



City of Richmond

Report to Committee




To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** April 11, 2022
From: Tim Wilkinson **File:** 09-5375-01/2022-Vol
Fire Chief 01
Re: **Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – March 2022**

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – March 2022”, dated April 11, 2022, from the Fire Chief, be received for information.

Tim Wilkinson
Fire Chief
(604-303-2701)

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

In March, Emergency Programs (EP) staff facilitated a virtual Emergency Preparedness Workshop for the parent association at Westwind Elementary School. This covered the steps to preparedness including knowing and planning for risks, gathering emergency supplies, connecting with neighbours and staying informed.

Canadian Red Cross (CRC) National Inclusive Resiliency Project Update

In conjunction with Canadian Red Cross and BC Earthquake Alliance, EP staff are collaborating on an informational display and handout to provide the results from last month's 'Ask the Expert' earthquake activity for seniors.

Provincial Debris Removal Project

Emergency Programs staff coordinated with internal City department stakeholders to monitor provincial agency efforts to track, clean up and repair the damage from debris caused by the November 2021 atmospheric river flooding events.

YVR Active Shooter Table-Top Exercise (TTX)

In partnership with Canadian Border Services, Vancouver Airport Emergency Management and the RCMP, EP participated in an active shooter table top exercise hosted by US Customs and Border Patrol on March 9, 2022. Current communications, response, emergency management protocols, and best practices were reviewed and improved.

Training and Public Education

During March 2022, fire-training staff delivered educational activities and programs including Fire Cause and Origin, Frontline Leadership, Incident Command System 100 and 200 and Wildfire Structure Protection Program (Wildland Fire Fighting).

During March 2022, Public Education staff created and released an online booking system on the RFR website to facilitate annual Food Truck inspection planning for April 2022.

Emergency Response

Richmond Fire-Rescue's goal is to respond to incidents in a manner where loss of life, reduction of property damage and protection of the environment is mitigated. In March 2022, there were a total of 743 reported incidents, representing a nine per cent increase in incidents from March 2021 (Attachment 1).

Due to changes in the Provincial Health Orders and Medical Health Officer's direction, Richmond Fire-Rescue continues to experience a gradual return to normal levels of service of medical event types and responses to medical calls. RFR continues to monitor all activities to identify and create programs to incorporate emerging trends.

The average time on scene for RFR crews was 30 minutes, which was lower than the 34 minutes recorded in 2021. The time spent on scene can vary due to the nature and severity of each incident.

Table 1: Total Incidents - March 2022				
	Totals (2022)	Percentage Change from March 2021	Number Change from March 2021 to 2022	5 Year Average for March
Alarm Active No Fire	127	+4	+5	119
Explosion	0	0	0	0
Fire	20	-56	-25	34
Haz-Mat	8	-27	-3	10
Medical	379	+23	+70	382
MVI	73	+16	+10	71
Public Hazard	5	-75	-15	11
Public Service	79	+5	+4	70
Response Cancelled/Unfounded	50	+39	+14	62
Specialized Transport	2	+100	+1	3
Tech Rescue	0	0	0	0
Totals	743	+9	+61	762

In March 2022, there were 20 fire incidents which were reported to the Office of the Fire Commissioner representing a 56 per cent decrease from March 2021. The average number of fires reported in March over the last five years is 34.

Richmond Fire-Rescue's emergency fire response goal is 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 increases significantly once a fire extends beyond the room of origin.

Fire damage and property losses during March 2022 are estimated at \$101,510. This total includes \$98,300 for building/asset loss and \$3,210 for content loss. The total building/asset and content value at risk was estimated to be \$43,002,050 and the total value preserved from damage was \$42,900,540. 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	4	4,891,800	53,200	151,000	500	4,989,100
Multi family	3	2,003,300	5,100	56,800	1,810	2,053,190
Commercial/Industrial	1	35,808,000	-	150	150	35,808,000
Outdoor	9	-	-	1,000	750	250
Vehicle/Vessel	3	90,000	40,000	-	-	50,000
Totals*	20	42,793,100	98,300	208,950	3,210	42,900,540

* 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 and limited fires to the place of origin in these notable March 2022 incidents:

March 29, 2022 – Hazardous materials event on Alexis Court. RFR crews responded to a report that an incendiary device had been thrown through the window of a residential property. Prior to arrival crews were instructed to wait by the RCMP until the scene was safe. After the scene was declared safe crews arrived to inspect the device. The device had not ignited but the liquid in the bottle had leaked onto the floor and had smashed leaving a lot of broken glass all over the room. Fire crews cleaned-up the glass and liquid and proceeded to vent the area. The City's Works Yard was contacted to board up the broken front window. There were no injuries to the residence or RFR personnel. The RCMP and a Fire Investigator attended the scene.

March 31, 2022 – Residential Fire on Alexis Court. RFR crews responded to a structure fire at the same location a few days later. On arrival crews found an extinguished fire contained to the exterior of the garage door of the same residence as reported above. Crews confirmed that there was no extension of the now extinguished fire to ensure no further damage. RCMP were on scene conducting an investigation and had identified the fire starter. RCMP declined a need for a RFR Fire Investigator.

April 11, 2022

- 5 -

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

Richmond Fire-Rescue continues to monitor activities to identify and create programs to respond to emerging trends. RFR staff remain ready to continue to work through and adapt to the ever-changing pandemic situation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Wilkinson', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

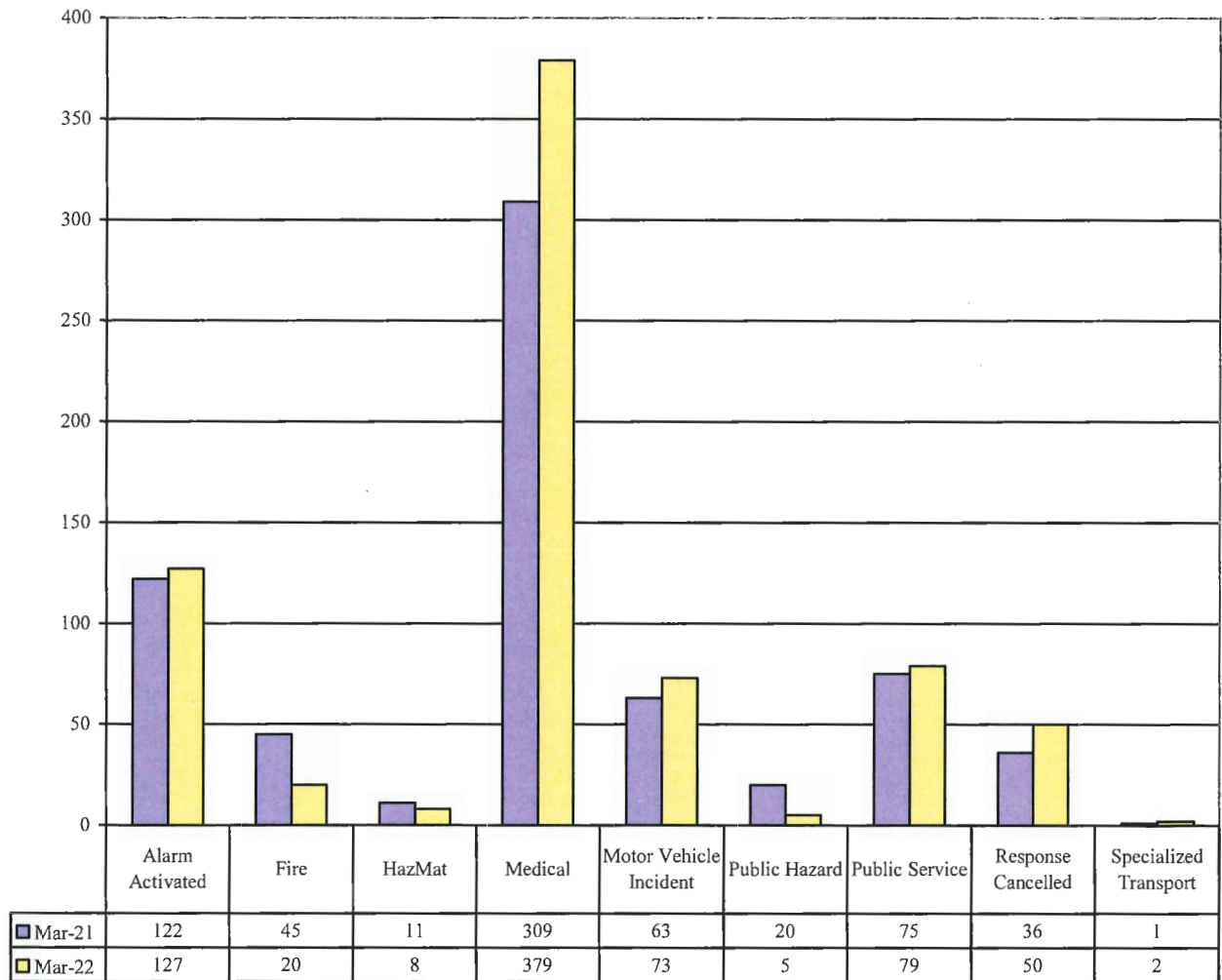
Tim Wilkinson
Fire Chief
(604-303-2701)

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

Incident Volumes

The following chart provides a month-to-month comparison regarding incidents occurring in March 2022 and 2021. In March 2022, there were a total of 743 incidents, compared to 682 in March 2021. This represents an increase of 9 per cent. RFR continue to see incident numbers returning to normal levels due to gradual changes in the Provincial Medical Health Officer orders in response to the pandemic.

Table 3: March 2021 & March 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 51 per cent of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of March 2022. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for March 2021 and 2022 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 379 medical incidents in March 2022 compared to 309 in March 2021, an increase of 23 per cent. RFR continue to see incident numbers returning to normal levels due to gradual changes in the Provincial Medical Health Officer orders in response to the pandemic.

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

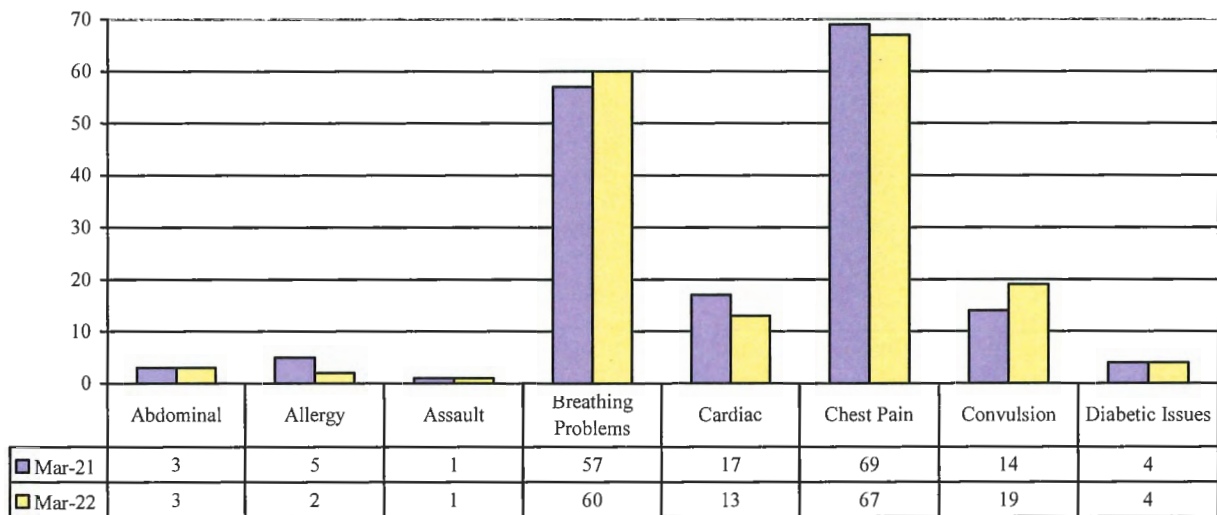
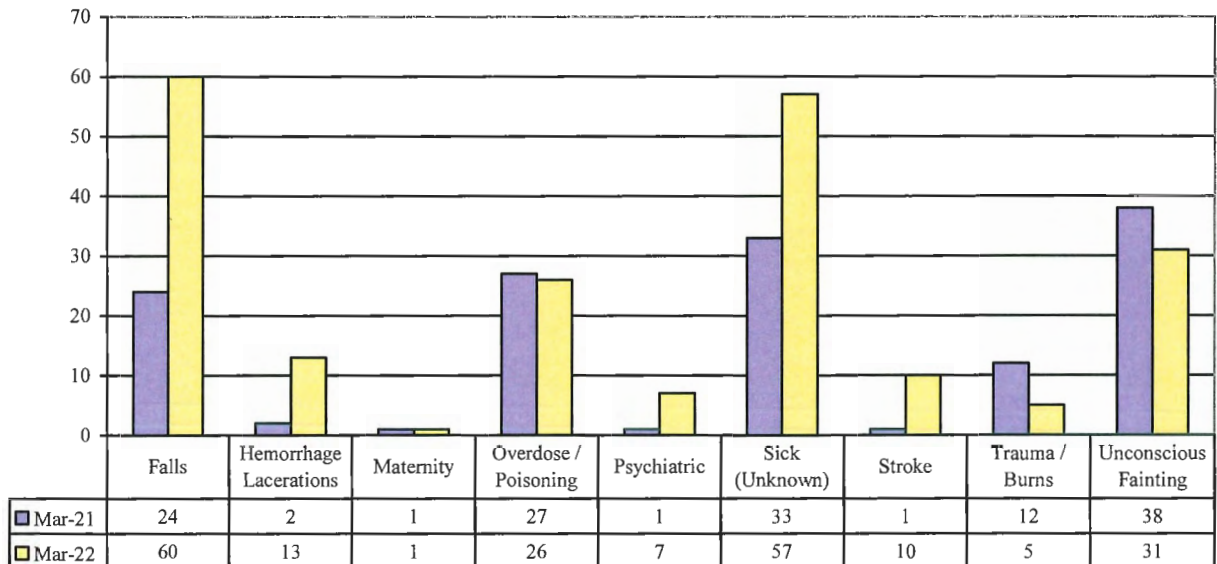


Table 4b: March 2021 & March 2022 Medical Calls by Type



Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for March 2022 are listed below:

Table 5: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – March 2022			
	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	2	2	-
Residential - Multi-family	-	3	-
Commercial/Industrial	-	1	-
Outdoor	3	4	2
Vehicle	-	1	2
Totals	5	11	4

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 – March 2022	
	Details
Criminal Act - Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives (CBRNE)	1
Flammable / Combustible Liquids	2
Natural Gas / Vapour / Propane Leaks (small)	5
Totals	8

Figure 1: Location of reportable fires attended in March 2022 (total 20)

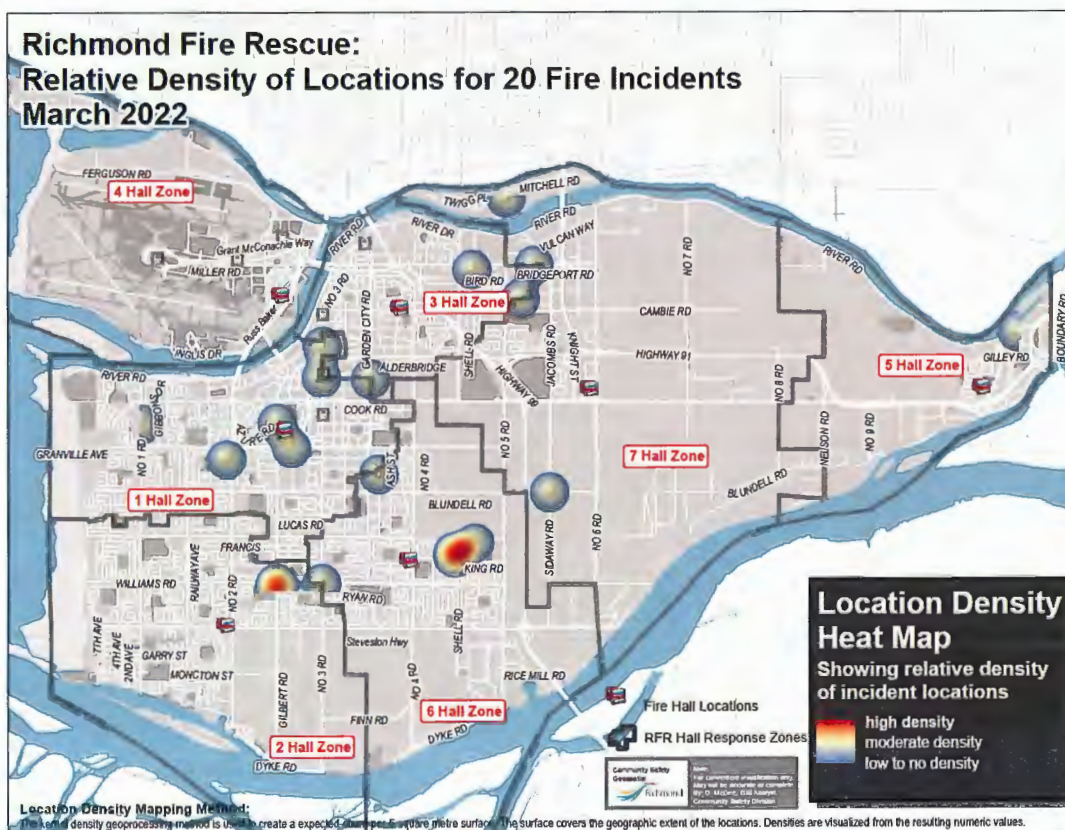
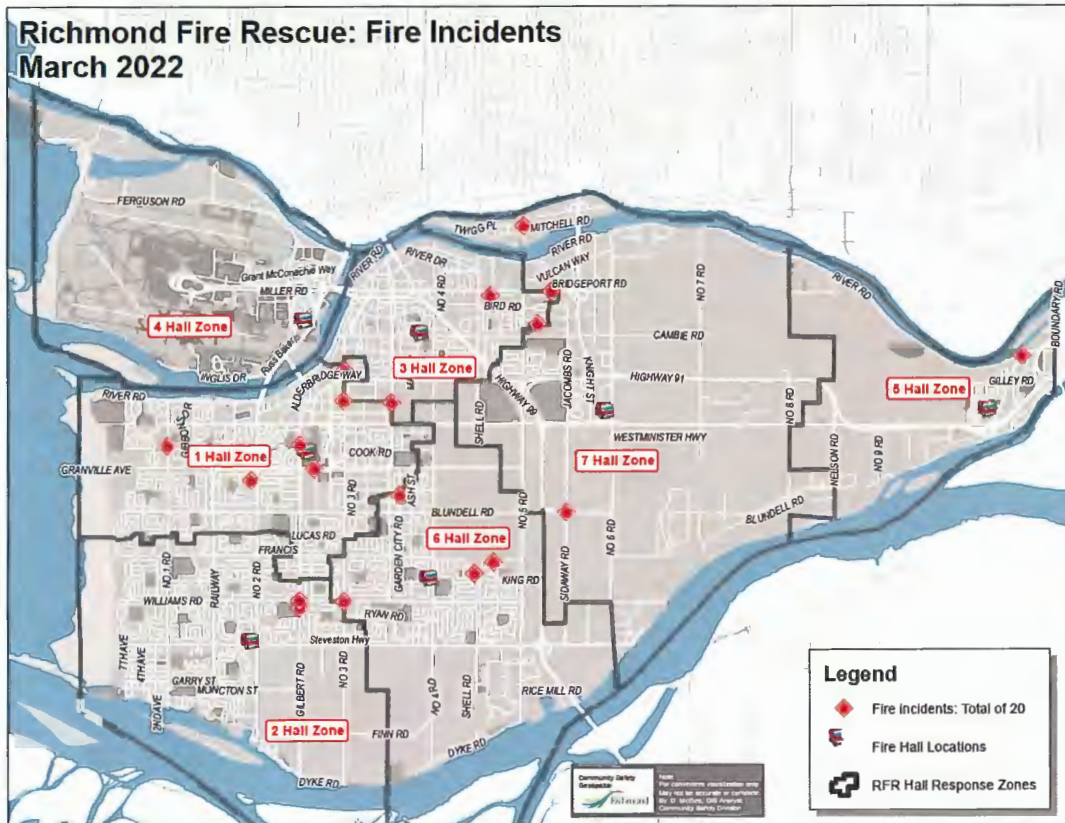


Figure 2: Location of medical Incidents in March 2022 (total 379)

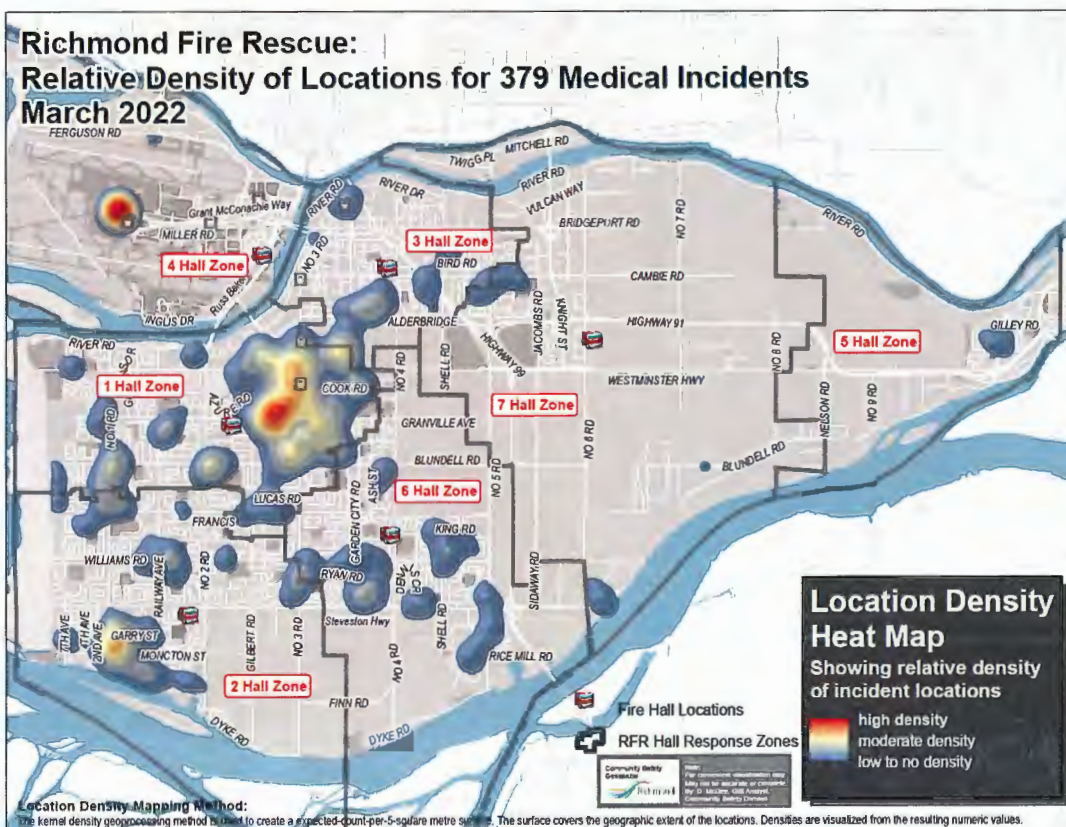
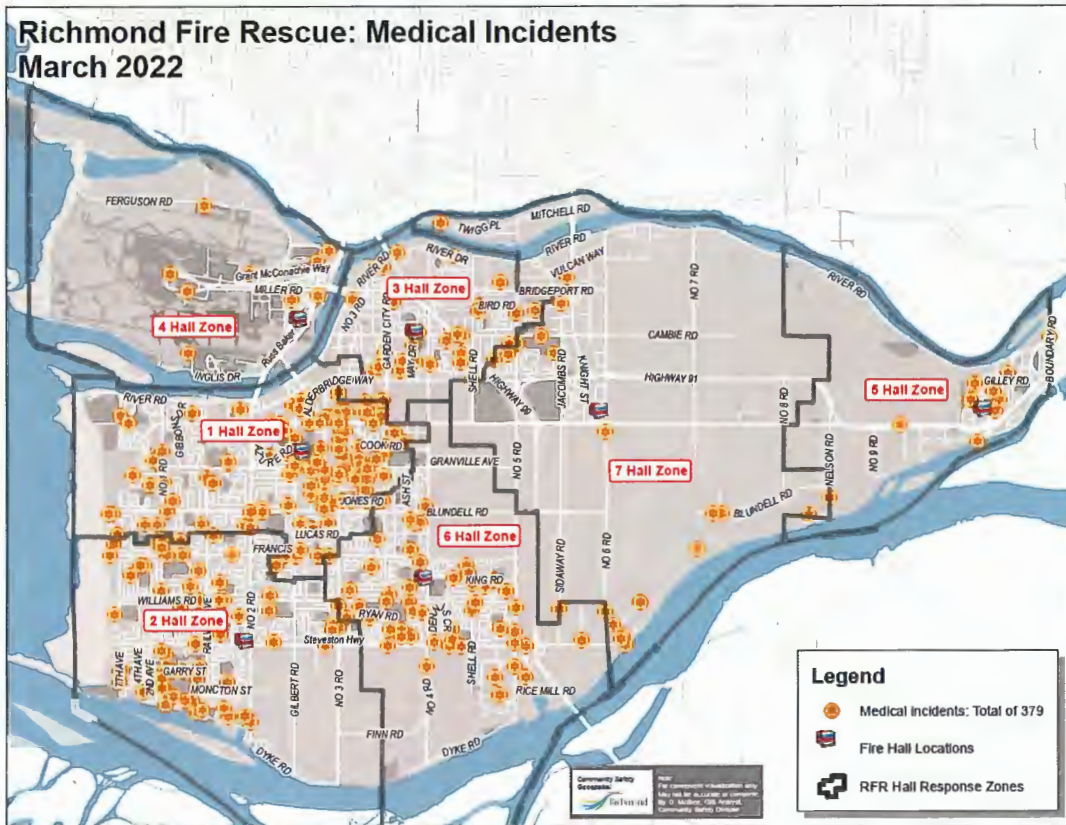


Figure 3: Location of MVI Incidents in March 2022 (total 73)

