



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

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**To:** Community Safety Committee **Date:** June 10, 2024  
**From:** Jim Wishlove **File:** 09-5140-01/2024-Vol  
Fire Chief 01  
**Re:** **Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – May 2024**




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### Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – May 2024”, dated June 10, 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 May, staff engaged in the following activities:

- Participated in an Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) Seasonal Hazard Preparedness session, hosted by EMCR. The event included hazard forecasts, an emergency planning tabletop exercise and an opportunity to network with colleagues from other areas of the South West region of the Province.
- Facilitated an Incident Command System (ICS) training session for 21 Public Works Supervisory Leadership Level 2 staff members. This included an introduction and application of ICS principles for Public Works leadership as part of their supervisory leadership development program.
- Attended the Chinese Christian Mission (CCM) of Canada Safety & Security Living Fair. Staff provided information on emergency preparedness and community resilience.
- Facilitated an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) table top exercise and familiarization training session for RFR Senior Management Team.
- Presented an Emergency Preparedness Workshop Staff to Community seniors. The workshop covered the five steps to emergency preparedness with a focus on earthquakes and extreme heat.
- Participated in an Extreme Heat Plan orientation meeting with members of the Richmond Public Library and Community Services to discuss their roles and responsibilities during an extreme heat event.
- Coordinated with BC Wildfire staff to discuss the upcoming wildfire season outlook, the application and use of ICS, recent lessons learned and future initiatives to respond to the growing wildfire concern in the Province.
- Attended a joint meeting with staff from Engineering and Emergency Programs from both the City of Richmond and City of New Westminster to discuss areas of collaboration on preparation initiatives and mutual support opportunities.

- Attended a meeting with Coastal Health and Richmond Hospital staff to review heat response planning and shared interests.
- Provided Emergency Support Services (ESS) to six community evacuees, due to a structure fire on Abercrombie Drive (May 13, 2024).

#### Public Outreach & Education

During the month of May, staff engaged in the following activities:

- Facilitated outreach events to provide educational opportunities to the community, including fire hall and vehicle tours for 12 organizations, with over 400 participants.
- Participated in multiple community events, with over 600 participants, including: McHappy Day, William Bridge Spring Fair and an ICBC Road Safety Day along with RCMP and BC Emergency Health Services held at Hugh Boyd School.
- Provided Fire Prevention education and awareness for the Vancouver Airport Domestic Terminal staff.
- Additionally, staff continued with life safety educational social media videos and posts.

#### Internal Staff Training

In May 2024, staff organized in-house training events including: Technical Water Rescue, Emergency Scene Management, Wildland Fire 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 May 2024, there were 1,139 reported incidents of all types, representing an overall increase of 15 per cent in incidents between May 2023 and May 2024 (Table 1).

	<b>Incident Totals May (2024)</b>	<b>Incident Totals May (2023)</b>	<b>Number Change from May 2023 to 2024</b>	<b>Percentage Change from May 2023 to 2024</b>	<b>5 Year Average for May</b>
Active Alarm	169	160	+9	+6	134
Explosion	0	1	-1	-100	0
Fire	47	47	0	0	42
Hazardous Materials	6	6	0	0	5
Medical	605	541	+64	+12	407
Motor Vehicle Incident	75	73	+2	+3	64
Public Hazard	16	10	+6	+60	10
Public Service	127	79	+48	+61	81
Response Cancelled/Unfounded	92	65	+27	+42	56
Specialized Transport	1	6	-5	-83	2
Technical Rescue	1	0	+1	+100	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,139</b>	<b>988</b>	<b>+151</b>	<b>+15</b>	<b>803</b>

The average time on scene in May 2024 for emergency response crews was 30 minutes per event, which is lower than the number recorded in May 2023: 33 minutes. The time spent on scene can vary due to the nature and severity of each incident.

In May 2024, there were 47 fire incidents reported to the Office of the Fire Commissioner, this is the same as the number reported in May 2023. The average number of fires reported each May over the last five years is 42.

Fire damage and property losses during May 2024 are estimated at \$41,430. This total includes \$37,660 for building/asset loss and \$3,770 for content loss. The total building/asset and content value at risk is estimated to be \$164,759,770 and the total value preserved from damage was \$164,718,340. 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.

<b>Incident Type Breakdown</b>	<b>Incident Volume</b>	<b>Estimated Building/Asset Value (\$)</b>	<b>Estimated Building/Asset Loss (\$)</b>	<b>Estimated Content Value (\$)</b>	<b>Estimated Content Loss (\$)</b>	<b>Estimated Total Value Preserved (\$)</b>
Residential: Single family	3	3,036,750	2,500	1,510,325	-	4,544,575
Residential: Multi family	4	1,716,900	1,500	1,036,370	2,150	2,749,620
Commercial / Industrial	5	97,624,000	7,000	59,803,095	-	157,420,095
Outdoor	34	26,660	22,660	1,670	1,620	4,050
Vehicle/Vessel	1	4,000	4,000	-	-	-
<b>Totals*</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>102,408,310</b>	<b>37,660</b>	<b>62,351,460</b>	<b>3,770</b>	<b>164,718,340</b>

\* 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 May 2024 incidents:

- **May 5, 2024 – Fatality on River Road.** Emergency Crews responded to a report of a person laying next to tracks by the rail bridge. On arrival RFR crews found a deceased person. The RCMP and BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) attended the scene to determine cause of death. Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) was provided to staff on their return to the Fire Hall. There were no other injuries reported to the public or RFR personnel.
- **May 8, 2024 – Structure Fire on Bridgeport Road.** Emergency crews responded to reports of a commercial property fire on Bridgeport Road. RFR crews arrived on scene and found a fire on a second story balcony. A hand line was deployed and the fire extinguished quickly. Crews checked for any evidence of extension into the interior of the building and found none. A Fire Investigator attended. There were no reports of injury to the public or RFR personnel.
- **May 9, 2024 – Structure Fire on Westminster Highway.** Emergency crews were dispatched to a commercial property fire in the rear of the store involving a cardboard compactor. The first in crews used a hose line and were able to quickly extinguish the fire. There was evidence of an attempted arson so the scene was secured and RCMP attended. A Fire Investigator attended. There were no reports of injury to the public or RFR personnel.
- **May 10, 2024 – Outdoor Fire on Gilley Road.** Emergency crews responded to a hedge fire on Gilley Road. The nearby power lines had been pushed into a hedge by a semi truck. The fire was contained to the hedge. A Fire Investigator attended. Hydro were on scene to secure the power lines. There were no reports of injury to the public or RFR personnel.
- **May 13, 2024 – Structure Fire on Abercrombie Drive.** Emergency crews were dispatched to the scene of a townhouse complex with smoke and flames showing from the roof. First arriving crews attacked the fire aggressively and were able to bring the fire under control. On scene incident command reported a number of suites were not be able to be occupied for some time and some occupants would require relocation. RCMP and BCEHS staff were on scene. Staff from Emergency Programs were able to offer Emergency Support Services (ESS) for three families. A Fire Investigator attended. There were no reports of injury to the public or RFR personnel.
- **May 28, 2024 – Drowning near South Arm of Fraser River.** Emergency crews responded to reports of a person floating in the South Arm of the Fraser River near Triangle Road. First arriving crews surveyed the area to determine where to concentrate their efforts. Using a drone, RFR crews and RCMP found the victim. The Canadian Coast Guard also attended the scene to develop a joint recovery plan. There were no other reports of injury to the public or RFR personnel.

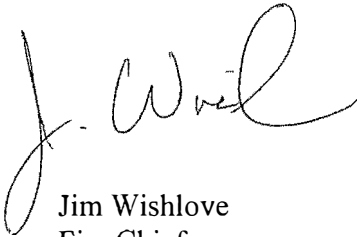
- **May 29, 2024 – Vehicle Fire on Granville Avenue.** Emergency crews responded to reports of a fully involved fire of a 20ft recreational vehicle near Granville Avenue. The first arriving crews quickly extinguished the fire and carried out scene overhaul. Granville Avenue was blocked in both directions to allow crews to access a water source. 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)

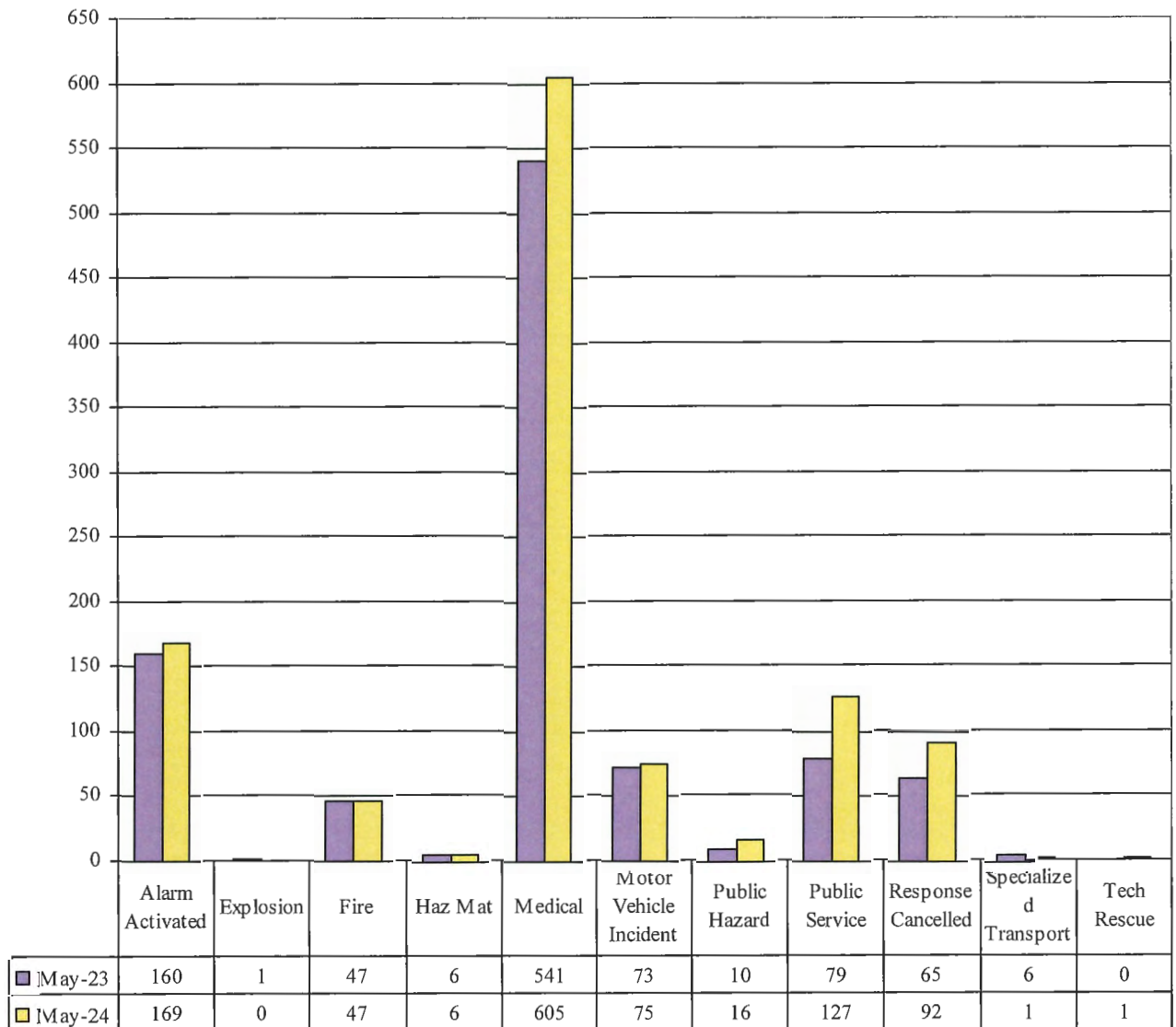
Att. 1: Emergency Response Activity for May 2024.

### Emergency Response Activity for May 2024

#### Incident Volumes

The following chart provides a month-to-month comparison regarding incidents occurring in May 2023 and 2024. In May 2024, there were 1,139 total incidents, compared to 988 in May 2023. This represents an overall increase of 15 per cent between last year and 2024.

**Table 3: May 2023 & May 2024 Incident Volumes**

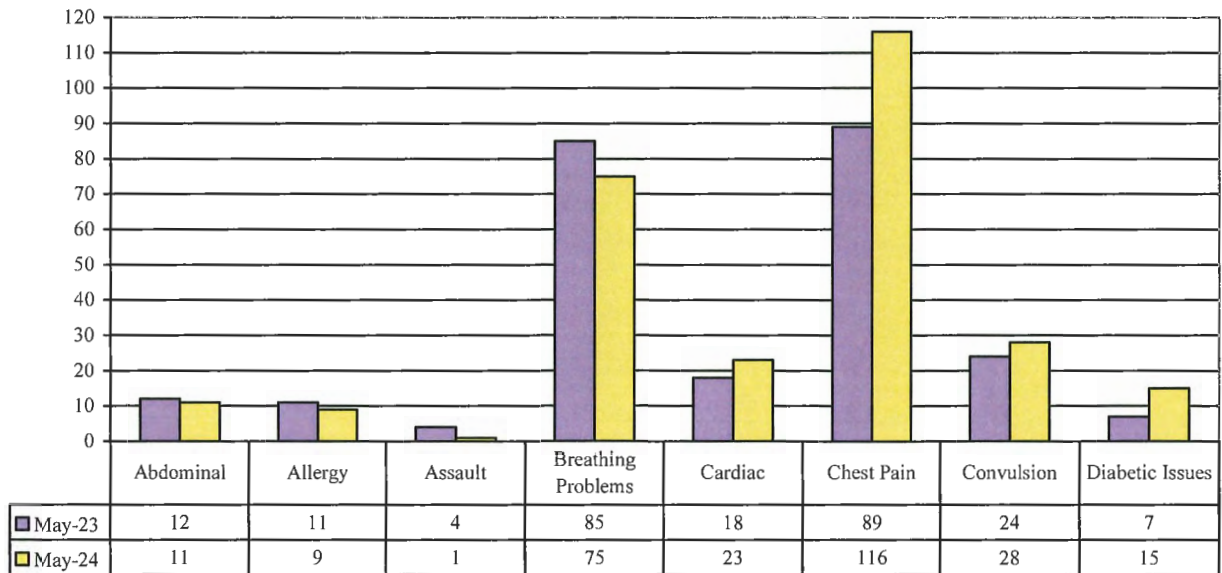


**Incident Type Legend:**  
**HazMat:** includes fuel or vapour; spills, leaks, or containment  
**Medical** includes: cardiac arrest, emergency response, home or industrial accidents  
**Public Hazard** includes: object removal, or power lines down  
**Public Service** includes: assisting public, ambulance or police, locked in/out, special events, trapped in elevator, water removal

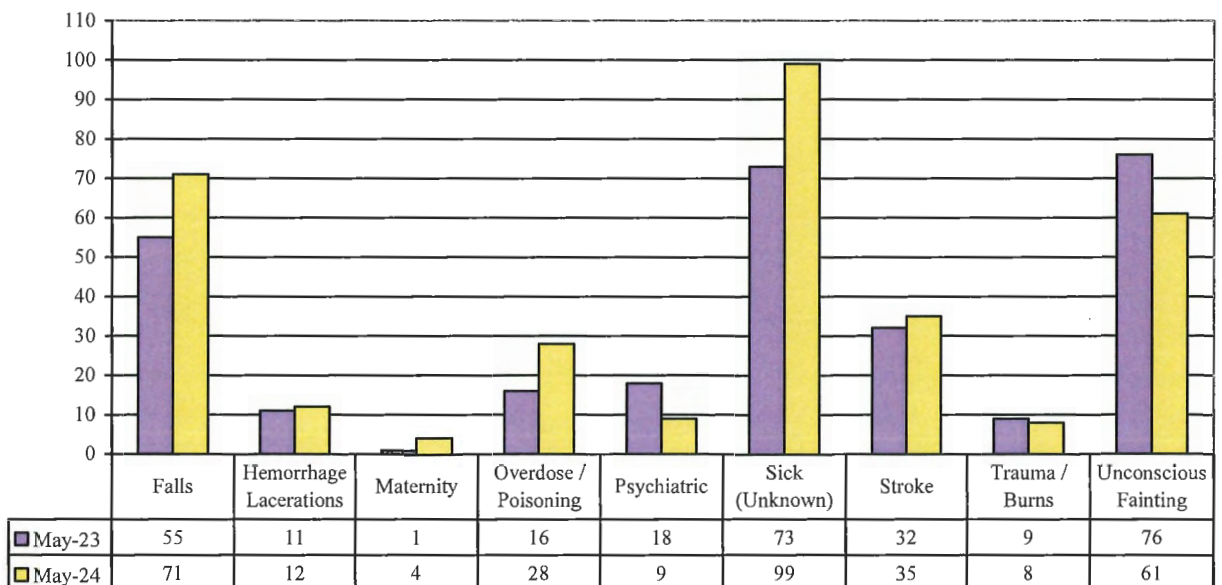
First Responder Totals

Medical first responder incidents comprised 53 per cent of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of May 2024. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for May 2023 and 2024 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were 605 medical incidents in May 2024 compared to 541 in May 2023, an increase of 12 per cent.

**Table 4a: May 2023 & May 2024 Medical Calls by Type**



**Table 4b: May 2023 & May 2024 Medical Calls by Type**





The following chart provides the overdose/poisoning incident volume breakdown for May 2024. During May 2024, Naloxone was administered four times by RFR staff.

<b>Table 4c: Overdose / Poisoning Incidents By Type – May 2024</b>	
Opioid overdose incidents that RFR attended located in an OUTDOOR environment.	5
Opioid overdose incidents that RFR attended located in an INDOOR environment.	2
All other OD / Poisoning Incidents	21
<b>Totals</b>	<b>28</b>

### Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for May 2024 are listed below:

<b>Table 5: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – May 2024</b>			
	<b>Suspicious</b>	<b>Accidental</b>	<b>Undetermined</b>
Residential - Single-family	-	3	-
Residential - Multi-family	-	3	1
Commercial/Industrial	2	2	1
Outdoor	12	13	9
Vehicle	-	1	-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>11</b>

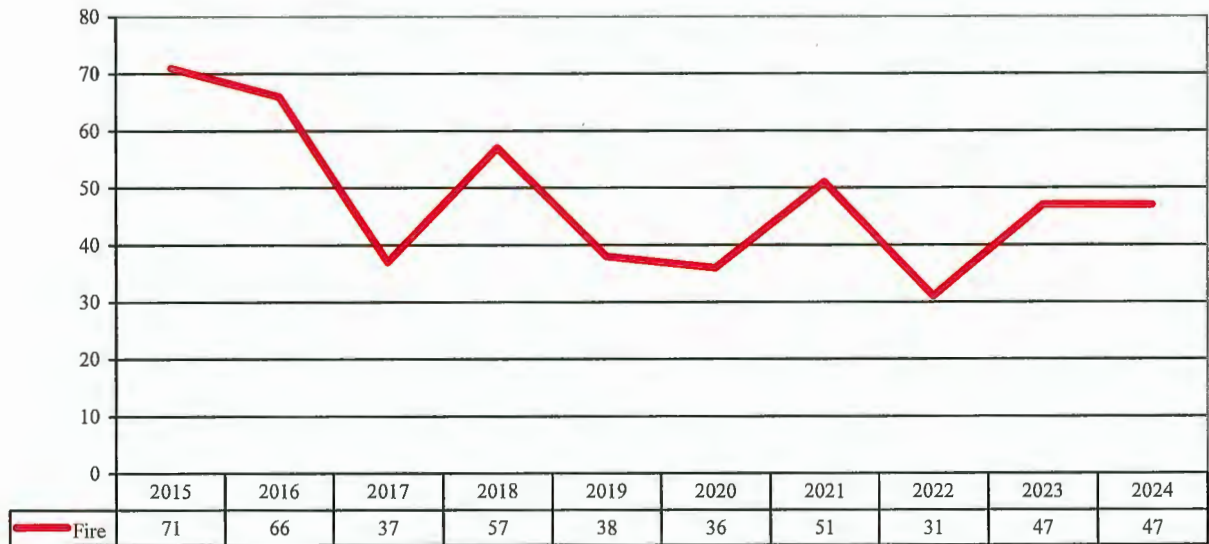
Richmond Fire-Rescue investigators report all suspicious fires to the RCMP, while working alongside RCMP staff to address potential risks to the community and coordinate appropriate fire investigations.

### Hazardous Materials

<b>Table 6: Hazardous Materials Incidents By Type – May 2024</b>	
	<b>Details</b>
Flammable / Combustible Liquids	1
Gasses (Natural / Propane)	4
Toxic / Infectious Substances	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6</b>

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

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



**Table 7b: Total Medical Calls for Service in May 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 May 2024 (total 47)

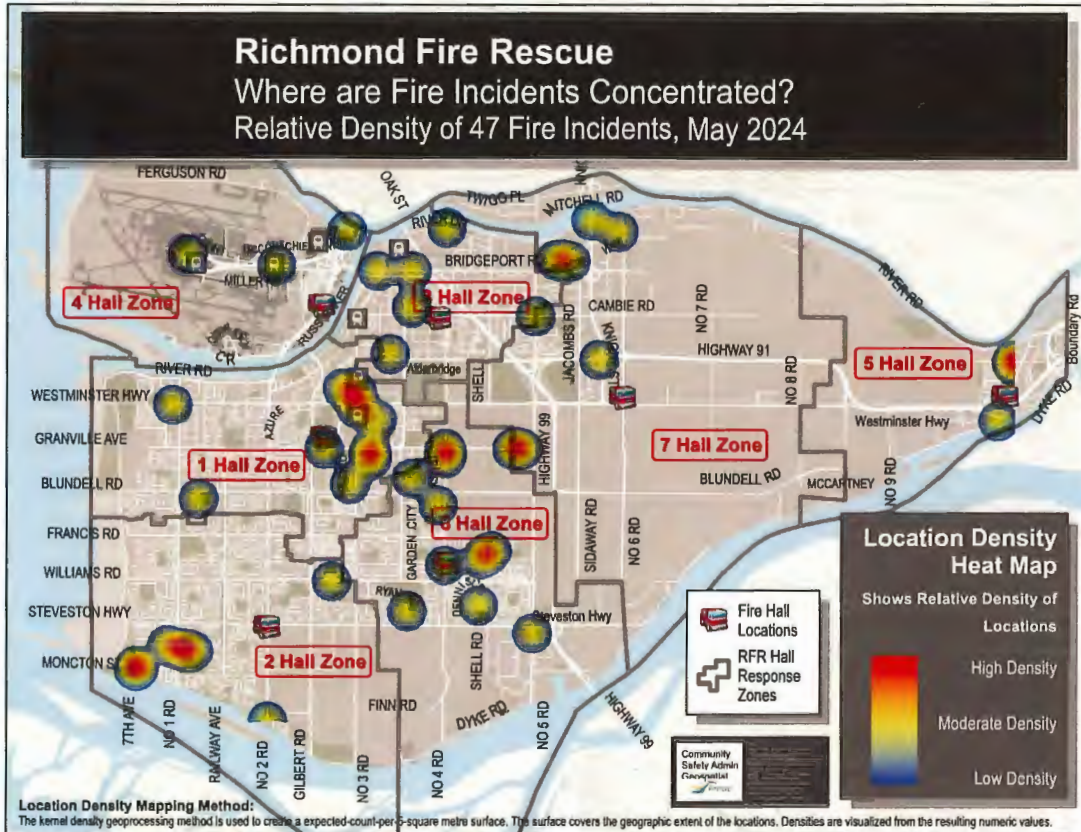


Figure 2: Location of reportable medical incidents attended in May 2024 (total 605)

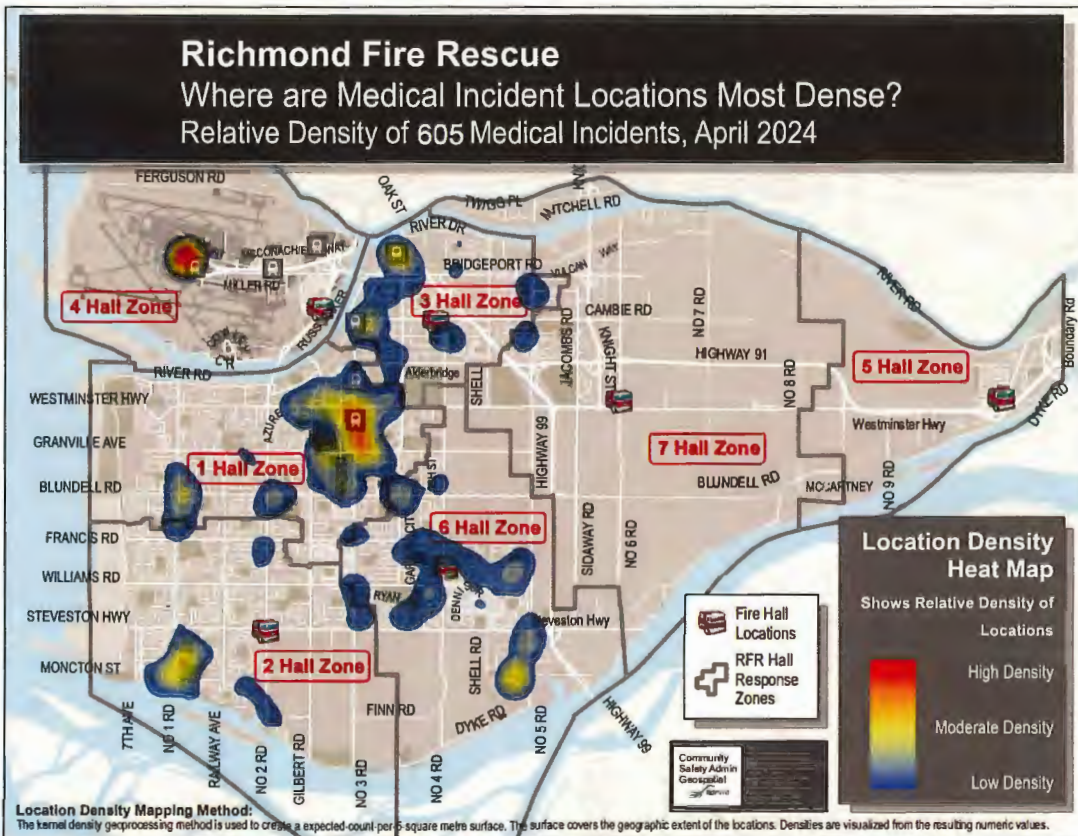
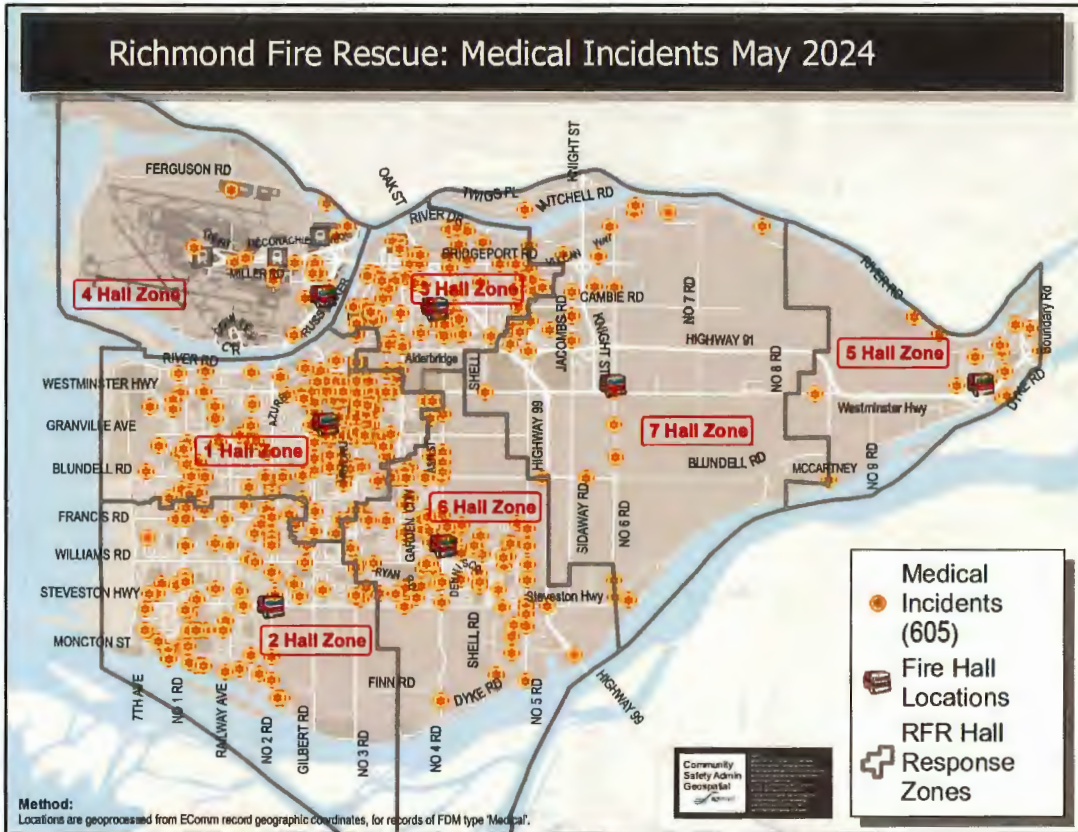


Figure 3: Location of reportable motor vehicle incidents (MVIs) attended in May 2024 (total 75)

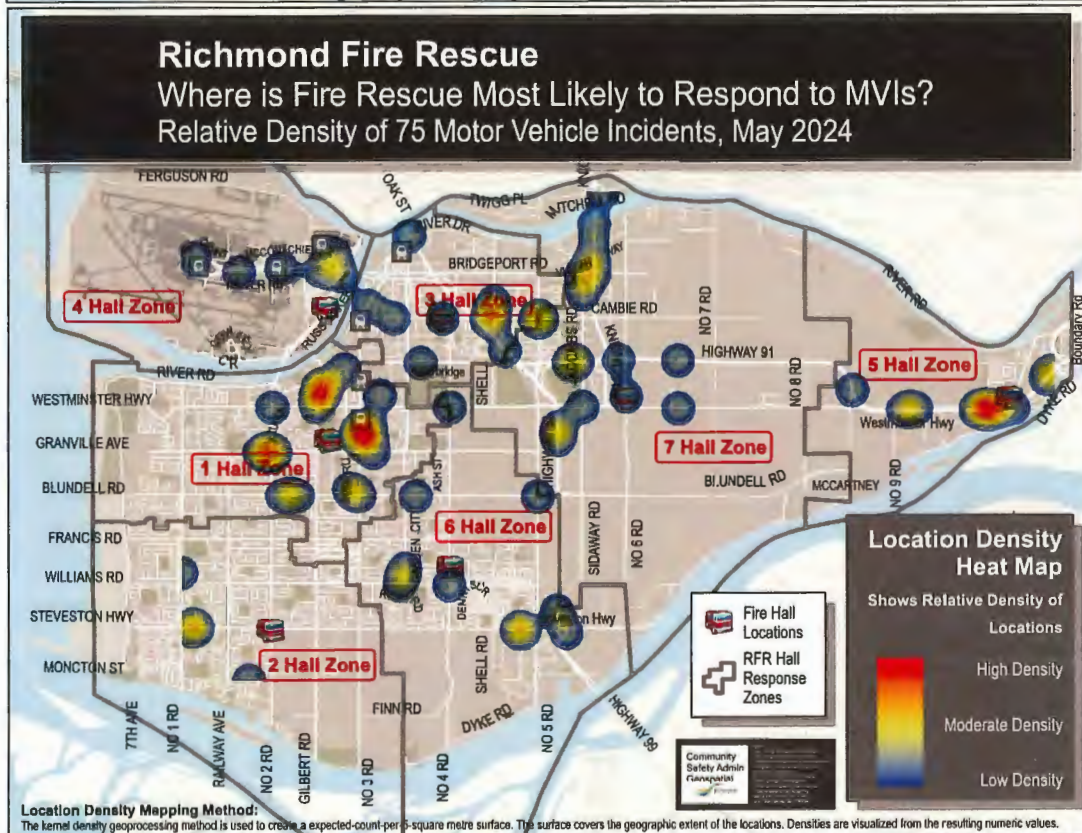


Figure 4: Location of reportable overdose / poisoning incidents attended in May 2024 (total 28)

