



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee

Date: June 20, 2025

From: Jim Wishlove
Fire Chief

File 09-5140-01/2025-Vol
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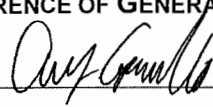

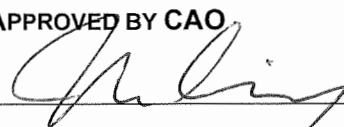
Re: Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – May 2025

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – May 2025”, dated June 20, 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 May 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 May, the following engagement activities took place:

- Promoted Emergency Preparedness Week (May 4-10), with a presentation at City Hall to provide emergency preparedness information to the community.
- Presentations to:
 - The Public Works Open House where attendees were encouraged to sign up for Richmond BC Alert and provided with emergency preparedness information.
 - The Chinese Christian Mission Safety & Secure Living fair where over 120 attendees were provided with Emergency Preparedness information.
 - Seniors at the monthly Wellness Clinic at the Minoru Centre for Active Living on Heat Safety and Emergency Preparedness.
 - Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee on emergency preparedness with additional information about extreme heat and earthquake safety.
 - Richmond Family Place on the five steps to personal/household emergency preparedness, with additional information about extreme heat and earthquake safety.

Public Outreach & Education

During the month of May, the following public outreach and education activities took place:

- Facilitated outreach events to provide educational opportunities to the community, including Fire Hall and vehicle tours for three organizations, with over 70 attendees.
- Provided information on the Online Fire & Life Safety Education Program to eight schools with over 220 attendees.

- Participated in the City's Project Water Education Team (WET), part of ongoing commitment to protecting and educating the community with important initiatives focused on water safety and conservation with over 400 attendees. Project WET provides a fantastic opportunity for RFR to share expertise in water-related emergency response while helping residents of all ages learn essential skills for staying safe around water. Including teaching water conservation tips and providing hands-on demonstrations on water safety and emergency preparedness.
- Attended the annual Fairmont Airport Wellness Fair promoting health and well-being with over 50 attendees.
- Participated in the City's Public Works Open House showcasing the essential services that the City provides to the community with demonstrations and safety activities. There were over 3,000 attendees.
- Facilitated the annual ICBC Speed Demo / Braking Distances day at the City's Works Yard with over 300 attendees. The event displayed the braking distances and speed increases during wet and dry conditions for City vehicles. The team provided assistance and support to safely spread water across the roadway to show impact on braking distances.
- Collaborated with ICBC, RCMP and Transit Police to provide education and information to Richmond Secondary School students about speeding, drinking, driving and recruitment in the 2025 Richmond Road Safety Day. Over 400 students participated in classes and presentations in road safety.
- Attended the Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) Community Initiatives Day, providing recruitment and information about potential job opportunities after graduation and promoting initiatives within the community, with over 500 attendees.
- Attended the annual Ferris Fun fair connecting with the community and providing valuable safety information to attendees.

Internal Training

In May 2025, in-house training events were organized including, wildland firefighting, Fire Service Leadership, and ongoing firefighter recruit training and evaluations.

Crews refreshed their annual wildland firefighting training. This included presentations, specialized pump and hose deployment training and live drills with deployable response vehicles at the Department of National Defence property off Shell Road. This was the highest number of response staff being trained (193) and the earliest in the year compared to previous years.

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 2025, there were 1,086 reported incidents of all types, representing an overall decrease of 5 per cent in incidents between May 2024 and May 2025 (Table 1).

| | Incident Totals May (2025) | Incident Totals May (2024) | Number Change from May 2024 to 2025 | Percentage Change from May 2024 to 2025 | 5 Year Average for May |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------|
| Active Alarm | 150 | 169 | -19 | -11 | 143 |
| Explosion | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fire | 55 | 47 | +8 | +17 | 46 |
| Hazardous Materials | 5 | 6 | -1 | -17 | 5 |
| Medical | 568 | 605 | -37 | -6 | 514 |
| Motor Vehicle Incident | 87 | 75 | +12 | +16 | 74 |
| Public Hazard | 7 | 16 | -9 | -56 | 10 |
| Public Service | 106 | 127 | -21 | -17 | 95 |
| Response Cancelled/Unfounded | 107 | 92 | +15 | +16 | 73 |
| Specialized Transport | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Technical Rescue | 0 | 1 | -1 | -100 | 0 |
| Total | 1,086 | 1,139 | -53 | -5 | 963 |

The average time on scene in May 2025 for emergency response crews was 28 minutes per event, which is lower than the number recorded in May 2024 (30 minutes). The time spent on scene can vary due to the nature and severity of each incident.

In May 2025, there were 55 fire incidents reported to the BC Office of the Fire Commissioner. This is 17 per cent higher than the number reported in May 2024 (47). The average number of fires reported each May over the last five years is 46.

Fire damage and property losses during May 2025 is estimated at \$1,610,695. The total building/asset and content value at risk is estimated to be \$32,988,125 and the total value preserved from damage was \$31,377,430. These numbers translate to 95 per cent of value protected (Table 2), which is lower than the value observed in 2024: 99 per cent.

| 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 | 3 | 795,900 | 795,900 | 557,130 | 557,130 | - |
| Multi Family Residence | 4 | 1,149,050 | 26,800 | 804,335 | 10,200 | 1,916,385 |
| Commercial/Industrial | 7 | 17,338,850 | 25,000 | 12,137,195 | 100,000 | 29,351,045 |
| Outdoor | 37 | 6,165 | 2,665 | - | - | 3,500 |
| Vehicle/Vessel | 4 | 193,000 | 93,000 | 6,500 | - | 106,500 |
| Totals* | 55 | 19,482,965 | 943,365 | 13,505,160 | 667,330 | 31,377,430 |

* 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 2025 incidents:

- **May 8, 2025 – Structure fire on River Road.** RFR emergency crews responded to a fully engulfed house fire with reports of explosions. RFR crews initially adopted a defensive operation and confirmed all occupants were out of the home. The residents were moved to a neighbour's house to keep warm. Crews quickly attacked and extinguished the fire. Once extinguished, security was dispatched to secure the scene. Emergency Support Services was notified and responded with Red Cross personnel to support the residents. There were no reports of injury to the public or RFR personnel. A Fire Investigator attended.
- **May 13, 2025 – Structure fire on Mitchell Island.** RFR emergency crews responded to a shipping container fire located in a storage yard. Crews quickly attacked the fire, which had produced a large volume of smoke that was travelling up and over the Knight Street Bridge causing a visual distraction. The fire was extinguished and contained to the shipping container. There were no reports of injury to the public or RFR personnel. A Fire Investigator attended.
- **May 15, 2025 – Motor Vehicle incident on Grant McConachie Way.** RFR emergency crews responded to a motor vehicle incident on Grant McConachie Way, near to the Arthur Lang Bridge. A vehicle merging off Russ Baker Way had hit the median, went airborne and had struck another vehicle travelling eastbound on Grant McConachie Way. Large pieces of the concrete median were cast onto the eastbound lane on Grant McConachie Way. BC Emergency Health Services crews arrived on scene and took both drivers to hospital. Dispatch arranged for both vehicles to be towed. Vancouver airport closed the road to remove the cement pieces off the roadway. RCMP attended to scene. There were no injuries to RFR personnel.
- **May 20, 2025 – Hazardous Materials on Miller Road.** RFR Emergency crews responded to a lithium aluminum hydride fire on Miller Road. First in crew found an approximately five pound bag of smoking materials in a vented hood workstation. The crews removed the bag from the building and ventilated the room. After consultation with Canadian Transport Emergency Centre, crews used dry sand from the works yard to extinguish the fire. A Canadian Border Service Agency representative contacted a Hazmat removal company to remove the product. One border service agent sustained an injury and was treated. There were no injuries to RFR personnel.
- **May 2025 – False Alarm calls on No 6 Road.** During May, crews received multiple false alarm calls to an address on No. 6 Road. Management and Fire Prevention staff are working closely with the property owner to identify the source of the issue and resolve the false alarm calls.

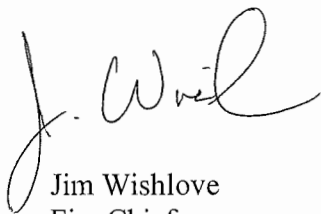
- **May 29, 2025 – Fire on Seacrest Road.** RFR emergency crews responded to a shipping container fire located in a storage yard. Crews quickly attacked and extinguished the fire. Due to the location and nature of the fire, Emergency Support Services attended to provide accommodation for a local family. There were no reports of injury to the public or RFR personnel. A Fire Investigator attended.

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".

Jim Wishlove
Fire Chief
(604-303-2715)

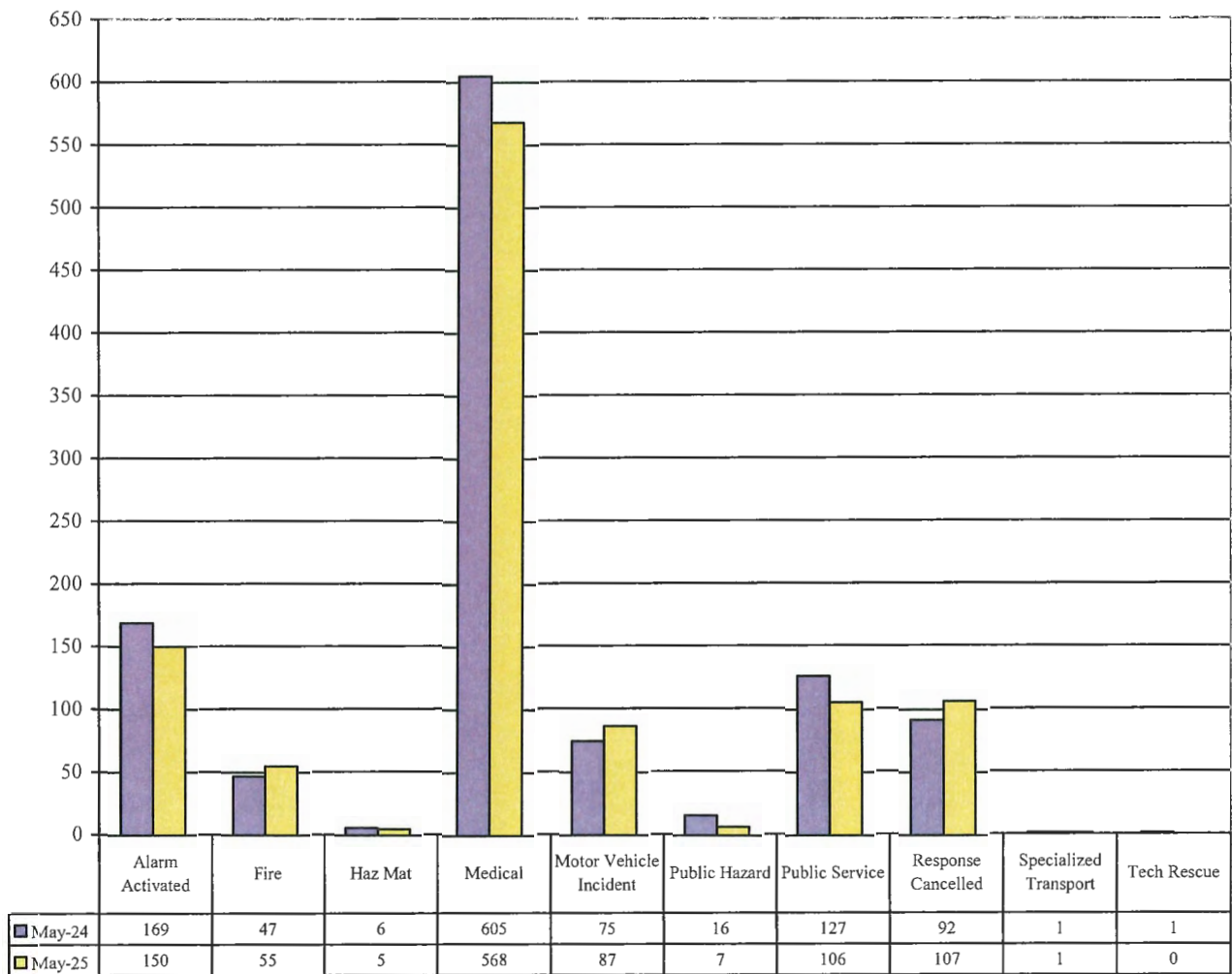
Att. 1: Emergency Response Activity for May 2025.

Emergency Response Activity for May 2025

Incident Volumes

The following chart provides a month-to-month comparison of incidents occurring in May 2024 and 2025. In May 2025, there were 1,086 total incidents, compared to 1,139 in May 2024. This represents an overall decrease of 5 per cent between last year and 2025.

Table 3: May 2024 & May 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 52 per cent of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of May 2025. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for May 2024 and 2025 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were 568 medical incidents in May 2025 compared to 605 in May 2024, a decrease of 6 per cent.

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

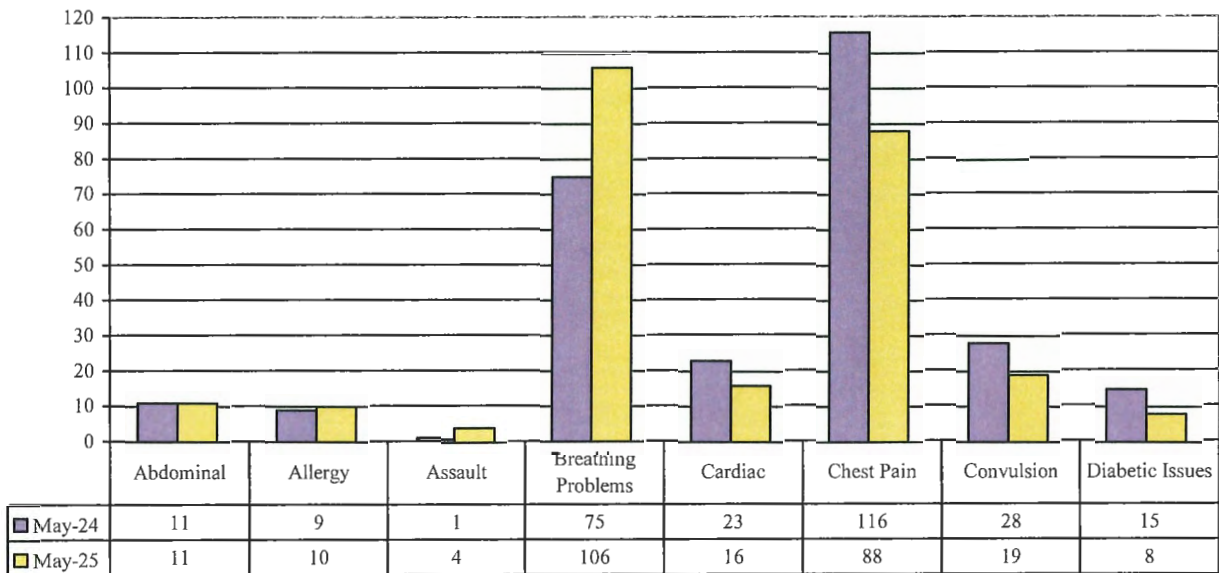
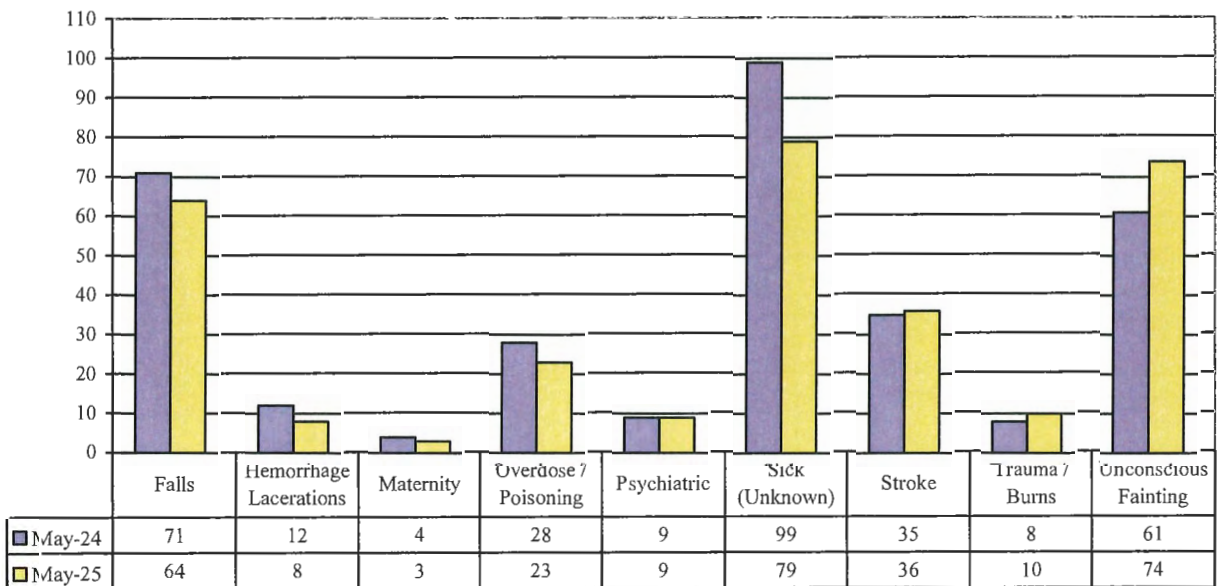


Table 4b: May 2024 & May 2025 Medical Calls by Type



The following chart provides the overdose/poisoning incident volume breakdown for May 2025. During May 2025, RFR staff administered Naloxone twice, in the month of May.

| Table 4c: Overdose / Poisoning Incidents By Type – May 2025 | |
|--|-----------|
| Opioid overdose incidents that RFR attended located in an OUTDOOR environment. | 4 |
| Opioid overdose incidents that RFR attended located in an INDOOR environment. | 1 |
| All other OD / Poisoning Incidents | 18 |
| Totals | 23 |

Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for May 2025 are listed below:

| Table 5: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – May 2025 | | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | Suspicious | Accidental | Undetermined |
| Residential - Single-family | - | 1 | 2 |
| Residential - Multi-family | - | 3 | 1 |
| Commercial/Industrial | - | 6 | 1 |
| Outdoor | 11 | 15 | 11 |
| Vehicle | - | 2 | 2 |
| Totals | 11 | 27 | 17 |

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

Hazardous Materials

| Table 6: Hazardous Materials Incidents By Type – May 2025 | |
|--|----------------|
| | Details |
| Gasses (Natural / Propane) | 4 |
| Criminal Act - Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives (CBRNE) | 1 |
| Totals | 5 |

The following charts provide total incident volumes for fires, medical, motor vehicle, and overdose/poisoning incidents on a year-to-year comparison in May including year averages from 2016 to 2024.

Table 7a: Total Fire Calls for Service in May and year averages from 2016 to 2025

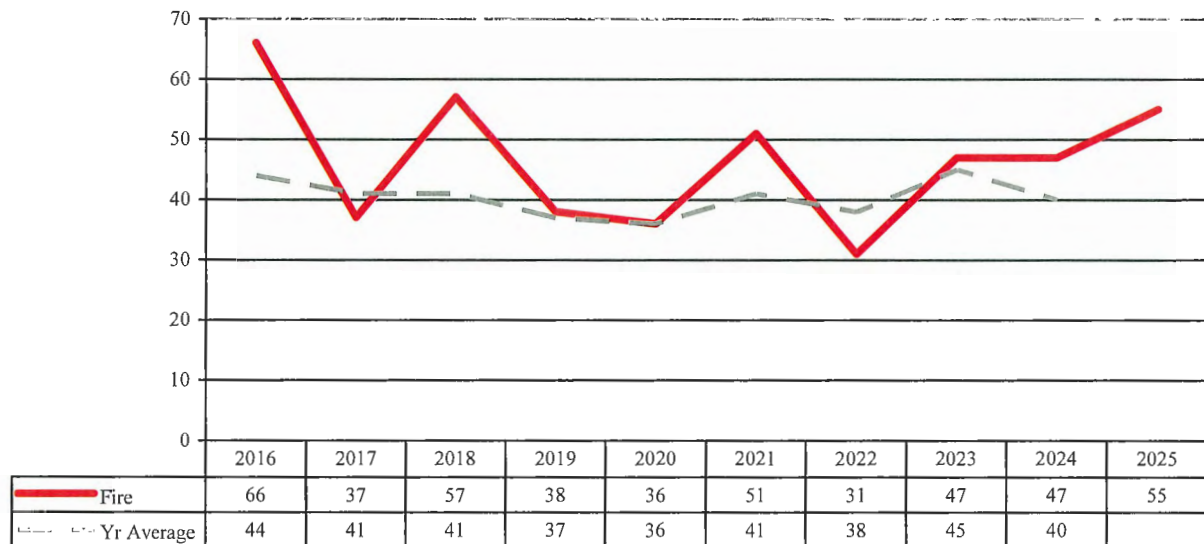
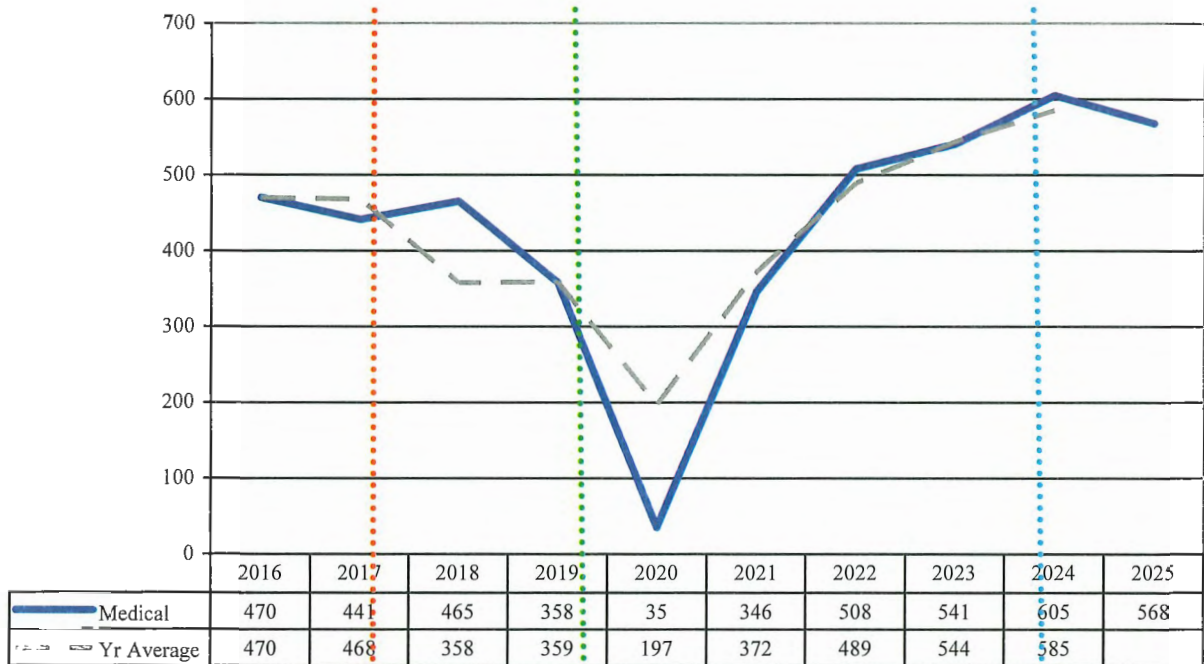


Table 7b: Total Medical Calls for Service in May and year averages from 2016 to 2025

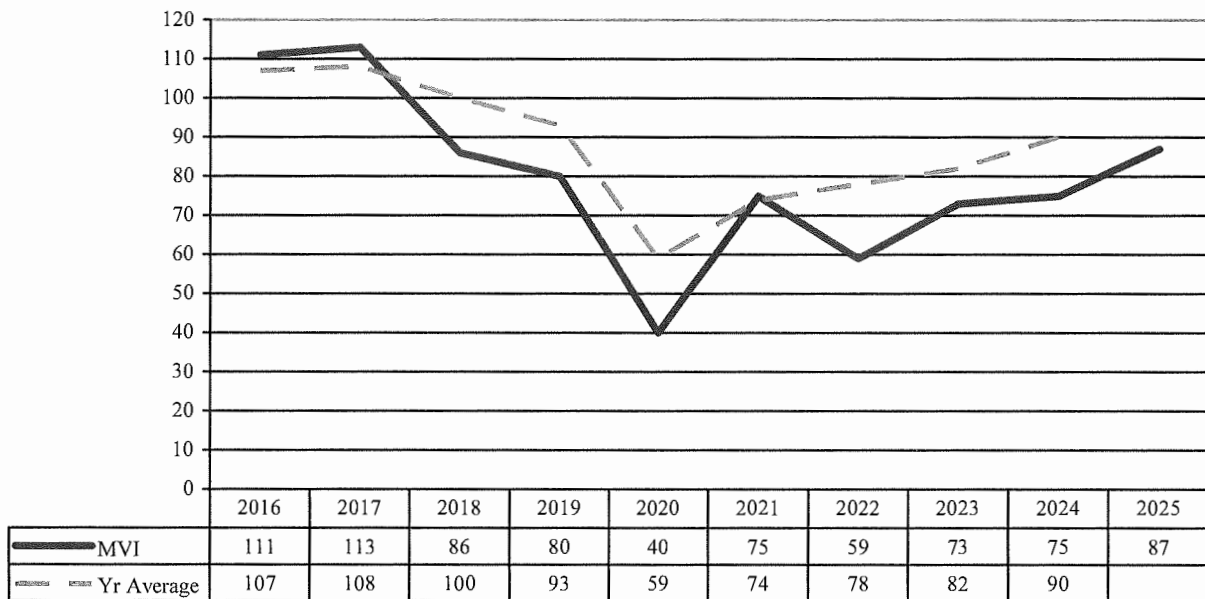


Changes to BC Emergency Health Services Clinical Response Model dispatch system (2017-2018)

Start of COVID-19 Pandemic

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

**Table 7c: Total Motor Vehicle Incident (MVI) Calls for Service in May
and year averages from 2016 to 2025**



**Table 7d: Total Overdose/Poisoning (ODP) Calls for Service in May
and year averages from 2016 to 2025**

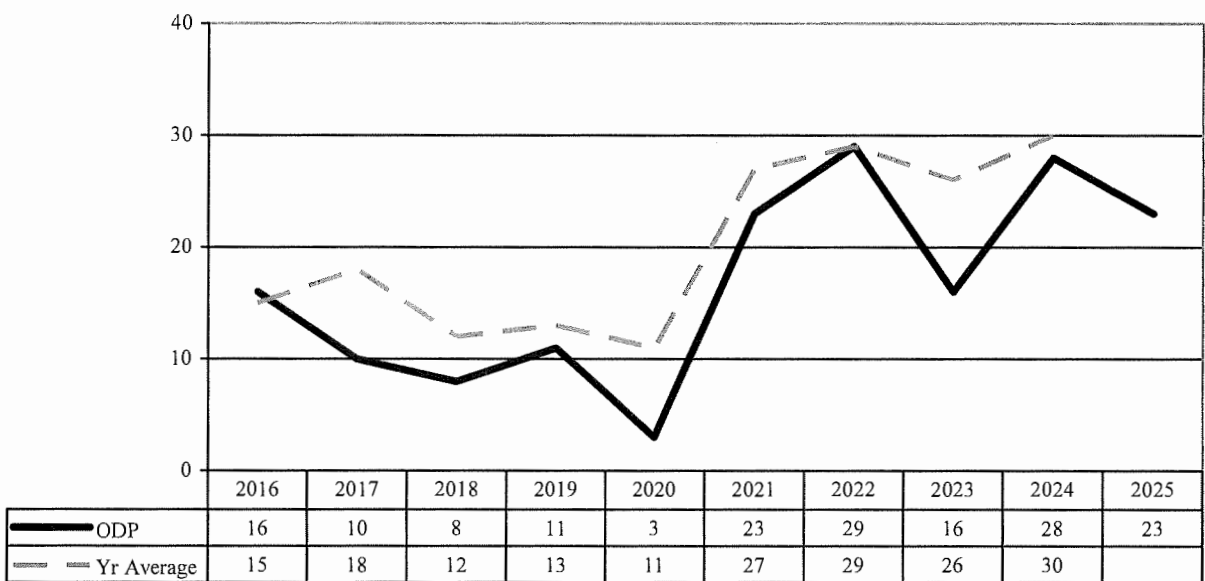


Figure 1: Location of reportable fire incidents attended in May 2025 (total 55)

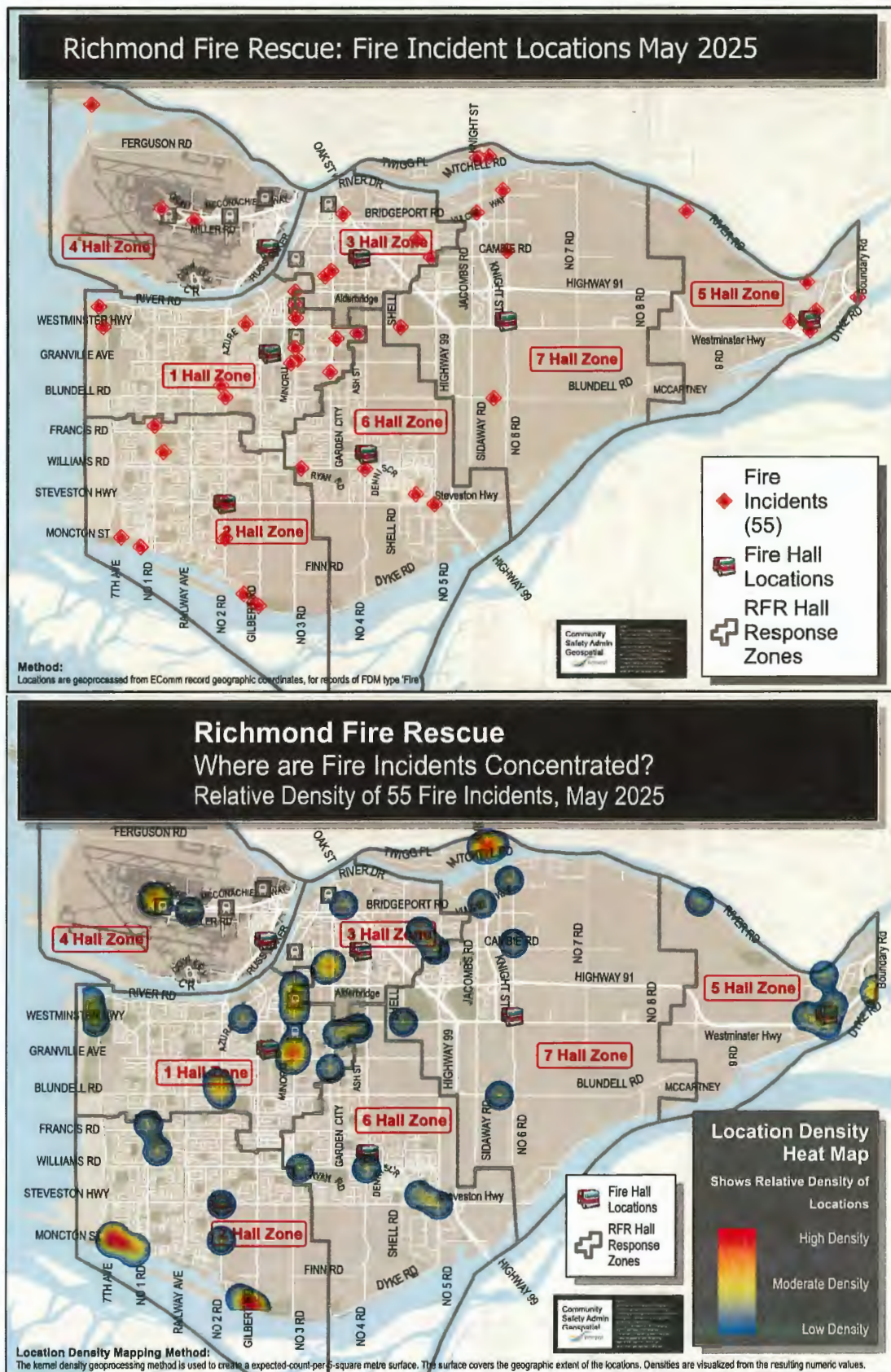
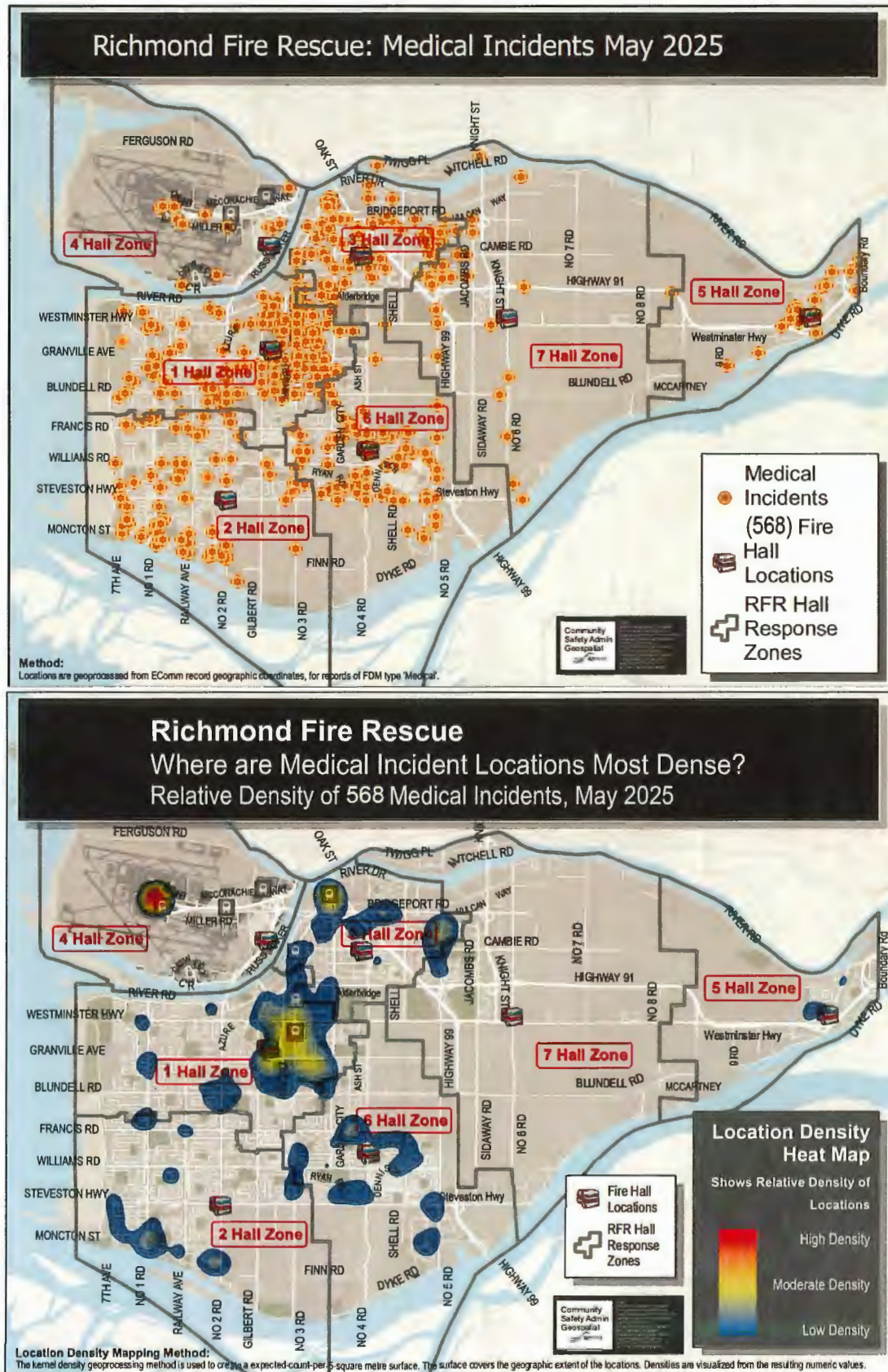


Figure 2: Location of reportable medical incidents attended in May 2025 (total 568)



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Figure 3: Location of reportable motor vehicle incidents (MVIs) attended in May 2025 (total 87)

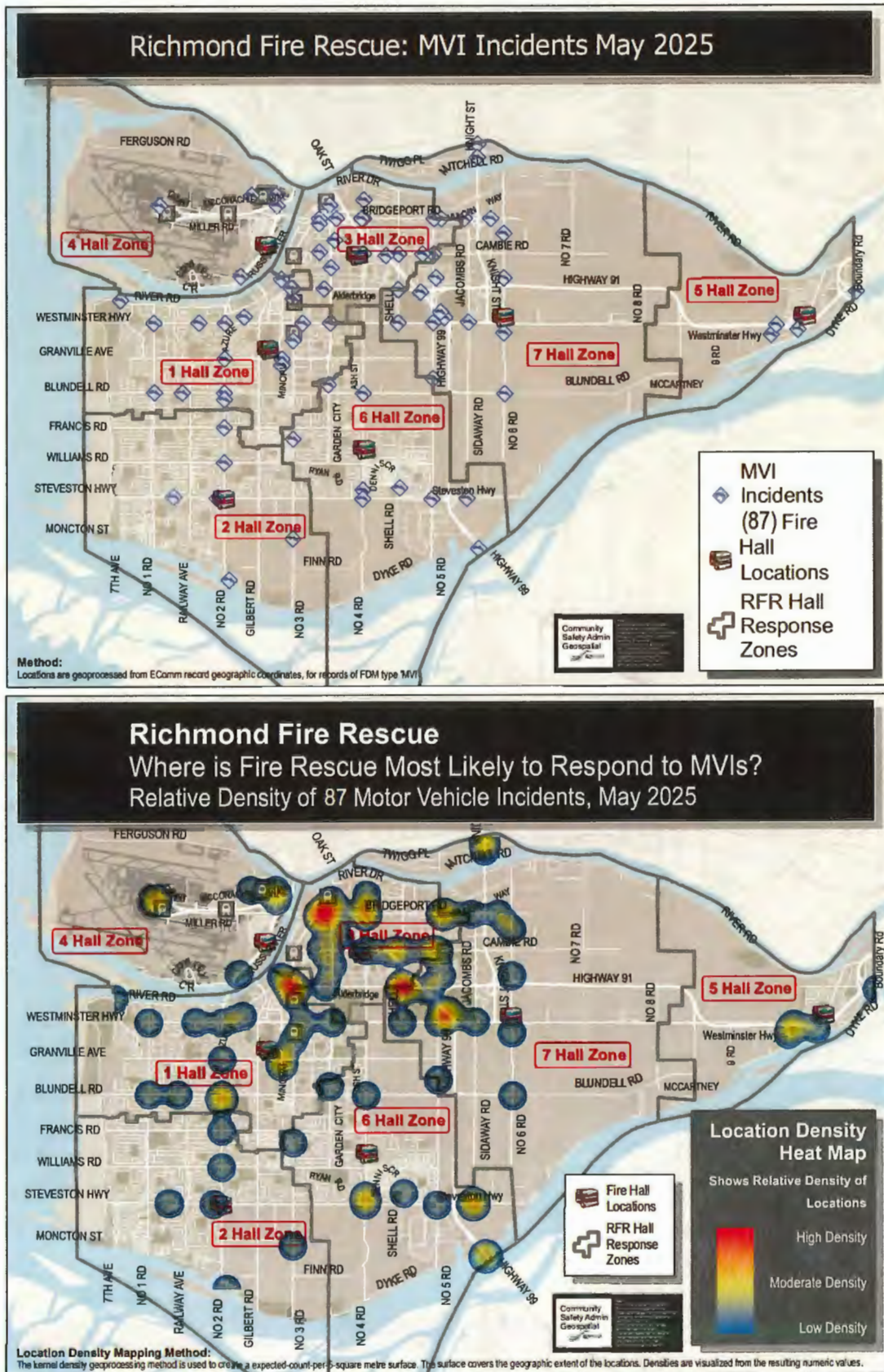


Figure 4: Location of reportable overdose / poisoning incidents attended in May 2025 (total 23)

