



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee

Date: December 8, 2022

From: Jim Wishlove
Fire Chief

File: 09-5140-01/2022-Vol
01

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

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – November 2022”, dated December 8, 2022, 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 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

Staff have begun onboarding a revised Emergency Support Services response framework with Richmond Fire-Rescue Suppression Crews. With the support of the Canadian Red Cross, this framework will facilitate the provision of emergency support services such as temporary housing, food, and clothing; with a service delivery benchmark of two hours from activation.

Staff Training and Public Education

During November 2022, staff delivered in-house fire-training, educational activities and programs including: the Officer Development Program in Emergency Scene Management, Vancouver Island Emergency Response Academy (VIERA) Frontline Leadership Level 1, Violence Prevention, Technical High Angle Rope Rescue, Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Scott Level II, Red Cross First Responder and Emergency Vehicle Operator/Driver Instructor education.

During November 2022, staff facilitated events to provide educational opportunities to approximately 700 residents, including Hall Tours for Children's Groups and local Cadets, Errington Elementary and Maple Lane Elementary. Education sessions were provided to SUCCESS New Immigrants Education Session and the Minoru Residences. Staff participated and provided an educational booth at the joint RCMP/RFR toy drive for the Richmond Christmas Fund held at the Lansdowne Centre.

Emergency Response

One of Richmond's emergency response goals for fire is to respond to incidents in a manner where loss of life, reduction of property damage and protection of the environment is mitigated. In November 2022, there were 1,015 reported incidents of all types, representing an 11 per cent increase in incidents from November 2021 (Attachment 1).

The average time on scene in November 2022 for emergency response crews was 34 minutes, which is the same as the number recorded in 2021. The time spent on scene can vary due to the nature and severity of each incident.

Table 1: Total Incidents - November 2022				
	Totals (2022)	Percentage Change from November 2021	Number Change from November 2021 to 2022	5 Year Average for November
Alarm Active No Fire	176	- 12	- 25	149
Explosion	0	-	0	0
Fire	31	- 24	- 10	30
Haz-Mat	8	+ 100	+ 4	6
Medical	535	+ 28	+ 117	377
MVI	83	- 6	- 5	96
Public Hazard	16	- 16	- 3	12
Public Service	90	- 3	- 3	76
Response Cancelled/Unfounded	76	+ 73	+ 32	60
Specialized Transport	0	- 100	- 4	3
Tech Rescue	0	-	-	0
Totals	1,015	+11	+ 103	809

In November 2022, there were 31 fire incidents reported to the Office of the Fire Commissioner, representing a 24 per cent decrease from November 2021. The average number of fires reported each November over the last five years is 30.

Richmond's emergency response goal for fire 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 fire loss and damage, which can increase significantly once a fire extends beyond the room of origin.

Fire damage and property losses during November 2022 estimated at \$17,350. This total includes \$16,650 for building/asset loss and \$700 for content loss. The total building/asset and content value at risk estimated to be \$3,920,249 and the total value preserved from damage was \$3,902,899. These numbers translate to 99 per cent of value protected (Table 2); this value is higher than the value observed in 2021; 88 per cent.

Table 2: Fire Incidents By Type and Loss Estimates - November 2022						
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	2	2,165,200	300	4,200	200	2,168,900
Multi family	2	1,304,000	1,000	500	500	1,303,000
Commercial/Industrial	3	410,000	12,000	15,000	-	413,000
Outdoor	22	18,349	3,350	-	-	14,999
Vehicle/Vessel	2	3,000	-	-	-	3,000
Totals*	31	3,900,549	16,650	19,700	700	3,902,899

* The dollar losses shown in this table are preliminary estimates. They 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

Emergency response crews minimized harm, limited fire spread from the place of origin and performed medical interventions in these notable November 2022 incidents:

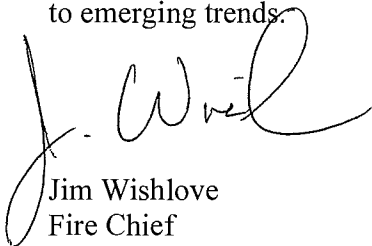
- **November 11, 2022 – Residential Fire on Hall Avenue.** City Emergency Response crews responded with multiple units to a structure with smoke. The first in unit investigated and found a small fire in a second floor bedroom. Crews also found one occupant who was suffering from smoke inhalation. The fire was extinguished using dry chemical extinguisher and the occupant was removed from the structure. BC Emergency Health Services crews provided patient care and they were later transported to the hospital. There were no other injuries reported to the public or assigned personnel. A Fire Investigator attended.
- **November 13, 2022 – Structure Fire on Bridgeport Road.** Emergency response crews responded to reports of a sea can container on fire. On arrival, crews found a sea can container on fire in the yard of the address. Crews were able to extinguish the fire quickly. The fire was suspicious in nature and attending personnel and RCMP members secured the site for further investigation. There were no injuries reported to the public or staff. A Fire Investigator attended.
- **November 20, 2022 – Structure Fire on Granville Avenue.** Emergency response crews responded to reports of a structure fire. On arrival, crews found a single level public multi-use building with no smoke or fire visible. Crews began their investigation and found that two small fires had occurred but had been extinguished. There was no extension or further damage sustained; however, the fire was suspicious in nature. Crews used an electric fan to ventilate the area and proceeded to reset the alarm panel. There were no injuries reported to the public or personnel. A Fire Investigator attended.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

Richmond Fire-Rescue continues to monitor activities to identify and create programs to respond to emerging trends.



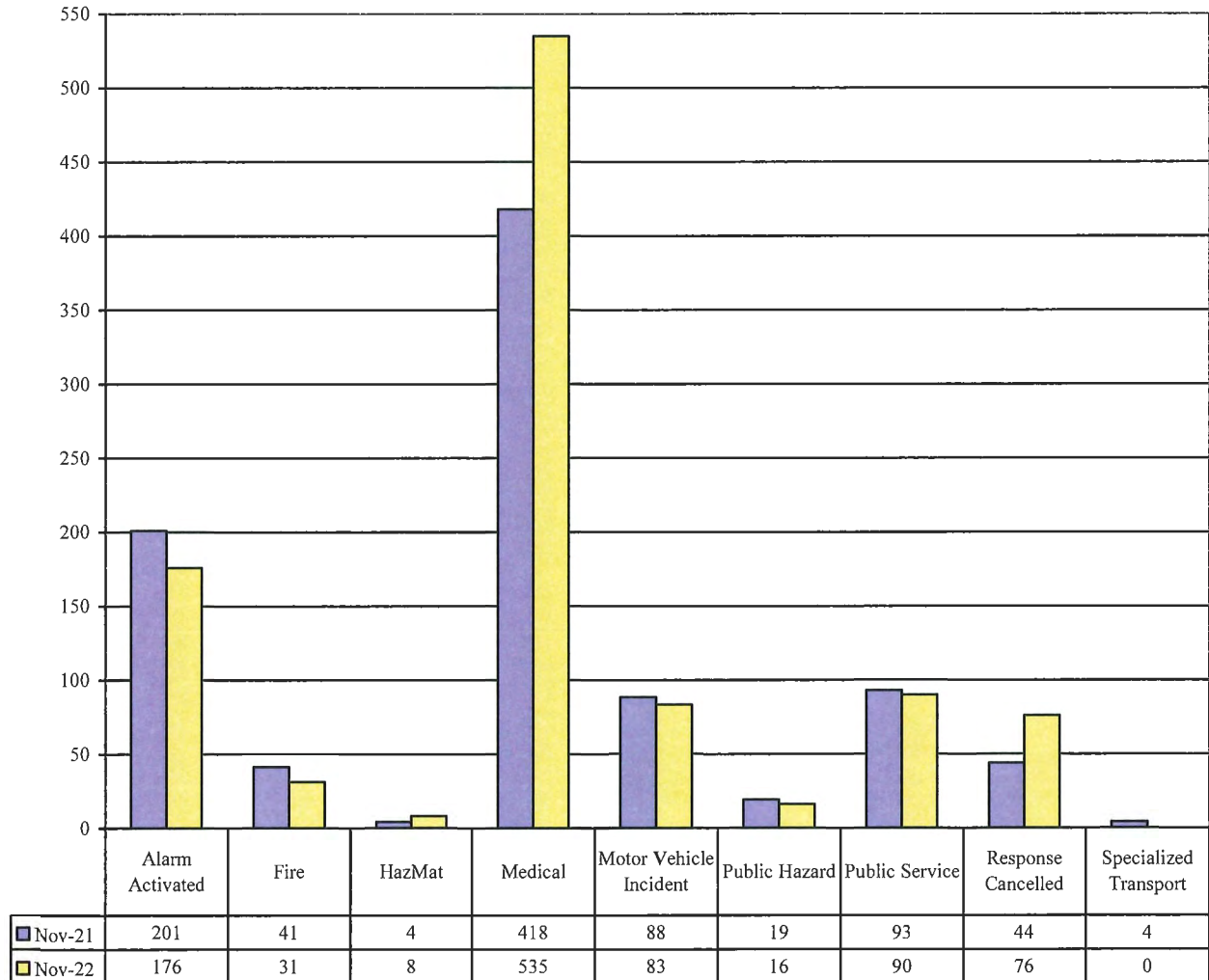
Jim Wishlove
Fire Chief
(604-303-2715)

Att. 1: Suppression Activity, including location of November's Fire, Medical and MVIs

Incident Volumes

The following chart provides a month-to-month comparison regarding incidents occurring in November 2022 and 2021. In November 2022, there were 1,015 incidents, compared to 912 in November 2021. This represents an overall increase of 11 per cent.

Table 3: November 2021 & November 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 53 per cent of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of November 2022. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for November 2021 and 2022 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were 535 medical incidents in November 2022 compared to 418 in November 2021, an increase of 28 per cent.

Table 4a: November 2021 & November 2022 Medical Calls by Type

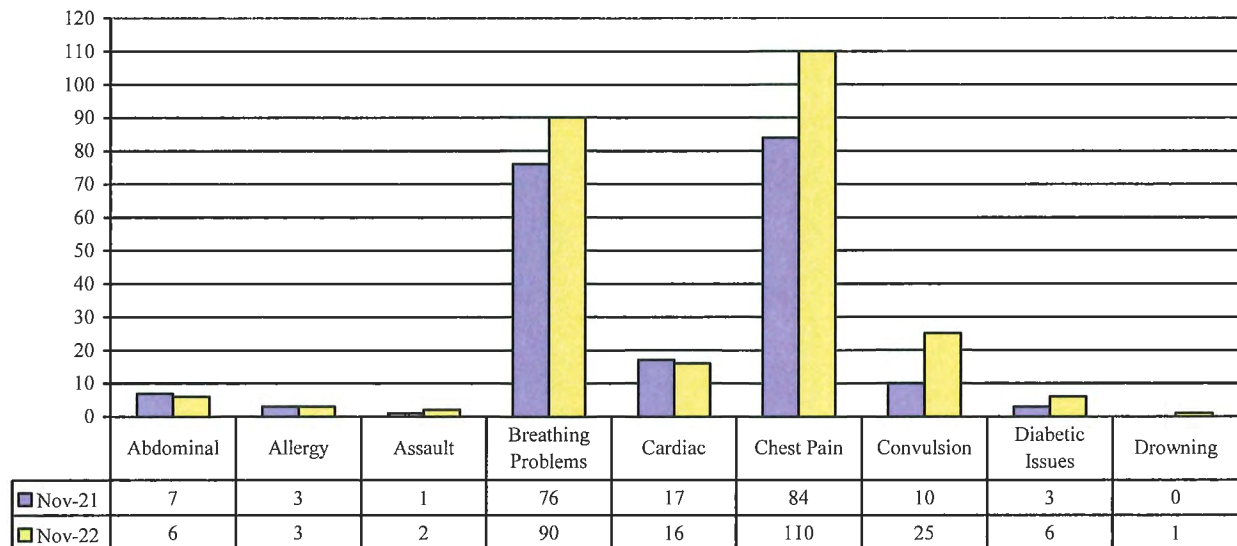
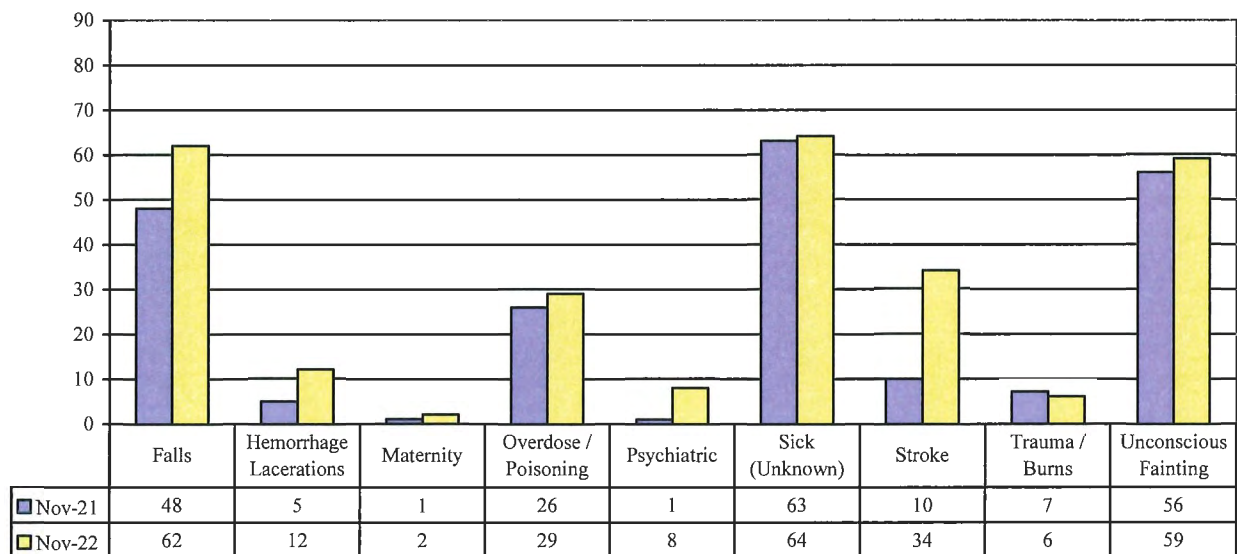


Table 4b: November 2021 & November 2022 Medical Calls by Type



Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for November 2022 are listed below:

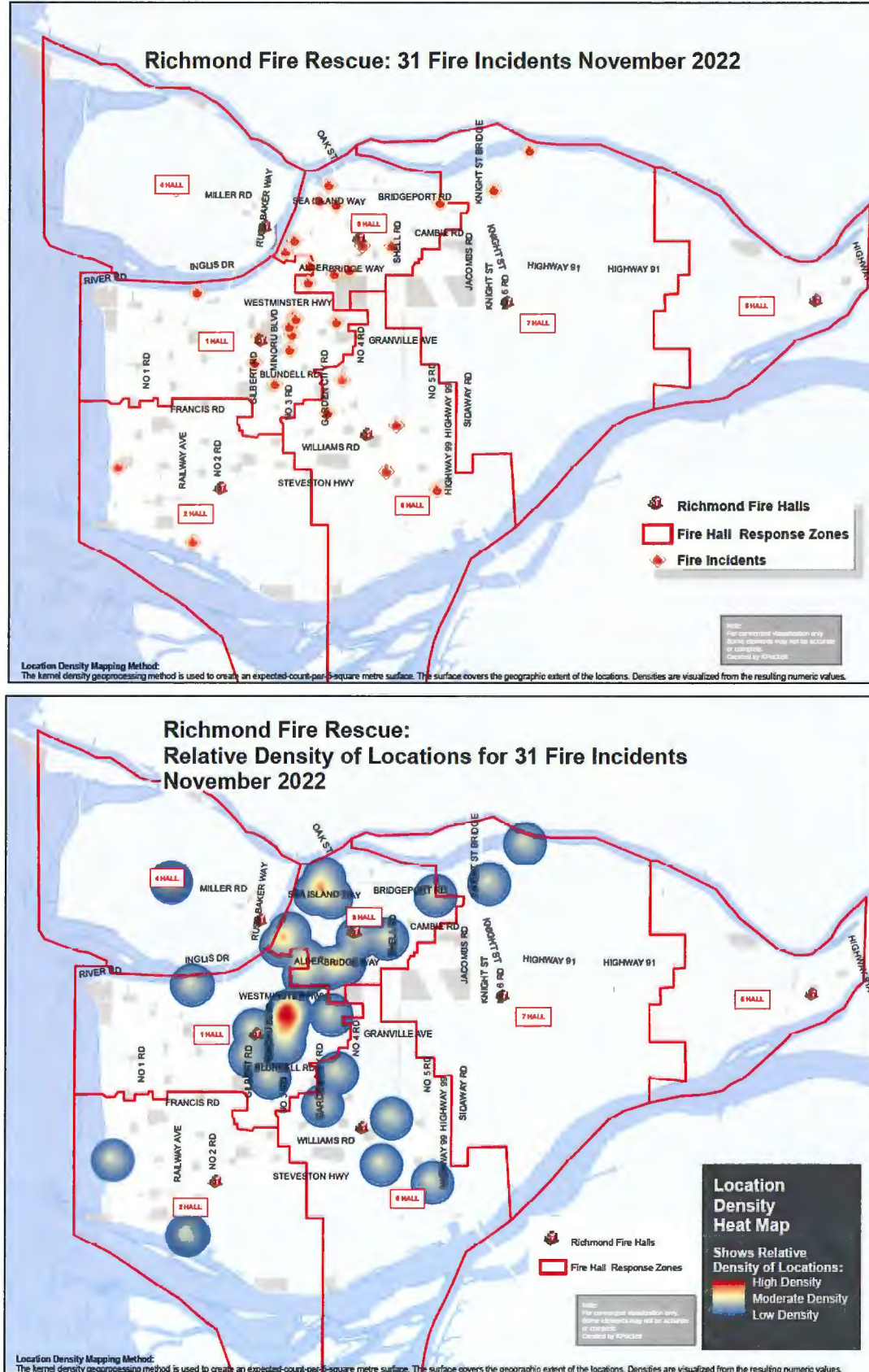
Table 5: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – November 2022			
	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	-	2	-
Residential - Multi-family	1	1	-
Commercial/Industrial	2	1	-
Outdoor	10	10	2
Vehicle	-	1	1
Totals	13	15	3

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

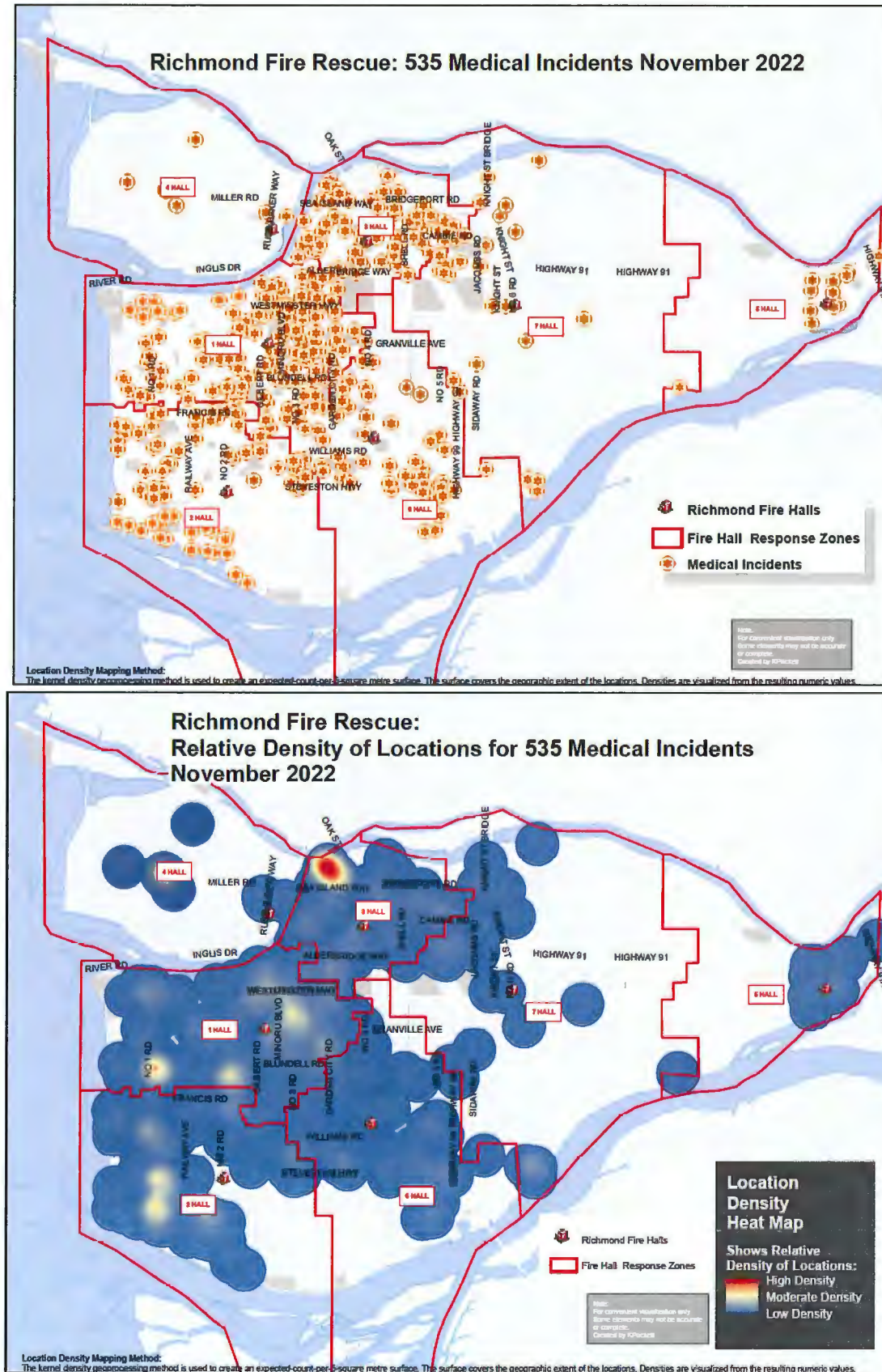
Table 6: Hazardous Materials Incidents By Type – November 2022	
	Details
Corrosive	1
Flammable / Combustible Liquids	1
Gasses (Natural / Propane)	5
Vapour Leak (Misc)	1
Totals	8

Figure 1: Location of reportable fires attended in November 2022 (total 31)



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Figure 2: Location of Medical Incidents in November 2022 (total 535)



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Figure 3: Location of MVI Incidents in November 2022 (total 83)

