



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee

Date: October 12, 2022

From: Jim Wishlove
Fire Chief

File: 09-5375-03/2022-Vol
01

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

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – September 2022”, dated October 12, 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

Vancouver Airport Exercise

Emergency Programs (EP) and Richmond Fire-Rescue (RFR) staff participated in Vancouver Airport’s (YVR) crash on airport exercise-2022. This semi-full scale exercise included participation from YVR, RFR, RCMP, Transportation Safety Board of Canada, Canadian Coast Guard, Translink, BC Ambulance, Canada Border Services and Air Canada. EP and Corporate Communications & Marketing staff were able to test the City’s Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) activation concept. The results of this testing have positioned the City to advance to the next phase of EOC activation and implementation towards a more robust and resilient EOC capability for the City.

Air Quality Event (September 11 - 14)

Emergency Programs staff activated the Extreme Heat and Poor Air Quality Operation Plan with participation from various City facilities and departments in response to the special weather statement on poor air quality, which includes increased messaging, delivering preparedness information to the community, and opening clean air centres for public access.

Inclusive Resiliency Grant

Emergency Programs staff submitted an application for an Inclusive Resiliency Grant for \$10,000 from the National Canadian Red Cross as part of the National Inclusive Resiliency Project. Richmond is one of five municipalities across Canada participating in the national project. If approved, this grant will fund a ‘Preparedness Party in a Box’ program for the community. This program will engage local organizations to host their own gathering designed to build community resilience and provide a forum for emergency preparedness related information.

Let’s Talk Richmond

Emergency Programs launched a “Let’s Talk Richmond” public engagement project with a survey to receive input on the City’s numerous responses to this year’s heat and poor air quality events. The survey information will be used in EP’s After Action Report to drive future planning, preparedness and response for future heat and poor air quality events.

Emergency Support Services (ESS) Reporting Information

In September, 2022, there were two persons displaced who were provided with Emergency Social Support.

| Date | Address | Volunteers Deployed | ESS Deployed | # of Evacuees | Services Delivered |
|--------------------|-------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------|---|
| September 19, 2022 | Odlin Cres. | Y | Y | 2 Persons | Lodging (Sandman), Food/Clothing/Incidentals (Superstore) |

Staff Training and Public Education

During September 2022, in-house fire-training staff delivered educational activities and programs including the Incident Command System 300 Course, VIERA Frontline Leadership Level 1 to RFR’s cohort of junior officers, an Emergency Vehicle driving course, incident Command Status Board Training, Tesla electric vehicle extrication and emergency training, and ongoing recruit firefighter performance evaluations.

During September 2022, Public Education staff attended/facilitated the following events to provide meaningful educational opportunities.

Community Events:

- Movie in the Park – 600 attendees
- Steveston Co-Op Block Party – 40 attendees
- United Soccer Tournament – 400 attendees
- Recruit Family Day – 50 attendees
- Pacific Autism Event – 200 attendees
- Harrison Block Party – 40 attendees

Fire and Life Safety Education Presentations:

- Cedarwood Place – 30 attendees

Emergency Response

One of Richmond Fire-Rescue’s goals is to respond to incidents in a manner where loss of life, reduction of property damage and protection of the environment is mitigated. In September 2022, there were a total of 1,010 reported incidents of all types, representing a 17 per cent increase in incidents from September 2021 (Attachment 1).

The average time on scene in September 2022 for RFR crews was 33 minutes; which is the same recorded in 2021. The time spent on scene can vary due to the nature and severity of each incident.

| | Totals (2022) | Percentage Change from September 2021 | Number Change from September 2021 to 2022 | 5 Year Average for September |
|------------------------------|----------------------|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| Alarm Active No Fire | 191 | +48 | +62 | 143 |
| Explosion | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fire | 46 | +35 | +12 | 39 |
| Haz-Mat | 8 | +167 | +5 | 7 |
| Medical | 509 | +14 | +63 | 364 |
| MVI | 86 | 0 | 0 | 90 |
| Public Hazard | 8 | -27 | -3 | 10 |
| Public Service | 95 | 0 | 0 | 74 |
| Response Cancelled/Unfounded | 65 | +27 | +14 | 74 |
| Specialized Transport | 1 | -75 | -3 | 2 |
| Tech Rescue | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Totals | 1,010 | +17 | +150 | 804 |

In September 2022, there were 46 fire incidents reported to the Office of the Fire Commissioner, representing a 35 per cent increase from September 2021. The average number of fires reported each September over the last five years is 39.

Richmond Fire-Rescue’s emergency fire response goal 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 September 2022 are estimated at \$204,920. This total includes \$177,920 for building/asset loss and \$27,000 for content loss. The total building/asset and content value at risk was estimated to be \$65,014,500 and the total value preserved from damage was \$64,809,580. These numbers translate to 99 per cent of value protected (Table 2); this value is the same as the value observed in 2021; 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 (\$) |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Residential: Single family | 3 | 1,606,800 | 56,120 | - | - | 1,550,680 |
| Multi family | 4 | 3,290,000 | 100,000 | 150,000 | 25,000 | 3,315,000 |
| Commercial/Industrial | 6 | 59,847,000 | 800 | - | - | 59,846,200 |
| Outdoor | 30 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Vehicle/Vessel | 3 | 118,700 | 21,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 97,700 |
| Totals* | 46 | 64,862,500 | 177,920 | 152,000 | 27,000 | 64,809,580 |

* 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, limited fire spread from the place of origin and performed medical interventions in these notable September 2022 incidents:

- **September 16, 2022 – Technical Rescue on Westminster Highway.** RFR crews responded for a Technical Rescue for a person trapped in a garbage truck. The person, who was unharmed, had been sleeping in a garbage bin and had been dumped into the garbage truck accidentally. RFR crews used ground ladders to extricate the person from the garbage truck. There were no other injuries reported to either the public or RFR personnel.
- **September 18, 2022 – Hazardous materials on Grant McConachie Way.** RFR crews responded to a Hazmat Level 3 call at the airport where two border agents had come in contact with an unknown substance and were feeling ill. Crews found that the agents had come in contact with two closed bags of white powder. The bags had been contained and secured by other border agents in an evidence bag along with the suitcase that the bags were found in. RFR crews determined that the hazard had been mitigated. BC Emergency Health ambulance staff attended to the affected border guards. There were no other injuries to the public or RFR personnel.

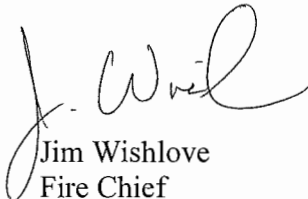
- **September 19, 2022 – Residential fire on Odlin Crescent.** RFR crews responded to smoke inside a structure. Upon arrival crews found a small fire in a bedroom involving clothes and a mattress. The fire was extinguished and crews checked for any fire spread and found none. There was a lot of smoke created by the fire and Emergency Support Services were called to provide accommodation to the displaced residents. There were no injuries to the public or RFR personnel reported. A Fire Investigator attended.
- **September 25, 2022 – Commercial fire on Smith Street.** RFR crews responded to a commercial building on Smith Street that was in the process of being demolished. There were no injuries reported and any combustion was contained to a small mezzanine area that was inaccessible. RFR crews were not able to enter the structure as an engineering report had deemed it unsafe to enter. All fire suppression activities were conducted from a safe distance as demolition staff created access to the area in question. Fire crews cleared all smoke from adjacent units and completed air monitoring. Staff continued to assist with the roof demolition supervision for the involved unit and made significant progress and extinguished the fire. 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.



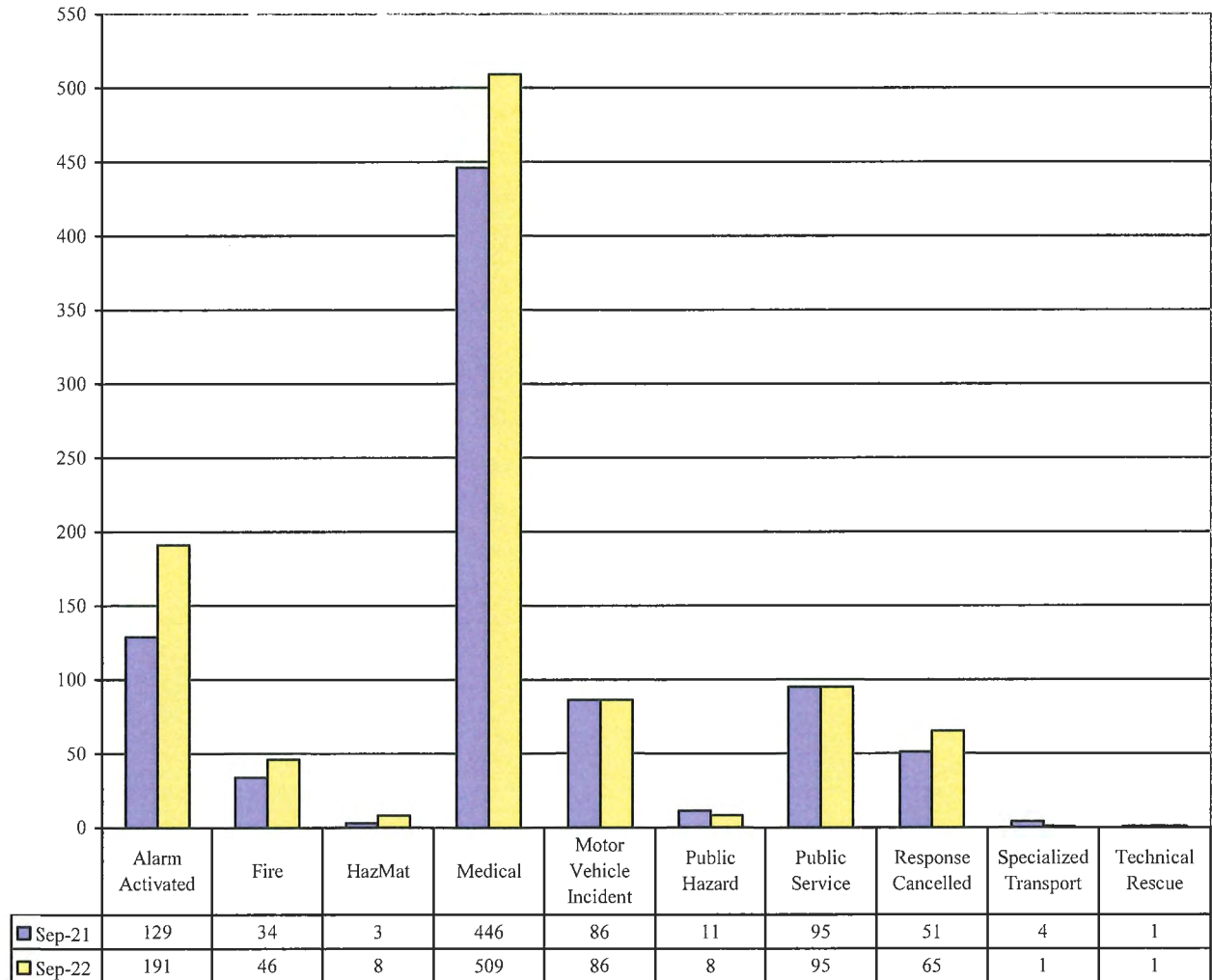
Jim Wishlove
Fire Chief
(604-303-2715)

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

Incident Volumes

The following chart provides a month-to-month comparison regarding incidents occurring in September 2022 and 2021. In September 2022, there were a total of 1,010 incidents, compared to 860 in September 2021. This represents an overall increase of 17 per cent.

Table 3: September 2021 & September 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 50 per cent of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of September 2022. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for September 2021 and 2022 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 509 medical incidents in September 2022 compared to 446 in September 2021, an increase of 14 per cent.

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

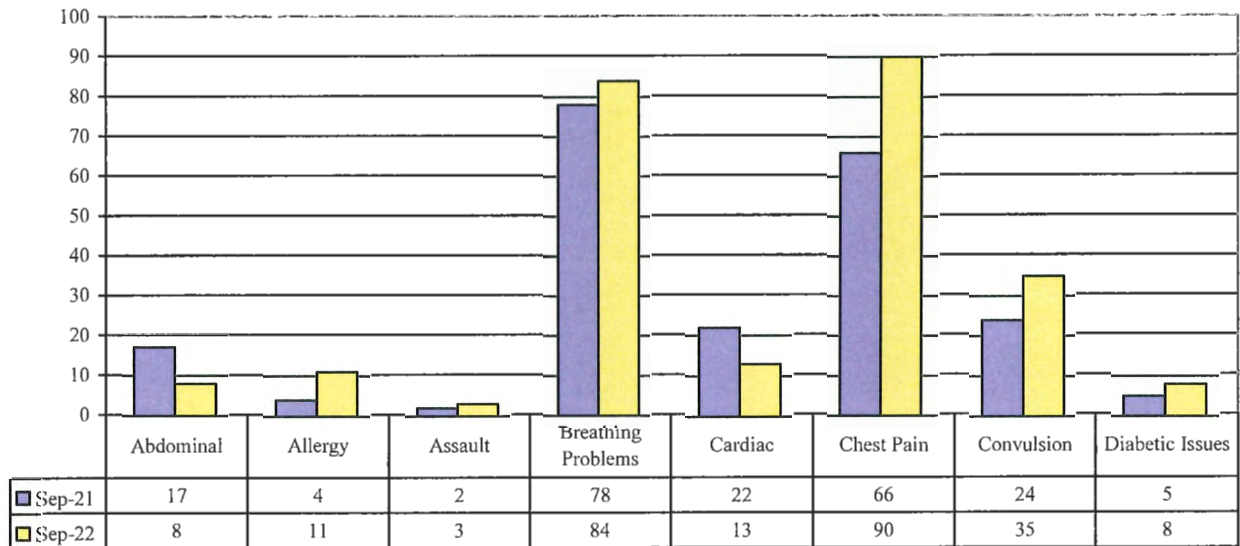
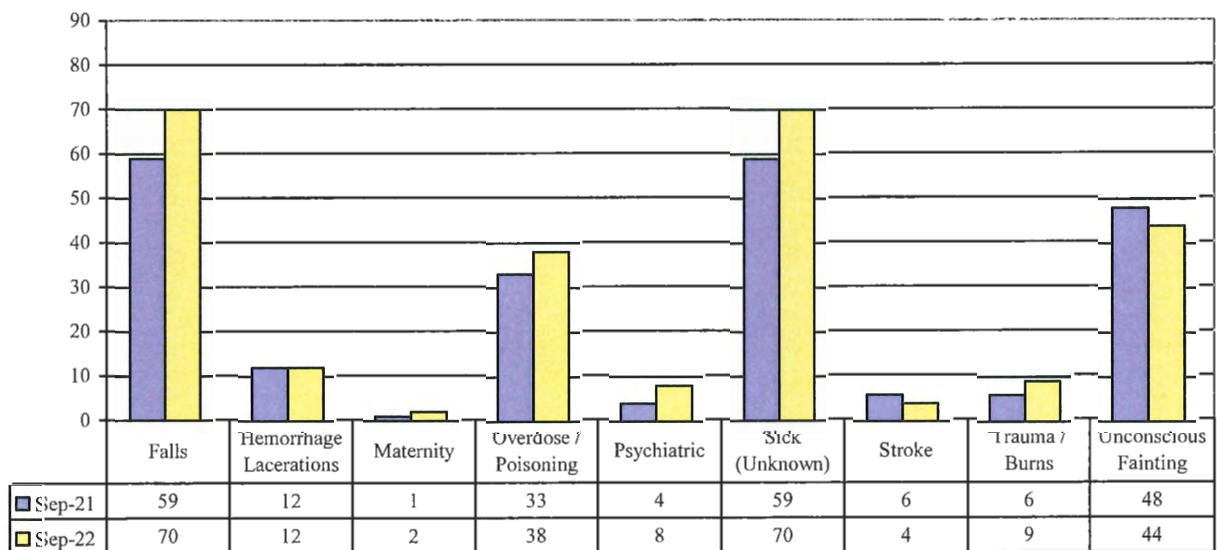


Table 4b: September 2021 & September 2022 Medical Calls by Type



Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for September 2022 are listed below:

| Table 5: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – September 2022 | | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | Suspicious | Accidental | Undetermined |
| Residential - Single-family | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Residential - Multi-family | - | 4 | - |
| Commercial/Industrial | 1 | 4 | 1 |
| Outdoor | 7 | 17 | 6 |
| Vehicle | - | 2 | 1 |
| Totals | 9 | 28 | 9 |

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 – September 2022 | |
|--|----------------|
| | Details |
| Flammable / Combustible Liquids | 1 |
| Natural Gas / Vapour / Propane Leaks (small) | 5 |
| Unclassified | 2 |
| Totals | 8 |

Figure 1: Location of reportable fires attended in September 2022 (total 46)

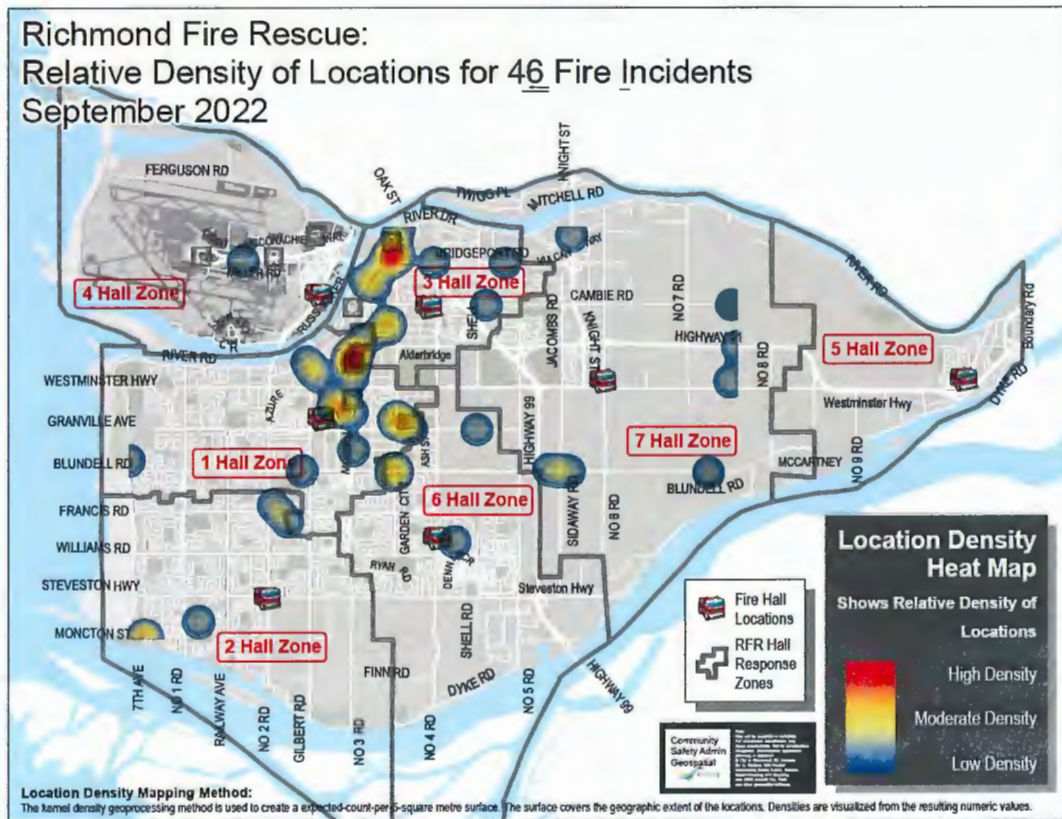
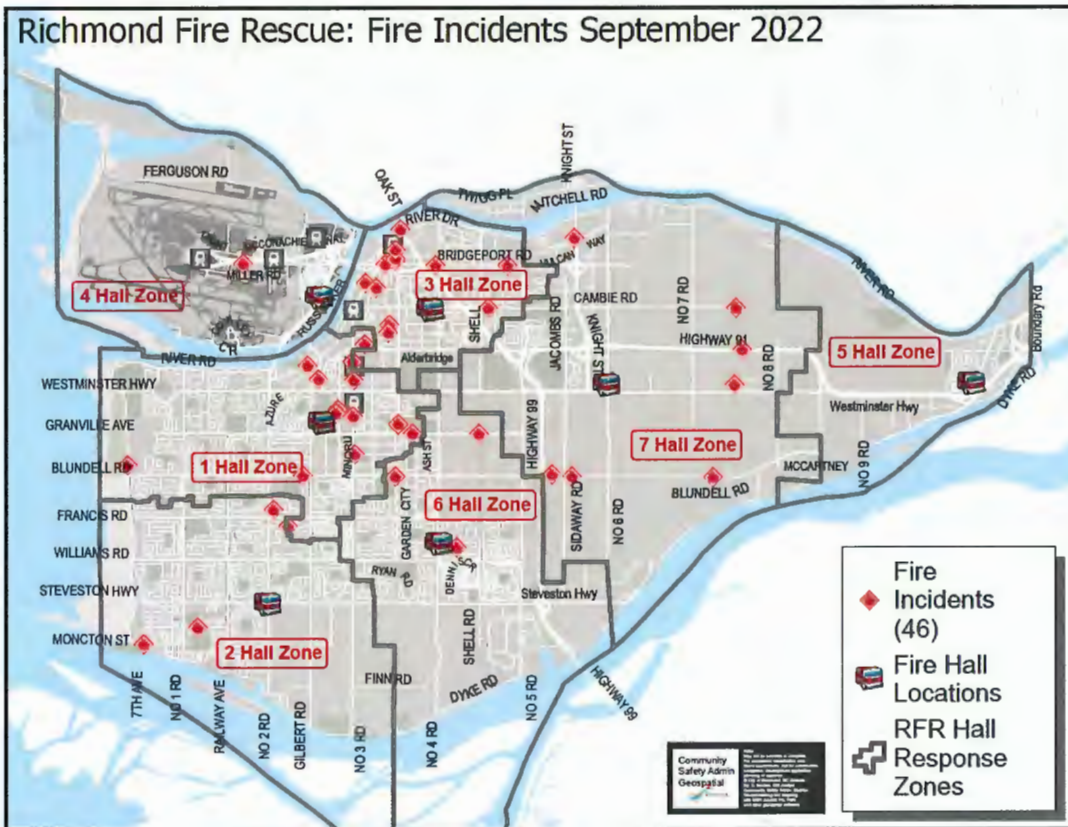


Figure 2: Location of Medical Incidents in September 2022 (total 509)

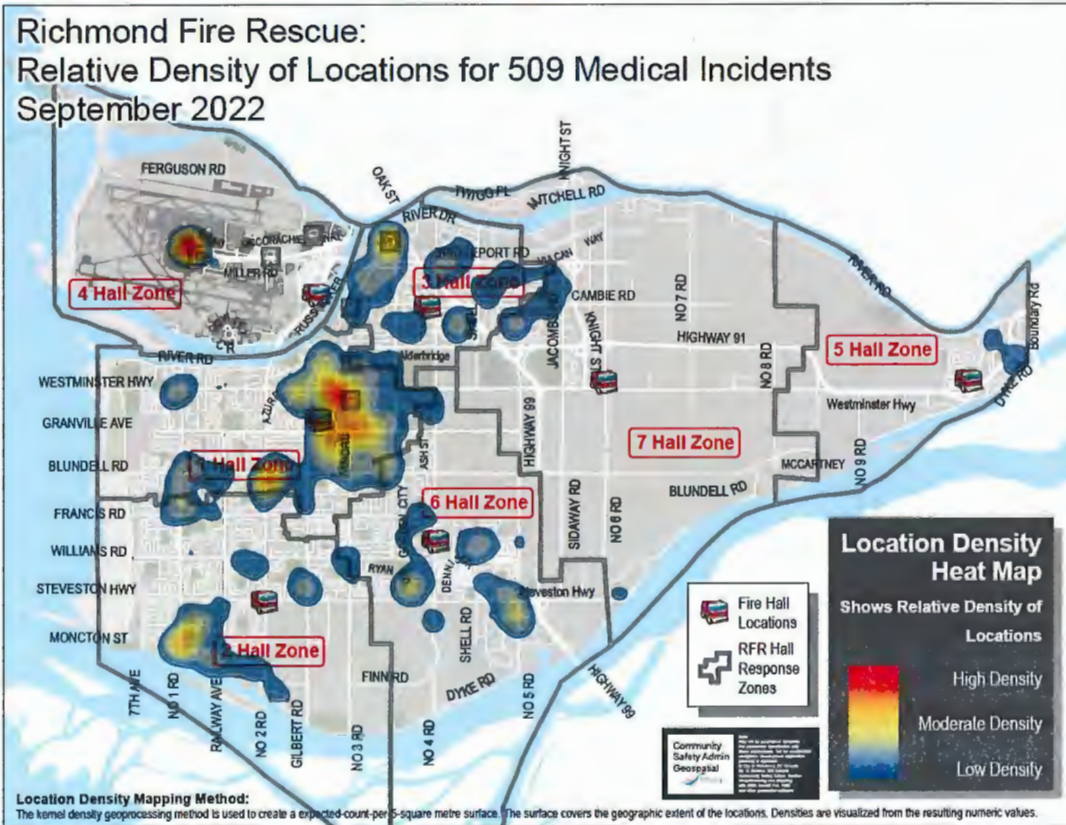
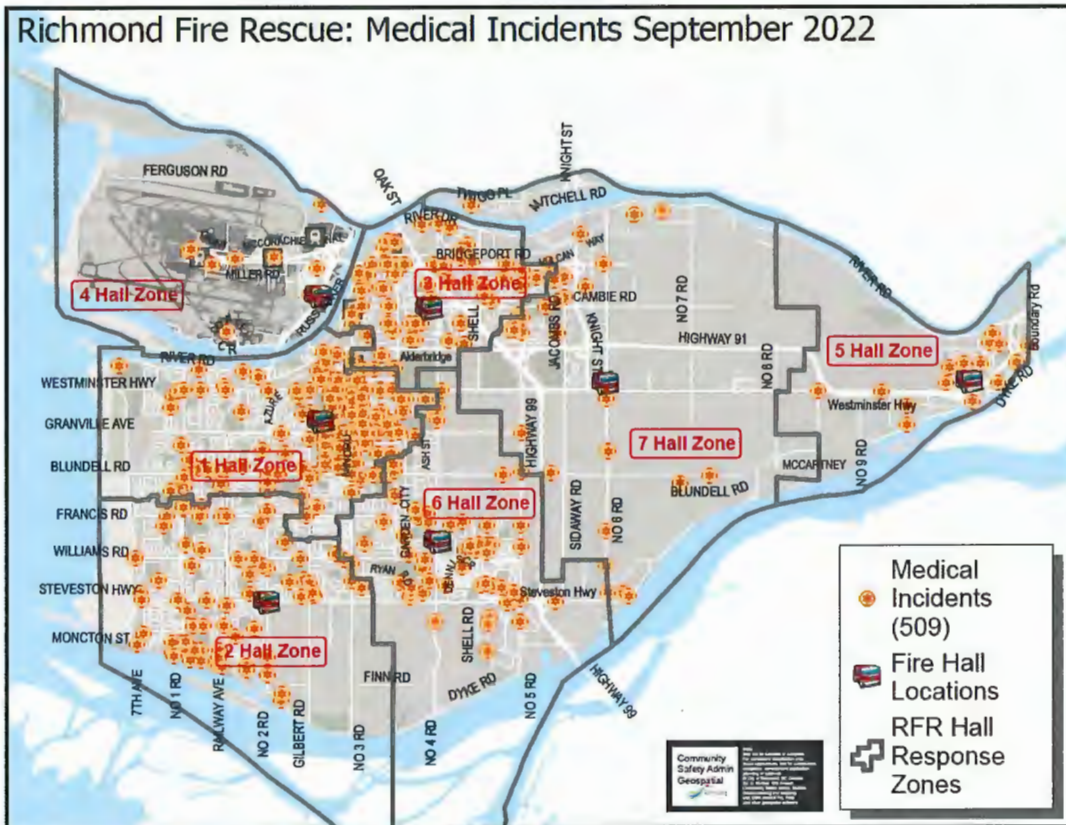
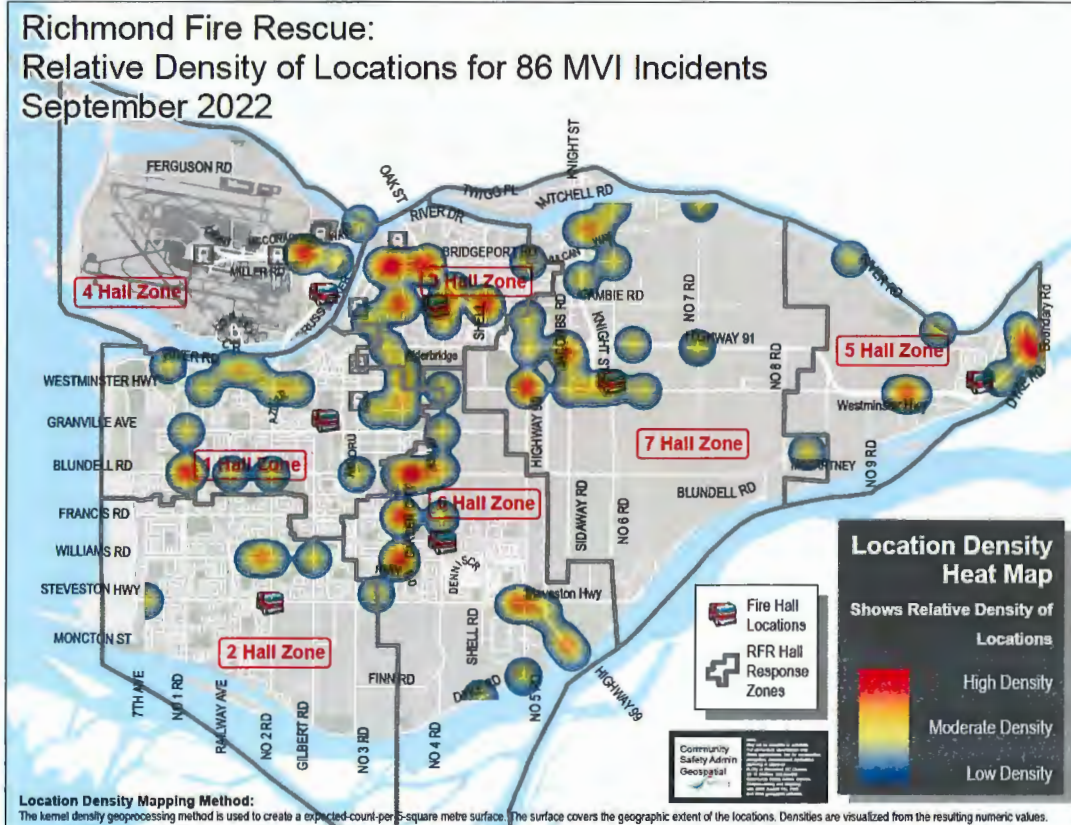
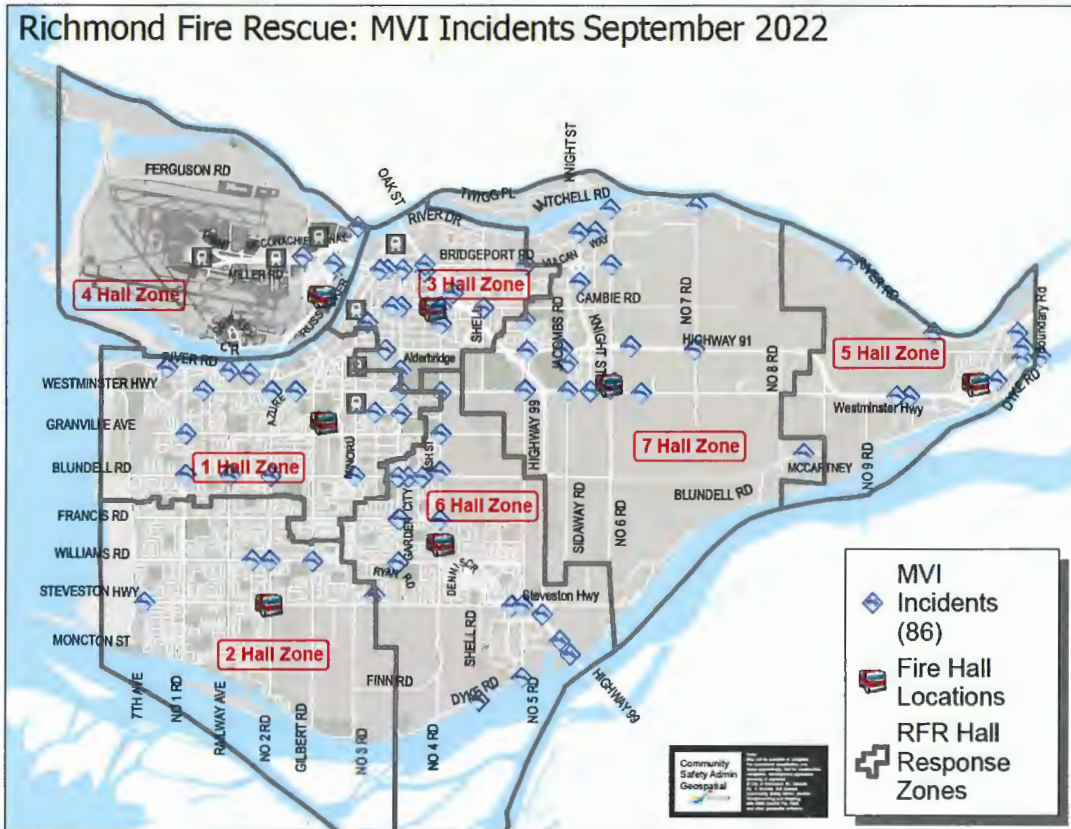


Figure 3: Location of MVI Incidents in September 2022 (total 86)



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