



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

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**To:** Community Safety Committee **Date:** December 21, 2017  
**From:** Tim Wilkinson **File:** 09-5000-01/2017-Vol  
Acting Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue 01  
**Re:** **Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – November 2017**

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### Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – November 2017”, dated December 21, 2017 from the Acting Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue, be received for information.

Tim Wilkinson  
Acting Fire Chief  
(604-303-2701)

Att. 2

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

## Staff Report

### Origin

This report provides Council with an update on Richmond Fire-Rescue (RFR) activities. RFR is reporting on its activities in support of its mission:

*To protect and enhance the City's livability through service excellence in prevention, education and emergency response.*

This report supports Council's 2014-2018 Term Goal #1 A Safe Community:

*Maintain emphasis on community safety to ensure Richmond continues to be a safe community.*

### Analysis

#### Community Involvement

RFR advances public awareness, education and community bridge building by participating in training events and community activities. Fire safety presentations provided during November 2017 included the Vancouver Coastal Health – Seniors Housing Fire Safety Talk and the Richmond RCMP Outreach Student Presentation. Community events included: Take Your Kids to Work Day, Pumpkin Drop at Fire Hall No. 2 and the Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives Charitable Christmas Fund Drive-Thru.

Staff engaged with over 740 children and adults in the community during November, providing fire safety and harm reduction information.

#### Emergency Response

RFR's goal is to respond to events in a manner where loss of life, reduction of property damage and protection of the environment is mitigated. In November 2017 there were a total 891 incidents, representing a 4.6 per cent increase in calls from November 2016 (Attachment 1). The average time on scene for RFR crews was 26.40 minutes, a decrease of 5 per cent from 2016. This is due to the nature and severity of each call and the duration on scene.

In November 2017 there were 16 actual reportable fires, 29 apparatus were used and 97 fire personnel attended.

Fire damage and property losses during November 2017 are estimated at \$54,780. This total includes \$54,500 for building/asset loss and \$30 for content loss. The total building/asset and content value at risk was estimated to be \$10,627,130 and the total value preserved from damage was \$10,572,350. These numbers translate to 99.9 per cent of value protected (Table 1), this figure is the same as the 99.9 per cent protected value observed in 2016.

<b>Table 1: Fire Calls By Type and Loss Estimates – November 2017</b>						
<b>Incident Type Breakdown</b>	<b>Call Volume</b>	<b>Estimated Building / Asset Value (\$)</b>	<b>Estimated Building / Asset Loss (\$)</b>	<b>Estimated Content Value (\$)</b>	<b>Estimated Content Loss (\$)</b>	<b>Estimated Total Value Preserved (\$)</b>
Residential: Single family	1	1,880,000	-	188,000	30	2,067,970
Multi family	2	445,000	-	44,500	-	489,500
Commercial / Industrial	1	7,033,000	250	703,300	-	7,736,050
Outdoor	9	245,300	-	22,530	-	267,830
Vehicle / Vessel	3	65,500	54,500	-	-	11,000
<b>Totals*</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>9,668,800</b>	<b>54,750</b>	<b>958,330</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>10,572,350</b>

\*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).

Fire crews minimized loss and limited fires to the place of origin in these notable November 2017 incidents:

- Outdoor fire on Westminster Highway. RFR crews responded to the scene of a commercial lawnmower on fire. The fire included a ruptured gas tank and escaping fuel which had spread to the boulevard and a nearby Oak tree. Crews responded and extinguished the fire. A Fire Investigator attended.
- Fire at a commercial property on Leslie Road. Arriving crews saw a large plume of smoke coming out of a parking area below a commercial building. Crews quickly extinguished the pile of furniture on fire. A fire investigator and RCMP attended the scene.
- Motor vehicle incident involving a pedestrian on Bridgeport Road. Crews responded to a female who had been hit by an SUV and was being given CPR by a bystander on scene. Crews attended to the patient, who had suffered severe injuries. The patient was provided medical care and transported to Vancouver General Hospital for further treatment. One firefighter travelled with the patient and BC Ambulance Services to the hospital. A Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD) was provided by RFR Staff to all crew members who attended the incident.
- Hazardous materials leak at Clark Place. Crews responded to a report of a possible ammonia leak reported by a garbage truck driver. Crews located the liquid ammonia coming from a warehouse unit. The area was cordoned off and two crews carried out further investigations in fully enclosed HazMat suits. Once the investigation was complete, crews proceeded with overhaul and clean-up at the scene. The member of the public who reported the incident was taken to hospital for observation. There were no RFR staff injuries. RFR transferred command of the incident site to Environment BC. RCMP also attended and the Canadian Transport Emergency Centre (CANUTEC) was notified of the incident.

- Technical rescue of a driver located on River Road. Crews attended to a report of a driver trapped in their car with live power lines on top of the vehicle. Arriving crews were able to contact the driver to instruct them to remain in their vehicle until the power lines were de-energized. RCMP attended to conduct traffic control. Once BC Hydro had confirmed the power was off the patient was removed safely from their vehicle.

**Financial Impact**

None.

**Conclusion**

During November 2017, calls for service increased by 4.6 per cent from November 2016. RFR will continue to monitor these activities to identify trends and ensure potential solutions.



Tim Wilkinson  
Acting Fire Chief  
(604-303-2701)

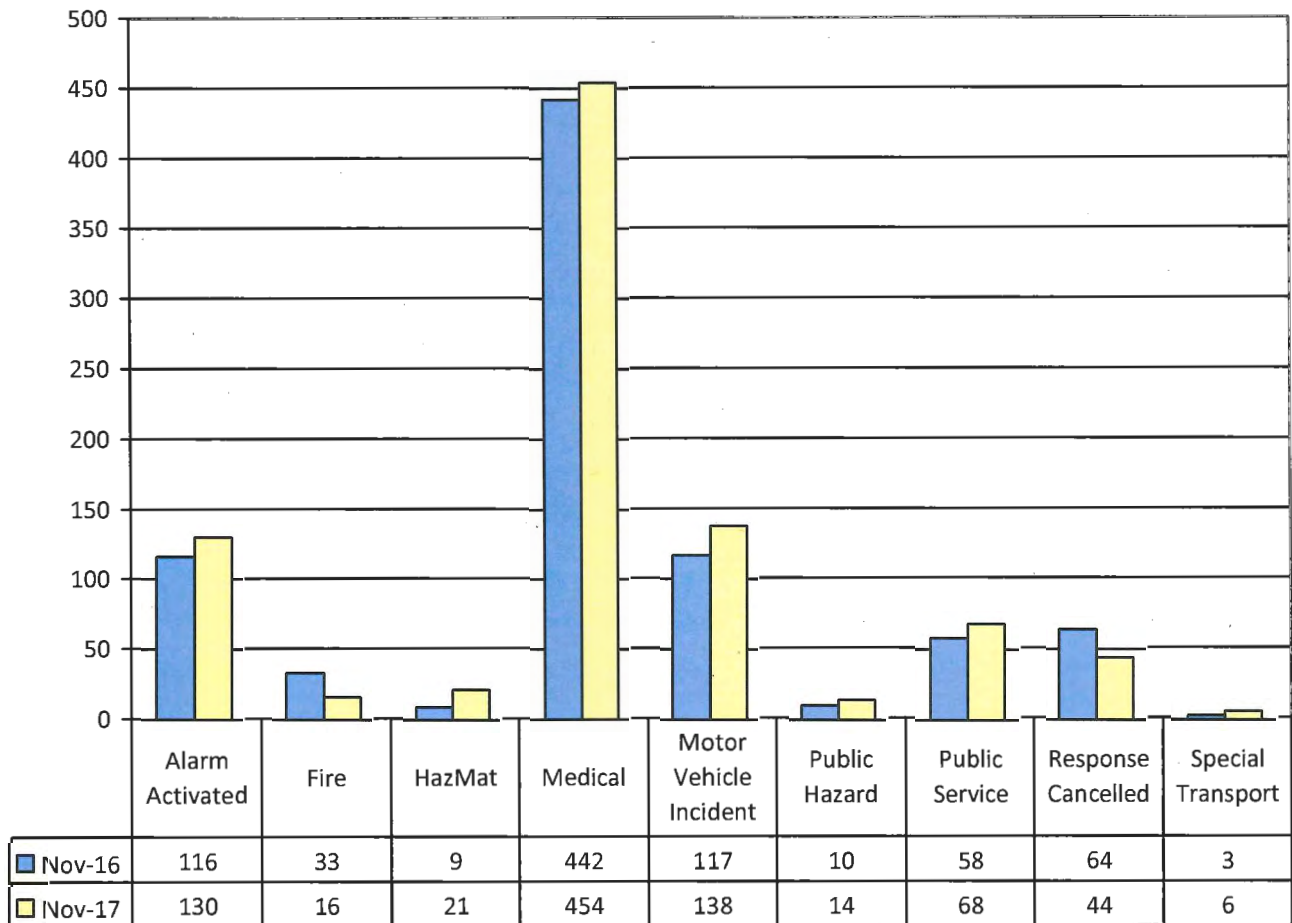
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- Att. 1: Suppression Activity  
2: Location of November's Fire, Medical and MVIs

**Calls for Service Volumes**

The following chart provides a month to month comparison regarding incidents occurring in November 2016 and 2017. In November 2017, there were a total of 891 incidents, compared to 852. This represents an increase of 4.6 per cent.

**Table 2: November 2016 & 2017 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

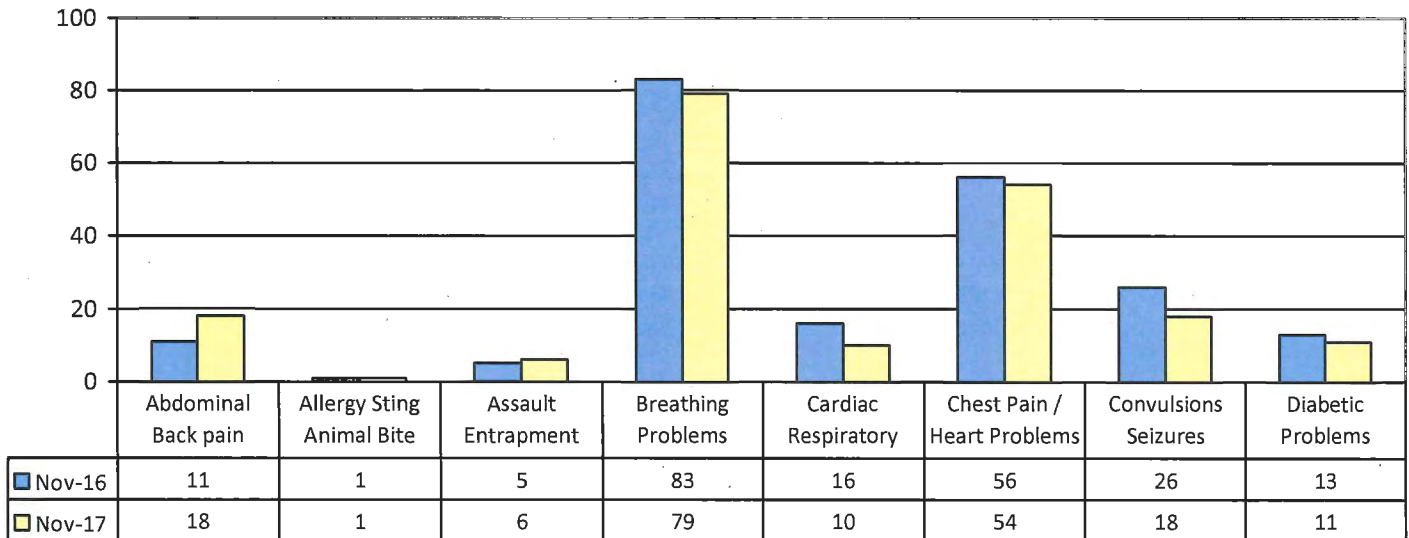
**Public Hazard** includes: aircraft emergency, bomb removal standby, object removal, or power lines down

**Public Service** includes: assisting public, ambulance or police, locked in/out, special events, trapped in elevator, water removal

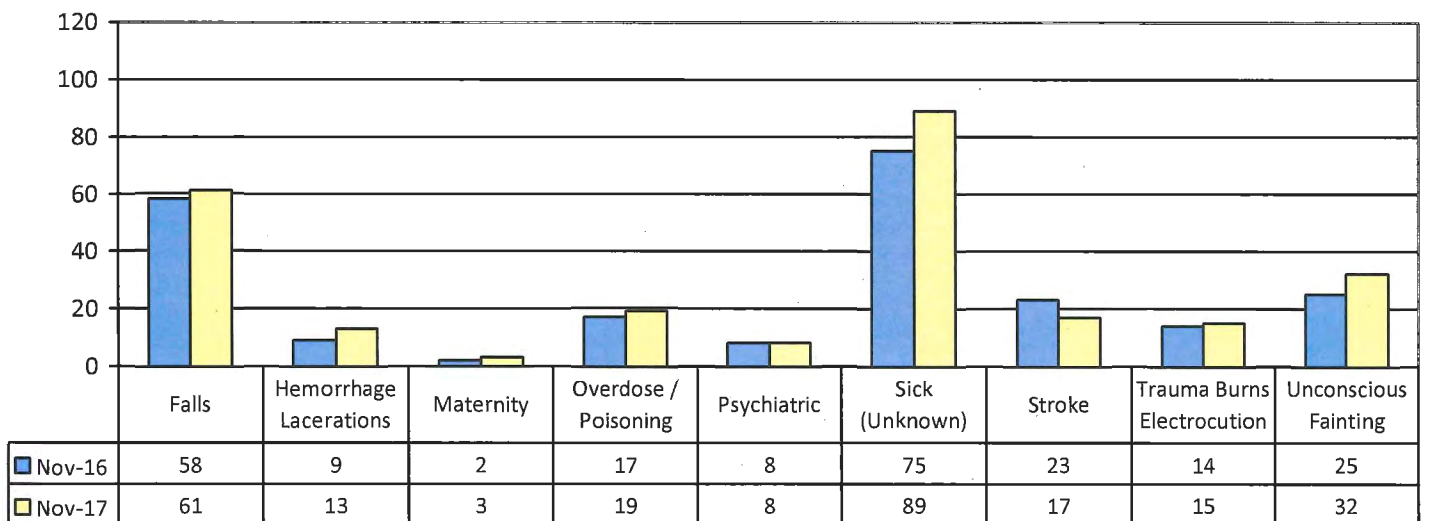
**First Responder Totals**

Medical first responder incidents comprised 48.8 per cent of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of November 2017. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for November 2016 and 2017 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 454 medical incidents in November 2017 compared to 442 in November 2016, a decrease of 1.6 per cent.

**Table 3a: November 2016 & 2017 Medical Calls by Type**



**Table 3b: November 2016 & 2017 Medical Calls by Type**



## Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for November 2017 are listed below:

<b>Table 4: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – November</b>			
	<b>Suspicious</b>	<b>Accidental</b>	<b>Undetermined</b>
Residential - Single-family	-	1	-
Residential - Multi-family	-	2	-
Commercial/Industrial	-	1	-
Outdoor	2	4	3
Vehicle	-	3	-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>

RFR investigators report all suspicious fires to the RCMP, while working alongside RCMP staff to address potential risks to the community.

## Hazardous Materials

<b>Table 5: HazMat Calls By Type – November</b>	
	<b>Details</b>
Corrosive	2
Natural Gas / Propane Leaks (small)	14
Unclassified	4
Flammable / Combustible Liquids	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>21</b>

Figure 1: Location of reportable fires attended in November (total 16)

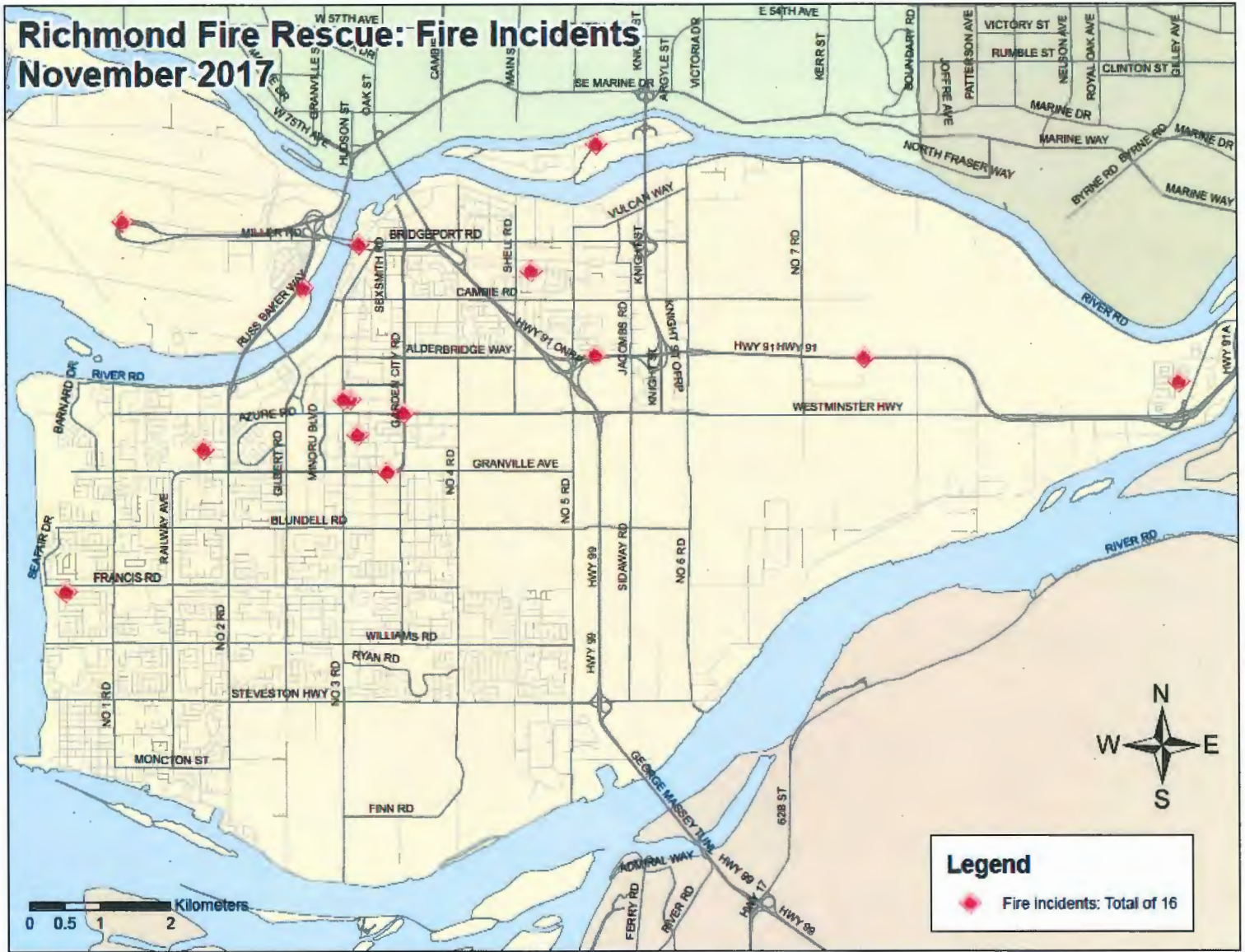






Figure 3: Location of MVI calls in November (total 134)

