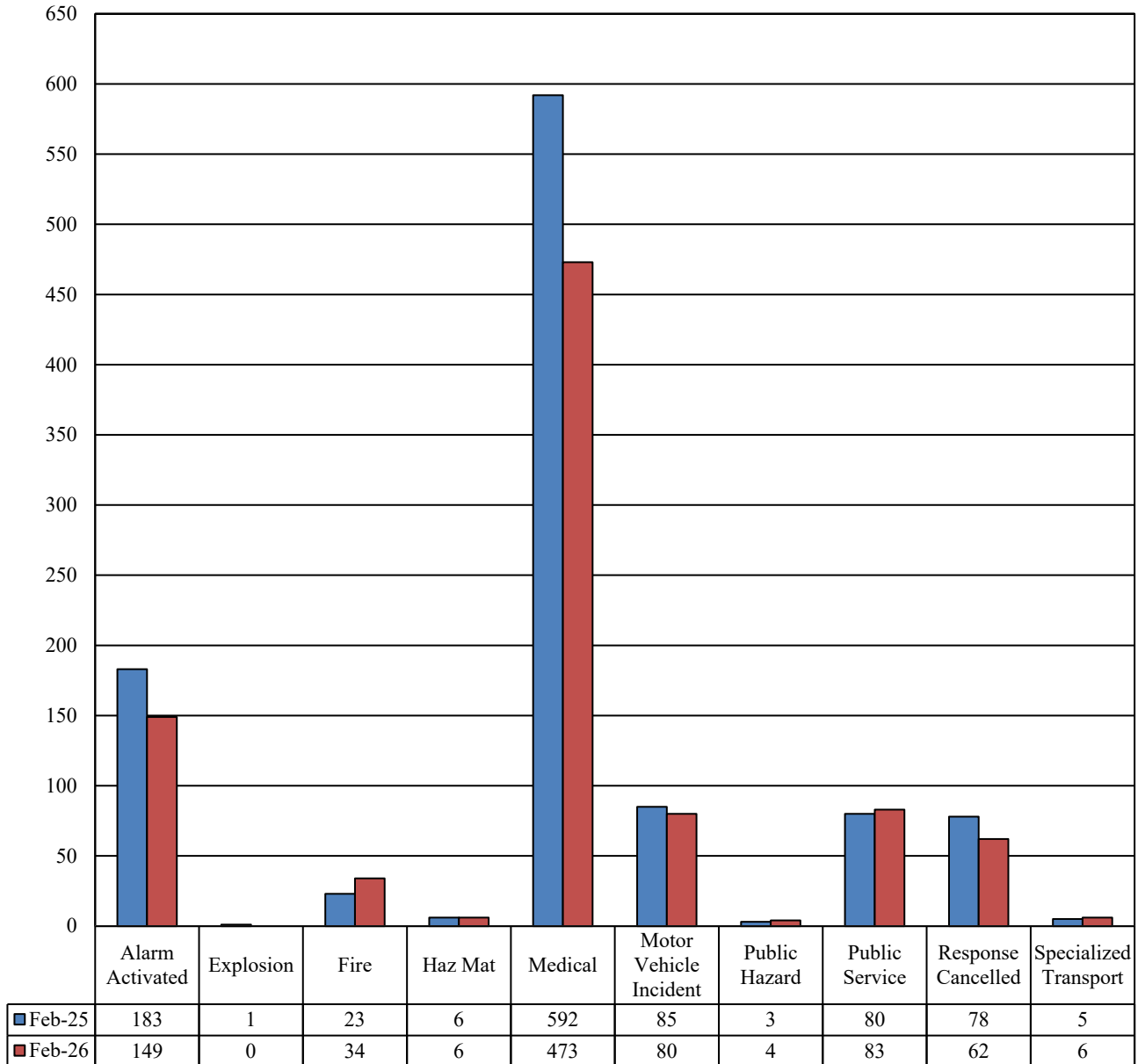
Att. 1 – Emergency Response Activity for February 2026

Emergency Response Activity for February 2026

Incident Volumes

The following chart provides a month-to-month comparison of incidents occurring in February 2025 and 2026. In February 2026, there were 897 total incidents, compared to 1,056 in February 2025. This represents an overall decrease of 15 per cent between last year and 2026.

Table 3: February 2025 & February 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 53 per cent of the total emergency responses from RFR during February 2026. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for February 2025 and 2026, by sub-type, is set out in the following table. There were 473 medical incidents in February 2026 compared to 592 in February 2025, a decrease of 20 per cent.

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

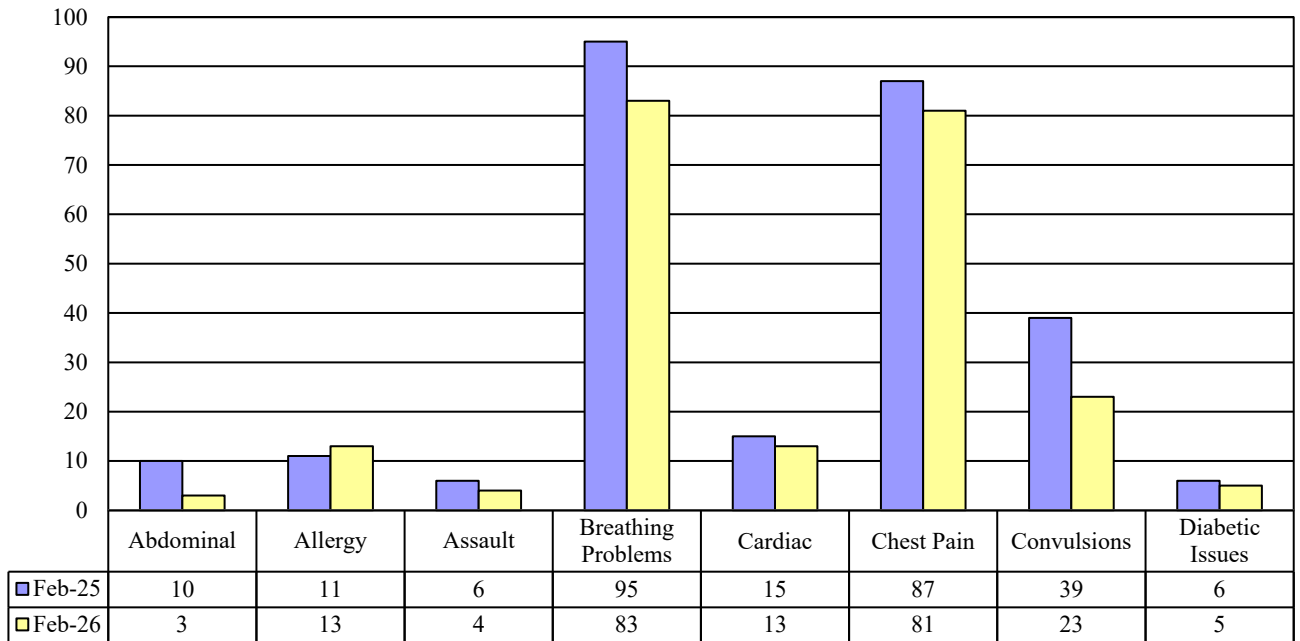
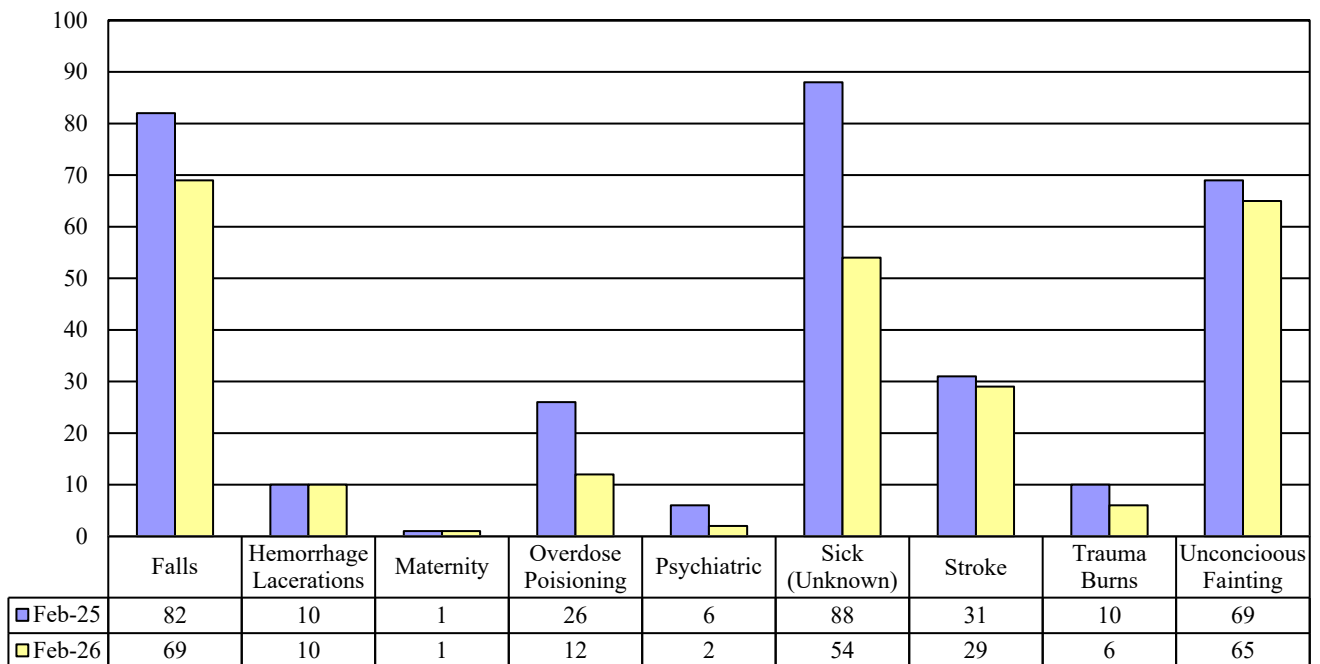


Table 4b: February 2025 & February 2026 Medical Calls by Type



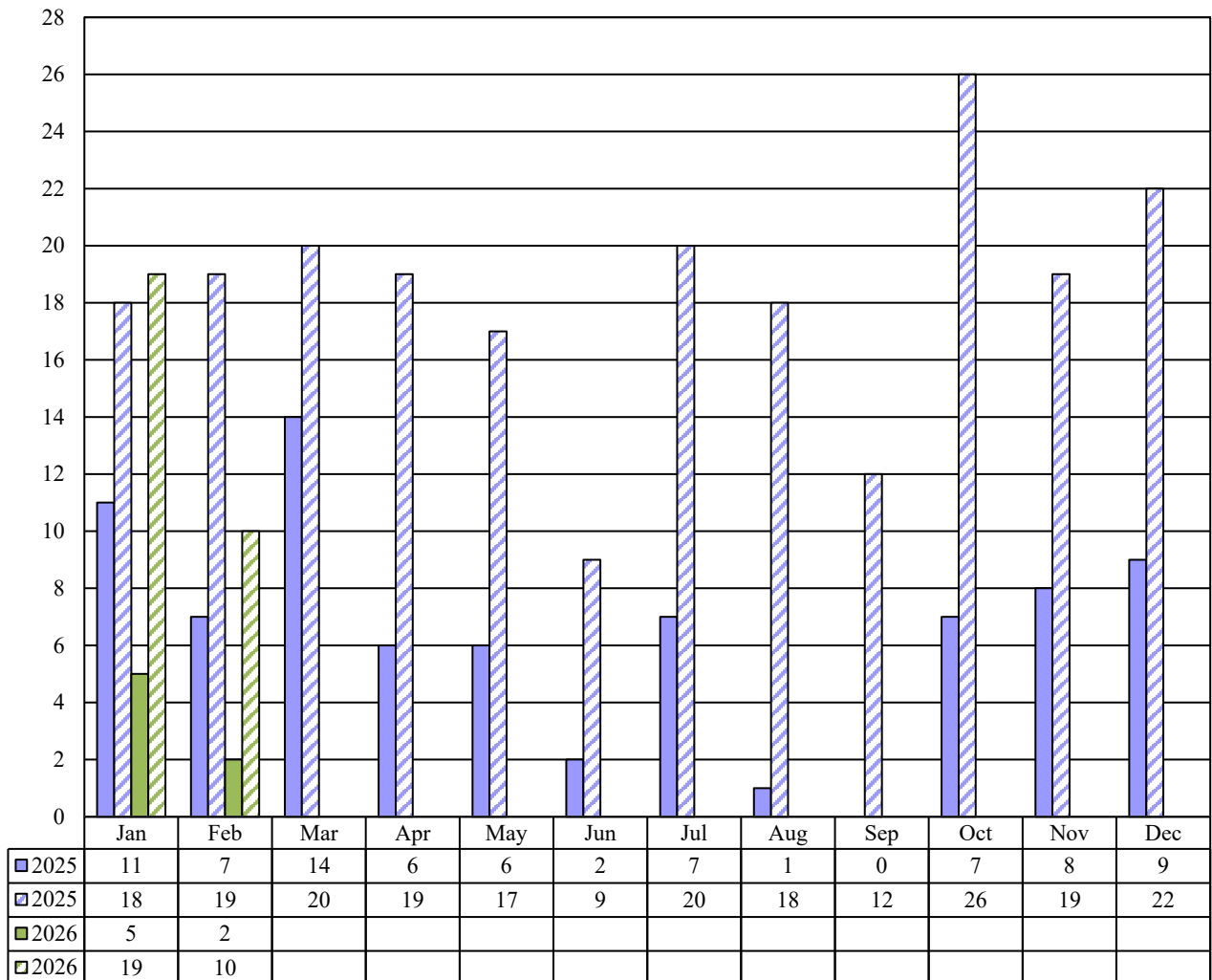
Overdoses

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 February 2026, RFR staff administered Naloxone on one occasion.

Table 4c: Overdose / Poisoning Incidents by Type – February 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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Other	19	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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



Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for February 2026 are listed below:

Table 5: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – February 2026			
	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	-	4	1
Residential - Multi-family	-	2	2
Commercial/Industrial	1	2	1
Outdoor	10	6	-
Vehicle	1	3	1
Totals	12	17	5

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

Hazardous Materials

Table 6: Hazardous Materials Incidents by Type – February 2026	
	Details
Gases (Natural / Propane)	6
Totals	6

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

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

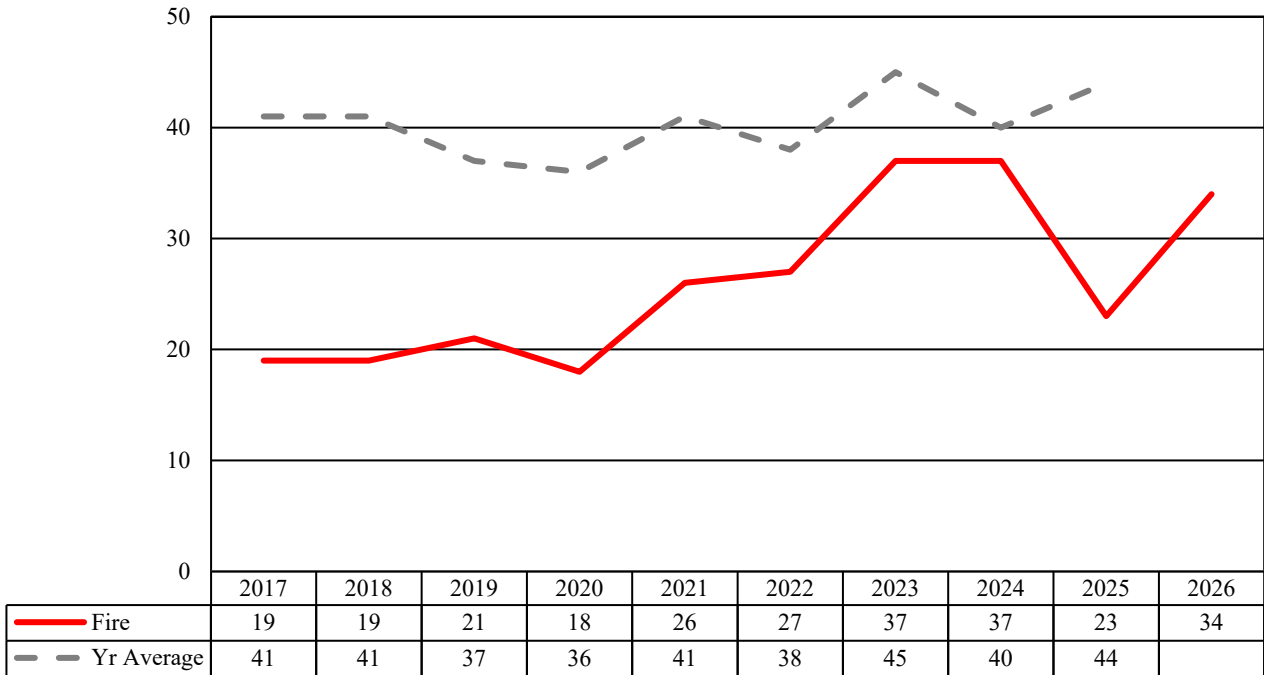
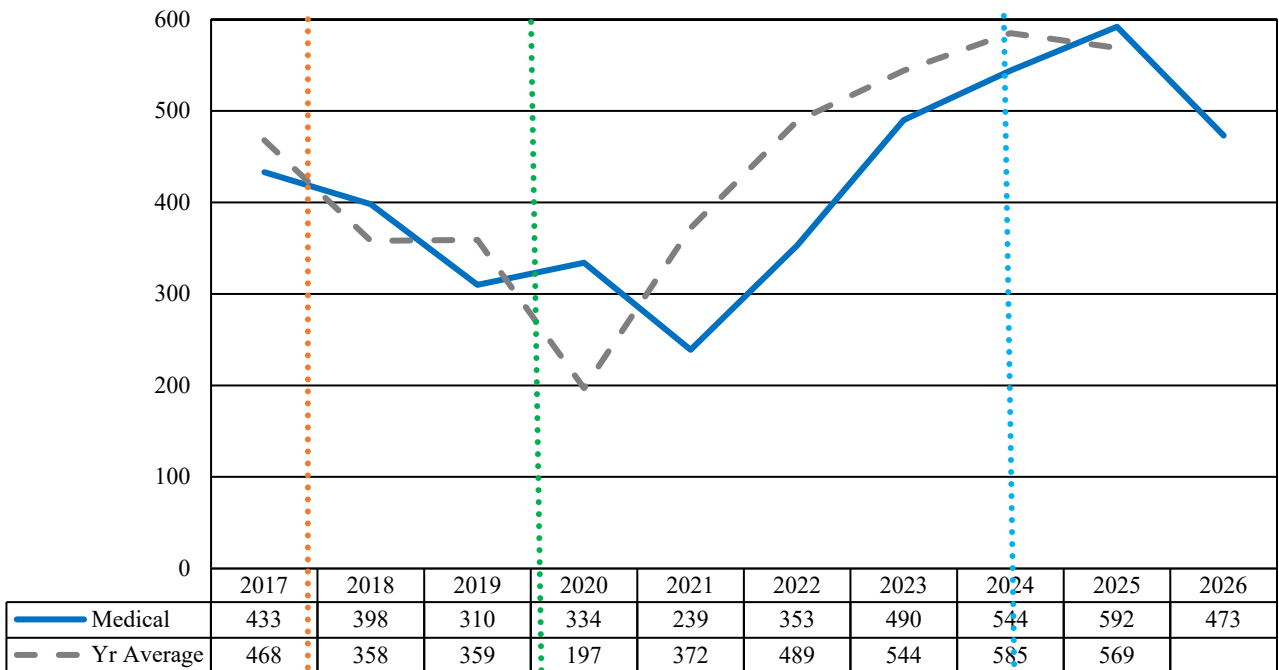


Table 7b: Total Medical Calls for Service in February and year averages from 2017 to 2026



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 February and year averages from 2017 to 2026

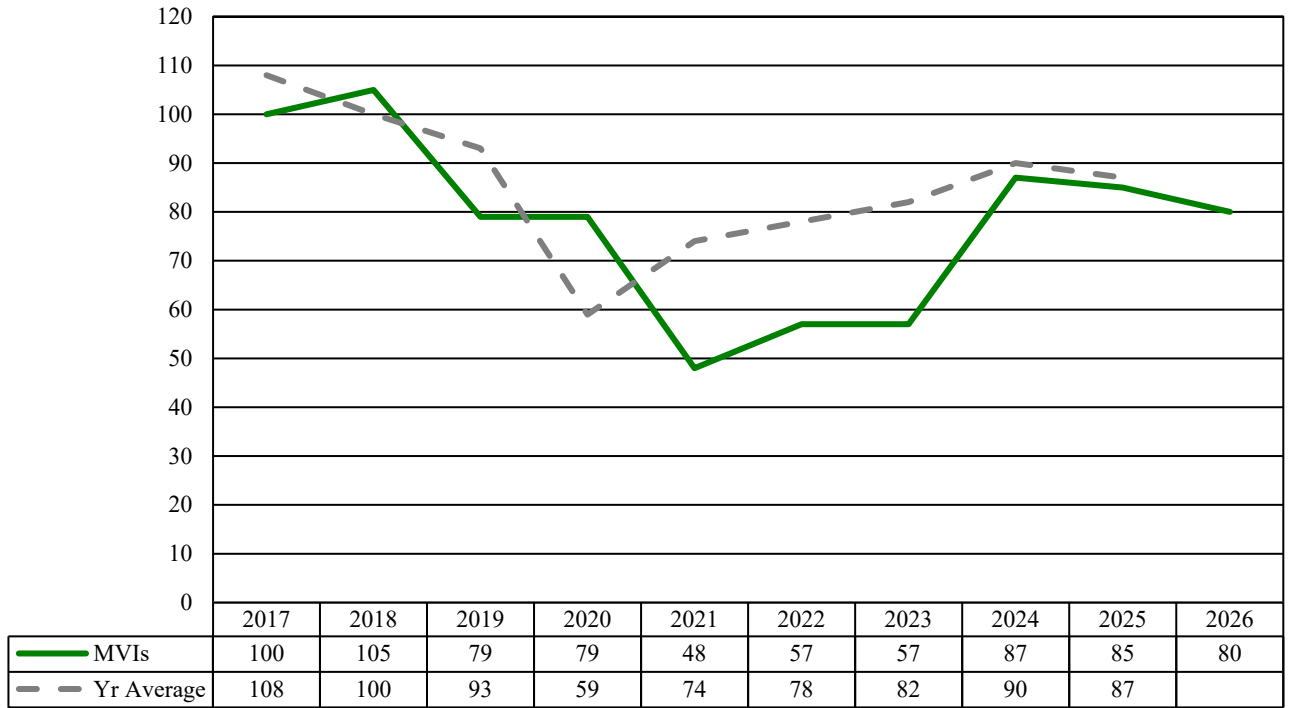


Table 7d: Total Overdose/Poisoning(ODP) Calls for Service in February and year averages from 2017 to 2026

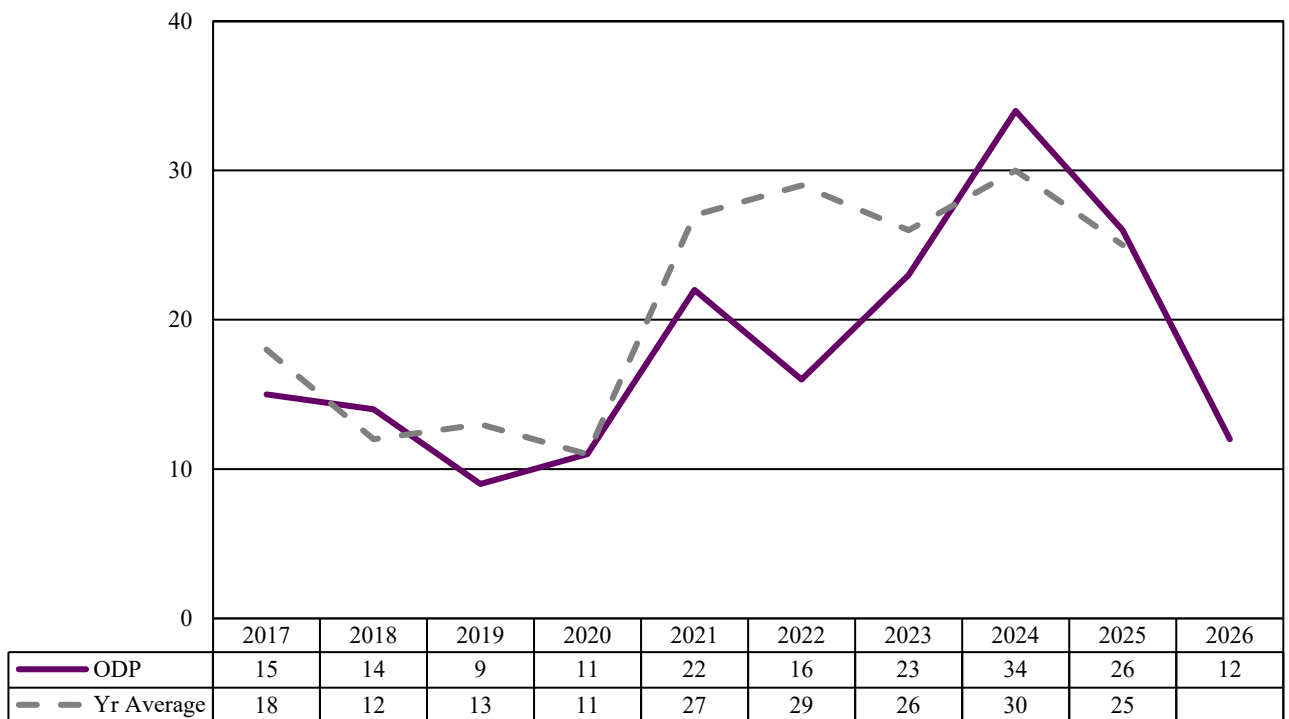


Figure 2a: Location of reportable medical incidents attended in February 2026 (total 473)

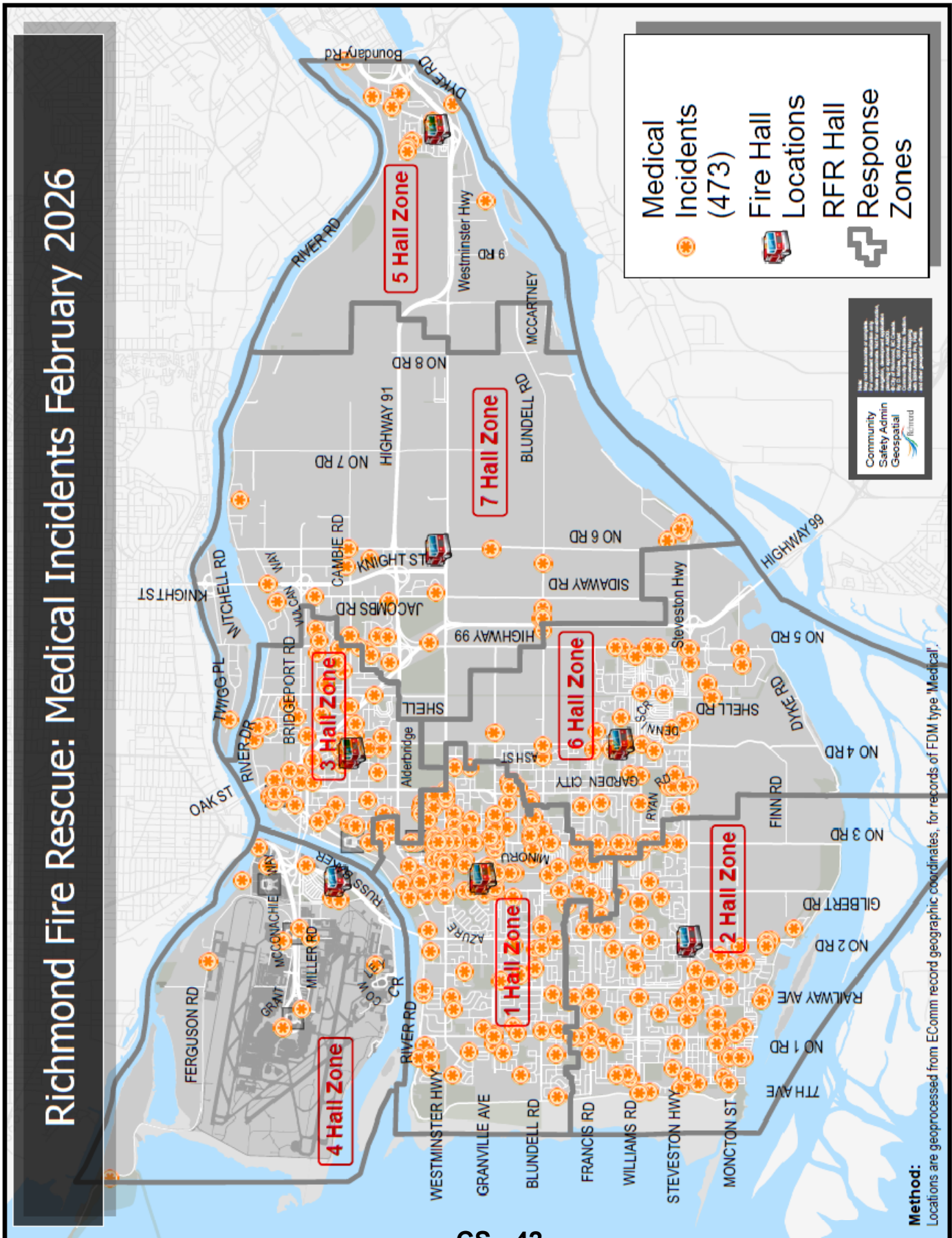


Figure 2b: Density of reportable medical incidents attended in February 2026 (total 473)

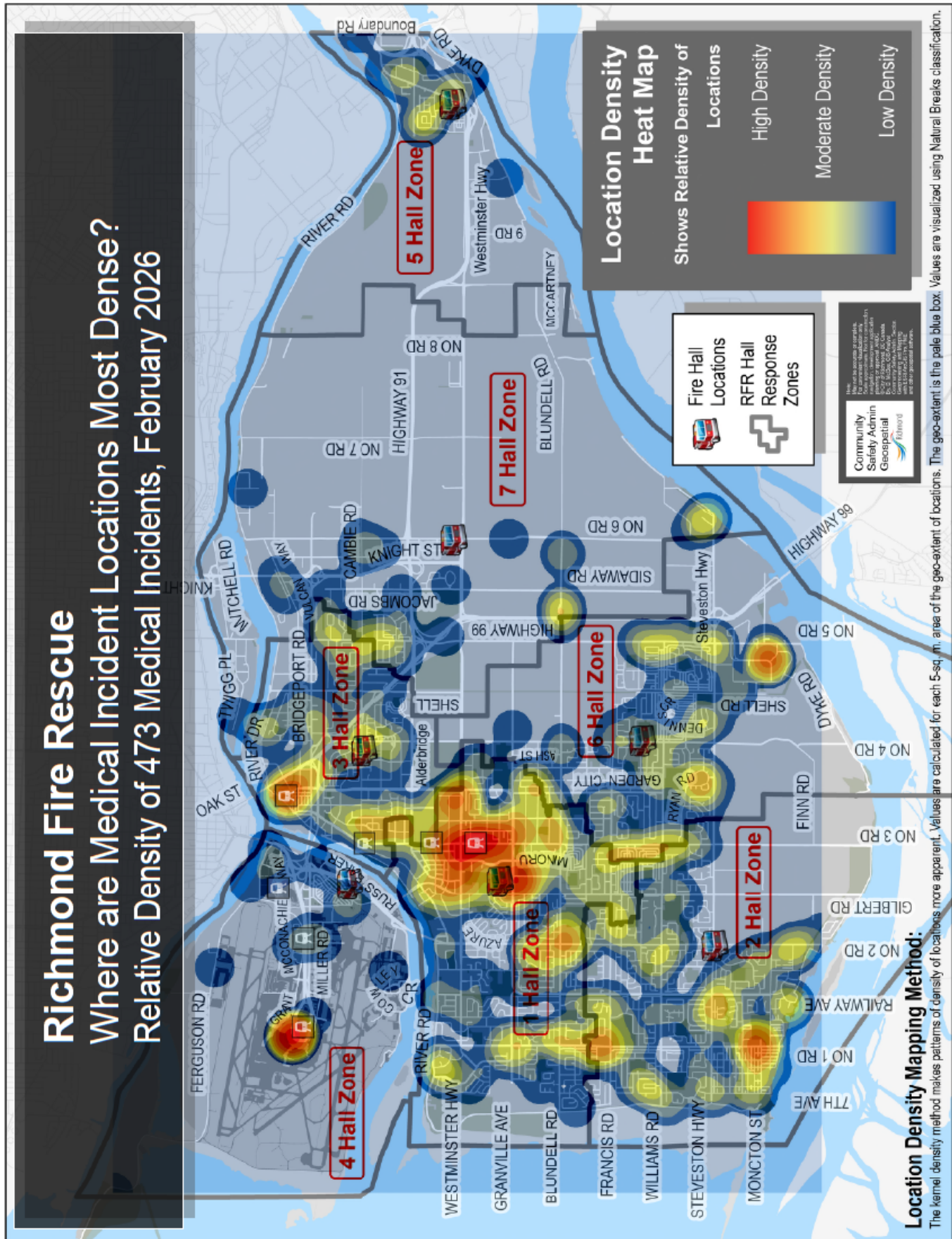


Figure 3b: Density of reportable motor vehicle incidents (MVIs) attended in February 2026 (total 80)

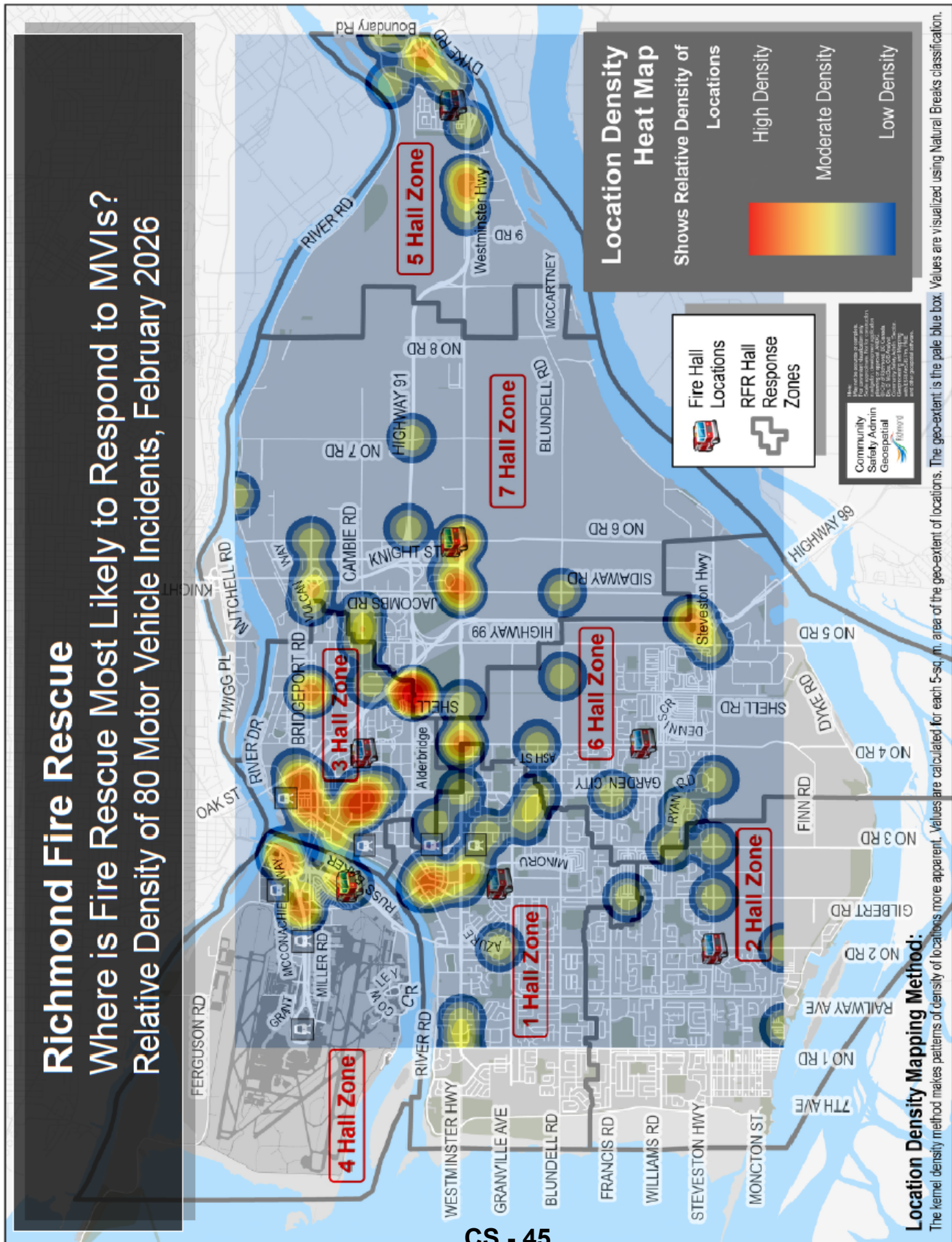


Figure 4a: Location of reportable overdose/poisoning incidents attended in February 2026 (total 12)

