



City of Richmond

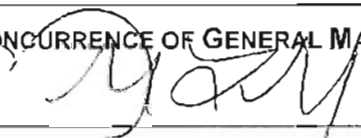

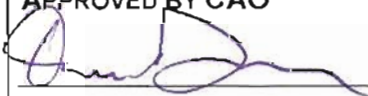
Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** January 17, 2014
From: John McGowan **File:** 09-5000-01/2013-Vol
 Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue 01
Re: Richmond Fire-Rescue – December 2013 Activity Report

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled Richmond Fire-Rescue – December 2013 Activity Report, dated January 17, 2014, from the Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue, be received for information.

John McGowan
 Fire Chief
 (604-303-2734)

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER 	
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: 
APPROVED BY CAO 	

Staff Report

Origin

This report provides Council with updates on Richmond Fire-Rescue activities.

This report supports Council Term Goal #1: *to ensure Richmond remains a safe and desirable community to live, work and play in, through the delivery of effective public safety services that are targeted to the City's specific needs and priorities.*

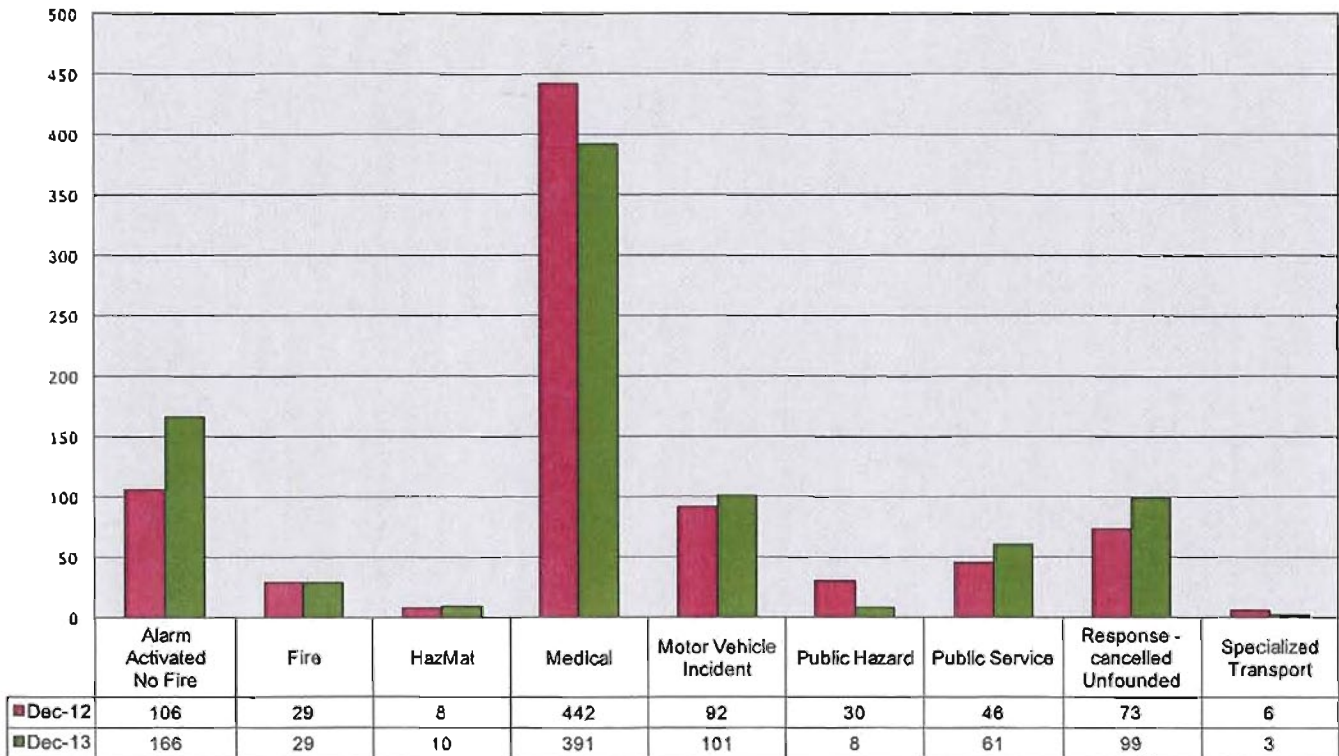
Analysis

Richmond Fire-Rescue's report for December 2013 is set out below.

Suppression Activity

The following chart provides a month to month comparison regarding incidents occurring in December 2012 and 2013. In December 2013, there were a total of 868 incidents, compared to 832 in December 2012. This represents an increase of 4.3%. The majority of this increase was attributed to alarm activated/no fire call types. The primary cause for these alarms were linked to renovation/construction and issues with sprinkler systems, such as water pressure surges and testing. Calls of this nature are being monitored through the False Alarm Program.

Figure 1. December 2012 & 2013 Calls for Service Volumes



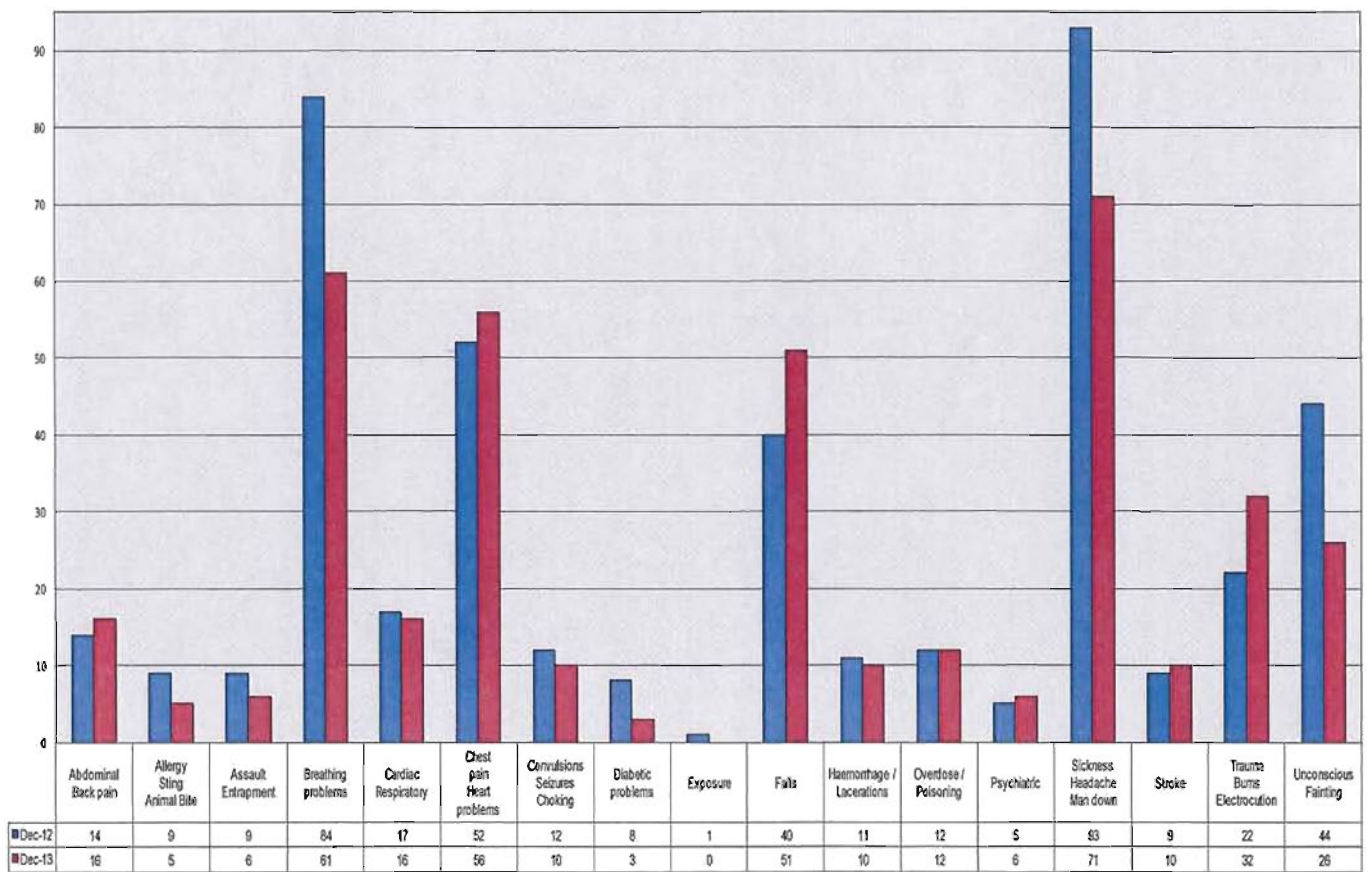
Call Type Legend:
HazMat includes fuel or vapour; spills, leaks, or containment
Medical includes: cardiac arrest, emergency response, home or industrial accidents
Public Hazard includes: aircraft emergency, bomb removal standby, object removal, or power lines down
Public Service includes: assisting public, ambulance or police, locked in/out, special events, trapped in elevator, water removal

First Responder Totals

Medical First Responder incidents comprised 45% of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of December. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for December 2012 and 2013 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 391 medical incidents in December 2013 compared to 442 December 2012 a decrease of 11.5%. Decreases in medical incidents of breathing problems and sickness calls could be a result of milder weather during the month of December.

Figure 2.

December 2012 & 2013 Medical Calls by Type



Incidents

Notable emergency incidents which involved RFR for December 2013 were as follows:

Medical

RFR responded to a wide range of medical events. Some of the notable calls are listed below.

Crews responded to a male in a motorized wheelchair, on the Canada Line platform, who had accidentally hit the controls and drove over the edge and fell 5 feet to the tracks, narrowly missing the high voltage rails. Two bystanders had pressed the red power kill button and had jumped down onto the tracks to assist. The patient had significant injuries and RFR crews provided patient care with BCAS before removal to hospital.

Crews assisted BCAS with patient care for a pedestrian with a severe head trauma. The pedestrian had been struck and was lying on the road at No 1 Road and Blundell. RFR assisted with patient care and provided C-spine support. RFR will continue to work with the RCMP and other City agencies to advance pedestrian safety.

RFR crews responded to and assisted with patient care for a wound caused by gunshot on Bridgeport Road. On arrival, RCMP were already on scene. RFR Crews applied dressing to the wound and assisted with patient transport to hospital.

On Cornwall Drive, RFR crews responded to call where a roofer had accidentally shot himself in the hip with roofing nail gun. RFR crews assisted BCAS by loading the patient onto a stretcher for transport to hospital.

During December there were two incidents involving attempting self harm by jumping. One incident, on No 3 Road, concluded in a fatality. The other incident occurred on Alderbridge way; the patient survived and treatment was provided by crews. The patient was then taken to hospital by BCAS.

Crews responded to sixteen separate cardiac related incidents, including:

- Pulse and breathing were restored to a patient in full arrest on Lucerne Road.
- An infant on Garden City Road. Crew provided CPR and patient care before handing over the BCAS. The infant was taken to the Children's Hospital.
- CPR was performed for 45 minutes with BCAS in attendance on Westminster Highway. Unfortunately, the patient did not regain consciousness.
- An Automated External Defibrillator was used on a patient found unresponsive but with a pulse at Beckman Place. First responder care was provided to the patient before handing over to BCAS who transported the patient to hospital.

Motor Vehicle Incidents (MVI)

On No 1 Road, crews responded to a two vehicle motor vehicle incident with patients trapped in each vehicle. Extrication was provided using the Jaws of Life on one vehicle while crews and BCAS managed to remove the driver from the other vehicle without the use of additional tools. RFR crews assisted BCAS with patient care for transport to hospital.

Fires – Residential / Commercial / Outdoor

RFR respond to a wide range of fire events. Some of the notable calls are listed below.

On General Currie Road, a woman's clothing had caught on fire while she was cooking. The patient suffered extensive second degree burns. RFR crews cooled the victim in a shower and applied burn dressings, then assisted BCAS with further patient care for transport to hospital. Kitchen fires were the focus of an education campaign conducted by RFR earlier in the year, and an assessment of the program will be done in Q1 of 2014.

RFR crews responded to a pool shed fire at a property on Flamingo Court. Quick actions by arriving crews limited the fire to the structure of origin. Crews used an aggressive offensive attack on the fire and managed to mitigate it, limiting the damage to about 30% of the shed. The Investigator determined that the cause of the fire was most likely a water sanitizing component that may have malfunctioned.

Crews responded to an incident of a small fire which had been lit on the second floor hallway of a wood frame apartment building on Bath Road. Fortunately, the arson attempt was thwarted by residents that extinguished it before it could grow and get a hold of the surrounding combustibles. The further investigation has been handed over to the RCMP.

On Lansdowne Road, crews responded to an incident of fire lapping onto the side of residential complex. On investigation a dumpster was on fire on the first floor of a parkade on one side of the building. Foam was used to extinguish the fire and ventilation was used to remove the smoke. The investigator could not determine the cause of the fire.

A structure fire on Lucas Road was attended to by RFR Crews. A detached garage was on fire on arrival and was dangerously close to other properties. Crews worked to halt the fire and make sure there was no extension to neighbouring properties or residences.

Fire Summary

Fire losses during December 2013 are estimated at \$235,700. This total includes \$195,900 for building loss and \$39,800 for content loss. The total building and content value at risk was estimated to be \$41,334,600, and the total value preserved was \$41,098,900. These numbers translate to 99% of value protected.

Figure 3.

Fire Calls By Type and Loss Estimates – December						
Incident Type Breakdown	Call Volume	Estimated Building Value \$	Estimated Building Loss \$	Estimated Content Value \$	Estimated Content Loss \$	Estimated Total Value Preserved \$
Residential: - Single-family - Multi-family	11 4	5,514,900	189,500	2,245,200	39,800	7,530,800
Commercial/Industrial	1	5,000,000	-	2,000,000	-	7,000,000
Fire – Outdoor	9	2,000	-	-	-	2,000
Vehicle	4	67,500	4,000	5,000	-	68,500
Totals*	29	33,084,400	195,900	8,250,200	39,800	41,098,900

*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).

The fire investigation statistics for December 2013 are listed below:

Figure 4.

Total Fire Investigation Statistics – December			
	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	1	5	5
Residential - Multi-family	1	1	2
Commercial/Industrial	0	1	0
Fire – Outdoor	6	1	2
Vehicle	-	2	2
Totals	8	10	11

All suspicious fires are reported to the RCMP, and Richmond Fire-Rescue Investigators work in conjunction with staff at the RCMP to address any risks to the community.

Community Service

During December RFR crews responded to a number of burst waterline and flooding calls due to the thawing after the cold snap. Richmond Fire-Rescue crews deal with water removal, water shut off and ensure that the homes are habitable for the occupants.

RFR crews were called to assist RCMP with a possible bomb scare located at the Courthouse at Elmbridge Way.

A public hazard was reported on No 4 Road. An investigation was carried out by RFR staff and the RCMP due to complaints received. The inspection of the house and garage found a high occupancy hazard. Safety discussions were held with the occupants and further steps were taken to mitigate any potential electrical hazards.

Community Relations / Public Education

Richmond Fire-Rescue participated in events and activities for public education during December 2013. The events were as follows:

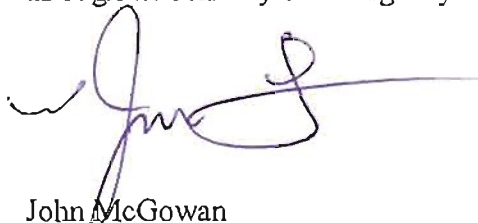
- 12 car seat inspections at Fire Hall No.1
- Pumper visits for: Lighting of Fires Halls #1, #2, #4, #5 #6, *Alderwood House Preschool* and *Manoah Steves Elementary*.
- Special Events: *L1286 Retirees AGM/Luncheon*, *Richmond Secondary School Christmas Luncheon*, *CUPE 394 - Kids Xmas Party*, *Christmas Eve Santa Ride* through Burkeville and the *Fire On Ice Fundraiser* with Sockeyes Scholarship.
- Hall Tours: *Chinese Christian Mission of Canada*.

Financial Impact

None

Conclusion

The month of December showed typical emergency incident call volumes. The Christmas season provided an opportunity for RFR to deliver services and programs on prevention and life safety issues to many parts of the community. RFR strives to have a positive impact on the community through its delivery of emergency response, prevention and education services.



John McGowan
Fire Chief
(604-303-2734)

JM:js