



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee

Date: April 23, 2018

From: Tim Wilkinson
Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue

File: 09-5000-01/2018-Vol 01

Re: Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – March 2018

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – March 2018”, dated April 23, 2018 from the Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue, be received for information.

Tim Wilkinson
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, community activities and social media.

Safety presentations provided during March 2018, included the Metro Vancouver Housing Corporation for seniors and for new immigrants at the S.U.C.C.E.S.S Richmond Service Centre.

A tour of the Cambie Fire Hall No. 3 and Richmond North Ambulance Station was provided to the 12th Richmond Scout Group.

Staff engaged with over 123 children and adults during March, continuing to develop effective interagency relationships and partnerships within the community.

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 March 2018 there were a total 897 incidents, representing a 6.4 per cent reduction in calls from March 2017 (Attachment 1). The average time on scene for RFR crews was 26.33 minutes, a decrease of one per cent from 2017. This is due to the nature and severity of each call and the duration on scene.

In March 2018 there were 27 reportable fires to the office of the Fire Commissioner; representing a 17.4 per cent increase from March 2017. The average figure for fires reported in March, over the last five years, is 23.8, thus reportable fires in the month of March remains consistent with year over year trends. In March 2018, 87 apparatus were used and 275 fire personnel attended fire related incidents.

Fire damage and property losses during March 2018 are estimated at \$102,165. This total includes \$1,200 for building/asset loss and \$100,965 for content loss. The total building/asset and content value at risk was estimated to be \$50,750,230 and the total value preserved from damage was \$50,648,065. These numbers translate to 99 per cent of value protected (Table 1), this is the same per cent protected value observed in 2017.

| Table 1: Fire Calls By Type and Loss Estimates – March 2018 | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Incident Type Breakdown | Call Volume | Estimated Building / Asset Value (\$) | Estimated Building / Asset Loss (\$) | Estimated Content Value (\$) | Estimated Content Loss (\$) | Estimated Total Value Preserved (\$) |
| Residential: | | | | | | |
| Single family | 3 | 3,822,100 | - | 156,110 | 800 | 3,977,410 |
| Multi family | 4 | 1,204,000 | - | 165,110 | - | 1,369,100 |
| Commercial / Industrial | 9 | 22,935,000 | - | 20,252,500 | 100,015 | 43,087,485 |
| Outdoor | 11 | 1,846,350 | 1,200 | 369,070 | 150 | 2,214,070 |
| Vehicle / Vessel | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Totals* | 27 | 29,807,450 | 1,200 | 20,942,780 | 100,965 | 50,648,065 |

*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).

Incident Response Times

The following table shows the total emergency response time per fire hall for incidents during March 2017 and 2018.

RFR tracks and reports average emergency response time. However, this does not reflect the concerns and gaps. Response time is impacted by a number of factors including the time to put on personal protective equipment (PPE), when PPE is required. The industry standard allows for an additional 20 seconds for the donning of PPE.

There is significant work that needs to be undertaken to do further analysis (e.g. validate statistics) and reduce turnout time to don PPE to incrementally reduce the emergency response time.

| Table 2: Average Incident Response Times (in minutes) Per Hall – March 2018 | | | | |
|--|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| | March 2017 | | March 2018 | |
| | PPE | Non PPE | PPE | Non PPE |
| Hall 1 - City Centre | 5:05 | 5:21 | 4:38 | 4:56 |
| Hall 2 - Steveston | 5:29 | 5:08 | 5:39 | 4:42 |
| Hall 3 - Cambie | 5:25 | 8:25 | 4:40 | 5:04 |
| Hall 4 - Sea Island | 6:40 | 7:33 | 5:59 | 6:08 |
| Hall 5 - Hamilton | 6:19 | 5:35 | 7:02 | 7:04 |
| Hall 6 - Shellmont | 5:49 | 5:34 | 6:38 | 5:57 |
| Hall 7 - Crestwood | 8:11 | 6:16 | 7:54 | 6:45 |

* Times shown are for events where Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) was used. PPE figures equal fire incidents while Non PPE shows medical or other types of incident response times. Impacts to response times may include: distance to scene, weather, and the time of day.

Significant Events

Fire crews minimized loss and limited fires to the place of origin in these notable March 2018 incidents:

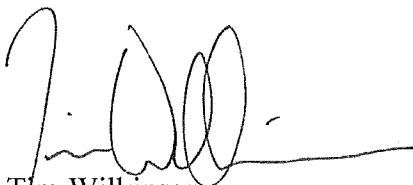
- Commercial property fire on Mitchell Road. Crews arrived on scene to a large amount of smoke showing from the south east side of the building. Crews used a Thermal Imaging Camera to locate the source of the smoke and use facility hoses on the second and third floors to extinguish spot fires and cool the onsite equipment. The fires were extinguished quickly and there were no injuries reported. A Fire Investigator was requested to attend.
- Commercial property fire on Chatham Street. Arriving crews saw smoke coming out of a commercial property. The fire was located and extinguished quickly with no injuries reported. Neighbouring apartments were also assessed by crews for damage. Emergency Social Services, BC Hydro and Gas, Health Department and a Fire Investigator were also requested to attend.
- Motor vehicle incident with injuries. Crews responded to a motor vehicle incident on Williams Road. A motorcyclist had been struck by a vehicle and had suffered serious injuries to the lower body. Crews proceeded to secure the scene and provided first aid to the motorcyclist. The patient was transported to Vancouver General Hospital by onsite BC Ambulance Service crews. Once the patient was transported to hospital RFR crews cleared the scene, leaving it in the care of RCMP. After the event attending crews were provided a Critical Incident Stress Management debriefing.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

During March 2018, calls for service decreased by 6.4 per cent from March 2017. RFR will continue to monitor these activities to identify trends and ensure potential solutions.

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

Tim Wilkinson
Fire Chief
(604-303-2701)

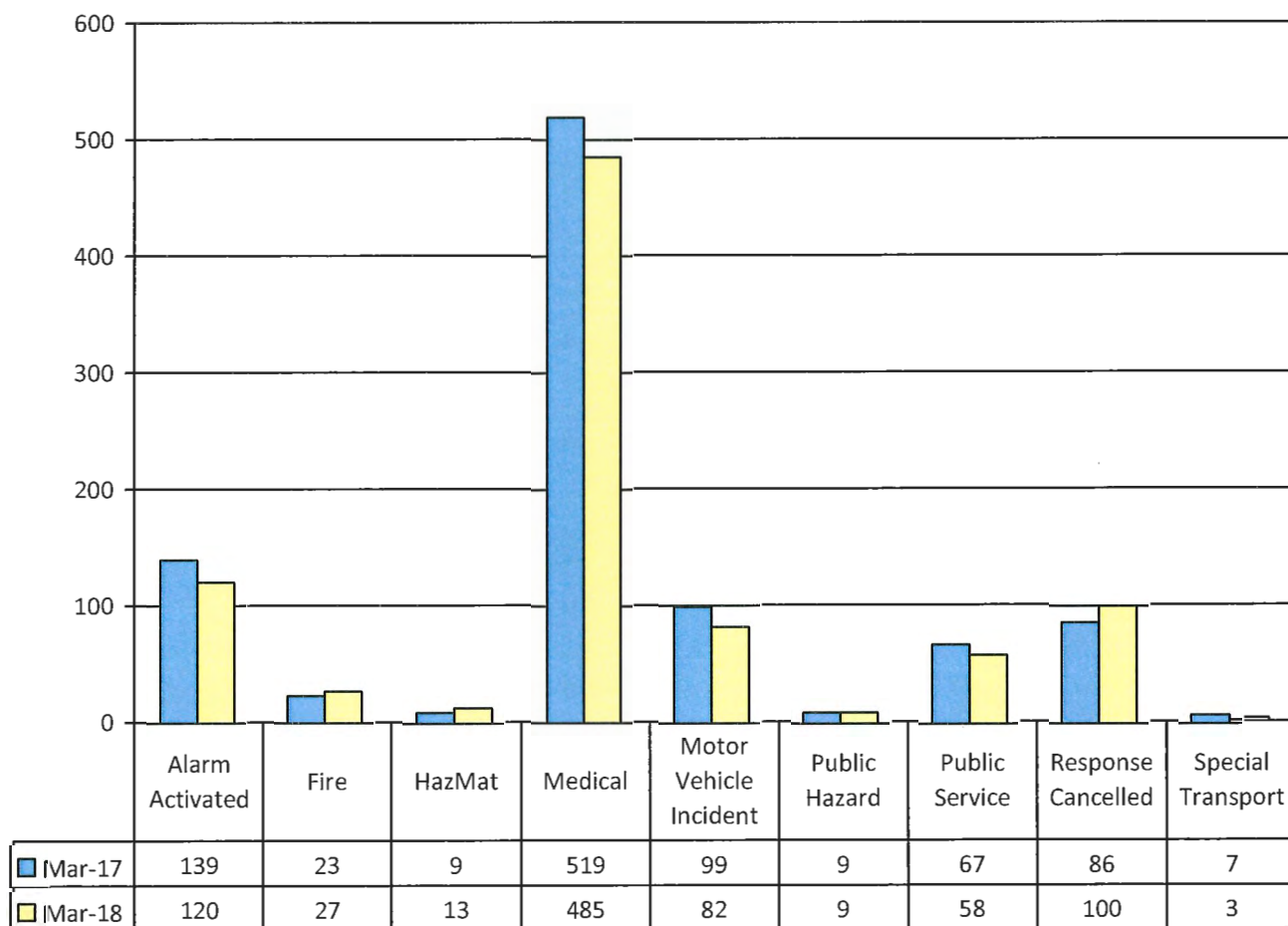
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- Att. 1: Suppression Activity
2: Location of March's Fire, Medical and MVIs

Calls for Service Volumes

The following chart provides a month to month comparison regarding incidents occurring in March 2017 and 2018. In March 2018, there were a total of 897 incidents, compared to 958. This represents a decrease of 6.4 per cent.

Table 3: March 2017 & 2018 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 54.1 per cent of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of March 2018. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for March 2018 and 2017 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 485 medical incidents in March 2018 compared to 519 in March 2017, a decrease of 6.6 per cent.

Table 4a: March 2017 & 2018 Medical Calls by Type

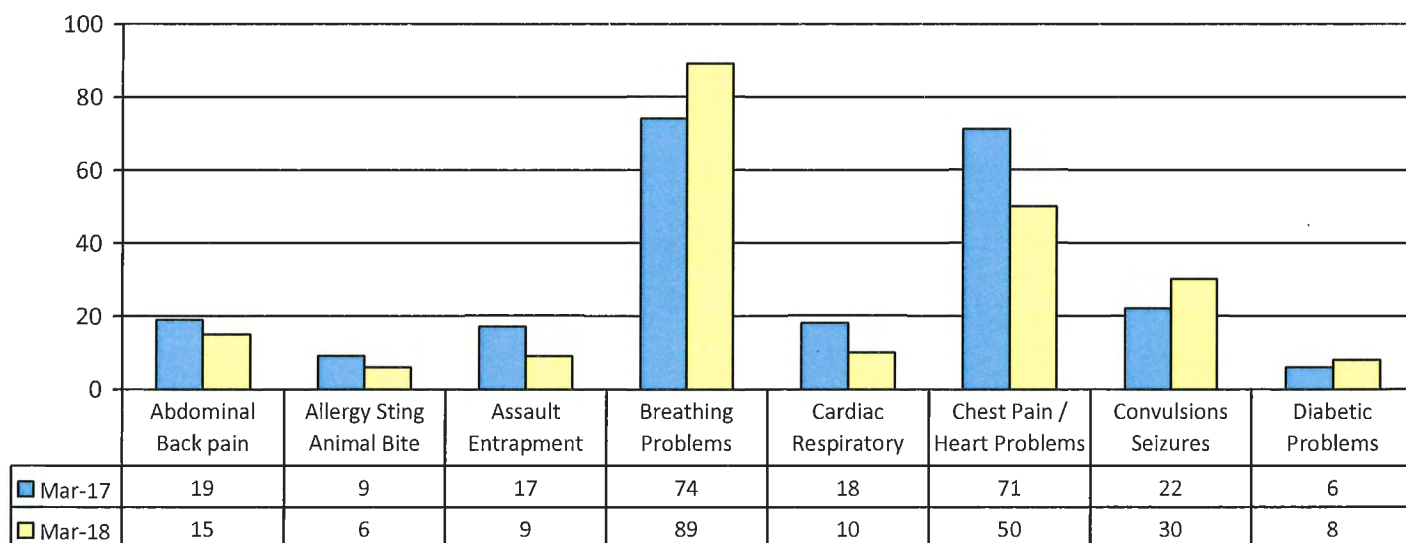
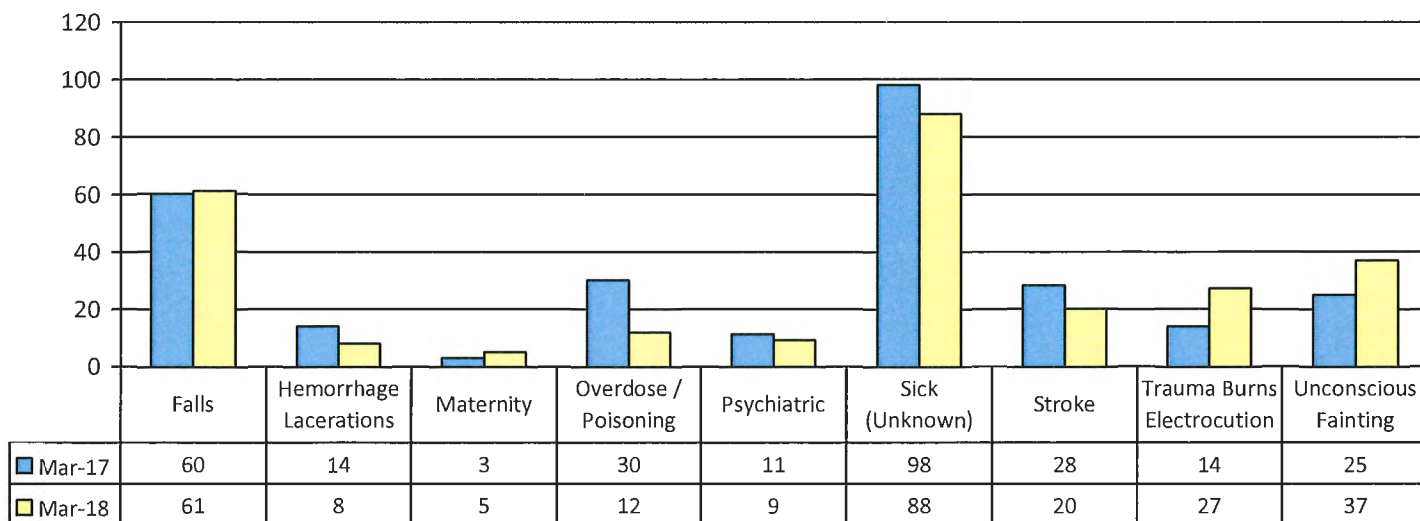


Table 4b: March 2017 & 2018 Medical Calls by Type



Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for March 2018 are listed below:

| Table 5: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – March | | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | Suspicious | Accidental | Undetermined |
| Residential - Single-family | - | 2 | 1 |
| Residential - Multi-family | - | 4 | - |
| Commercial/Industrial | 1 | 7 | 1 |
| Outdoor | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| Vehicle | - | - | - |
| Totals | 5 | 17 | 5 |

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

Hazardous Materials

| Table 6: HazMat Calls By Type – March | |
|--|----------------|
| | Details |
| Flammable / Combustible Liquids | 2 |
| Natural Gas / Propane Leaks (small) | 8 |
| Toxic / Infectious Substances | 1 |
| Unclassified | 2 |
| Totals | 13 |

Figure 1: Location of reportable fires attended in March (total 27)



Figure 2: Location of medical calls in March (total 485)

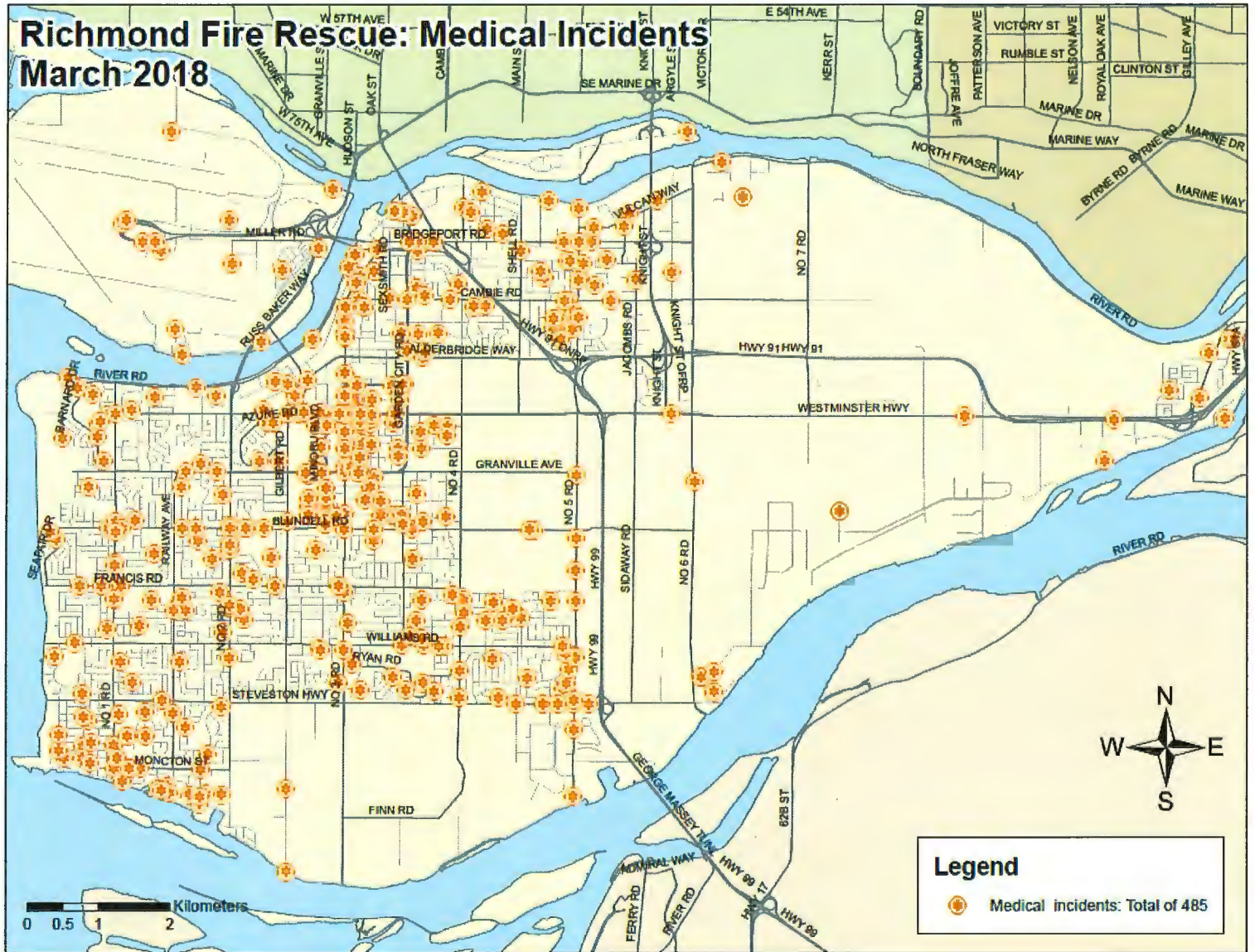


Figure 3: Location of MVI calls in March (total 82)

