



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee

Date: February 10, 2022

From: Jim Wishlove
Acting Fire Chief

File: 99-Fire Rescue/2022-
Vol 01

Re: Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – January 2022

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – January 2022”, dated February 10, 2022, from the Acting Fire Chief, be received for information.

Jim Wishlove
Acting 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 supports Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #1 A Safe and Resilient City:

Enhance and protect the safety and well-being of Richmond.

Analysis

Emergency Programs (EP)

Emergency Program's 2022 Planning and Exercises:

- Building upon relationships with the City's regional emergency management partners, EP staff were invited to participate in a planning conference with the Vancouver International Airport, Canada Border Services Agency, the RCMP, and the US Customs and Border Protection for an active shooter tabletop exercise scenario at Vancouver Airport scheduled for later this spring.
- EP staff actively helped in planning and establishing the working conditions for the tabletop exercise including setting the goals to be achieved during the exercise. Through this planning exercise, EP staff were able to further improve communications with our active partners, as well as establish stronger common working structures and command and control procedures.

Canadian Red Cross (CRC) National Inclusive Resiliency Project Update:

- The first Inclusive Resilience activity with CRC was launched this month. Seniors from the community were invited to participate in an "Ask the Expert" activity by submitting their questions about earthquakes to be answered by seismologists from BC Earthquake Alliance. This survey will be ongoing until mid-February 2022. Every participant will also be entered into a raffle to win a free emergency kit.
- Supporting this event, EP staff have created and installed a display at the Seniors Centre at the Minoru Centre for Active Living with posters and brochures, as well as a social media campaign with an online survey, both of which started January 25, 2022.

Emergency Support Services (ESS) Reporting Information:

The following table shows the Emergency Support Services (ESS) deployment for January.

Table 1: Emergency Support Services Deployment Information				
Date	Address	Volunteers Deployed *	# of Evacuees	Suppliers Used
January 27, 2022	Ryan Road	Y	2 Adults	Lodging, Food, Clothing & Incidentals

* ESS support provided virtually through Canadian Red Cross.

Training and Public Education

During January 2022, fire-training staff delivered educational activities and programs including frontline leadership for future officers and recruit four-month examinations and performance reviews.

During January 2022, public education staff delivered educational activities including learning about fire safety with a Grade 2 classroom workbook, which was distributed to a trial group of schools in the city.

Emergency Response

Richmond Fire-Rescue staff continue to respond to calls for service incorporating Health Orders issued by the Province to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as provide regular services to the community.

Richmond Fire-Rescue's goal is to respond to incidents in a manner where loss of life, reduction of property damage and protection of the environment is mitigated. In January 2022, there were a total of 953 reported incidents, representing a 51 per cent increase in incidents from January 2021 (Attachment 1).

Richmond Fire-Rescue continues to experience increases in medical call responses due to changes in the Provincial Health Orders and Medical Health Officer's direction. The increase in January 2022 is a result of the gradual return to normal levels of service of medical event types and responses to medical calls. RFR continues to monitor all activities to identify and create programs to incorporate emerging trends.

The average time on scene for RFR crews was 35 minutes, which was higher than then what was recorded in 2021; 27 minutes. Time on scene can vary due to the nature and severity of each incident.

	Totals (2022)	Percentage Change from January 2021	Number Change from January 2021 to 2022	5 Year Average for January
Alarm Active No Fire	197	+26	+41	151
Explosion	1	-	-	1
Fire	26	-4	-1	26
Haz-Mat	10	+43	+3	11
Medical	471	+70	+194	389
MVI	76	+13	+9	94
Public Hazard	3	-63	-5	10
Public Service	11	-76	-35	48
Response Cancelled/Unfounded	99	+141	+58	74
Specialized Transport	56	+5,500	+55	15
Tech Rescue	3	-	+3	1
Totals	953	+51	+322	830

In January 2022, there were 26 fire incidents which were reported to the Office of the Fire Commissioner representing a four per cent decrease from January 2021. The average number of fires reported in January over the last five years is 26.

Richmond Fire-Rescue's emergency fire response goal is to contain a fire to the room of origin. The room of origin standard is especially important in terms of fire loss and damage, which increases significantly once a fire extends beyond the room of origin.

Fire damage and property losses during January 2022 are estimated at \$599,360. This total includes \$559,830 for building/asset loss and \$39,530 for content loss. The total building/asset and content value at risk was estimated to be \$310,067,345 and the total value preserved from damage was \$309,407,185. These numbers translate to 99 per cent of value protected (Table 2); this is the same as the value observed in 2021.

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	3	842,400	127,200	70,000	25,005	760,195
Multi family	7	233,966,200	5,000	78,215	2,425	233,976,190
Commercial/Industrial	6	69,994,000	312,100	5,000,000	11,100	74,670,800
Outdoor	5	30	30	-	-	-
Vehicle/Vessel	5	115,500	115,500	1,000	1,000	-
Totals*	26	304,918,130	559,830	5,149,215	39,530	309,407,185

* 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).

Significant Events

Fire crews minimized harm and limited fires to the place of origin in these notable January 2022 incidents:

- January 16, 2022 – Vehicle fire on Afton Drive.** Multiple crews responded to heavy smoke coming from a garage. RFR crews established initial command and carried out a 360 assessment of the garage area. Crews set up an attack line and the fire was extinguished. After the fire was extinguished, crews checked the residence for air quality as there was light smoke in the property. Crews monitored the air in the residence and provided ventilation for the smoke to clear. The City’s Works Yard attended to secure the home as a window had been broken and due to the residual smoke, the residents chose to stay in a hotel. A Fire Investigator attended the scene. There were no injuries to the public or RFR personnel.
- January 25, 2022 – Residential fire on Blundell Road.** On arrival, crews found a structure on fire in an outbuilding behind a residence. While fighting the fire, staff discovered that there was a licensed marihuana grow operation on site. Crews immediately withdrew all staff from the building and transitioned to a defensive fire attack and the fire was extinguished without incident. After the site was deemed safe, crews performed salvage and overhaul of the site. BC Hydro crews were on scene to ensure electrical safety and the RCMP attended due to the nature of the call. A Fire Investigator attended the scene. There were no injuries to the public or RFR personnel.

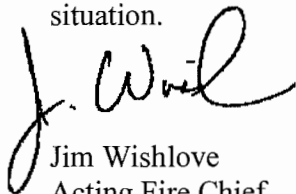
- **January 26, 2022 – Residential fire on Cambie Road.** Multiple crews responded to reports of a fire and, on arrival, crews could see light smoke coming from the rooftop of a unit. Crews performed an assessment of the complex, and after securing a water source, performed a forcible entry on the front door. Crews then entered the property for a fire attack. Once inside, the unit appeared to be an unlicensed marijuana grow operation. RFR crews exited the building to shut off the power and open a skylight on the roof to enable the suite to be vented. A positive flow path was created to allow a fan to vent the smoke and crews extinguished any fires found. After the building had vented and cooled, crews re-entered the building to check for any additional hot spots. BC Hydro crews were on scene to ensure electrical safety. Fortis Gas were on scene to shut off the gas to all units. BC Emergency Health Services crews and the RCMP attended due to the nature of the call. A Fire Investigator attended the scene. There were no injuries to the public or RFR personnel.
- **January 27, 2022 – Residential fire on Ryan Road.** RFR crews responded to a first alarm fire call on Ryan Road. On arrival, crews found a multi-tenant residential building with audible alarms sounding and people outside. Crews quickly attacked and extinguished the fire, which was located in a bottom floor unit. Once extinguished, crews set up a positive pressure ventilation fan and began overhaul operations. Due to the extent of the fire, two adult residents were displaced and required assistance from Emergency Support Services. A Fire Investigator attended the scene. There were no injuries to the public or RFR personnel.
- **January 30, 2022 – Vehicle fire on River Road.** RFR crews responded to a fire on River Road involving two trailers and one vehicle. There were no fire hydrants nearby and several apparatus needed to be refilled to extinguish the fire. One of the occupants of the trailers became short of breath about half an hour after the crews arrival and was attended to by RFR personnel. BC Emergency Health Services crews attended and provided further patient care. A Fire Investigator attended the scene. There were no other injuries to the public or RFR personnel.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

Richmond Fire-Rescue has not experienced any negative impacts to emergency response and will continue to monitor activities to identify and create programs to respond to emerging trends. RFR staff remain ready to continue to work through and adapt to the ever-changing pandemic situation.



Jim Wishlove
Acting Fire Chief
(604-303-2715)

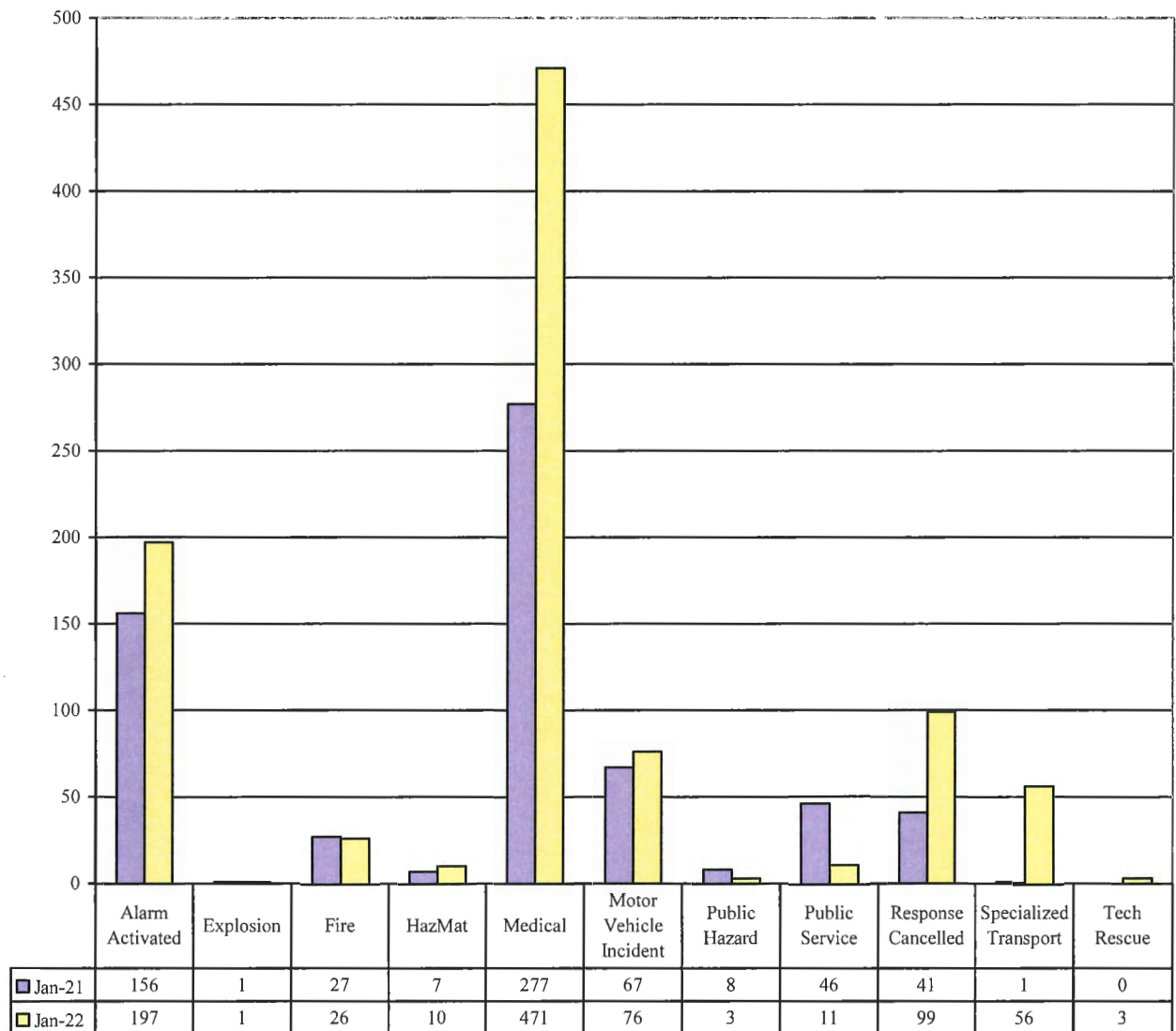
JW: js

Att. 1: Suppression Activity, including location of January's Fire, Medical and MVI's

Incident Volumes

The following chart provides a month-to-month comparison regarding incidents occurring in January 2022 and 2021. In January 2022, there were a total of 953 incidents, compared to 661 in January 2021. This represents an increase of 51 per cent. RFR continue to see incident numbers returning to normal levels due to gradual changes in the Provincial Medical Health Officer orders in response to the pandemic.

Table 4a: January 2021 & January 2022 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: aircraft emergency, bomb removal standby, 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 49 per cent of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of January 2022. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for January 2021 and 2022 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 471 medical incidents in January 2022 compared to 277 in January 2021, an increase of 70 per cent. RFR continue to see incident numbers returning to normal levels due to gradual changes in the Provincial Medical Health Officer orders in response to the pandemic.

Table 5a: January 2021 & January 2022 Medical Calls by Type

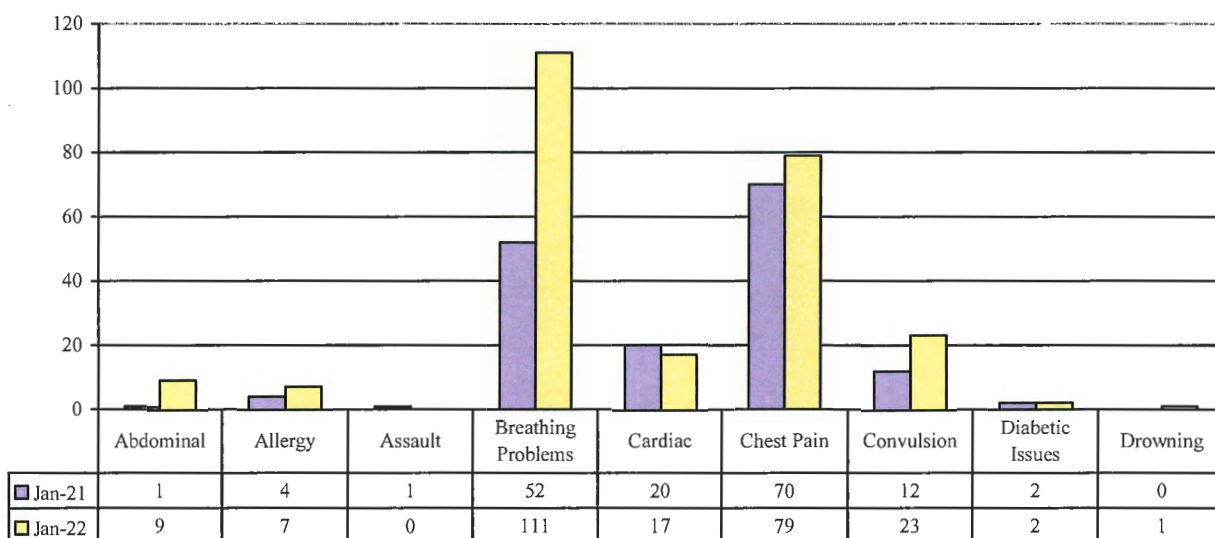
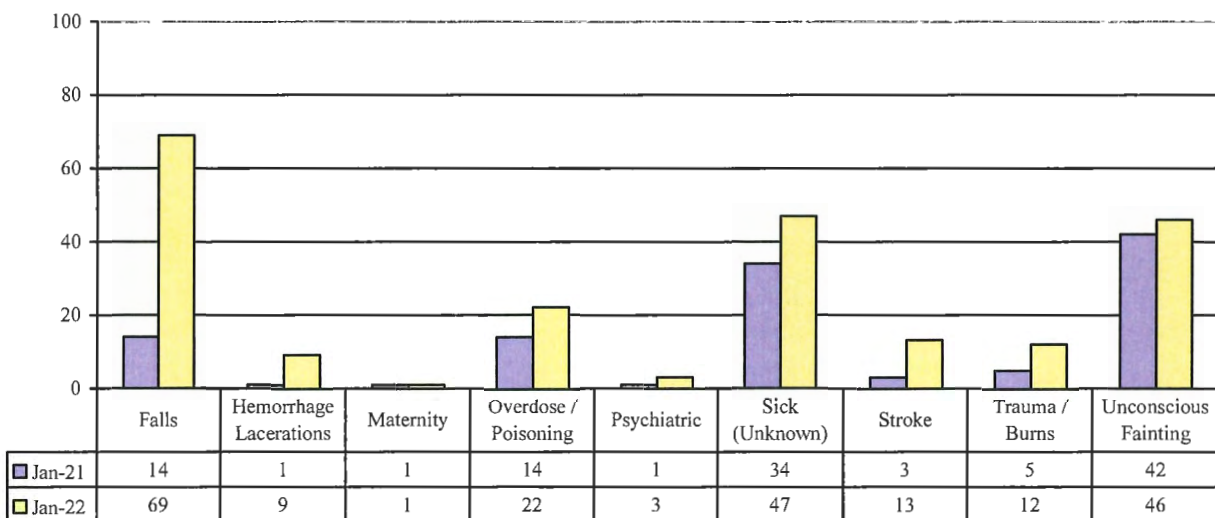


Table 5b: January 2021 & January 2022 Medical Calls by Type



Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for January 2022 are listed below:

Table 6: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – January 2022			
	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	-	2	1
Residential - Multi-family	-	7	-
Commercial/Industrial	1	5	-
Outdoor	-	3	2
Vehicle	2	1	2
Totals	3	18	5

Richmond Fire-Rescue investigators report all suspicious fires to the RCMP, while working alongside RCMP staff to address potential risks to the community.

Hazardous Materials

Table 7: Hazardous Materials Incidents By Type – January 2022	
	Details
Toxic / Infectious Substances	1
Natural Gas / Propane Leaks (small)	7
Unclassified	2
Totals	10

Figure 1: Location of reportable fires attended in January 2022 (total 26)

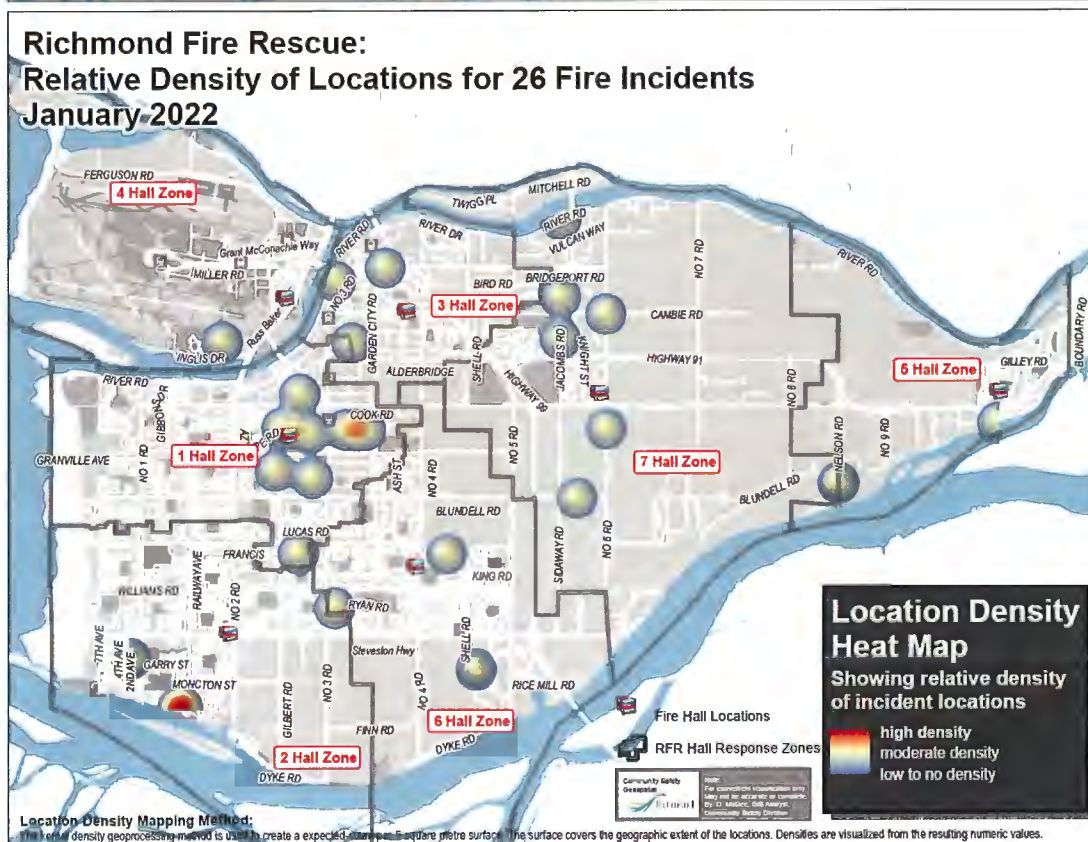
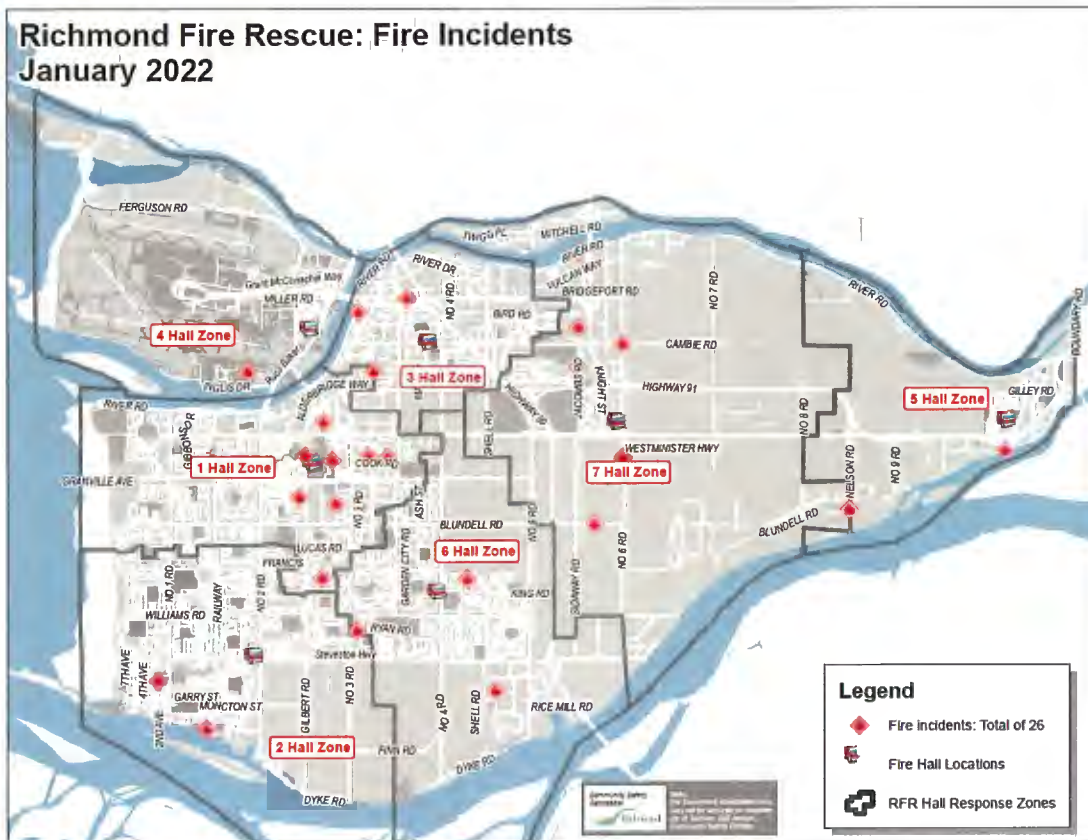


Figure 2: Location of medical incidents in January 2022 (total 471)

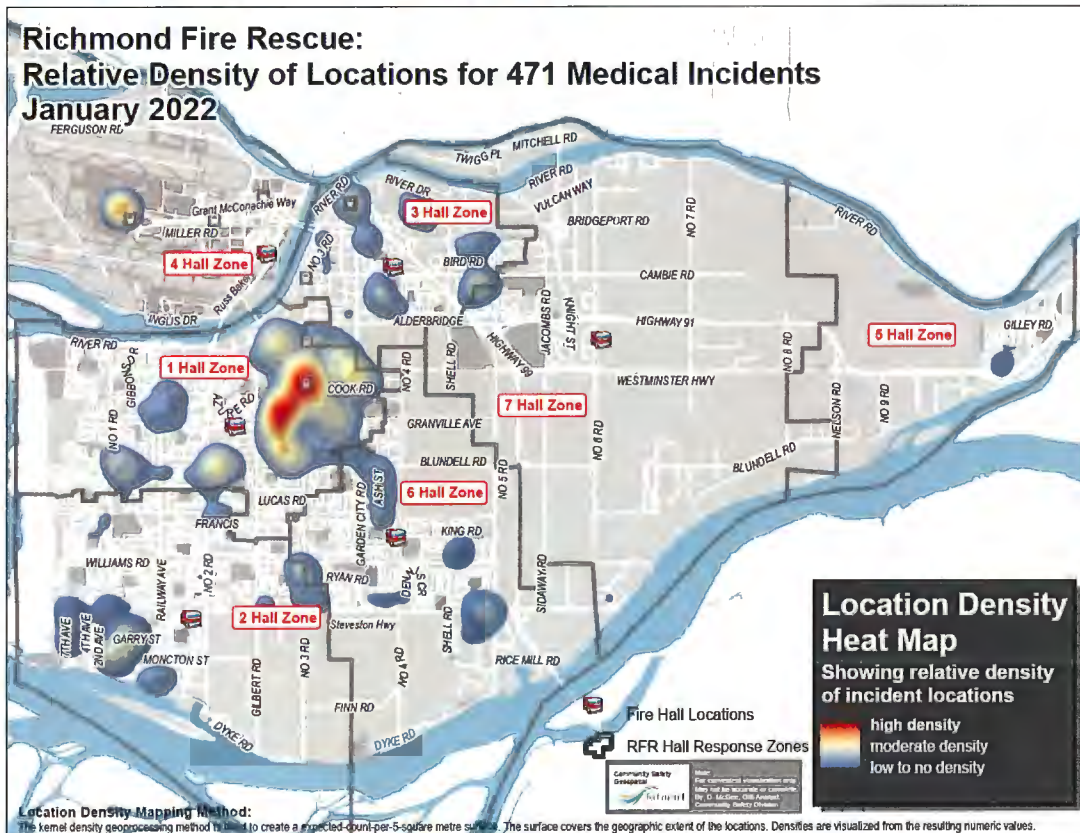
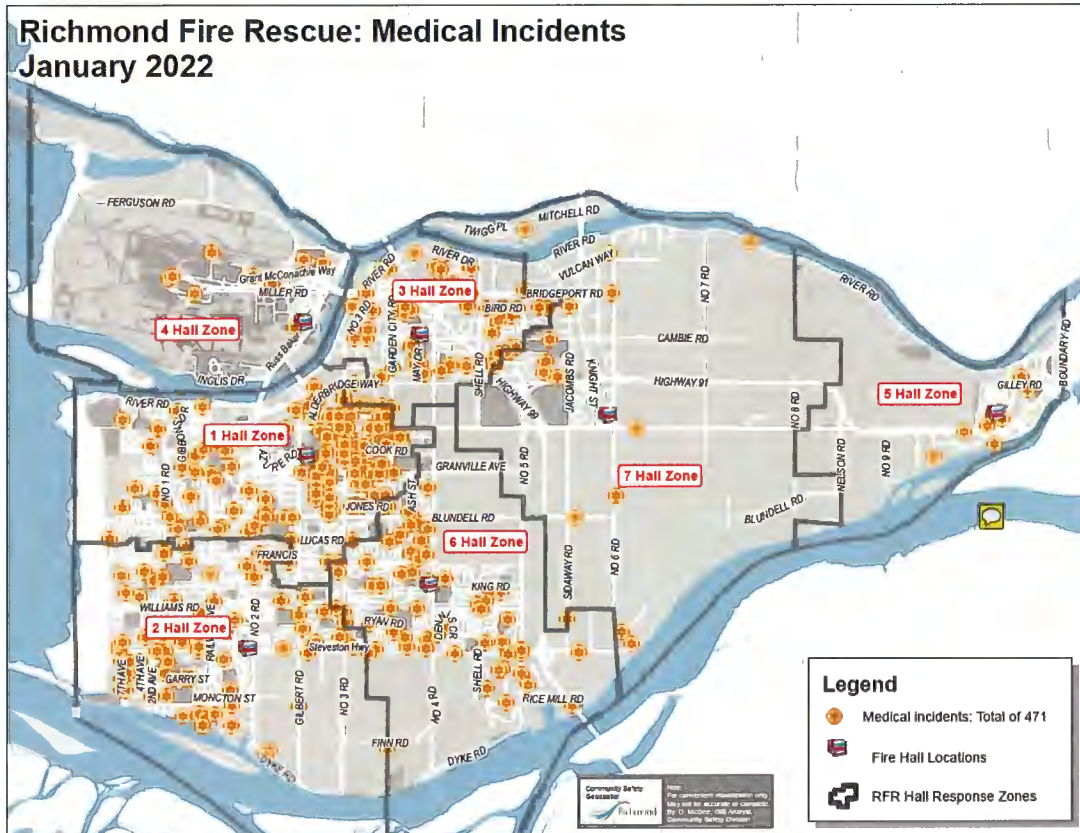


Figure 3: Location of MVI Incidents in January 2022 (total 76)

