



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee

Date: April 12, 2024

From: Jim Wishlove
Fire Chief

File 09-5140-01/2024-Vol
01

Re: Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – March 2024

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – March 2024”, dated April 12, 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 March staff engaged in the following activities:

- Joined a functional exercise hosted by the City of Delta, Delta Fire, Emergency Services and Delta Police, exercising their post-catastrophe rapid damage assessment program. The learning was to quickly assess the extent of damage to critical infrastructure and targeted areas of interest as a critical activity following a destructive event.
- Participated in a joint municipality multi-hazard function exercise hosted by the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District that involved the activation of three municipal emergency operation centers, including a local First Nation authority. The exercise simulated responses to local flooding, landslides, power outages, and numerous isolated incidents as a result of a severe weather event.
- Supported and guided the creation of the Safety and Security operational guide for the City's annual Cherry Blossom Festival held in Garry Point Park.
- Attended a tabletop exercise hosted by a local large industrial facility. The table top exercise simulated an earthquake, and the resulting collaboration between staff and the operator identified opportunities for improved communication and documentation procedures strengthening the ability for the City to collaborate and facilitate an effective response to an emergency.
- Aided in the facilitation of a grant application through the Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) to support initiatives to build relationships, plan, reconcile and build capacity for emergency management between the City and the local indigenous communities.

Public Outreach & Education

In March 2024, staff facilitated outreach events to provide educational opportunities to the community, including fire hall and vehicle tours for five organizations.

Staff hosted the "Dogs on Bumpers Photo Shoot", which was a fun community engagement session to wrap up the social media campaign which had run over the winter.

Staff hosted our RCMP partners in support of their Car Seat Inspection event. Additionally, staff continued with life safety educational social media videos and posts throughout March.

Internal Staff Training

In March 2024, staff organized in-house training events including: Fire Service Leadership, First Responder Scope of Practice updates, Incident Command Systems and ongoing recruit training evaluations.

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 March 2024, there were 1,078 reported incidents of all types, representing an overall increase of 4 per cent in incidents between March 2023 and March 2024 (Table 1).

Table 1: Total Incidents - March 2024					
	Incident Totals March (2024)	Incident Totals March (2023)	Number Change from March 2023 to 2024	Percentage Change from March 2023 to 2024	5 Year Average for March
Active Alarm	169	158	+11	+7	136
Explosion	1	0	+1	+100	0
Fire	33	32	+1	+3	33
Hazardous Materials	10	7	+3	+43	10
Medical	595	585	+10	+2	442
Motor Vehicle Incident	100	86	+14	+16	76
Public Hazard	9	6	+3	+50	10
Public Service	79	90	-11	-12	80
Response Cancelled/Unfounded	76	68	+8	+12	53
Specialized Transport	5	2	+3	+150	3
Technical Rescue	1	1	0	0	0
Total	1078	1035	+43	+4	843

The average time on scene in March 2024 for emergency response crews was 33 minutes per event, which is lower than the number recorded in March 2023: 34 minutes. The time spent on scene can vary due to the nature and severity of each incident.

In March 2024, there were 33 fire incidents reported to the Office of the Fire Commissioner, this is more than the number reported in March 2023. The average number of fires reported each March over the last five years is 33.

Fire damage and property losses during March 2024 are estimated at \$18,680. This total includes \$18,680 for building/asset loss and \$0 for content loss. The total building/asset and content value at risk is estimated to be \$8,257,495 and the total value preserved from damage was \$8,238,815. These numbers translate to 99 per cent of value protected (Table 3), which is the same as the value observed in 2023: 99 per cent.

Table 2: Fire Incidents By Type and Loss Estimates - March 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	1	1,462,600	-	1,023,855	-	2,486,455
Residential: Multi family	5	1,090,960	15,010	763,535	-	1,839,485
Commercial / Industrial	4	3,676,750	-	221,225	-	3,897,975
Outdoor	22	3,570	1,670	-	-	1,900
Vehicle/Vessel	1	15,000	2,000	-	-	13,000
Totals*	33	6,248,880	18,680	2,008,615	-	8,238,815

* 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 March 2024 incidents:

- **March 12, 2024 – Structure Fire on Blundell Road.** Emergency crews responded to a fire inside a commercial property on Blundell Road. Upon arrival, the first in crews worked quickly to mitigate the hazard and were able to support the quick actions of the staff on scene in the business to prevent the situation from escalating. The fire was extinguished. A Fire Investigator and a Coastal Health representative attended the scene. There were no reports of injury to the public or RFR personnel.
- **March 14, 2024 – Motor Vehicle incident on River Road.** Emergency crews responded to a two vehicle motor vehicle incident near the train trestle on River Road. One vehicle was found on its side in a ditch and the other with front end damage on the road. There were no fluids leaking from the vehicle in the ditch. One driver was injured and transported to the hospital. All other occupants were checked by onsite BC Emergency Health Services staff and released from care. There was no reported damage to the train trestle. RCMP attended to conduct their investigation. There were no other reports of injury to the public or RFR personnel.

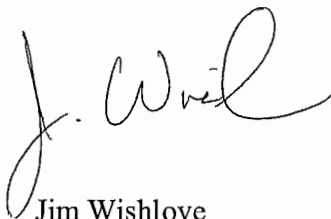
- **March 25, 2024 – Hazardous Materials on Boundary Road.** Emergency Hazmat crews responded to a diesel fuel spill. Approximately 200 litres of diesel fuel had leaked from two containers on the property. The fuel was contained on the ground by absorbent materials. Some of the fuel spill had gone down two drains but had been contained in the drainage system. An additional RFR Unit responded to remove any fuel in the drainage system. The City's Works Yard and a Hazardous Materials company were contacted for spill absorption and removal. There were no reports of injury to the public or RFR personnel.
- **March 31, 2024 – Structure Fire on Alderbridge Way.** Emergency crews responded to a structure fire. Crews quickly attacked the fire, and effective firefighting held this fire to a localized area in one unit of a multi-unit commercial building. The fire was being held by a sprinkler system, and crews were able to fully extinguish the fire and clear the smoke. Support from Public Works assisted with boarding up a forced entry point, and security was called to maintain scene integrity. A Fire Investigator attended. There were no reports of injury to the public or RFR personnel.

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 regularly promote effective prevention behaviours.



Jim Wishlove
Fire Chief
(604-303-2715)

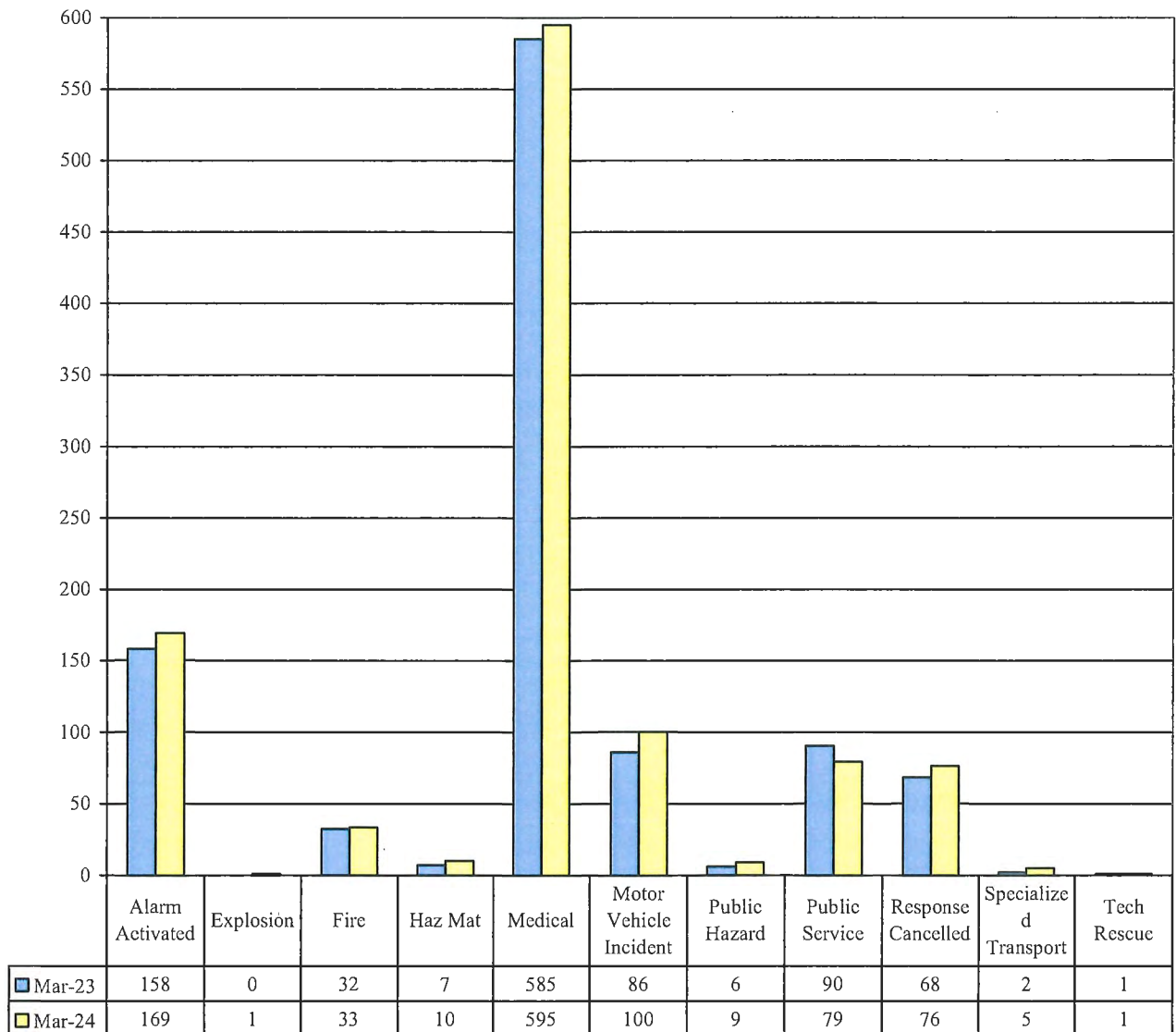
Att. 1: Emergency Response Activity for March 2024.

Emergency Response Activity for March 2024

Incident Volumes

The following chart provides a month-to-month comparison regarding incidents occurring in March 2023 and 2024. In March 2024, there were 1,078 total incidents, compared to 1,035 in March 2023. This represents an overall increase of 4 per cent between last year and 2024.

Table 3: March 2023 & March 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 55 per cent of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of March 2024. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for March 2023 and 2024 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were 595 medical incidents in March 2024 compared to 485 in March 2023, an increase of 2 per cent.

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

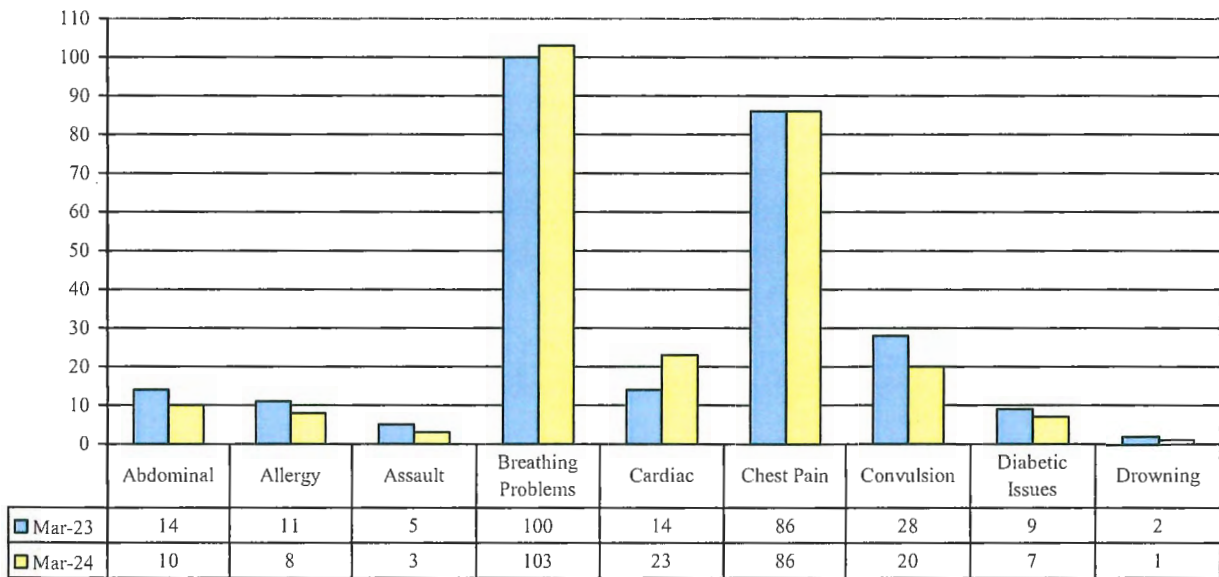
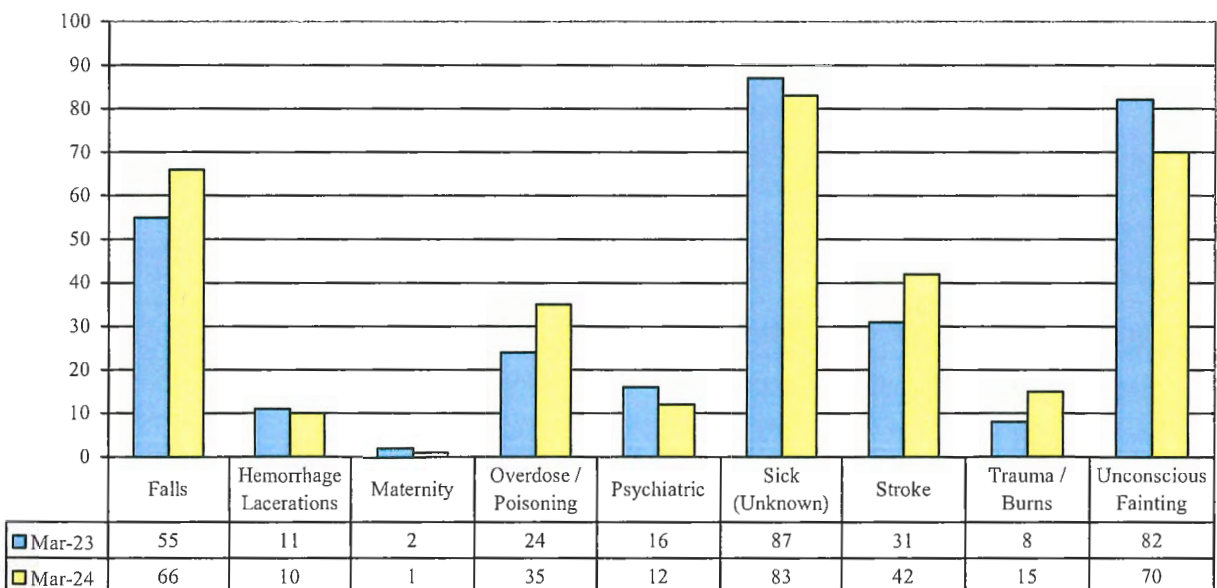


Table 4b: March 2023 & March 2024 Medical Calls by Type



The following chart provides the overdose/poisoning incident volume breakdown for March 2024. During March 2024, Naloxone was administered once (2 doses) by RFR staff.

Table 4c: Overdose / Poisoning Incidents By Type – March 2024	
Opioid overdose incidents that RFR attended located in an OUTDOOR environment.	5
Opioid overdose incidents that RFR attended located in an INDOOR environment.	8
All other OD / Poisoning Incidents	22
Totals	35

Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for March 2024 are listed below:

Table 5: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – March 2024			
	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	-	1	-
Residential - Multi-family	-	5	-
Commercial/Industrial	1	2	1
Outdoor	12	7	3
Vehicle	1	-	-
Totals	14	15	4

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 – March 2024	
	Details
Gasses (Natural / Propane)	5
Corrosive	1
Flammable/Combustible Liquids	1
Standby/Support for other agency	1
Unclassified	2
Totals	10

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

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

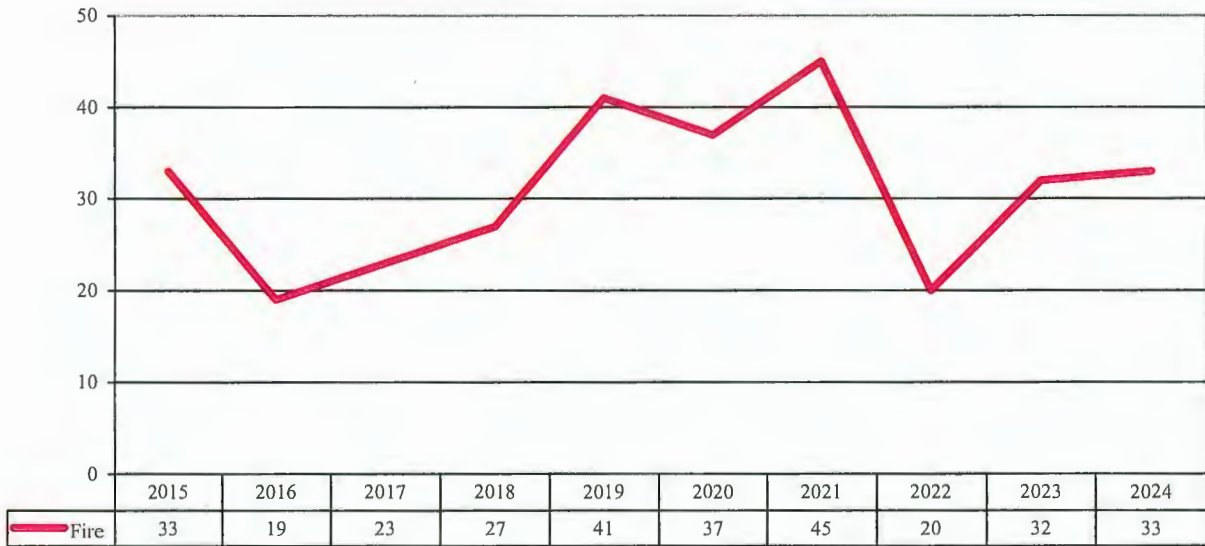
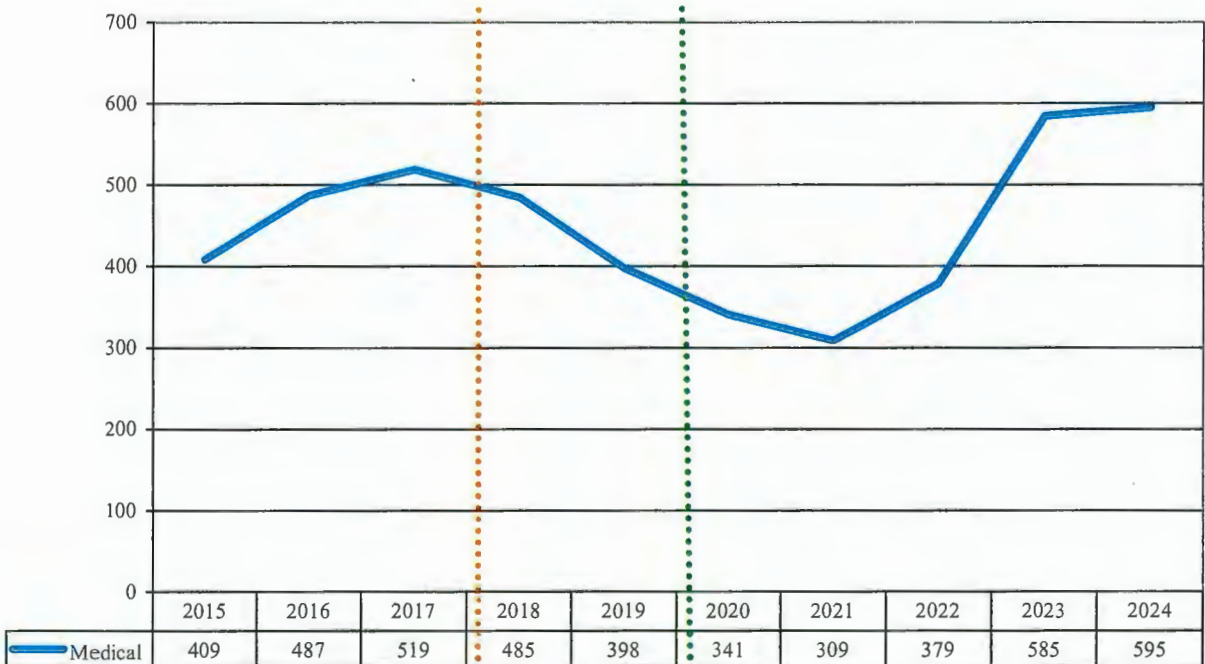


Table 7b: Total Medical Calls for Service in March from 2015 to 2024



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

Start of Covid-19 pandemic

Figure 1: Location of reportable fire incidents attended in March 2024 (total 33)

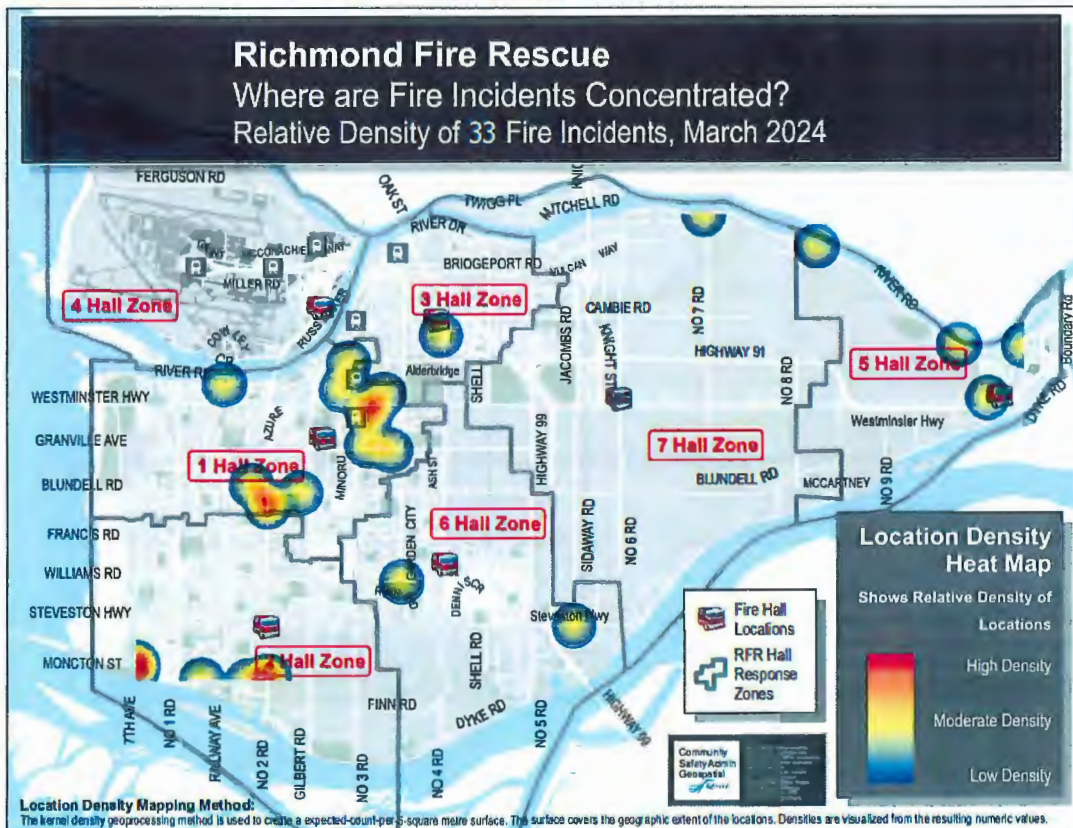
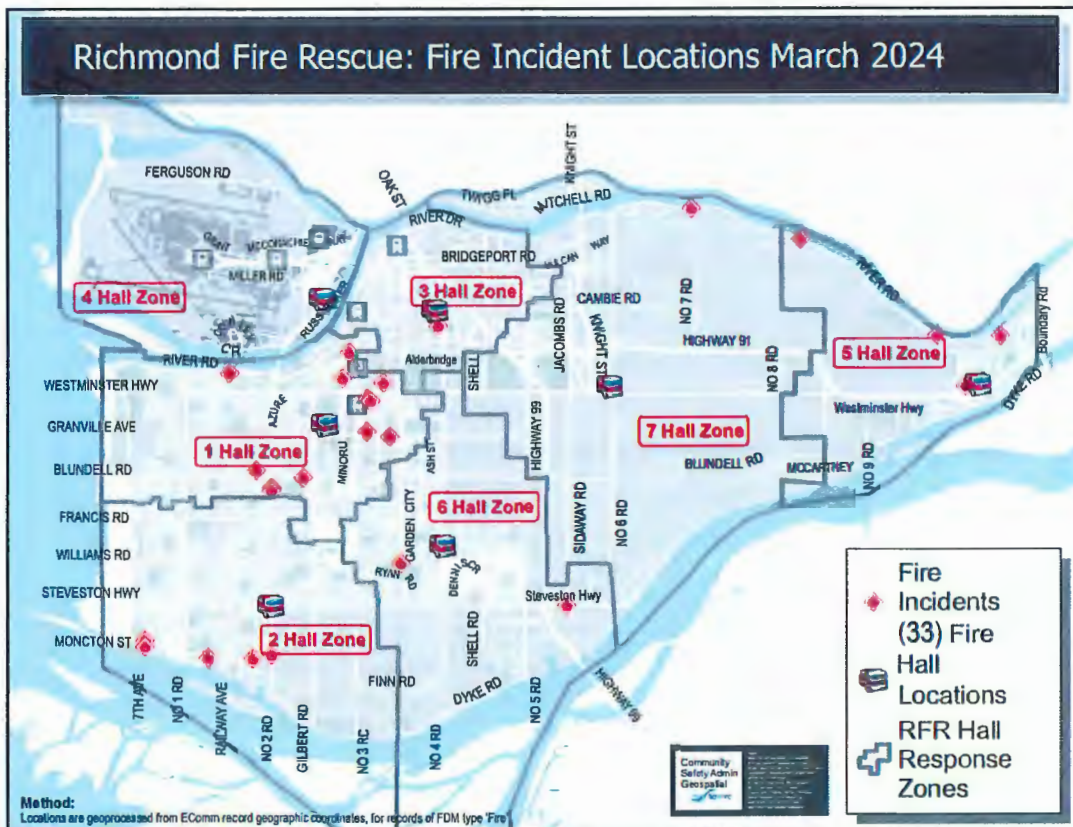


Figure 2: Location of reportable medical incidents attended in March 2024 (total 595)

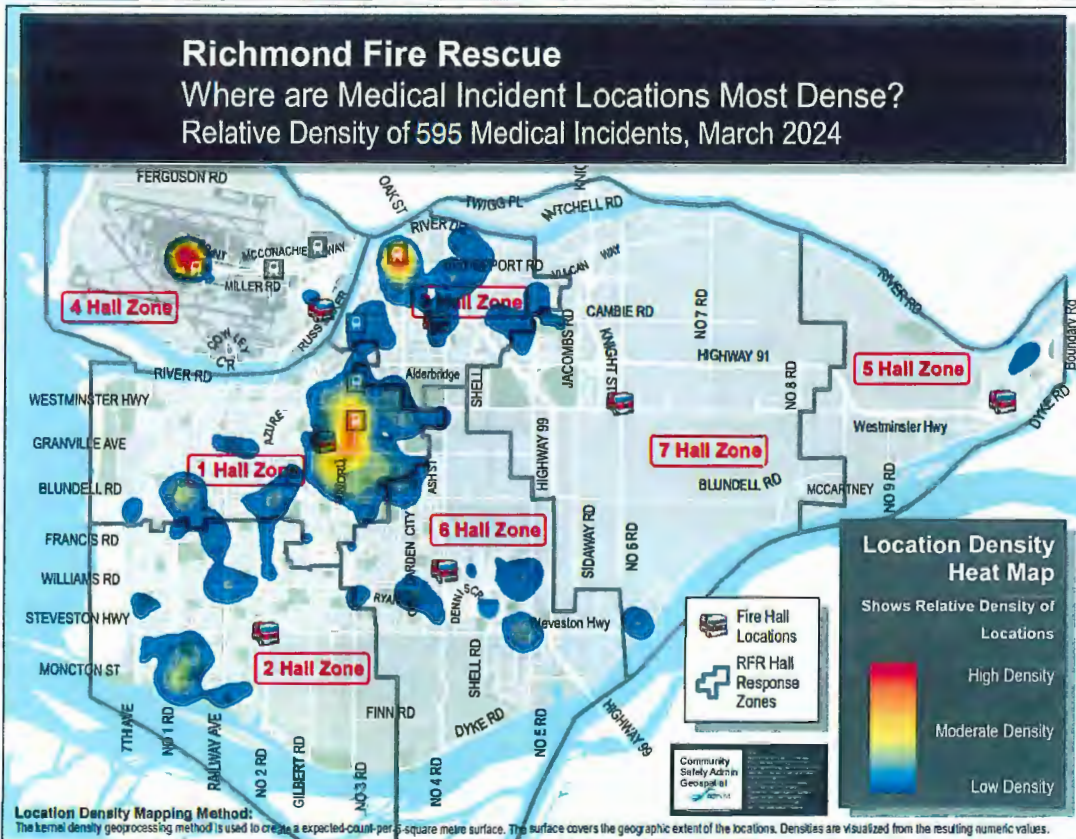
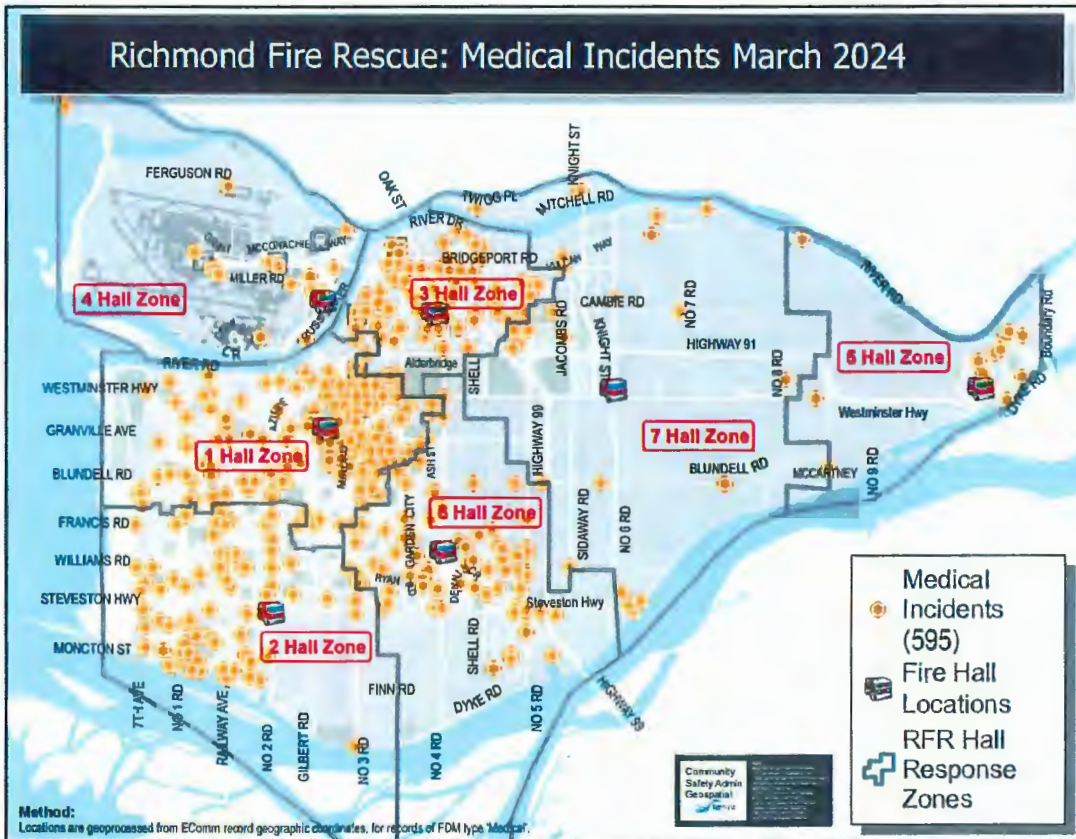


Figure 3: Location of reportable motor vehicle incidents (MVIs) attended in March 2024 (total 100)

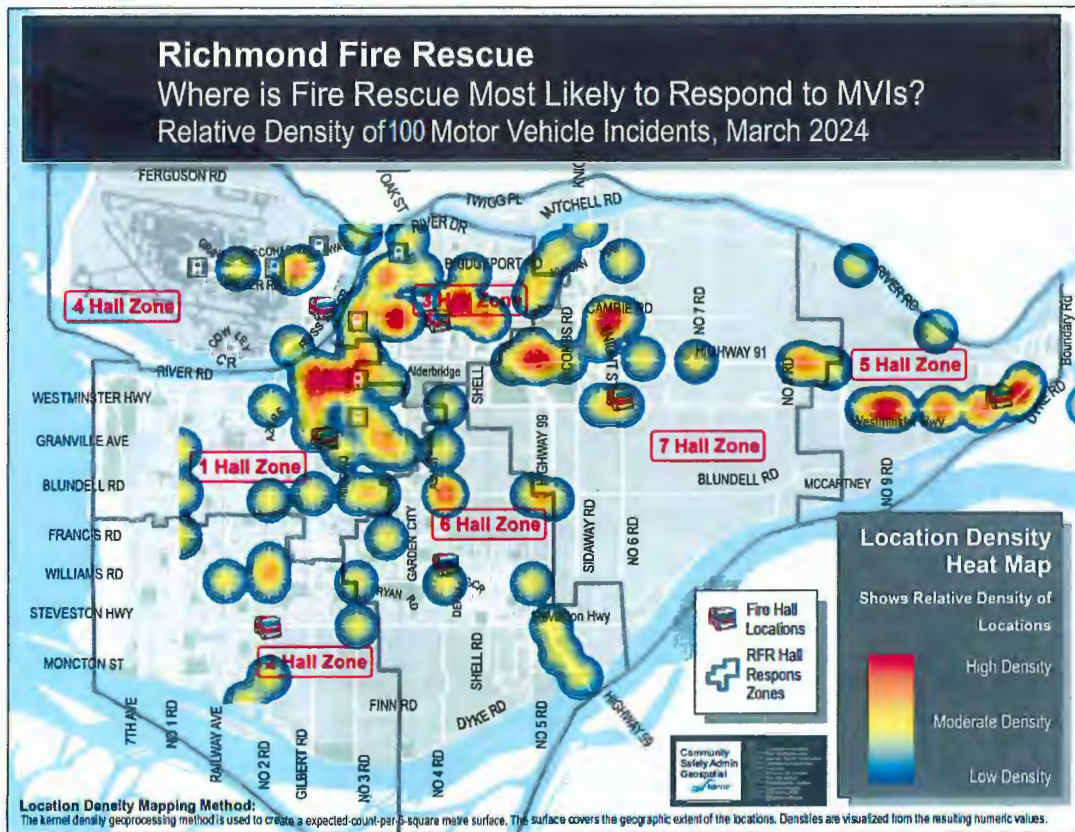
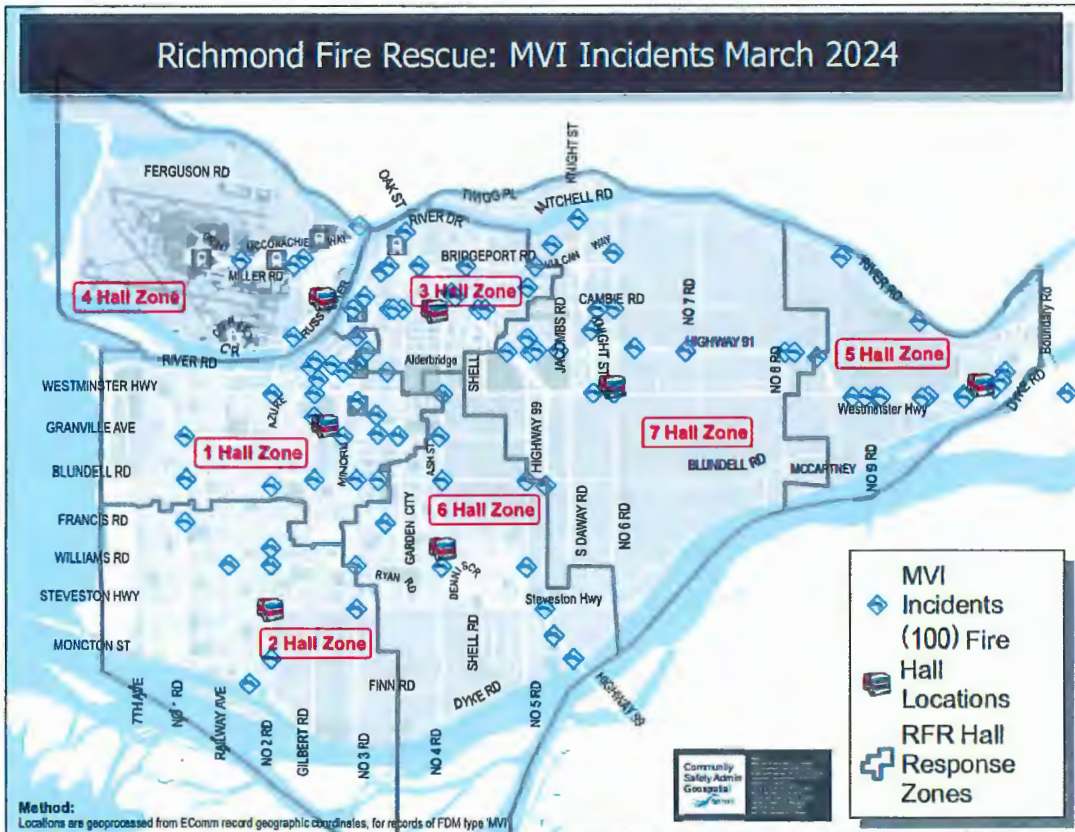


Figure 4: Location of reportable overdose / poisoning incidents attended in March 2024 (Total 35)

