City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To:	Community Safety Committee	**Date:**	September 15, 2026
From:	Anthony Capuccinello Iraci General Manager, Law and Community Safety	**File:**	09-5140-01/2025-Vol 01
Re:	**Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – August 2026**		

Staff Recommendation

That the report titled "Richmond Fire-Rescue Activity Report – August 2026", dated September 15, 2026, from the General Manager, Law and Community Safety, be received for information.

Executive Summary

This report highlights activities, information, and statistics related to calls for service in the community and Richmond Fire-Rescue's community safety and prevention initiatives in August 2026.

Staff Report

Origin

This 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

Significant Events

Richmond Fire-Rescue (RFR) emergency response crews minimized harm, limited damage and stopped fire spread beyond the point of origin, and performed life-saving interventions in these notable August 2026 incidents[1]:

Structure Fire on Patterson Road

On August 1, RFR emergency crews responded to a structure fire on Patterson Road. The first-in apparatus found a fire in a large shed adjacent to a garage. RFR crews performed defensive operations and quickly extinguished the fire. The fire was confined to the large shed with some minor extension into a nearby garage. The area was secured and a Fire Investigator attended to identify the cause and origin of the fire.

Structure Fire on Patterson Road

On August 15, RFR emergency crews responded to a structure fire on Patterson Road. The first-in apparatus responded to large amounts of white smoke coming from one of the units. RFR crews performed defensive operations and quickly extinguished the fire. The sprinkler system had activated inside of the suite. RFR crews set up air monitoring systems. A Fire Investigator attended to identify the cause and origin of the fire.

High Voltage Power Line Damage – Knight Street Bridge

On August 24, RFR emergency crews responded to a report of a high voltage power line on the underside of the bridge that had been cut. One individual was taken to hospital with unknown injuries. RCMP and Hydro attended the scene. The Coast Guard also attended to search for possible victims in the water. Due to the electrical danger, RFR crews requested Works Yard personnel barricade the pedestrian entrances to the bridge. Vehicle traffic was able to use the bridge. BC Hydro reported the power outage affected approximately 437 customers on Mitchell Island and along SW Marine Drive in Vancouver for a short period of time.

[1] Unless otherwise noted, no injuries were reported by the public or RFR personnel in the listed incidents.

Emergency Response

Table 1 provides incident data and comparisons for August 2025 and August 2026. In August 2026, there were 1,095 reported incidents of all types, representing an overall decrease of 1 per cent compared to the previous year.

Table 1: Total Incidents - August 2026

	Incident Totals August (2026)	Incident Totals August (2025)	Number Change from August 2025 to 2026	Percentage Change from August 2025 to 2026	5 Year Average for August
Active Alarm	151	171	-20	-12	169
Explosion	0	0	0	0	1
Fire	58	56	+2	+4	59
Hazardous Materials	7	7	0	0	9
Medical	568	556	+12	+2	567
Motor Vehicle Incident	86	65	+21	+32	79
Public Hazard	8	14	-6	-43	10
Public Service	111	104	+7	+7	107
Response Cancelled/Unfounded	102	118	-16	-14	89
Specialized Transport	4	6	-2	-33	3
Technical Rescue	0	1	-1	-100	-
Total	1,095	1,098	-3	0	1,093

The average time on scene for emergency response crews in August 2026 was 27 minutes per event, the average time on scene in August 2025 was 29 minutes. The time spent on the scene can vary due to the complexity and severity of each incident.

In August 2026, 58 fire incidents were reported to the BC Office of the Fire Commissioner, up from 56 in August 2025. The average number of fires reported each August over the last five years is 59.

Fire damage and property losses during August 2026 are estimated at $7,793,261. The total building/asset and content value at risk is estimated at $644,872,460, and the total value preserved from damage is $637,079,199. These numbers translate to 99 per cent of the value protected (Table 2).

Table 2: Fire Incidents By Type and Loss Estimates - August 2026						
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	2	35,000	35,000	24,495	-	24,495
Multi-Family Residence	5	617,482,800	7,565,030	110,000	-	610,027,770
Commercial	3	16,002,770	110,250	11,201,939	77,275	27,017,184
Outdoor	42	15,456	5,706	-	-	9,750
Vehicle/Vessel	5	-	-	-	-	-
Totals[2]	**57**	**633,536,026**	**7,715,986**	**11,336,434**	**77,275**	**637,079,199**

RFR Public Outreach & Education

During August, RFR staff conducted the following public outreach and education activities:

- August 1 – Participated in the South Arm Play Days event in collaboration with City of Richmond's Neighbourhood Play Days. The Big Rig attended for the public to explore and learn about fire and life safety education. There were approximately 100 attendees.

- August 8 – Participated in the Family Place community event for families who access Family Place programming for children 0-6 years of age. The Big Rig was set up and staff provided fire and life safety education for approximately 200 attendees.

- August 15 – Participated in the Garlic Festival community event. Staff set up an information booth to engage and discuss fire and life safety in the community, with over 2,000 attendees.

- August 19 – In collaboration with RCMP and BC Emergency Health Servies, RFR attended First Responders Day to provide children aged 5 to 12 about the roles in the community as first responders. Approximately 160 children attended.

- August 20 – Provided a fire hall tour and fire and life safety education to a group of newcomers to Canada along with the staff from SUCCESS Richmond Service Centre

- August 21 – Participated in the Cambie Carnival community event with Big Rig for the public to explore and learn about fire and life safety education. There were approximately 600 attendees.

[2] 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.

- August 22/23 – Participated in the Maritime Festival providing fire and life safety information as well as attendance of the Big Rig vehicle. Connected with more than 10,000 attendees and answered questions the public had about fire and life safety.

- August 27 – Facilitated a Fire Hall tour to a group of new Canadians ranging in ages 14-17 who will be entering high school in September and provided education about fire and life safety in the community.

- August 29 - Participated in the South Arm Play Days event in collaboration with City of Richmond's Neighbourhood Play Days. The Big Rig attended for the public to explore and learn about fire and life safety education. There were approximately 150 attendees.

Emergency Programs

Emergency Programs (EP) staff participated in the following engagement activities in August:

- August 3-8 – Supported the Fraser Valley Regional District's Emergency Operations Centre. Emergency Programs deployed two staff members to Chilliwack to support staffing the Reception Centre at Shxwha:y Village. During the month of August, the Reception Centre was also supporting residents that had been displaced from a 36-unit apartment building due to fire.

- August 9 – Attended the Richmond Oval Community Day and provided an information booth. There were more than 400 visitors who came to the booth to participate in the "Map Your Preparedness" activity and learn more about being prepared for an emergency.

- August 19 –Attended the Brighouse branch of Richmond Public Library to provide an emergency preparedness presentation to 20 attendees from Senior Link Society. The presentation covered the 5 steps to household/individual emergency preparedness with additional information about extreme heat safety and earthquakes. The attendees had the opportunity to look through a sample grab-and-go bag.

- August 22/23 – Supported the annual Richmond Maritime Festival by providing 75 radios through the Emergency Program's radio loan program along with, including 12 Radios for the Green Team.

Budgetary Implications

Richmond Fire-Rescue continues to monitor all budget implications to ensure fiscal responsibility and oversight.

Conclusion

During August 2026, RFR experienced a decrease in calls for service. RFR continues to monitor activities to identify and develop public outreach programs that respond to emerging trends and opportunities and promote effective prevention behaviors.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Wishlove, Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue

Report Contributors

This report was prepared by Grant Wyenberg, Acting Fire Chief and reviewed by Community Safety Administration.

Endorsed by Serena Lusk, CAO

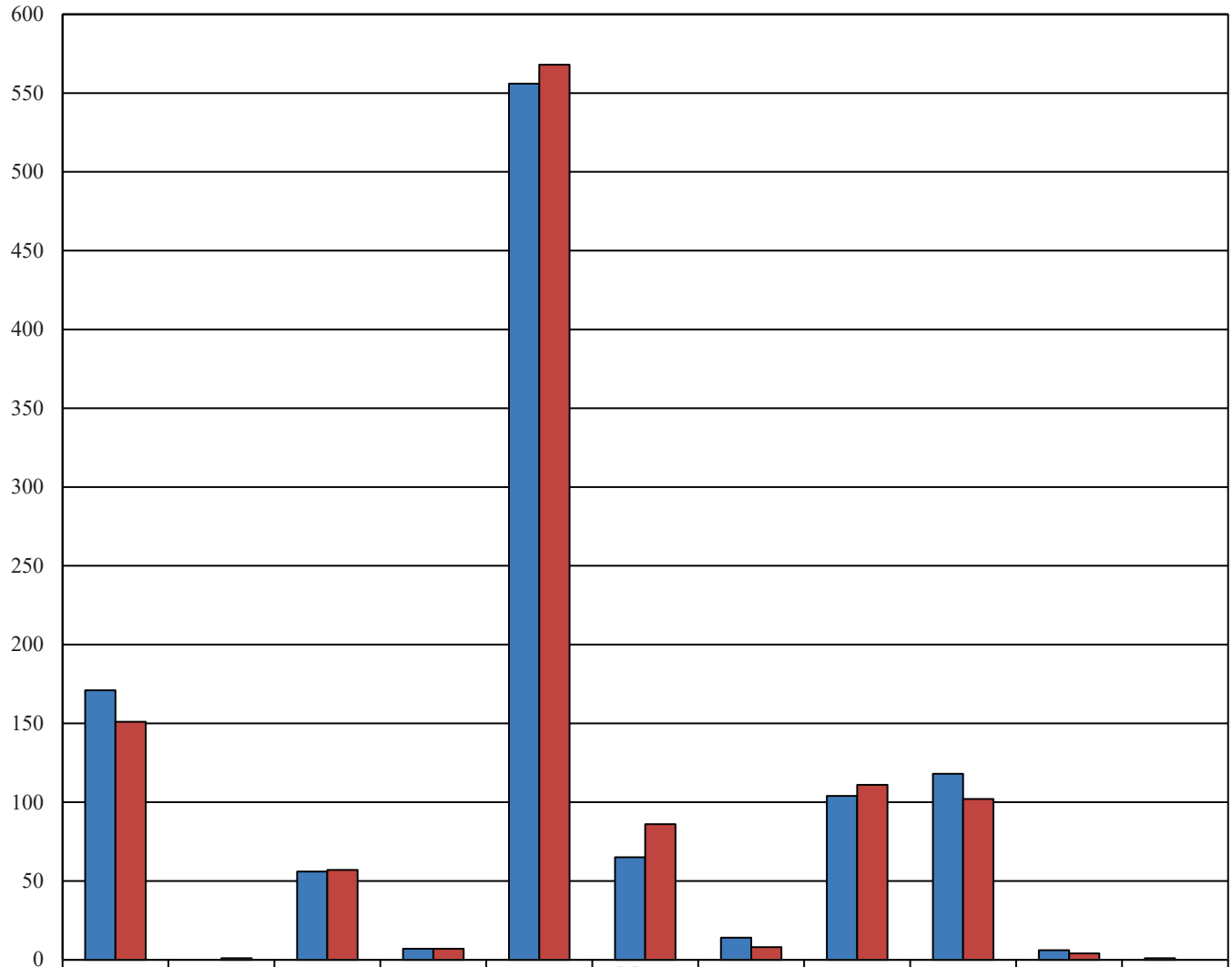
Att. 1 – Emergency Response Activity for August 2026

Emergency Response Activity for August 2026

Incident Volumes

The following chart provides a month-to-month comparison of incidents occurring in August 2025 and 2026. In August 2026, there were 1,095 total incidents, compared to 1,098 in August 2025. This represents a decrease of 0.3 per cent between last year and 2026.

Table 3: August 2025 & August 2026 Incident Volumes



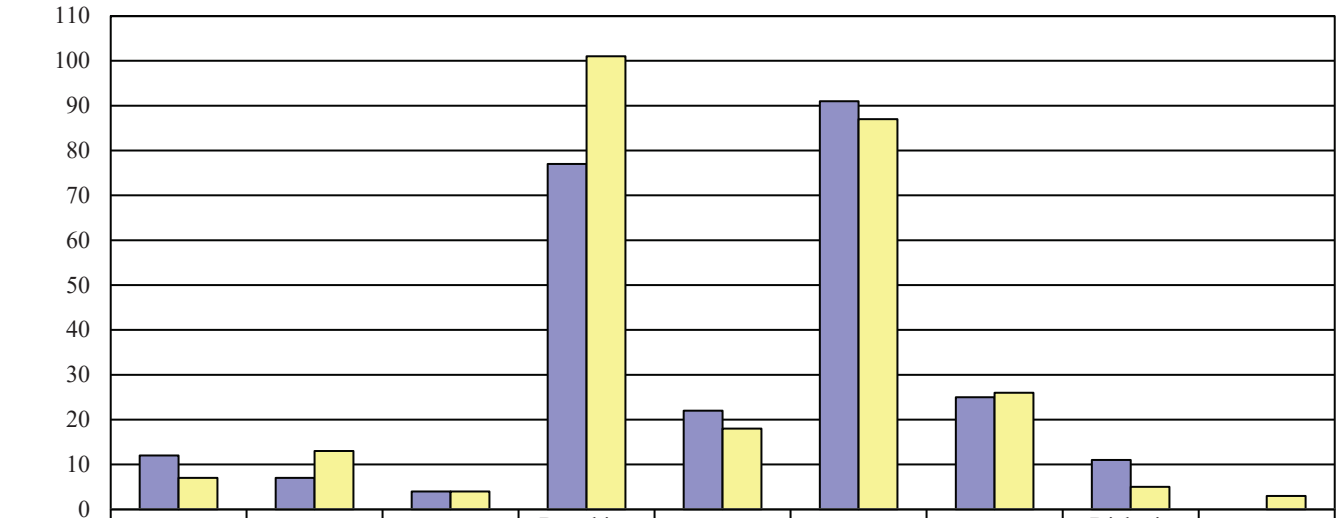
	Alarm Activated	Explosion	Fire	Haz Mat	Medical	Motor Vehicle Incident	Public Hazard	Public Service	Response Cancelled	Specialized Transport	Tech Rescue
Aug-25	171	0	56	7	556	65	14	104	118	6	1
Aug-26	151	1	57	7	568	86	8	111	102	4	0

***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 the public, ambulance or police, locked in/out, special events, trapped in an elevator, and water removal.

First Responder Totals

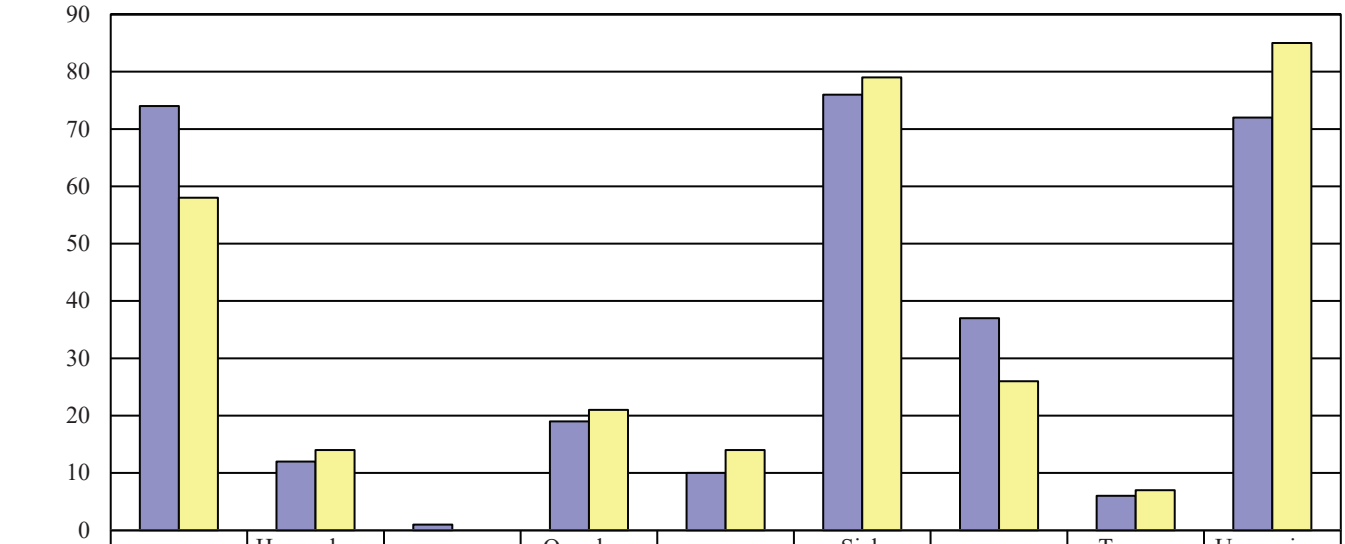
Medical first-responder incidents accounted for 52 per cent of the total emergency responses from RFR during August 2026. A detailed breakdown of medical incidents for August 2025 and 2026, by sub-type, is set out in the following table. There were 568 medical incidents in August 2026 compared to 556 in August 2025, an increase of 2 per cent.

Table 4a: August 2025 & August 2026 Medical Calls by Type



	Abdominal	Allergy	Assault	Breathing Problems	Cardiac	Chest Pain	Convulsions	Diabetic Issues	Drowning
Aug-25	12	7	4	77	22	91	25	11	0
Aug-26	7	13	4	101	18	87	26	5	3

Table 4b: August 2025 & August 2026 Medical Calls by Type



	Falls	Hemorrhage Lacerations	Maternity	Overdose Poisoning	Psychiatric	Sick (Unknown)	Stroke	Trauma Burns	Unconcious Fainting
Aug-25	74	12	1	19	10	76	37	6	72
Aug-26	58	14	0	21	14	79	26	7	85

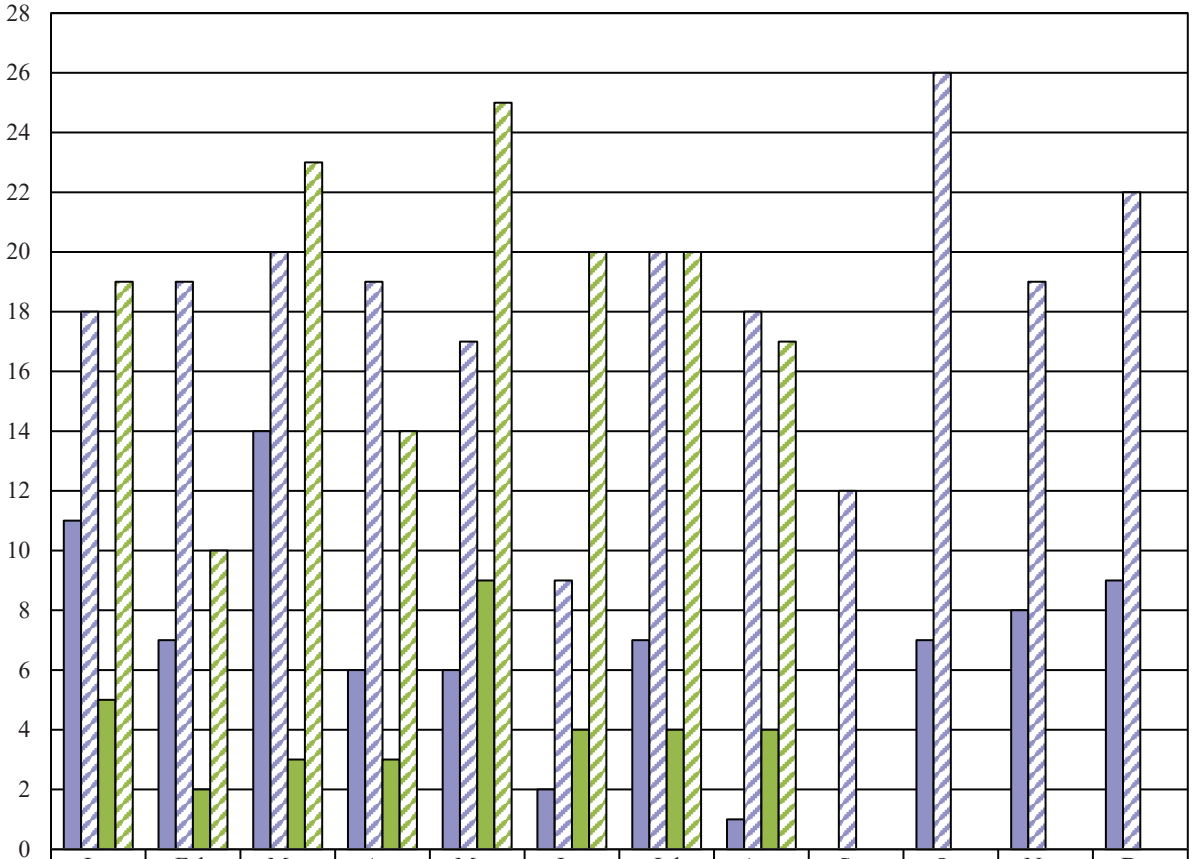
Overdose / Poisoning

The following tables provide a breakdown of the overdose/poisoning incident volume by month for 2025 and 2026. The tables include Opioid and Other overdose incidents (other incidents include alcohol, medications, unknown or refusal of treatment, and other drug types).

During August 2026, RFR staff administered two doses of Naloxone.

Table 4c: Overdose / Poisoning Incidents by Type – August 2026													
Year	**Type**	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
2025	Opioid	11	7	14	6	6	2	7	1	0	7	8	9
	Other	18	19	20	19	17	9	20	18	12	26	19	22
2026	Opioid	5	2	3	3	9	4	4	4	-	-	-	-
	Other	19	10	23	14	25	20	20	17	-	-	-	-

Table 4d: 2025 & 2026 Overdose / Poisoning Incident Types



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2025 - Opioid	11	7	14	6	6	2	7	1	0	7	8	9
2025 - Other	18	19	20	19	17	9	20	18	12	26	19	22
2026 - Opioid	5	2	3	3	9	4	4	4				
2026 - Other	19	10	23	14	25	20	20	17				

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Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for August 2026 are listed below:

Table 5: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – August 2026			
	Incendiary	**Accidental**	**Undetermined**
Residential - Single-family Residential - Multi-family	- -	1 4	1 1
Commercial/Industrial	1	2	-
Outdoor	3	24	5
Vehicle	-	2	3
Totals	**4**	**33**	**10**

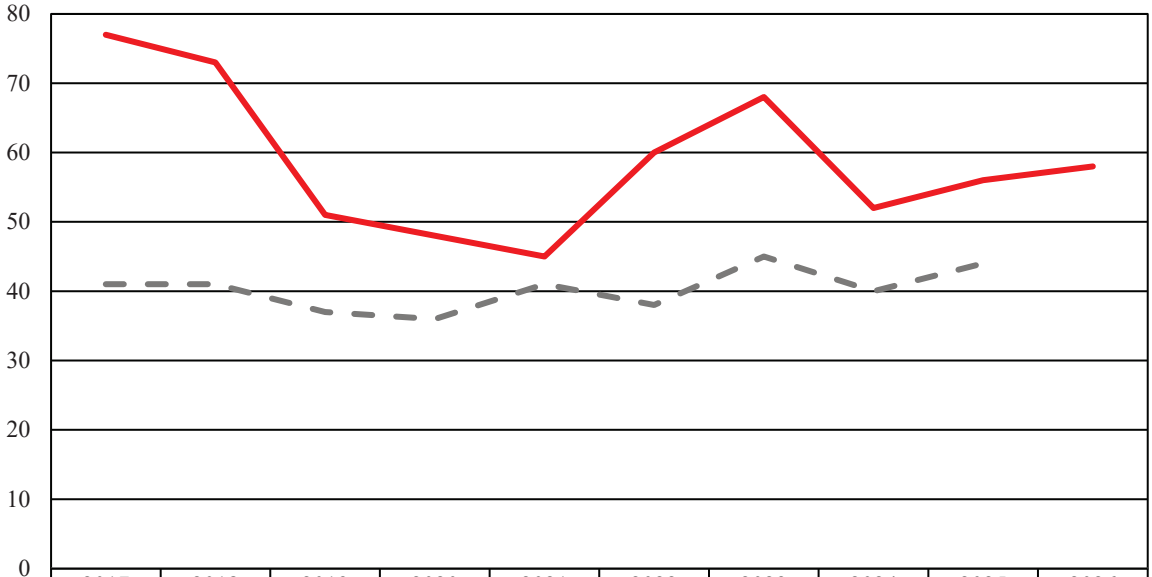
Richmond Fire-Rescue investigators report all suspicious fires to the RCMP, while working with the RCMP to address potential risks to the community and coordinate appropriate fire investigations.

Hazardous Materials

Table 6: Hazardous Materials Incidents by Type – August 2026	
	Details
Flammable / Combustible Liquids	1
Gases (Natural / Propane)	6
Totals	**7**

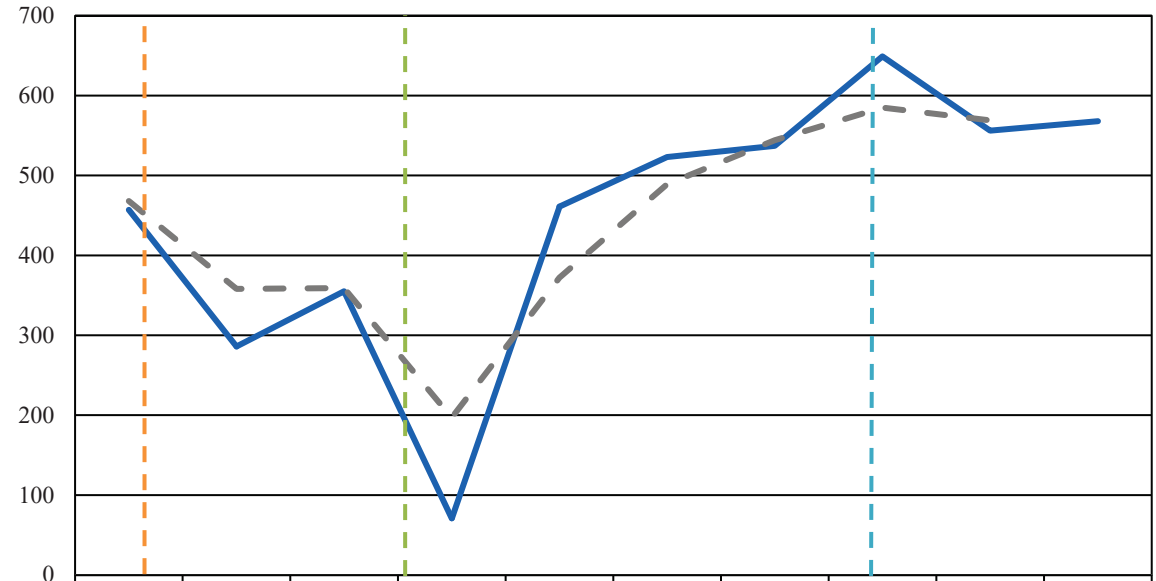
The following charts provide year-to-year comparisons of total incident volumes for fires, medical, motor vehicle, and overdose/poisoning incidents in August, including year averages from 2017 to 2026.

Table 7a: Total Fire Calls for Service in August and year averages from 2017 to 2026



	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Fire	77	73	51	48	45	60	68	52	56	58
Yr Average	41	41	37	36	41	38	45	40	44	

Table 7b: Total Medical Calls for Service in August and year averages from 2017 to 2026



	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Medical	457	286	355	71	461	523	537	649	556	568
Yr Average	468	358	359	197	372	489	544	585	569	

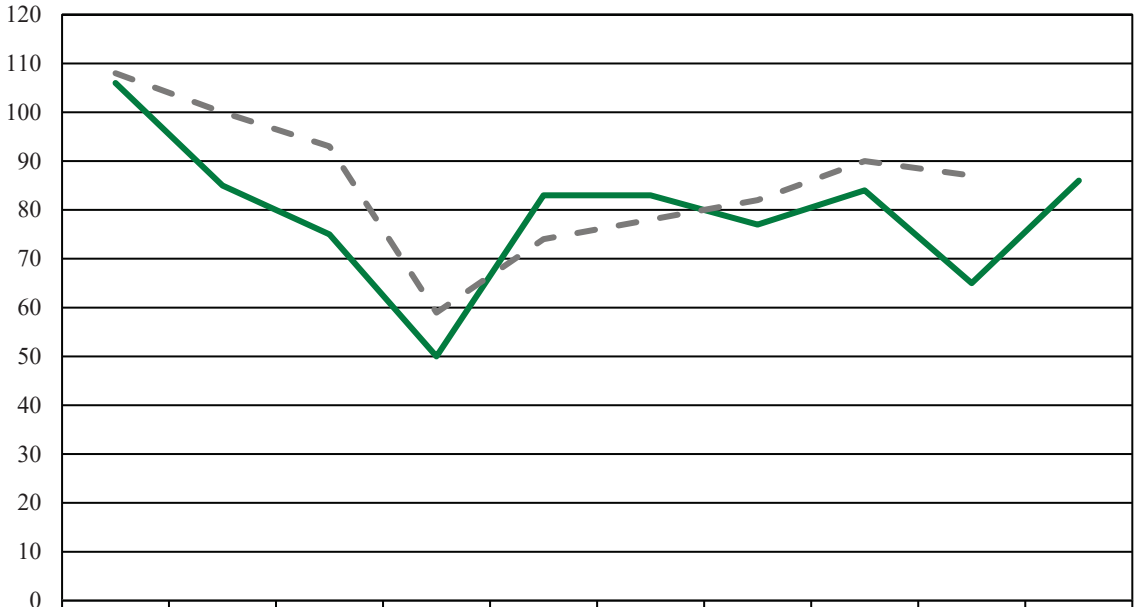
Changes to BC Emergency Health Services Clinical Response Model dispatch system (2017-2018)

Start of COVID-19 Pandemic

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

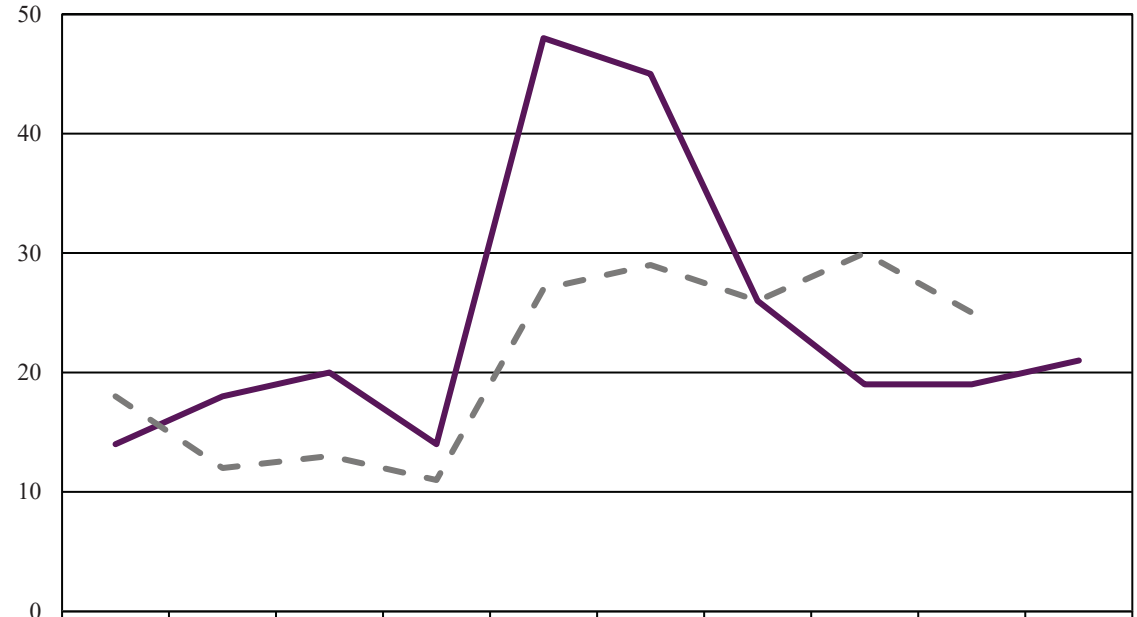
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Table 7c: Total Motor Vehicle Incidents (MVI) Calls for Service in August and year averages from 2017 to 2026



	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
MVIs	106	85	75	50	83	83	77	84	65	86
Yr Average	108	100	93	59	74	78	82	90	87	

Table 7d: Total Overdose/Poisoning(ODP) Calls for Service in August and year averages from 2017 to 2026



	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
ODP	14	18	20	14	48	45	26	19	19	21
Yr Average	18	12	13	11	27	29	26	30	25	

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Figure 1a: Location of reportable fire incidents attended in August 2026 (total 57)

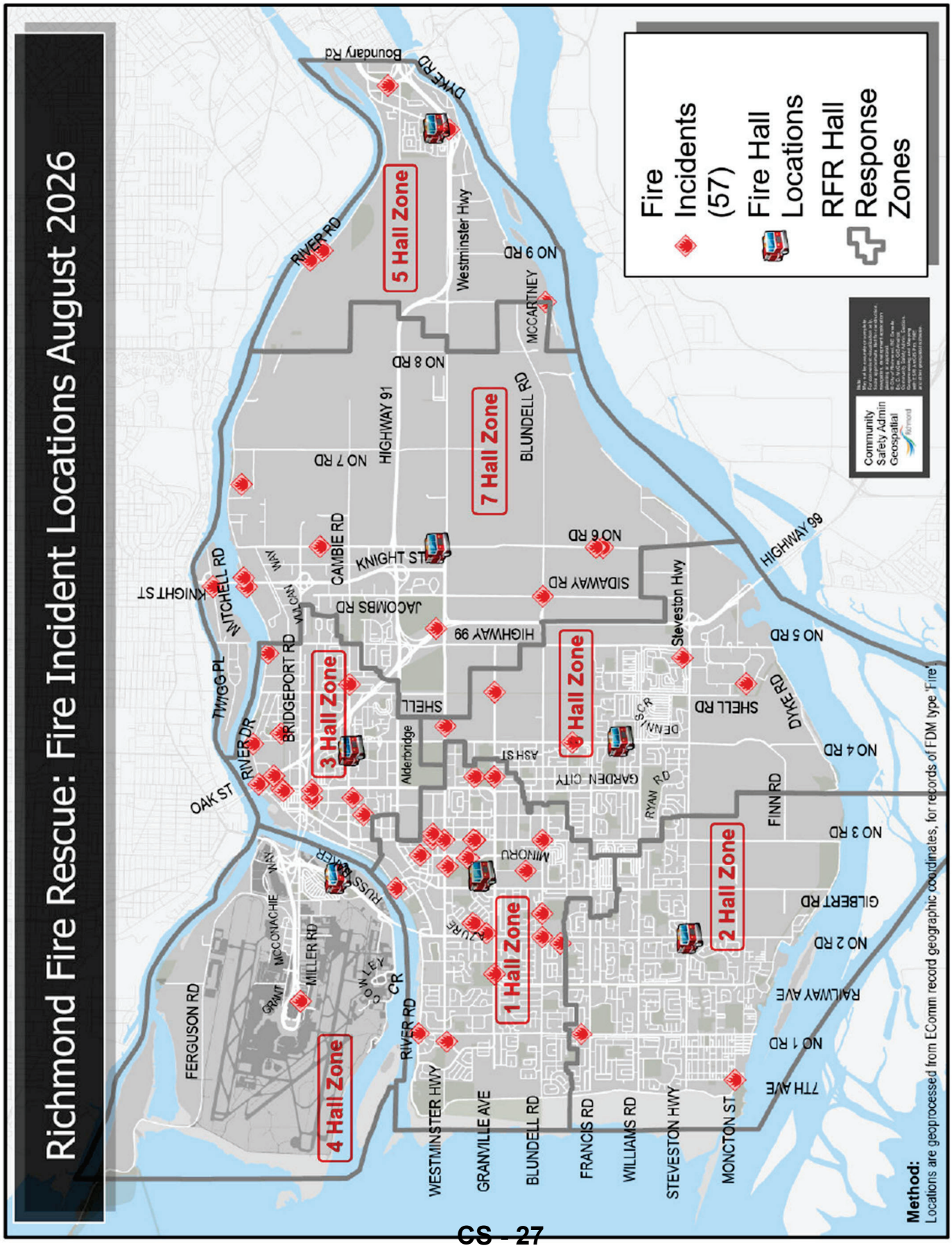


Figure 1b: Density of reportable fire incidents attended in August 2026 (total 57)

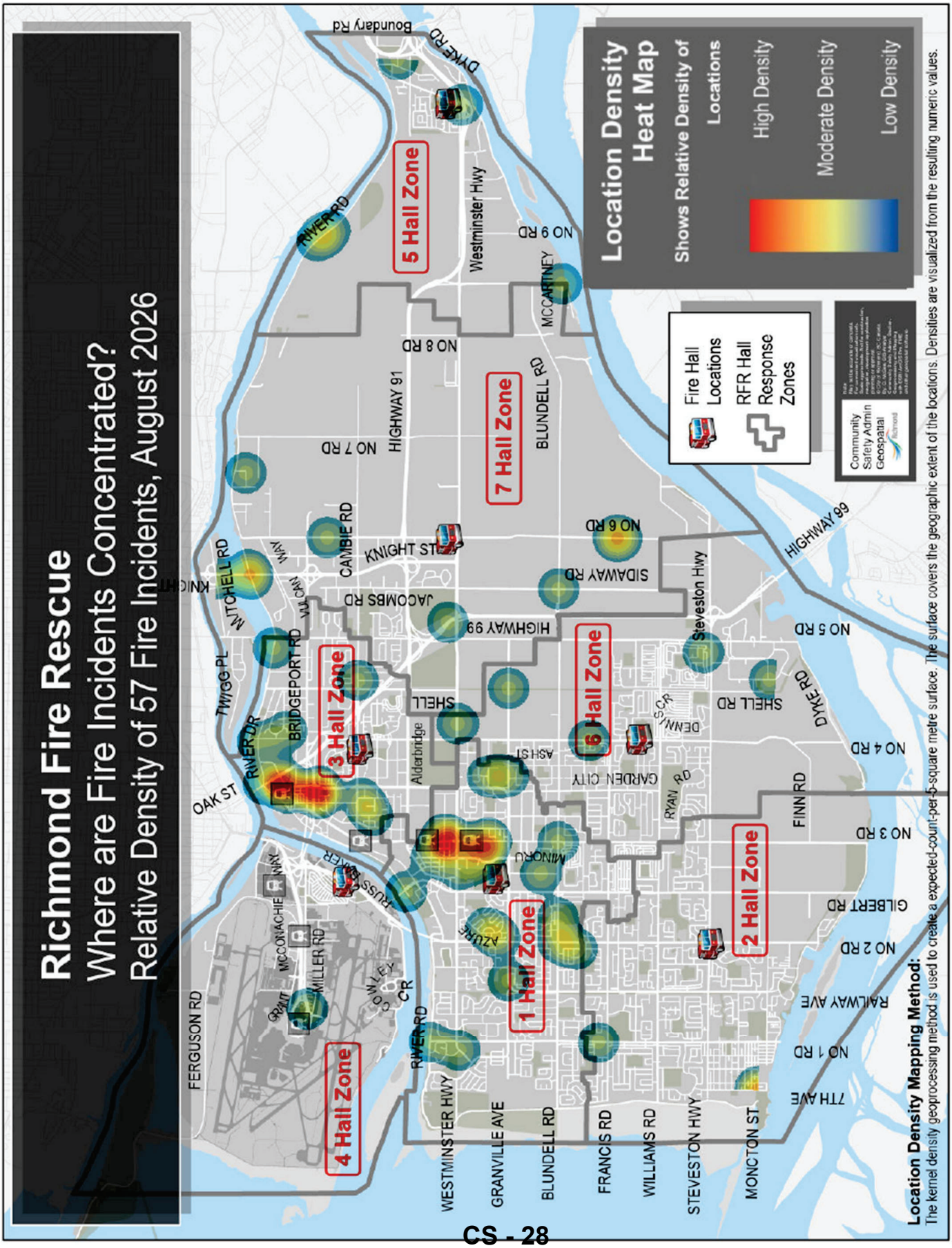


Figure 2a: Location of reportable medical incidents attended in August 2026 (total 568)

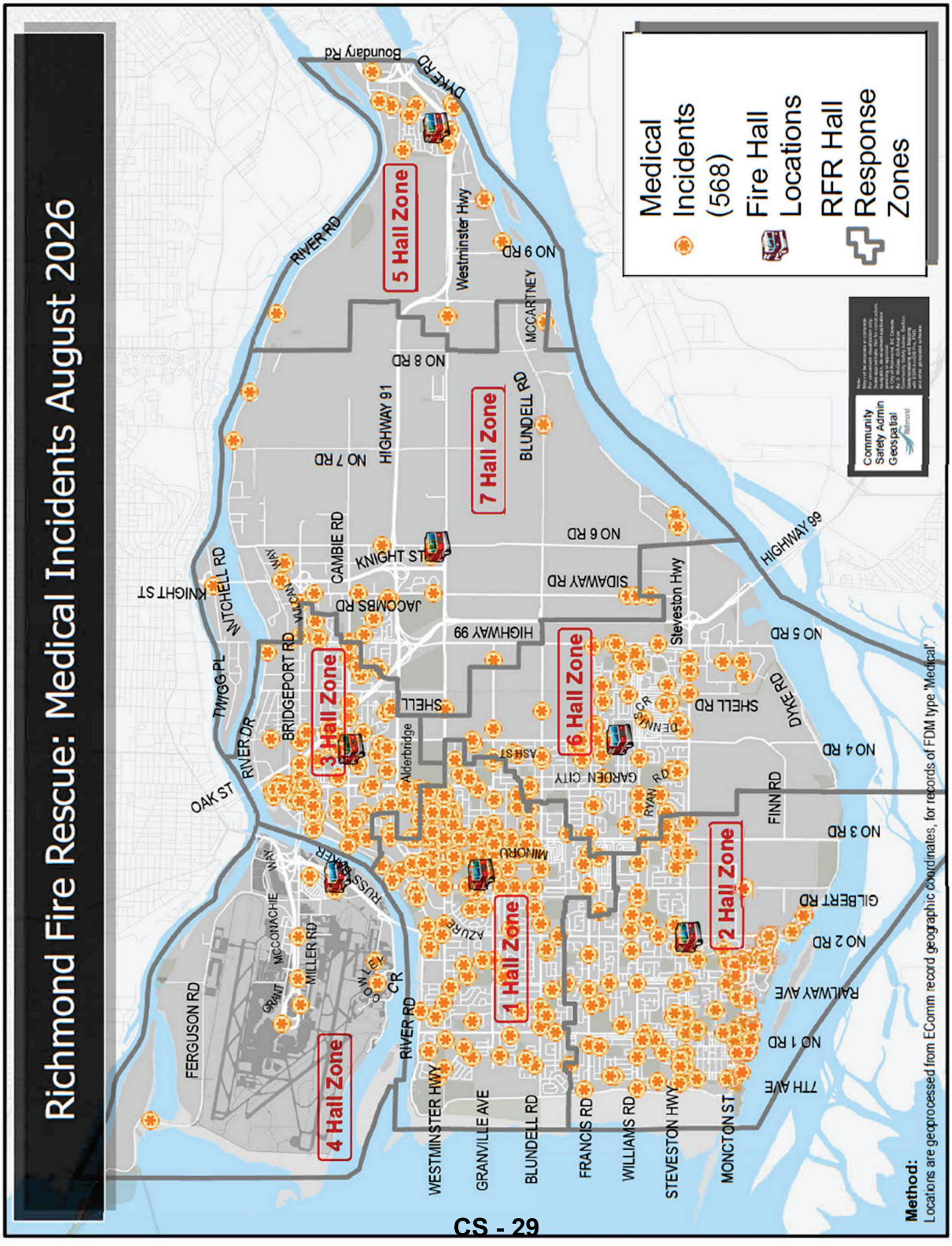


Figure 2b: Density of reportable medical incidents attended in August 2026 (total 568)

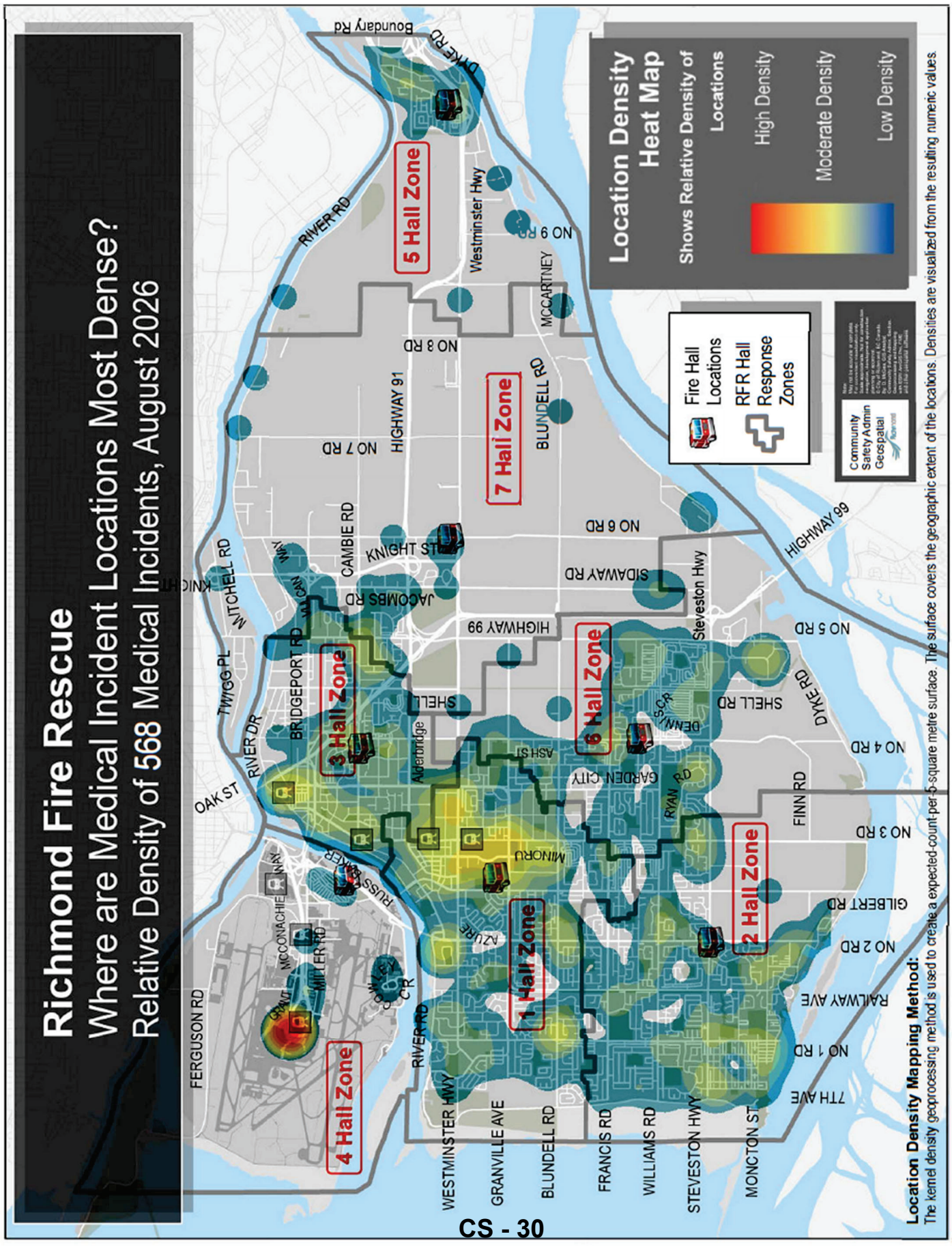


Figure 3a: Location of reportable motor vehicle incidents (MVIs) attended in August 2026 (total 86)

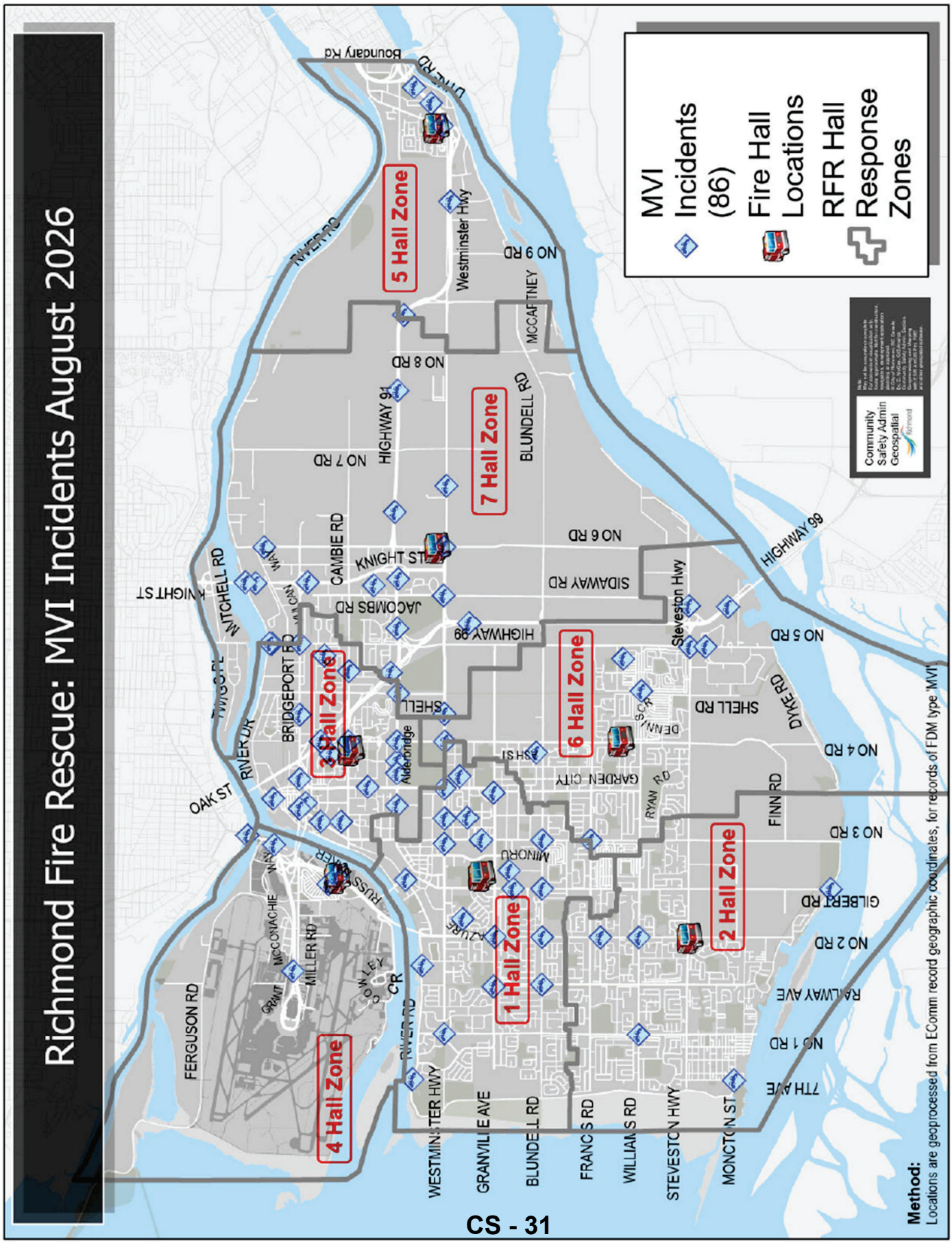


Figure 3b: Density of reportable motor vehicle incidents (MVIs) attended in August 2026 (total 86)

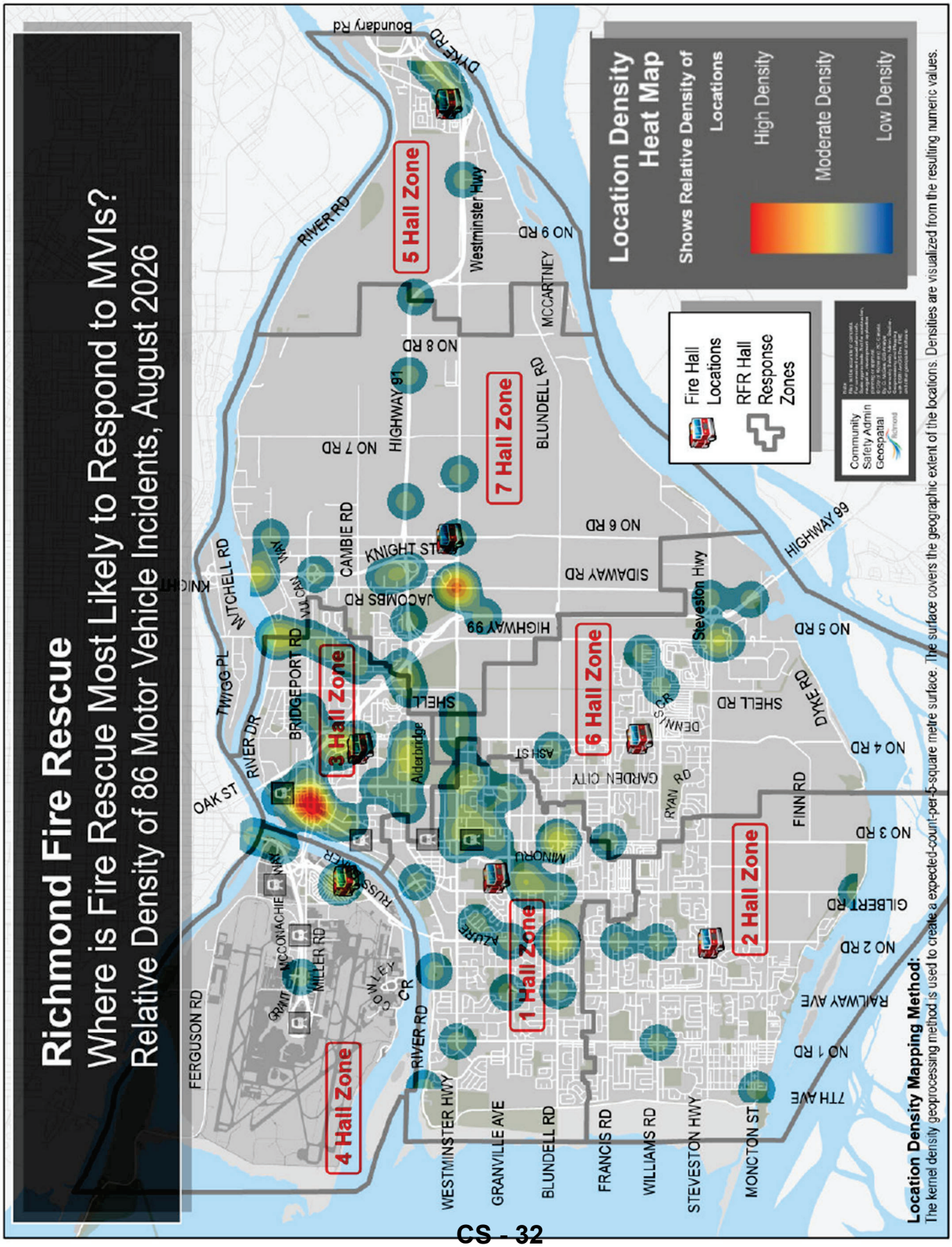


Figure 4a: Location of reportable overdose/poisoning incidents attended in August 2026 (total 21)

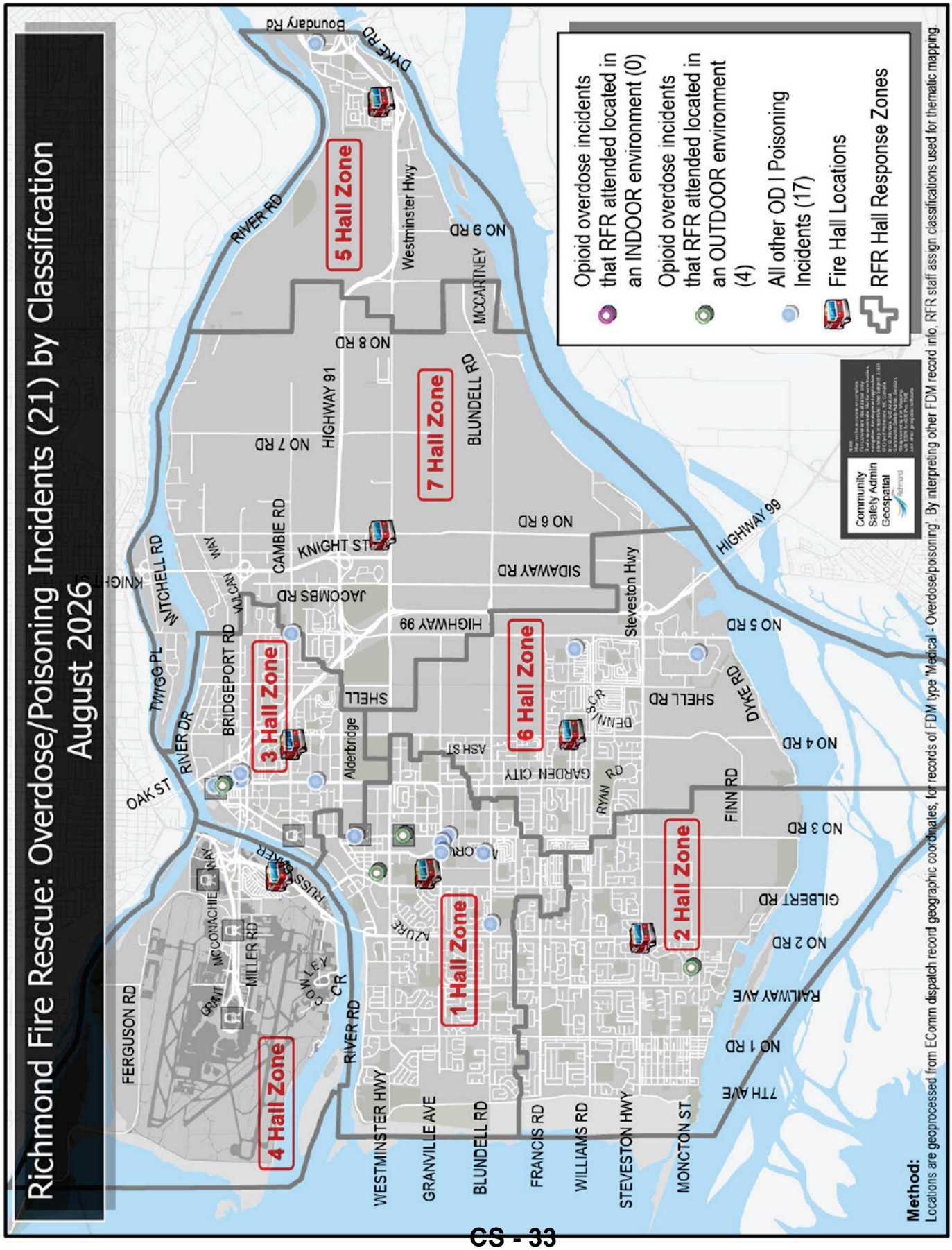


Figure 4b: Density of reportable overdose/poisoning incidents attended in August 2026 (total 21)

