



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** November 18, 2013
From: John McGowan **File:** 09-5000-01/2012-Vol
Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue 01
Re: Richmond Fire-Rescue – October 2013 Activity Report

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled Richmond Fire-Rescue – October 2013 Activity Report, dated November 18, 2013, 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: DW
APPROVED BY CAO 	

Staff Report

Origin

The purpose of this report is to keep Council informed on matters pertaining to public safety services in the community of Richmond.

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.*

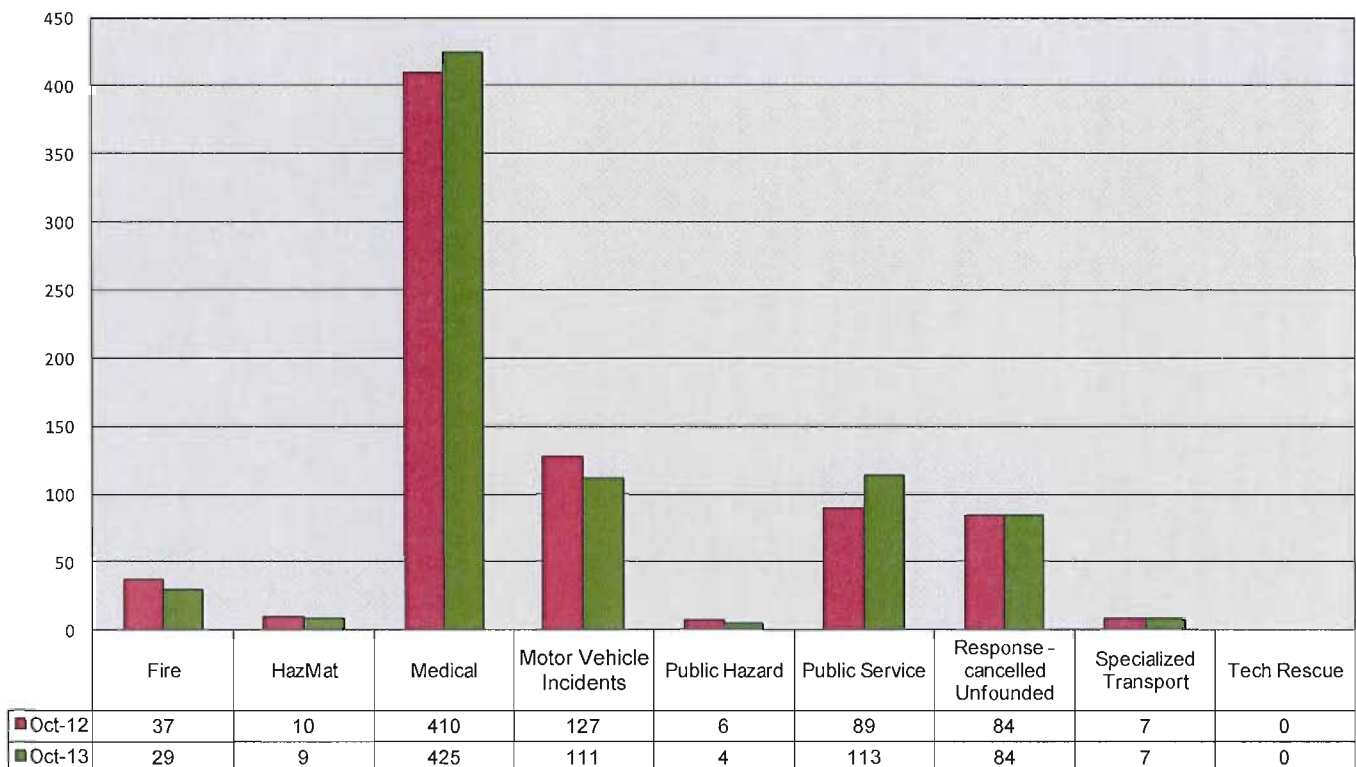
Analysis

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

Suppression Activity

The following chart provides a month to month comparison regarding incidents occurring in October 2012 and 2013. In October 2013 there were a total of 902 incidents, compared to 888 in October 2012. This represents an increase of 1.6%. Analysis of events shows an increase in medical incidents relating to cardiac and breathing problems.

October 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

Motor Vehicle Incident (MVI)

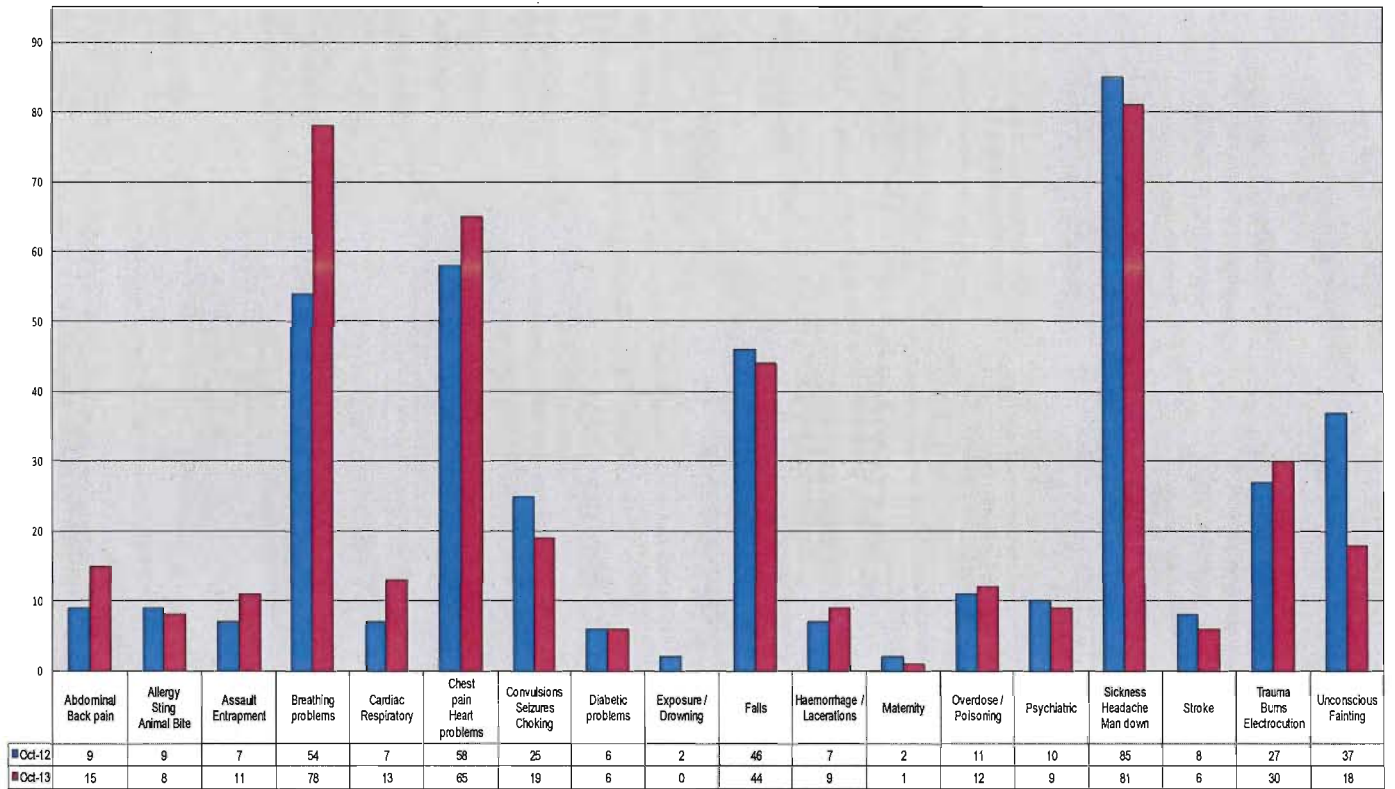
Public Hazard includes: aircraft emergency, bomb removal standby, object removal, or power lines down

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 comprise 47.1% of total emergency response for RFR during the month of October. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for October 2012 and 2013 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 425 medical incidents in October 2013 compared to 410 October 2012 an increase of 3.5%.

October 2012 & 2013 Medical Calls by Type



Incidents

Notable emergency incidents which involved RFR for October 2013 were:

Medical

RFR crews responded to five separate Cardiac related incidents. They included:

- An incident occurred at City Hall West where RFR crews initiated Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) protocols for a RFR staff member. RFR staff was able to restore breathing and pulse in a short period of time. The staff member was taken to Richmond General Hospital for further treatment and was released the next day. This event and the successful result emphasizes the need for all persons to be trained in CPR.
- An incident at Vancouver International Airport inside an aircraft where RFR crews performed Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) on scene and within the ambulance.
- An incident on Maple Road where RFR crews performed CPR on a patient who subsequently regained a pulse.
- An incident on Bonavista Gate where RFR crews performed CPR on a patient identified as a “sudden death.

- An incident on Steveston Highway where RFR crews initiated Automated External Defibrillator protocols unfortunately the patient did not recover.
- Crestwood Fire Hall responded to an incident where a man had drowned in a cranberry field. Workers had pulled him to shore. On arrival RFR crews began to administer CPR. RFR assisted BCAS with patient care and a pulse was restored onsite.

Motor Vehicle Incidents (MVI)

Response was provided to a motorcycle accident on Triangle Road where a male rider had fallen off a motorcycle. The male was conscious and had considerable injuries. RFR crews and BCAS worked together to make the patient ready for transport to hospital.

Fires – Residential / Commercial / Outdoor

RFR crews responded to a car fire on the 5th level of the River Rock Casino parkade. RFR crews experienced challenges gaining access to the vehicle as the morning commuter traffic associated around the attached Canada Line transit station was congested. The parkade is attached to the casino through an enclosed pedestrian overpass thus creating a risk of smoke propagation towards the casino. RFR crews created a fire management plan that included isolating the casino from smoke. The incident was mitigated without issue within an hour. There were no injuries or property damage beyond that of the affected vehicle.

RFR crews responded to a fire incident involving a delivery truck in close proximity to a large commercial warehouse located on Elmbridge Way. On arrival RFR units found the delivery truck on fire, sprinklers units active and a distinctive odour normally associated with gasoline. Firefighters breached the entrance to make entry into the warehouse to extinguish the fire. There was heavy smoke throughout the building and a primary search was conducted to ensure there were no occupants inside. The fire was extinguished and building ventilated. Multiple fire apparatus attended the incident and there were no injuries to staff or public.

Crews responded to a semi trailer on fire. The vehicle had been driving along Westminster Highway and Nelson Road. As crews arrived there was a small explosion and diesel fuel was spilling into the environment with a potential of an additional 500 litres being released from the damaged tanks. RFR and City Works staff worked together to isolate and control the roadway and diesel hazard. Westminster Highway remained closed for a considerable period of time before the vehicle could be safely removed.

RFR crews responded to a rubbish fire incident located at a large demolition transfer station site on Mitchell Island. RFR crews extinguished the smouldering deep-seated debris fire after a long and concerted effort. There was significant concern regarding the run-off from the deluge efforts. RFR staff and City environmental specialists worked together to identify potential hazards and solutions created by the runoff from firefighting water streams that were making their way into the storm sewer system. Fire Prevention staff attended the site to document and request the owner of the property create a fire prevention plan.

Fire incidents of lesser impact occurred during October included:

- A single vehicle fire near to a residential structure on Springmont Drive.
- A brush fire on Francis Road.
- Three kitchen fires.
- An electrical fire on Savage Road.
- A fire involving homemade fireworks.

Fire losses during October 2013 are estimated at \$58,500. This total includes \$42,500 for building loss and \$16,000 for content loss. The total building and content value at risk was \$14,516,000, and the total value preserved was \$14,457,500. These numbers translate to 99% of value protected.

Fire Calls By Type and Loss Estimates – October						
Incident Type Breakdown	Call Volume	Estimated Building Value \$	Estimated Building Loss \$	Estimated Content Value \$	Estimated Content Loss \$	Estimated Total Value Preserved \$
Residential:						
- Single-family	4	1,300,000	-	-	-	1,300,000
- Multi-family	3	-	-	-	-	-
Commercial/Industrial	6	9,000,000	15,000	126,000	15,000	9096,000
Fire – Outdoor	10	4,031,000	2,500	-	-	4,028,500
Vehicle	6	58,000	25,000	1,000	1,000	33,000
Totals*	29	14,389,000	42,500	127,000	16,000	14,457,500

*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 October 2013 are listed below:

Total Fire Investigation Statistics – October			
	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	-	4	-
Residential - Multi-family	-	3	-
Commercial/Industrial	2	2	2
Fire – Outdoor	3	5	2
Vehicle	1	3	2
Totals	6	17	6

HazMat

RFR crews attended to smoke reported in a building on Brighthouse Way. Fire crews investigated to discover that no hazardous materials leak had occurred rather a fan belt had failed on a blower unit in a machinery room which had resulted in the creation of a lot of smoke. RFR crews cleared the smoke within the room.

All HazMat incidents occurring during October were relatively minor, quickly mitigated, and did not require any long-term HazMat team deployment.

HazMat Calls By Type – October	
HazMat Calls	Details
Natural Gas/Propane Leaks (small)	6
Flammable/Combustible Liquids	1
Misc. (empty containers to unknown powder)	2
Total	9

Community Relations / Public Education

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

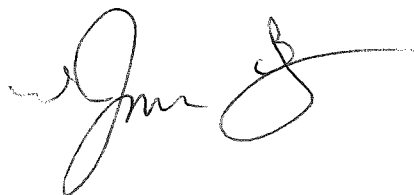
- 21 car seat inspections at Fire Hall No.1
- Pumper visits for: *MJ Miller 78 Navy Cadets League, Fire Prevention Week School Visits and Fire Prevention Week Open Houses.*
- Special Events: *Breast Cancer Awareness month, Wigs for Kids, United Way Car Wash, Annual Fall Firefighters and Muscular Dystrophy Award and Recognition Banquet, RFR & RCMP Pedestrian Safety Week, Sea Island Community Centre Fireworks Display, South Arm Community Centre Fireworks Display, Hamilton Community Centre Fireworks Display, West Richmond Community Centre Fireworks Display and Minoru Park Fireworks Display.*
- Hall Tours: *Excel Education Centre ESL Hall Tour*

Financial Impact

None

Conclusion

Richmond Fire-Rescue continues to deliver services and programs through an approach balancing prevention, education and emergency response. This direction is based on the belief that prevention, education and emergency response programs must be well established and integrated to have a positive impact on community safety.



John McGowan
Fire Chief
(604-303-2734)

JM:js