



To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** April 13, 2026
From: Anthony Capuccinello Iraci **File:** 09-5140-01/2025-Vol
General Manager, Law and Community Safety 01
Re: **Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – March 2026**

Staff Recommendation

That the report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue Activity Report – March 2026”, from the General Manager, Law and Community Safety, dated April 13, 2026, 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 March 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 from the point of origin, and performed life-saving interventions in these notable March 2026 incidents¹:

Structure Fire on Francis Road

On March 1, RFR Emergency crews responded to the report of a structure fire on the second floor of a building. Upon arrival, crews established that a small fire had occurred in the kitchen which was extinguished by the resident. On scene crews secured the unit. Emergency Support Services were deployed by Emergency Programs staff to support the residents displaced by this fire (two adults and one child). A neighbour offered to assist with housing the family for a short period. Referrals for shelter allowance, groceries and incidentals were provided for 72 hours. A Fire Investigator attended to identify the cause and origin of the fire.

Sprinkler Activation on St Albans Road

On March 2, RFR emergency crews responded to a general fire alarm activation. Upon arrival, the first-in crews discovered that a sprinkler system had been activated inside one of the residential units, flooding the suite. The crews worked to isolate the leak and mitigate the damage. The unit was located above a parkade, and no other residential units were impacted. The suite was deemed uninhabitable and Emergency Support Services were contacted to provide assistance to the residents. A fire watch was issued, and the building manager was contacted to facilitate the repair of the sprinkler. The displaced resident was provided with accommodation and food.

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

Structure Fire on Beckwith Road

On March 3, RFR emergency crews responded to reports of a fire in a café's exterior patio area. Crews quickly attacked and extinguished the fire before any significant fire spread. Crews investigated for signs of extension to the interior of the building while salvage and overhaul activities were conducted in the exterior patio area. There was no extension of the fire, and the interior was confirmed clear of any hazards. Due to the nature of the fire, RCMP attended the scene and a Fire Investigator attended to identify the cause and origin of the fire.

Structure Fire on Patterson Road

On March 4, RFR emergency crews responded to the report of a structure fire on Patterson Road. The first-in crews discovered a fire in the lower suite of the property. Crews quickly attacked and extinguished the fire. Crews then checked for any fire extension and began salvage and overhaul. There were five residents displaced and Emergency Support Services attended to provide support. A Fire Investigator attended to identify the cause and origin of the fire.

Structure Fire on Knox Way

On March 4, RFR emergency crews responded to the report of a structure fire on Knox Way. On arrival crews found a large recycling plant paper compactor machine fire. Crews quickly attacked the fire to contain it from spreading. After a challenging operation, due to the numerous hazards that required mitigation, the fire was extinguished. On-site workers provided RFR crews with assistance with the dangerous and complex equipment that needed to be utilized in order to access the burning material. This was a difficult but coordinated effort by the crews that attended. There were no reported injuries and the damage to the plant and equipment was kept to a minimum. A Fire Investigator attended to identify the cause and origin of the fire.

Motor Vehicle Incident on North Service Road

On March 5, RFR emergency crews responded to a report of a vehicle roll-over in a water filled ditch with a person trapped inside. On arrival, the vehicle was discovered nearly fully submerged in the ditch along the north side of the North Service Road. Fortunately, the lone occupant had been able to extricate themselves as crews arrived on scene. The driver was cold and otherwise appeared to be uninjured. BC Emergency Health Services arrived at the scene and assumed patient care. RCMP also attended the scene.

Structure Fire on Cambie Road

On March 23, RFR emergency crews responded to a structure fire on Cambie Road. The first-in apparatus found a house-like structure fully involved with fire. RFR emergency crews commenced with a defensive attack and quickly extinguished the fire. Due to the nature of the fire, RCMP attended the scene. A Fire Investigator attended to identify the cause and origin of the fire.

Emergency Response

Table 1 provides incident data and comparisons for March 2025 and March 2026. In March 2026, there were 1,075 reported incidents of all types, representing an overall decrease of 0.1 per cent compared to the previous year.

Table 1: Total Incidents - March 2026					
	Incident Totals March (2026)	Incident Totals March (2025)	Number Change from March 2025 to 2026	Percentage Change from March 2025 to 2026	5 Year Average for March
Active Alarm	153	184	-31	-17	158
Explosion	0	0	0	0	-
Fire	37	32	+5	+16	31
Hazardous Materials	8	10	-2	-20	9
Medical	566	574	-8	-1	540
Motor Vehicle Incident	79	73	+6	+8	82
Public Hazard	6	9	-3	-33	7
Public Service	127	120	+7	+6	99
Response Cancelled/Unfounded	96	68	+28	+41	72
Specialized Transport	2	6	-4	-67	3
Technical Rescue	1	0	+1	+100	1
Total	1,075	1,076	-1	-0.1	1,001

The average time on scene for emergency response crews in March 2026 was 27 minutes per event, the average time on scene in March 2025 was 28 minutes. The time spent on the scene can vary due to the complexity and severity of each incident.

In March 2026, 37 fire incidents were reported to the BC Office of the Fire Commissioner, up from 32 in March 2025. The average number of fires reported each March over the last five years is 31.

Fire damage and property losses during March 2026 are estimated at \$255,205. The total building/asset and content value at risk is estimated at \$28,577,545, and the total value preserved from damage is \$28,322,340. These numbers translate to 99 per cent of the value protected (Table 2).

Table 2: Fire Incidents By Type and Loss Estimates - March 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	6	987,500	105,000	146,750	25,200	1,004,050
Multi-Family Residence	2	65,000	10,000	14,890	-	69,890
Commercial	5	16,097,000	84,000	11,252,900	26,000	27,239,900
Outdoor	23	8,005	3,505	-	-	4,500
Vehicle/Vessel	1	5,500	1,500	-	-	4,000
Totals²	37	17,163,005	204,005	11,414,540	51,200	28,322,340

RFR Public Outreach & Education

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

- March 3 - A Fire Hall tour and fire and life safety education presentation provided to the Embers (Girl Guide) group. Over 30 attendees participated in the event.
- March 4 - A fire and life safety presentation was provided to a strata council on Granville Avenue. The presentation included questions around the fire and life safety after a recent fire experienced at their building. The information and education provided was to ensure they are better prepared for emergencies in their building.
- March 6 - First responder and fire and life safety education was provided, along with career awareness, to McMath Secondary School students in grades 8-12 who are a part of their First Responder Program. Approximately 15 students attended.
- March 11 - A career awareness was provided for grade 10 and 11 students from Hugh Boyd High school as part of their career and personal planning classes. Approximately 45 students attended.
- March 12 - Fire and life safety education and a Fire Hall tour was provided to 30 Grade 9 students of McNair High school.
- March 18 - A tour of Fire Hall No. 1 was provided to a Montessori school group of children ages 5-12 as part of a spring break camp activity.

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.

- March 21 - FireSmart education and awareness initiatives information presentation was given at the Richmond Public Library. The education booth was set up at the Richmond Public Library with information for homeowners and books for children. Over 150 attendees visited the booth.
- March 24 - A fire and life safety presentation was given to Imperial Grand Strata group, including discussions and questions about fire safety inside their building. The property had experienced a recent fire and the education provided to the residents was intended to help them gain more specific knowledge of their building. Over 50 people attended.
- March 28 - In collaboration with BC Emergency Health Services (BECHs) a Fire Hall tour of Cambie combined Fire / BC Ambulance Hall was given to 32 people and 4 staff from Hong Kong House. The visitors toured both facilities and staff spoke about their respective roles.

Emergency Programs

There were three Emergency Support Services (ESS) responses for March 2026. A total of 8 people were supported for a total of 30 nights through the Provincial ESS program. The residents received supports for their accommodation, food, clothing, and incidentals. One response did not meet the criteria for ESS support. In that case Emergency Programs staff were able to work with their City partner, Canadian Red Cross (CRC), and the individual received assistance from their program for two nights of accommodation and food for two days.

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

- March 11 - A coordinated 'Incident Management Team' development for the City's Emergency Operations Centre (EOC), including an 'All Hazards Incident Management Team Introduction meeting and Program had a kickoff event'.
- March 16 - An emergency preparedness presentation to 30 residents of Copper Sky was delivered. The presentation covered the five steps to preparedness and provided additional information about staying safe in the heat and earthquakes.
- March 15-20 - An event was hosted by the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness that included presentations and updates about the situation from the River Forecast Centre and Environment and Climate Change Canada. A high streamflow advisory was issued on March 13 for the entire South Coast of BC, that was later upgraded to a flood watch on March 18. Staff coordinated with Public Works who were taking measures to ensure they were ready and able to respond if the situation required. No impacts to the City were reported from this event.
- March 25 - The initial Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Training Workshop took place and was a continuation of the program introduction on March 11. There were 20 City staff participants. This workshop serves to strengthen organizational readiness, situational awareness, and coordinated response capabilities.

- March 31 - A site visit to Hamilton Community Centre was conducted to connect with the staff, review the location of Emergency Support Services supplies, and complete a site assessment of the building to determine the building's suitability for use as a Reception Centre or Group Lodging.

Budgetary Implications

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

Conclusion

During March 2026, RFR experienced a negligible 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 behaviours.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Wishlove, Richmond Fire-Rescue

Report Contributors

This report was prepared by Jim Wishlove, Fire Chief and reviewed by: Community Safety Administration.

Endorsed by Serena Lusk, CAO

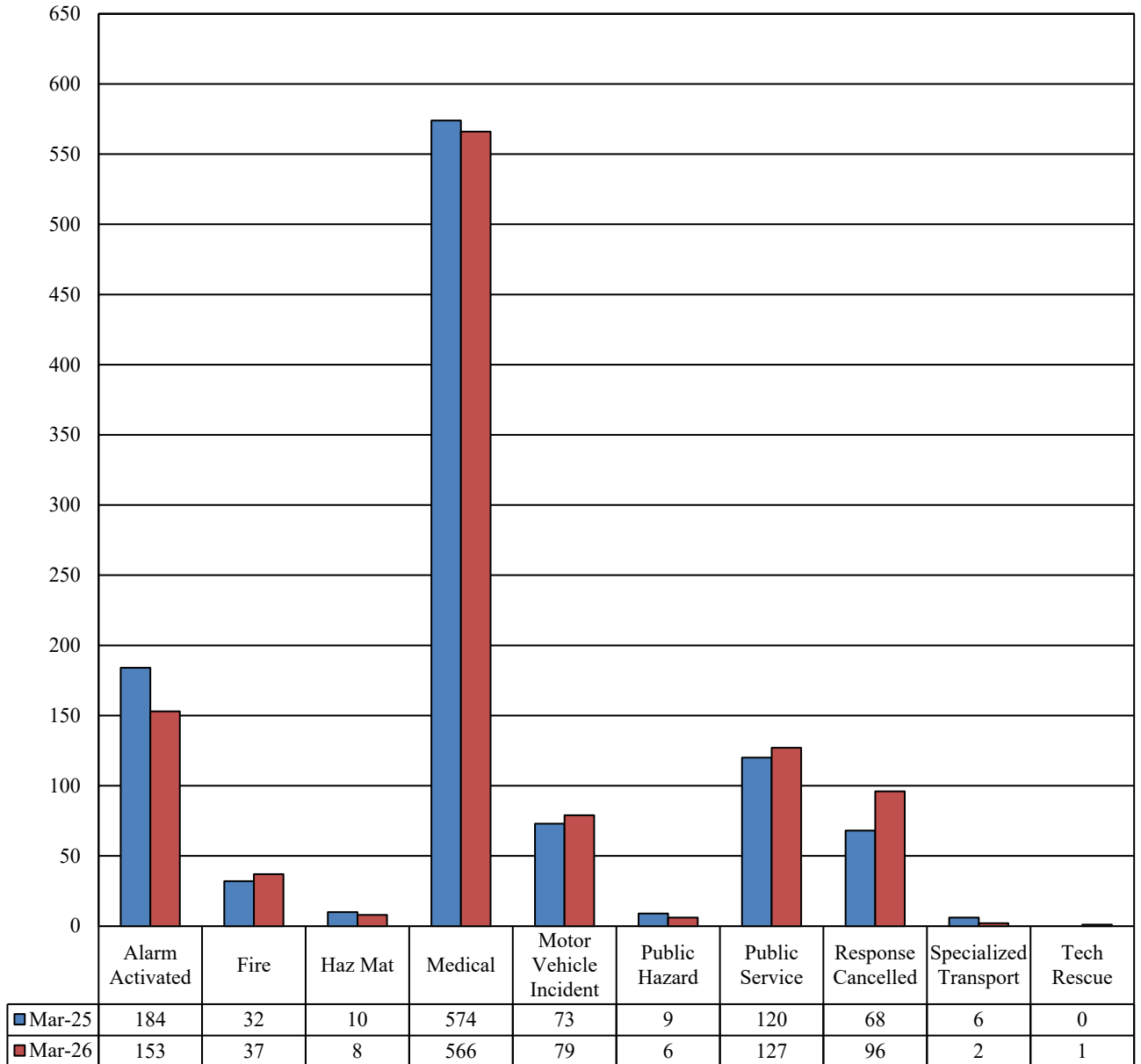
Att. 1 – Emergency Response Activity for March 2026

Emergency Response Activity for March 2026

Incident Volumes

The following chart provides a month-to-month comparison of incidents occurring in March 2025 and 2026. In March 2026, there were 1,075 total incidents, compared to 1,076 in March 2025. This represents a decrease of 0.1 per cent between last year and 2026.

Table 3: March 2025 & March 2026 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 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 53 per cent of the total emergency responses from RFR during March 2026. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for March 2025 and 2026, by sub-type, is set out in the following table. There were 566 medical incidents in March 2026 compared to 574 in March 2025, a decrease of 1 per cent.

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

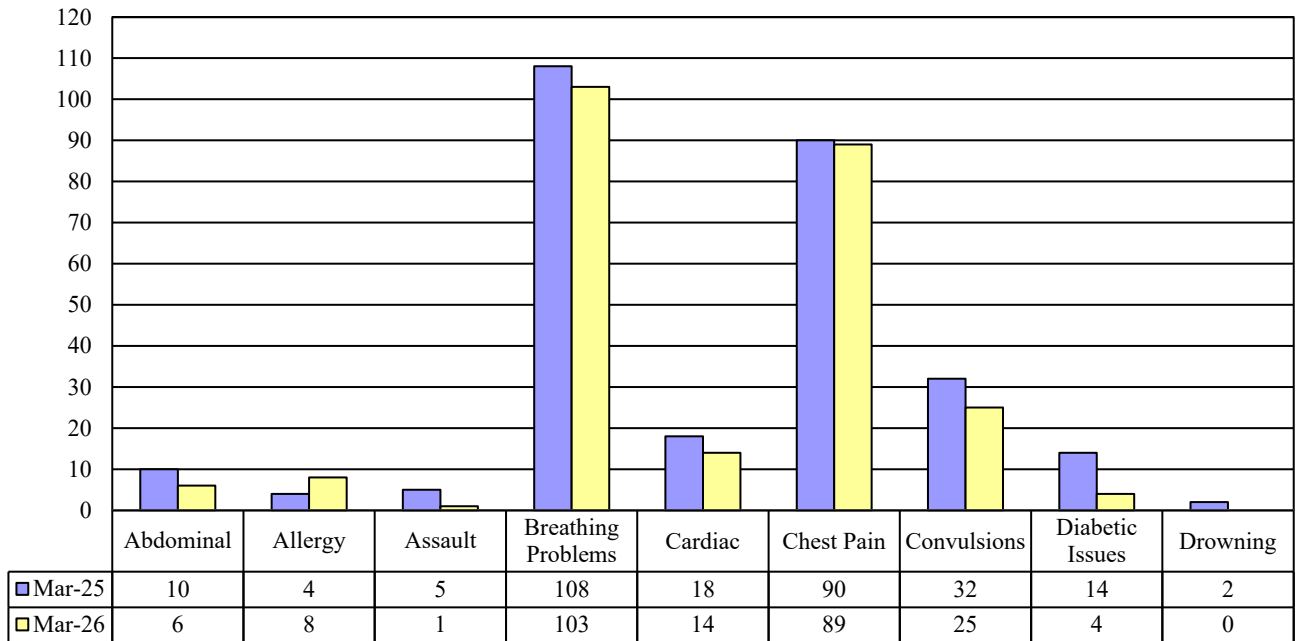
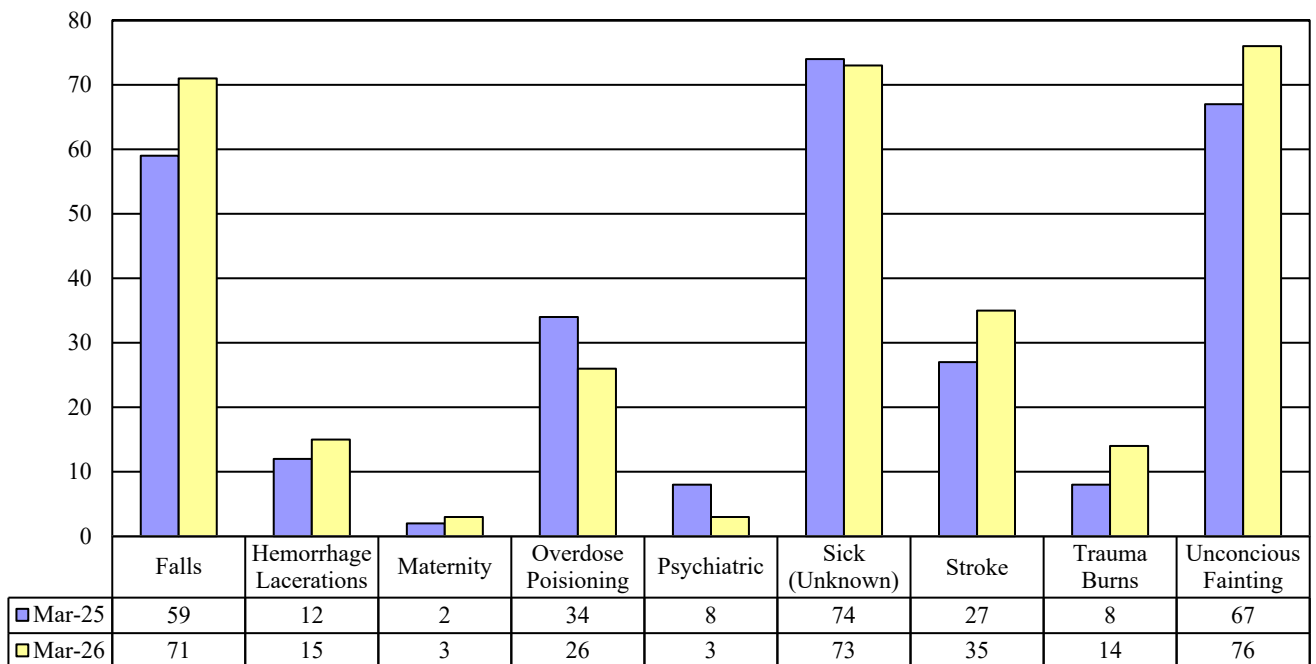


Table 4b: March 2025 & March 2026 Medical Calls by Type



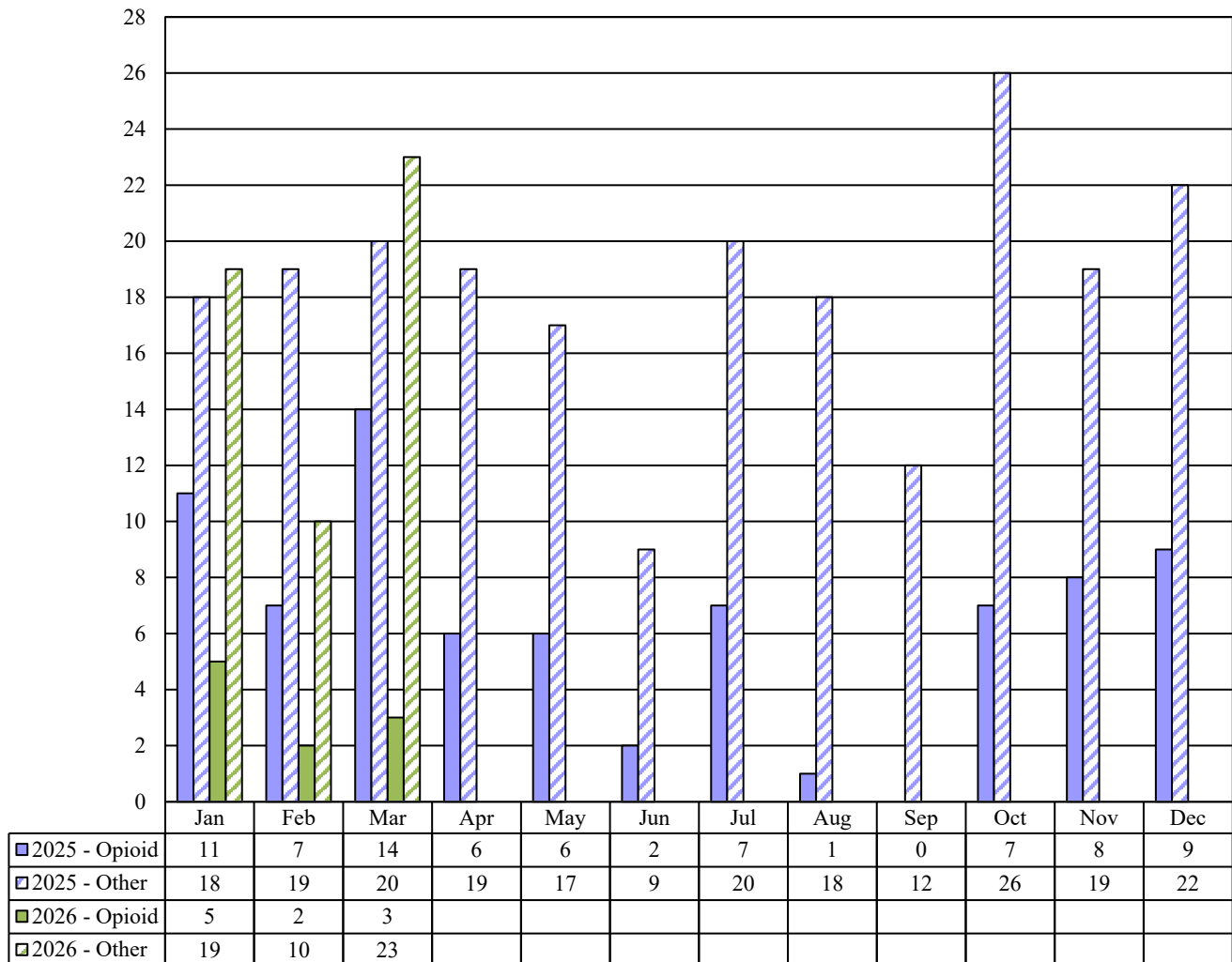
Overdoses

The following tables provide a breakdown of 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 March 2026, RFR staff did not administer Naloxone.

Table 4c: Overdose / Poisoning Incidents by Type – March 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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Other	19	10	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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



Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for March 2026 are listed below:

Table 5: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – March 2026			
	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	-	5	1
Residential - Multi-family	-	2	-
Commercial/Industrial	1	3	1
Outdoor	14	9	-
Vehicle	-	1	-
Totals	15	20	2

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 – March 2026	
	Details
Corrosive	1
Toxic/Infectious Substances	1
Gases (Natural / Propane)	6
Totals	8

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

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

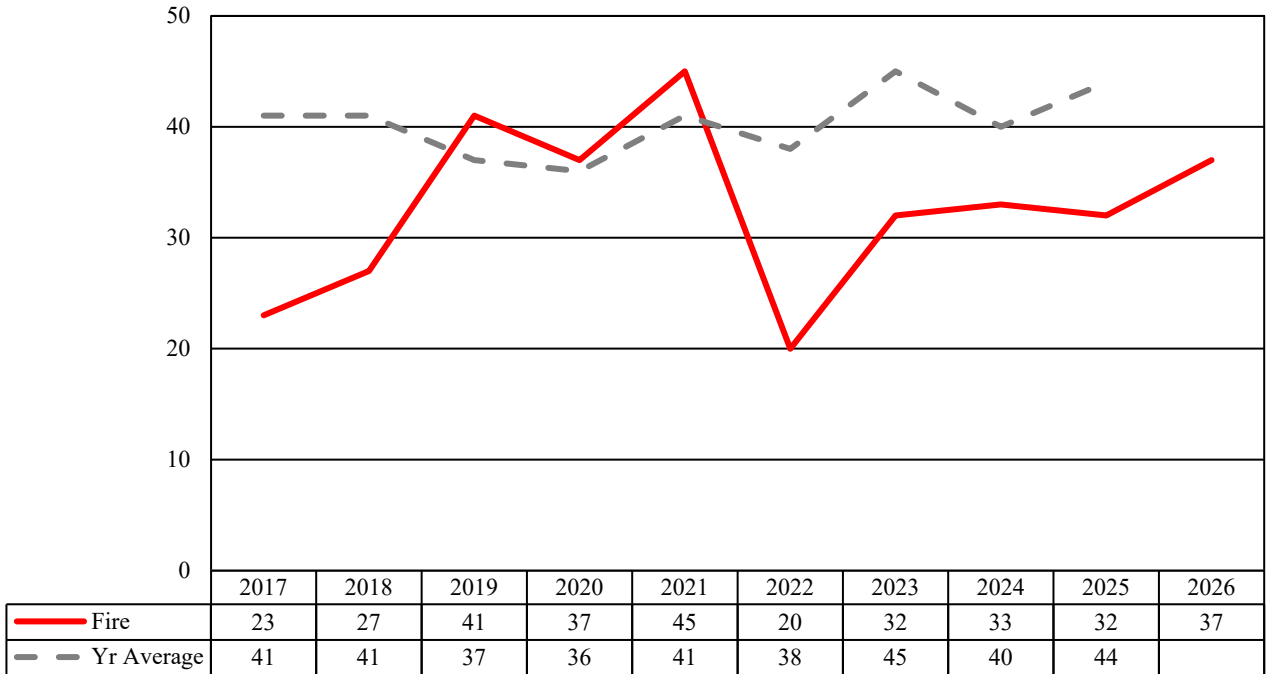
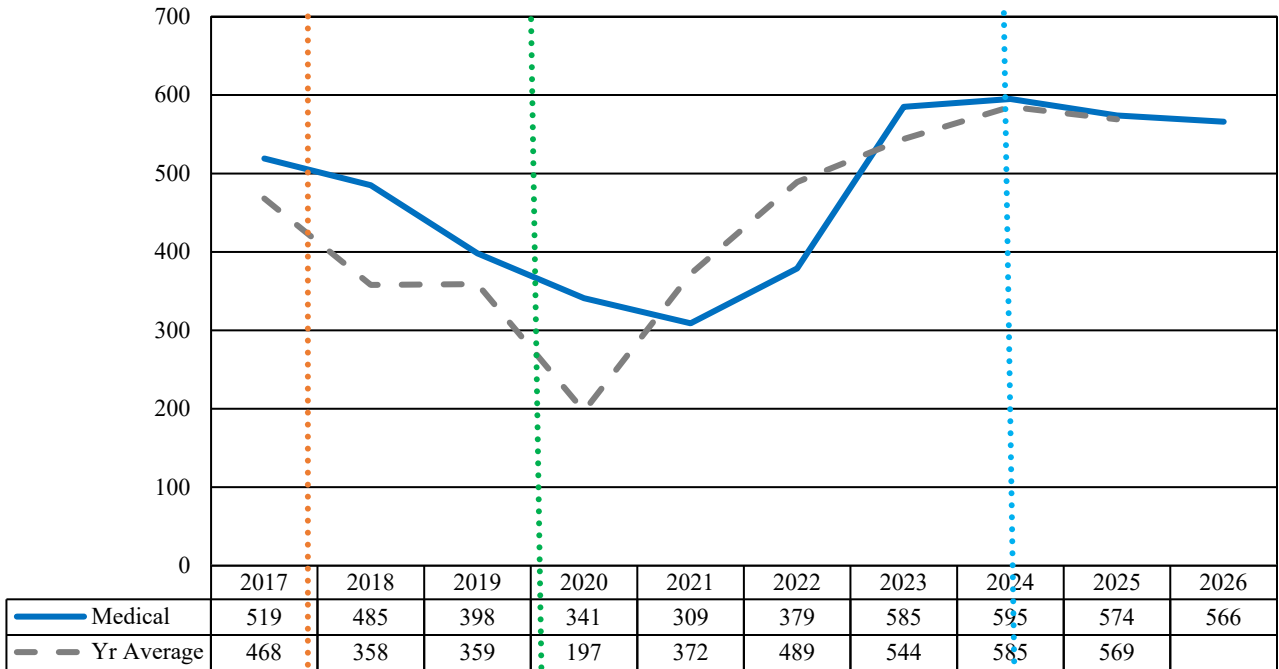


Table 7b: Total Medical Calls for Service in March and year averages from 2017 to 2026



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 Incidents (MVI) Calls for Service in March and year averages from 2017 to 2026

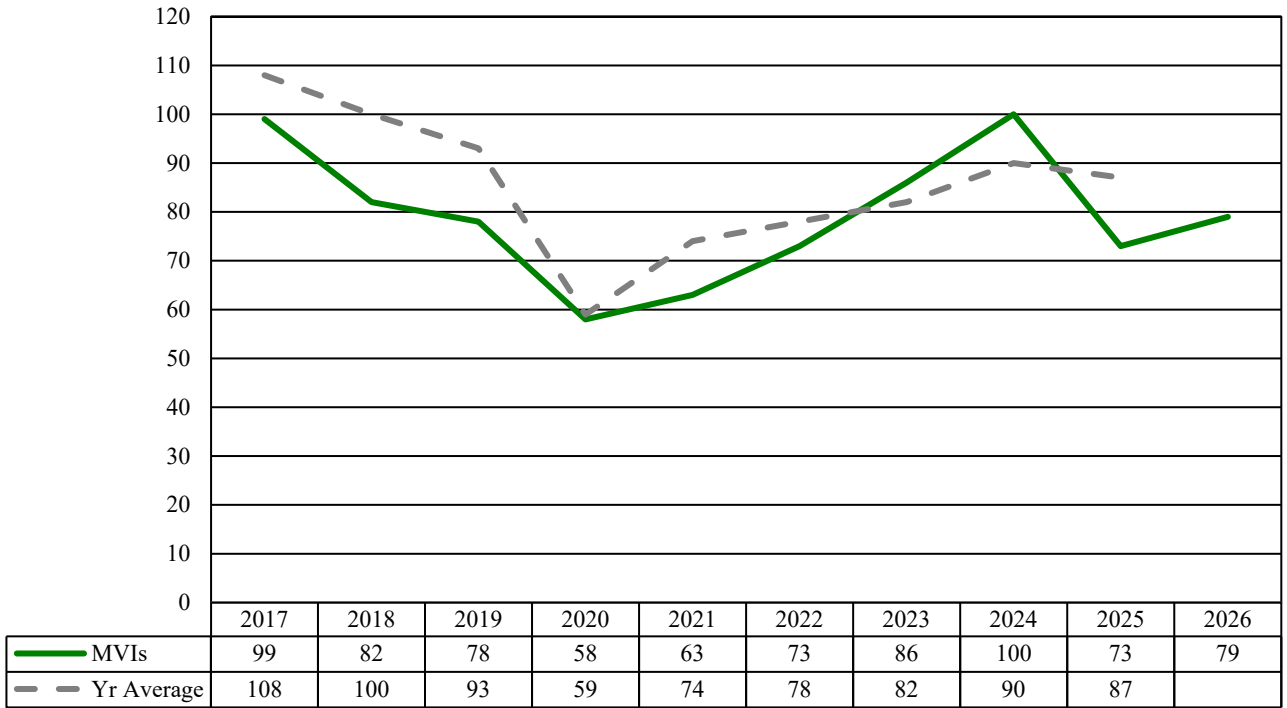


Table 7d: Total Overdose/Poisoning(ODP) Calls for Service in March and year averages from 2017 to 2026

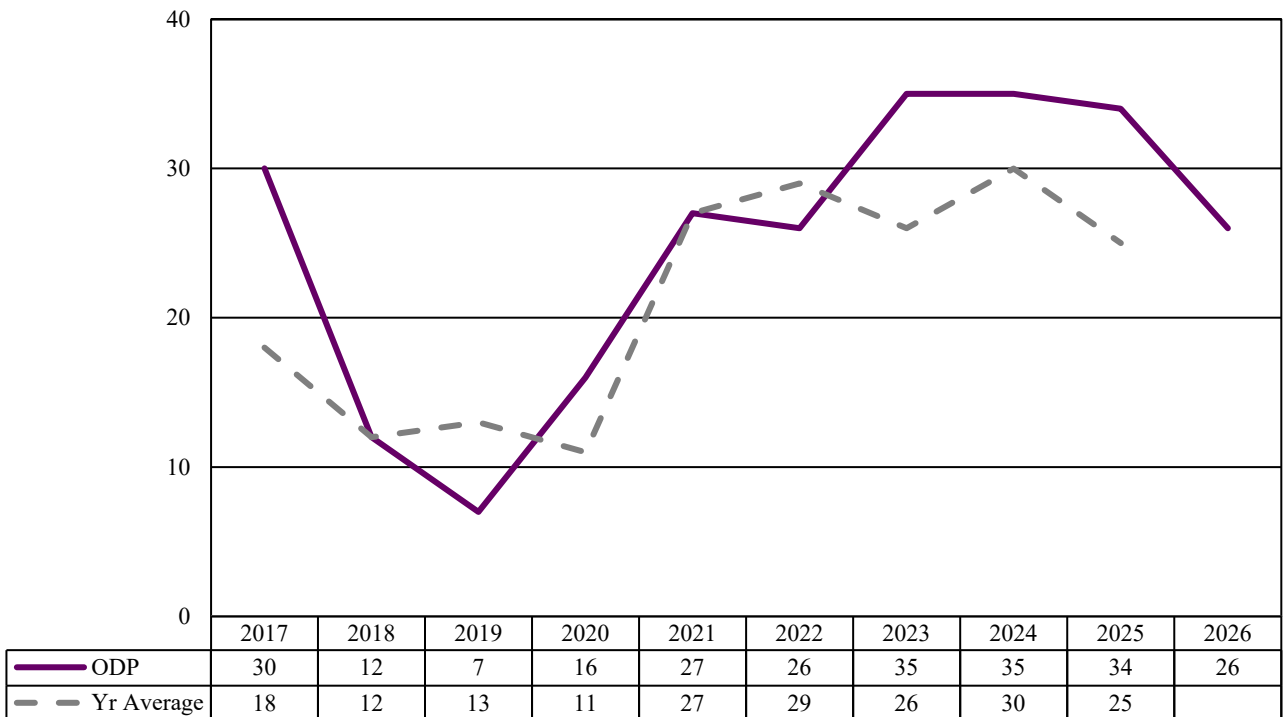


Figure 1a: Location of reportable fire incidents attended in March 2026 (total 37)

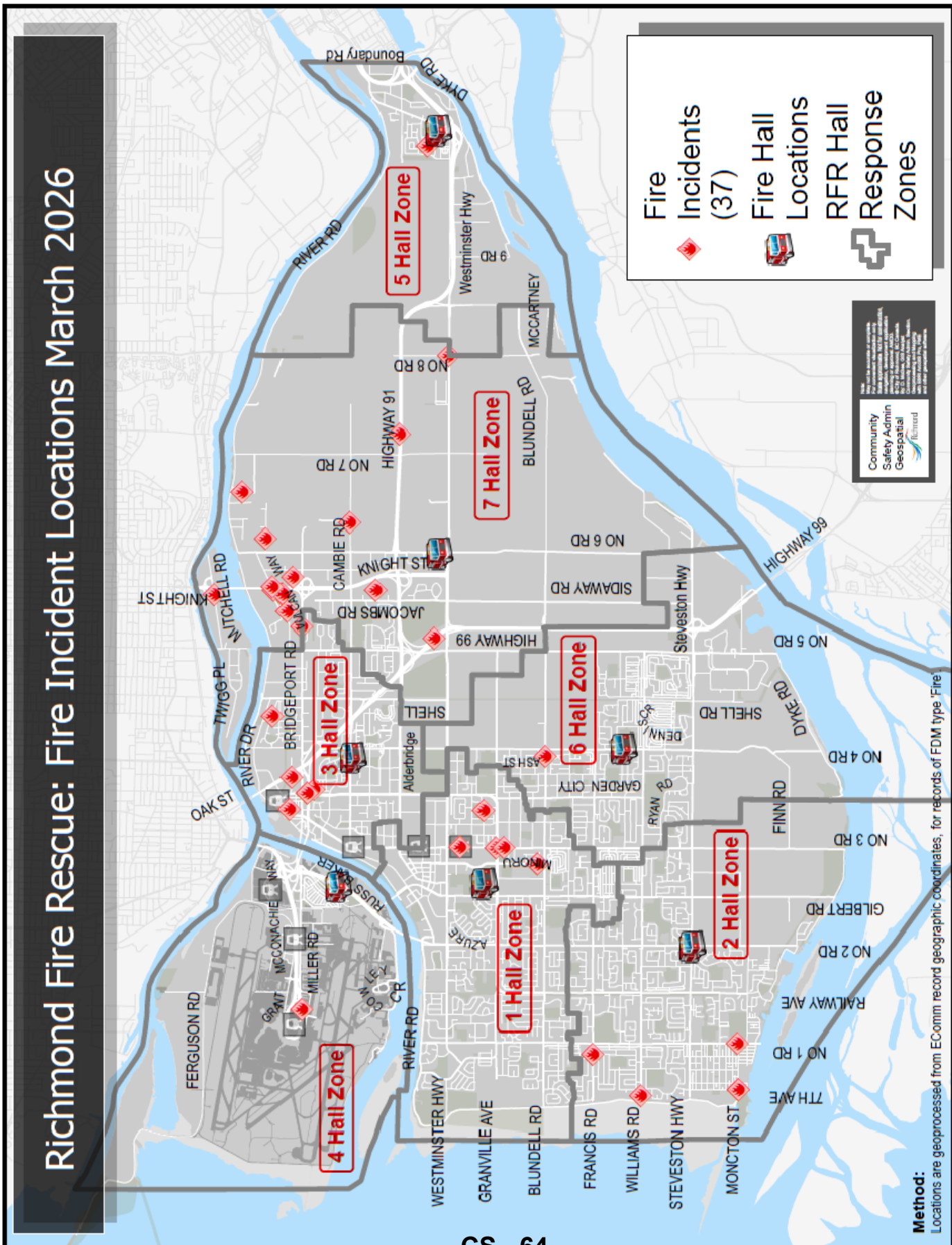


Figure 1b: Density of reportable fire incidents attended in March 2026 (total 37)

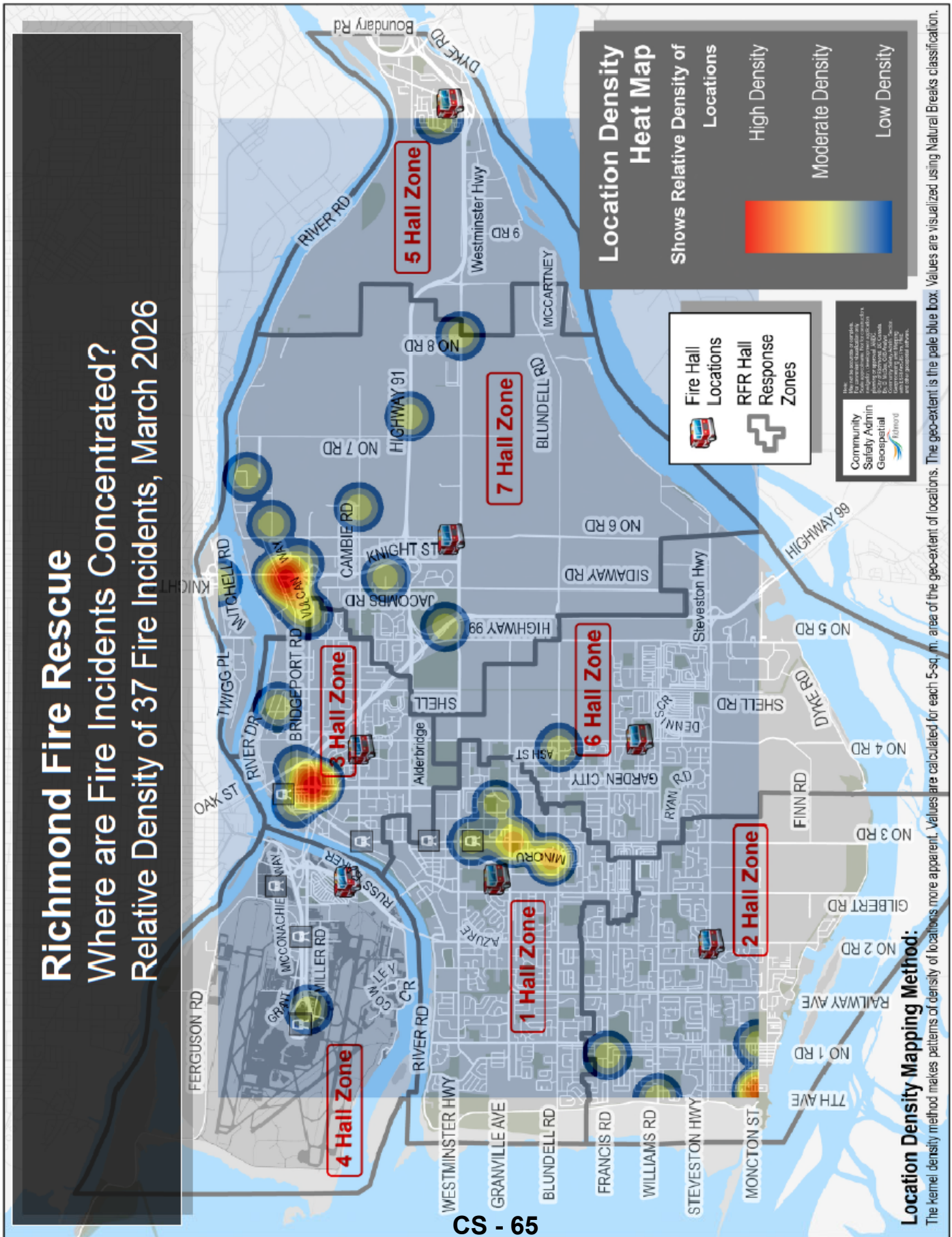


Figure 2a: Location of reportable medical incidents attended in March 2026 (total 566)

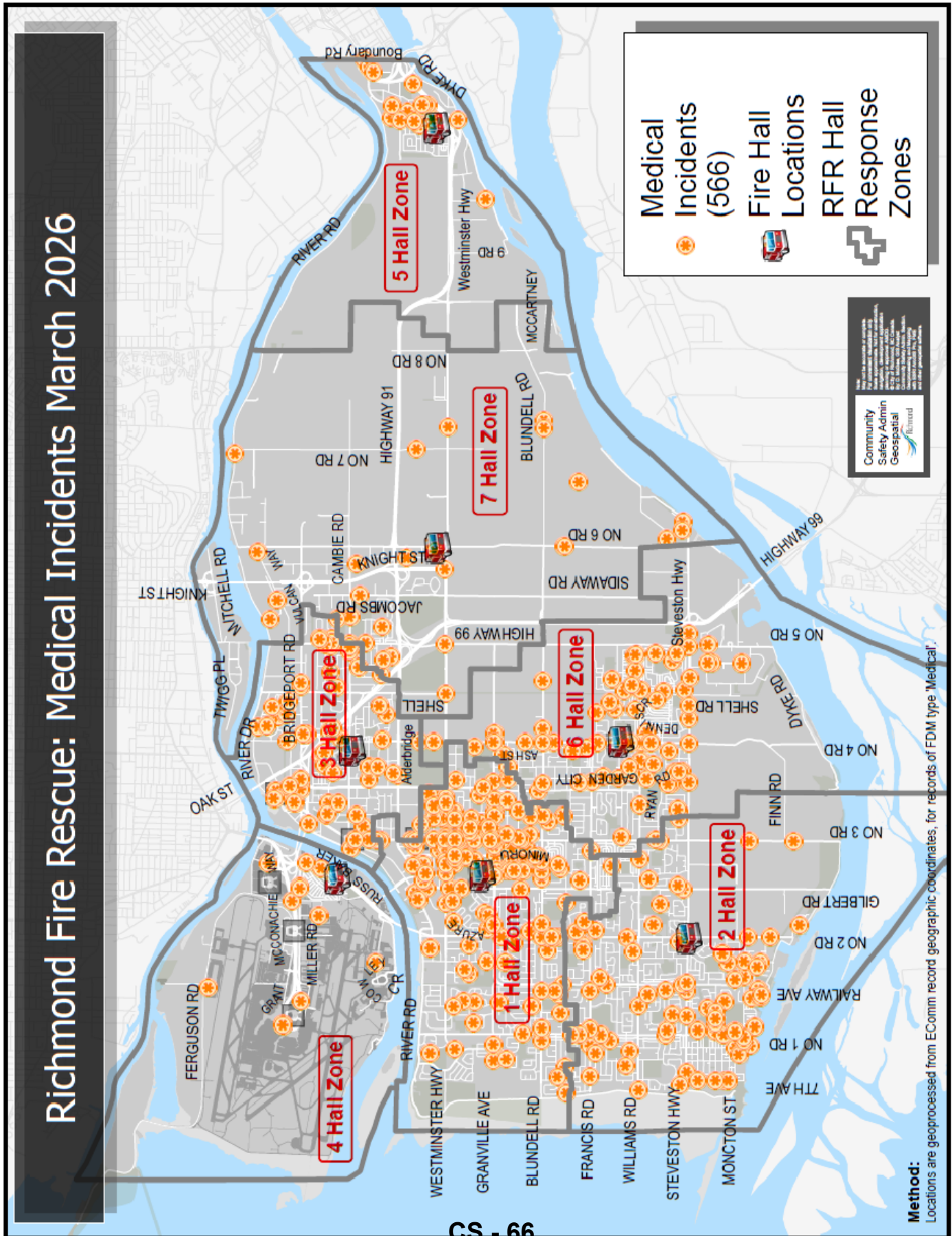


Figure 2b: Density of reportable medical incidents attended in March 2026 (total 566)

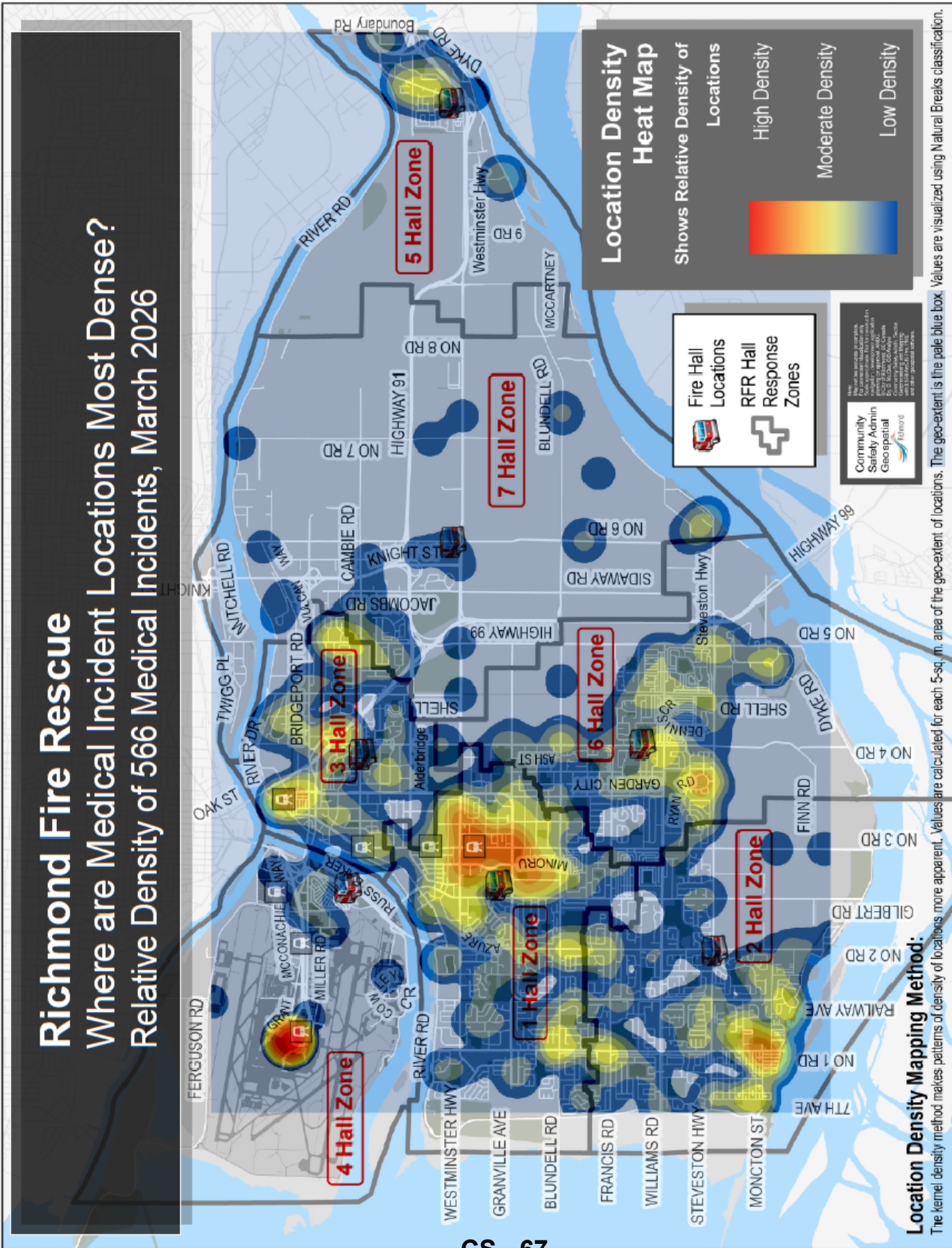


Figure 3a: Location of reportable motor vehicle incidents (MVs) attended in March 2026 (total 79)

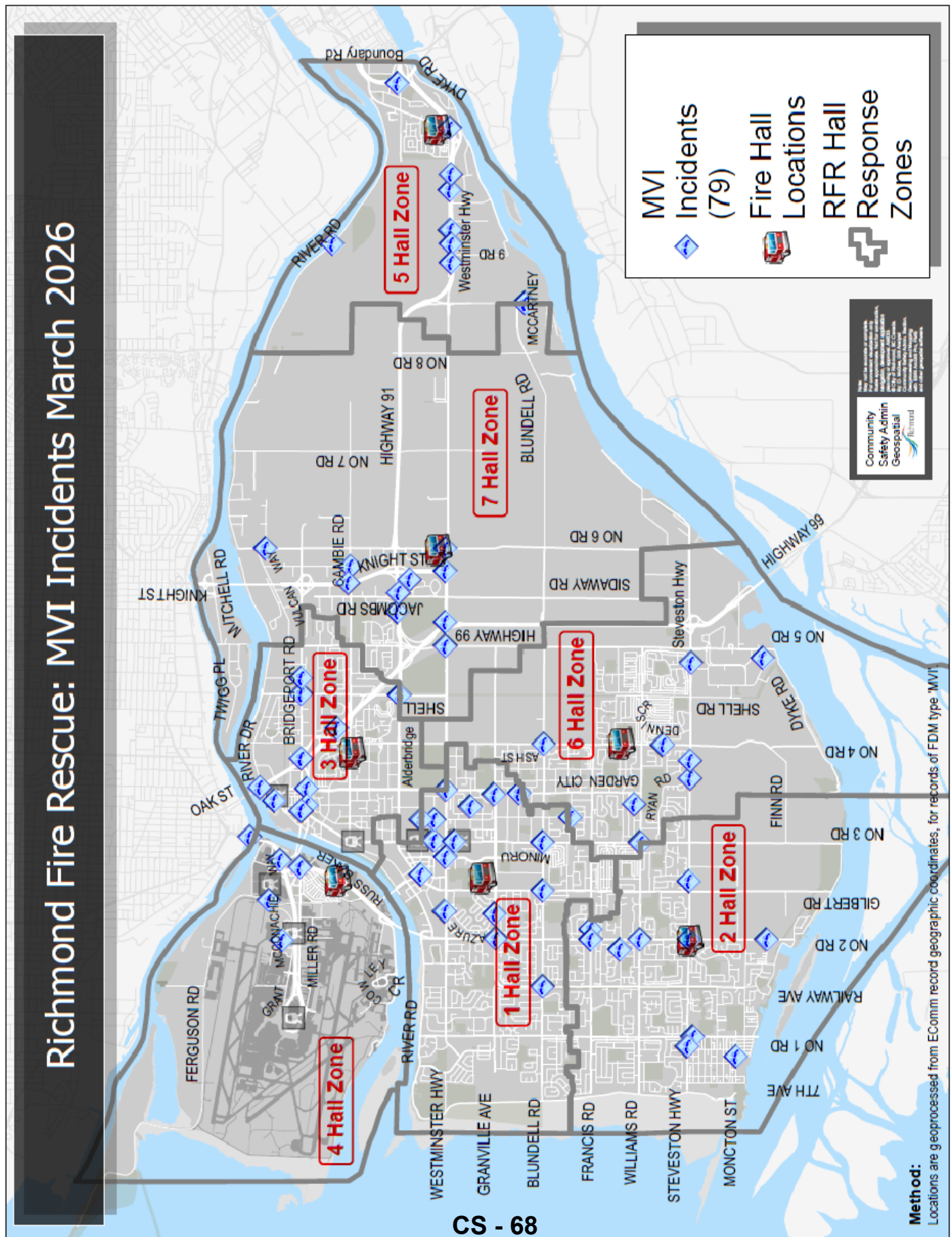


Figure 3b: Density of reportable motor vehicle incidents (MVIs) attended in March 2026 (total 79)

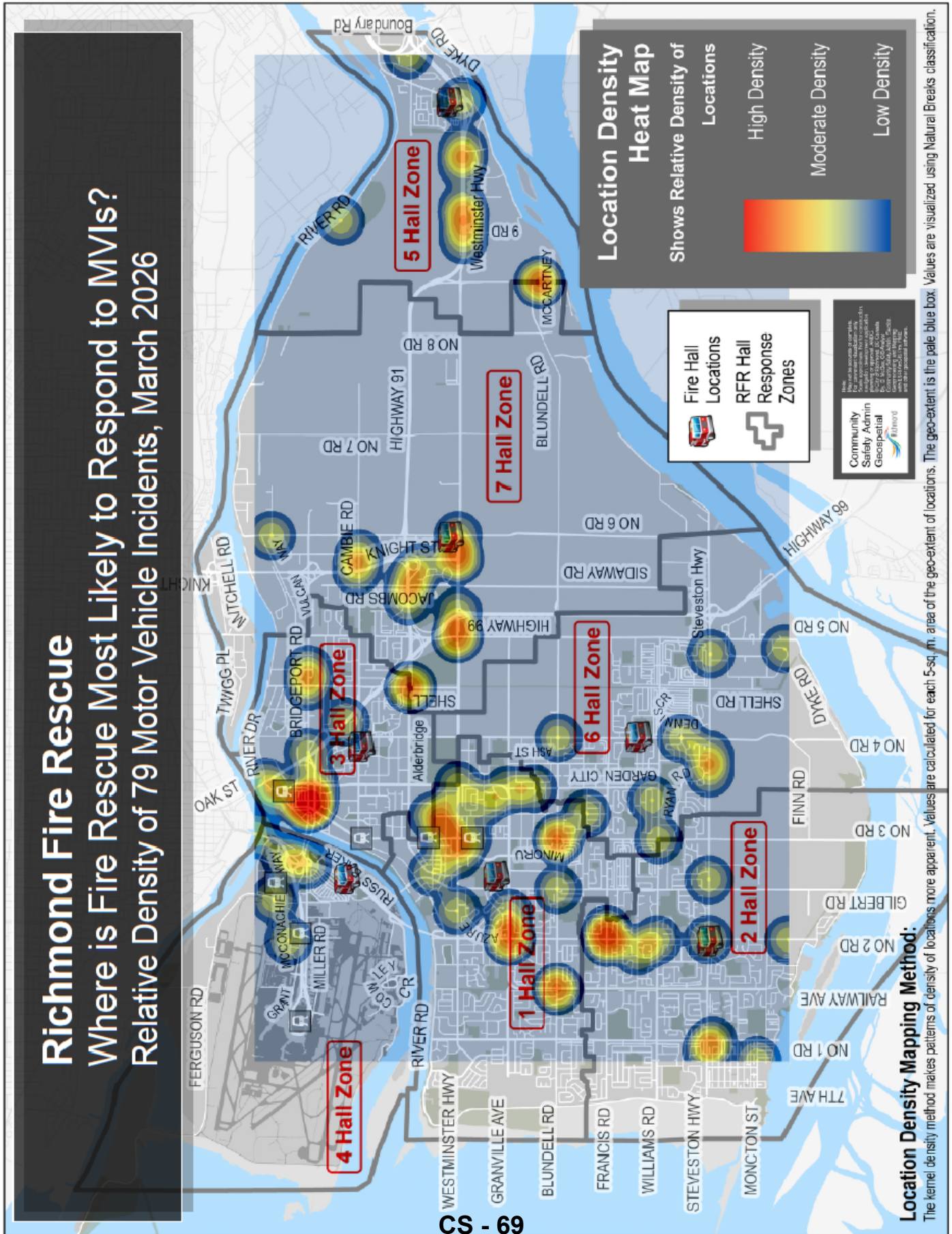


Figure 4a: Location of reportable overdose/poisoning incidents attended in March 2026 (total 26)

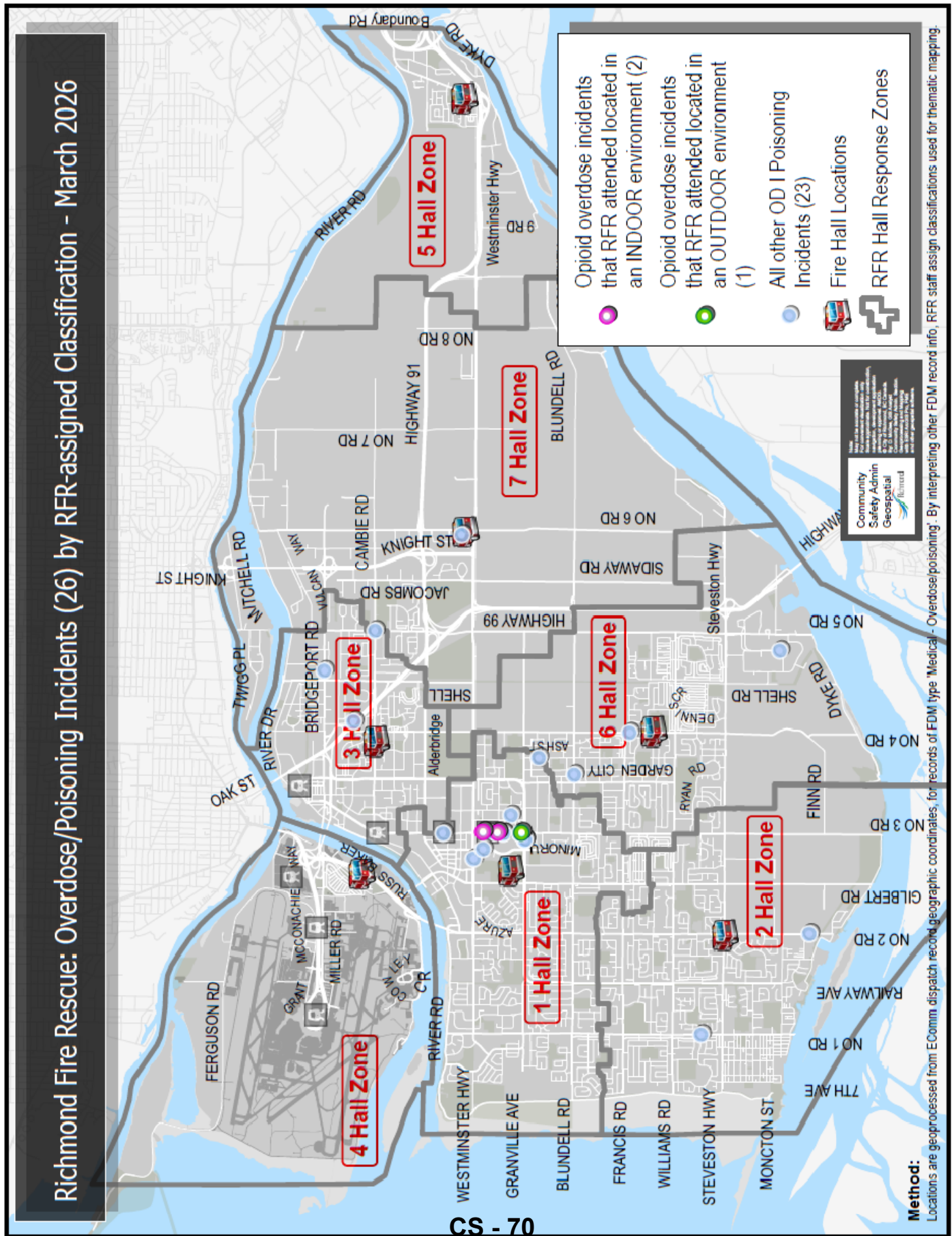


Figure 4b: Density of reportable overdose/poisoning incidents attended in March 2026 (total 26)

