



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee

Date: May 10, 2022

From: Jim Wishlove
Fire Chief

File: 99-Fire Rescue/2022-
Vol 01

Re: Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – April 2022

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – April 2022”, dated May 10, 2022, from the Fire Chief, be received for information.

Jim Wishlove
Fire Chief
(604-303-2715)

Att. 1

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS:
APPROVED BY CAO	

Staff Report

Origin

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #1 A Safe and Resilient City:

Enhance and protect the safety and well-being of Richmond.

Analysis

Emergency Programs

Public Outreach and Education

On Thursday April 14, 2022, EP staff presented a virtual CORE TALK to City of Richmond staff on how to be personally prepared for emergencies. This presentation was recorded and has been made available on the intranet for interested City staff to access at their convenience.

Canadian Red Cross (CRC) Level 2 ESS Training Workshop

Emergency Programs staff supported and collaborated with the CRC on a full-day workshop held on Saturday, April 23, 2022. Staff supplied CRC with portable Reception Centre registration kits, which were purchased through a UBCM grant in 2021, and include cots & bedding, supplies and the documentation necessary to open and run a Reception Centre and Group Lodging.

The collaboration between CRC and City of Richmond EP staff provided a valuable opportunity to strengthen relationships thereby providing a more effective and rapid response during emergencies.

Emergency Support Services Call Out – Thursday April 28

Emergency Programs (EP) staff responded to a call for Emergency Support Services (ESS) support due to an apartment fire on Arcadia Road. As a result, the EP team:

- Opened a Reception Centre (RC) at the Richmond Pentecostal Church, on Westminster Highway. The EP team worked with the Canadian Red Cross (CRC) and activated the RC to a Level 2, and two CRC volunteers arrived to assist; and
- Implemented ESS Service delivery within 1hr of notification from the on scene incident commander.

ESS Reporting Information

Date	Address	Volunteers Deployed	ESS Services Deployed	Number of Evacuees	Services Delivered
April 11, 2022	Desmond Road	Y	Y	2 Adults	Lodging, Food, Clothing/Incidentals, Transport, & Mental Health support and extended recovery referrals through CRC Safety & Wellbeing personnel
April 24, 2022	Bath Road	Y	Y	7 Adults, 1 Child	Lodging, Food/Clothing/Incidentals
April 28, 2022	Arcadia Road	Y	Y	9 Adults, 0 Children	Lodging, Food, Clothing/Incidentals, Transport

United Way Summit on Aging

Emergency Programs staff attended the United Way Summit on Aging: Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery for Seniors. Staff co-facilitated break out discussions about neighbourhood level emergency preparedness, connections and response with staff from neighbouring municipalities and community groups.

Training and Public Education

During April 2022, fire-training staff delivered educational activities and programs including; Frontline Leadership for upcoming fire officers, Incident Command Systems Level 100 and 200, RFR Apparatus Maintenance and Wildland Structure Protection Union (SPU) Technical Training Course.

During April 2022, Public Education staff, for the 2nd year, supervised an open burning of Chametz, which is part of the Jewish Passover celebrations. RFR staff were on site assisting the community and providing them with a safe place to burn bread and decrease the risk of fires in homes. During the event, RFR staff set up a booth to provide the community with fire and life safety information with the goal of fire prevention through education.

Fire Prevention

In April 2022, Richmond Fire-Rescue partnered with the Greater Vancouver Fire Chief's Association to host a single-day Mobile Outdoor Food Service Unit (MOFSU) Inspection Event, providing free MOFSU Fire and Life Safety Inspections for the day. This RFR-lead initiative included RFR prevention officers along with other lower mainland fire departments who completed 77 inspections in the single day, which was an increase over the previous two years.

Emergency Response

Richmond Fire-Rescue's goal is to respond to incidents in a manner where loss of life, reduction of property damage and protection of the environment is mitigated. In April 2022, there were a total of 784 reported incidents, representing an eight per cent increase in incidents from April 2021 (Attachment 1).

The average time on scene for RFR crews was 32 minutes, which was higher than the 30 minutes recorded in 2021. The time spent on scene can vary due to the nature and severity of each incident.

	Totals (2022)	Percentage Change from April 2021	Number Change from April 2021 to 2022	5 Year Average for April
Alarm Active No Fire	126	+11	+12	108
Explosion	0	0	0	0
Fire	40	-17	-8	38
Haz-Mat	3	-57	-4	7
Medical	422	+14	+53	309
MVI	63	+24	+12	63
Public Hazard	10	-9	-1	9
Public Service	89	+37	+24	61
Response Cancelled/Unfounded	30	-48	-28	61
Specialized Transport	1	-	0	2
Tech Rescue	0	-100	-1	0
Totals	784	+8	+59	658

In April 2022, there were 40 fire incidents which were reported to the Office of the Fire Commissioner representing a 17 per cent decrease from April 2021. The average number of fires reported in April over the last five years is 38.

Richmond Fire-Rescue's emergency fire response goal is to contain a fire to the room of origin. The room of origin standard is especially important in terms of fire loss and damage, which increases significantly once a fire extends beyond the room of origin.

Fire damage and property losses during April 2022 are estimated at \$466,085. This total includes \$250,005 for building/asset loss and \$216,080 for content loss. The total building/asset and content value at risk was estimated to be \$15,442,830 and the total value preserved from damage was \$14,976,745. These numbers translate to 97 per cent of value protected (Table 2); this value is lower than value observed in 2021; 98 per cent.

Incident Type Breakdown	Incident Volume	Estimated Building/Asset Value (\$)	Estimated Building/Asset Loss (\$)	Estimated Content Value (\$)	Estimated Content Loss (\$)	Estimated Total Value Preserved (\$)
Residential: Single family	3	39,900	25,000	13,000	13,000	14,900
Multi family	7	1259,000	150,005	10,000	-	1,118,995
Commercial/Industrial	5	13,689,300	75,000	295,200	202,450	13,707,050
Outdoor	21	44,800	-	85,130	630	129,300
Vehicle/Vessel	4	6,500	-	-	-	6,500
Totals*	40	15,039,500	250,005	403,330	216,080	14,976,745

* 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).

Significant Events

Fire crews minimized harm and limited fires to the place of origin in these notable April 2022 incidents:

- **April 2, 2022 – Mutual Aid for New Westminster.** RFR crews attended a structure fire in New Westminster and provided firefighting services. Other available RFR emergency vehicles within the City were relocated to other stations to provide sufficient coverage in the interim. There were no injuries to RFR crews reported.
- **April 10, 2022 – Commercial fire on Jacombs Road.** RFR crews responded to a warehouse fire. Crews quickly extinguished the fire and proceeded to mitigate smoke from within the building. All of the onsite staff were accounted for and there were no reports of injuries to onsite staff or RFR personnel. A RFR Fire Investigator attended the scene.
- **April 11, 2022 – Residential fire on Desmond Road.** RFR responded to a house fire, with fire showing through the first floor front window. On arrival, the two occupants were outside being treated for smoke inhalation and were provided with Emergency Support Services assistance. Other onsite agencies included Fortis Gas, BC Hydro, RCMP and BC Emergency Health Services. There were no other reports of injuries to the public or RFR staff. A RFR Fire Investigator attended the scene.
- **April 14, 2022 – Residential fire on Steveston Highway.** Multiple RFR crews responded to a three story residential home with smoke and flames showing on the ground level. RFR performed a quick extinguishment of the fire and overhauled the site for fire extension. The home was comprised of four different suites. All occupants were out of the structure and no injuries were reported. BC Hydro and Fortis BC were on site to turn off services. A Fire Investigator attended the scene.
- **April 20, 2022 – Residential fire on No. 1 Road.** RFR responded a multi residential building with smoke showing. On arrival, RFR crews found one unit that had been burnt out with no fire extension to other units. There was smoke extension into the first floor hallway and mild smoke extension to the second and third floors. The smoke was cleared from the building. Emergency Support Services were notified and a bus was used to shelter the occupants for the displaced residents. There was one victim transported to hospital from the unit that was on fire and no injuries to RFR personnel were reported. A Fire Investigator attended the scene.
- **April 24, 2022 – Residential Fire on Bath Road.** RFR crews responded to an apartment on fire. Crews extinguished the fire and began searching for hot spots while BC Hydro and Fortis Gas attended the scene to turn off power and gas. During the event, the building was evacuated and a temporary shelter was arranged for the evacuees. The Canadian Red Cross was given notice that multiple evacuees may require temporary lodging and the occupants were provide with Emergency Support Services assistance. There were no reports of injuries to residents or RFR Personnel. A Fire Investigator attended the scene.

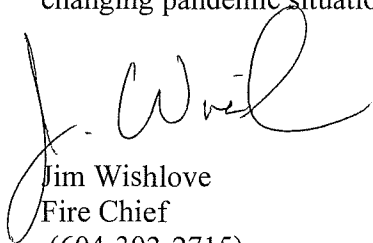
- **April 27, 2022 – Commercial Fire on Knox Way.** RFR Crews responded to a fire involving recycling materials. Crews quickly extinguished the fire and determined there was no structure involvement. After the fire was extinguished, crews assisted with onsite cleanup. There were no reports of injuries to the public or RFR personnel.
- **April 28, 2022 – Apartment fire on Arcadia Road.** RFR Crews responded to an apartment showing heavy flames and smoke from the second floor. The first-arriving crews initiated an exterior confinement line, and the next in unit set up fire attack, entered the structure and extinguished the fire. After the fire was extinguished, crews performed overhaul and conducted air monitoring. There were two suites affected for a total of seven persons displaced. The occupants were provided with Emergency Support Services assistance. BC Emergency Health Services transported a child taken to BC Children’s Hospital with minor burns and an adult to Vancouver General Hospital for smoke inhalation. No other injuries were been reported concerning residents or RFR staff. A Fire Investigator attended the scene.
- **April 30, 2022 – Residential fire on St Albans Road.** RFR crews responded to an abandoned house with heavy smoke and flames showing from the rear of the property. First arriving crews made a quick attack and knocked the fire down. Crews performed a search of the residence and reported it was clear. Crews completed extinguishment of the fire. BC Hydro cut the power to the residence and Fortis Gas turned the gas off. There were no injuries reported to the public or RFR personnel. A Fire Investigator attended the scene.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

Richmond Fire-Rescue continues to monitor activities to identify and create programs to respond to emerging trends. RFR staff remain ready to continue to work through and adapt to the ever-changing pandemic situation.



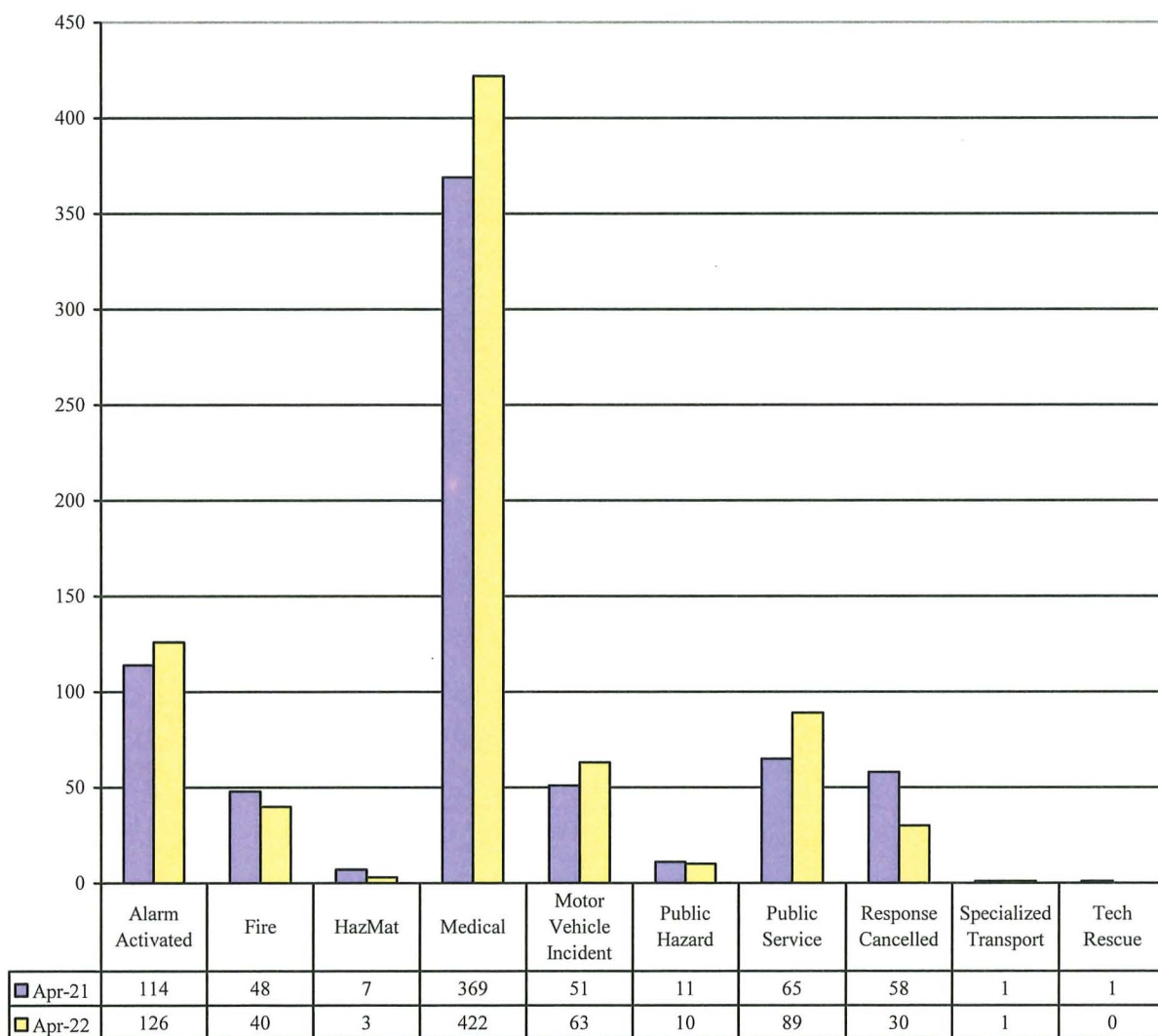
Jim Wishlove
Fire Chief
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Att. 1: Suppression Activity, including location of April’s Fire, Medical and MVIs

Incident Volumes

The following chart provides a month-to-month comparison regarding incidents occurring in April 2022 and 2021. In April 2022, there were a total of 784 incidents, compared to 725 in April 2021. This represents a decrease of 8 per cent. RFR continue to see incident numbers returning to normal levels due to gradual changes in the Provincial Medical Health Officer orders in response to the pandemic.

Table 3: April 2021 & April 2022 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: 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 per cent of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of April 2022. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for April 2021 and 2022 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 422 medical incidents in April 2022 compared to 369 in April 2021, an increase of 14 per cent. RFR continue to see incident numbers returning to normal levels due to gradual changes in the Provincial Medical Health Officer orders in response to the pandemic.

Table 4a: April 2021 & April 2022 Medical Calls by Type

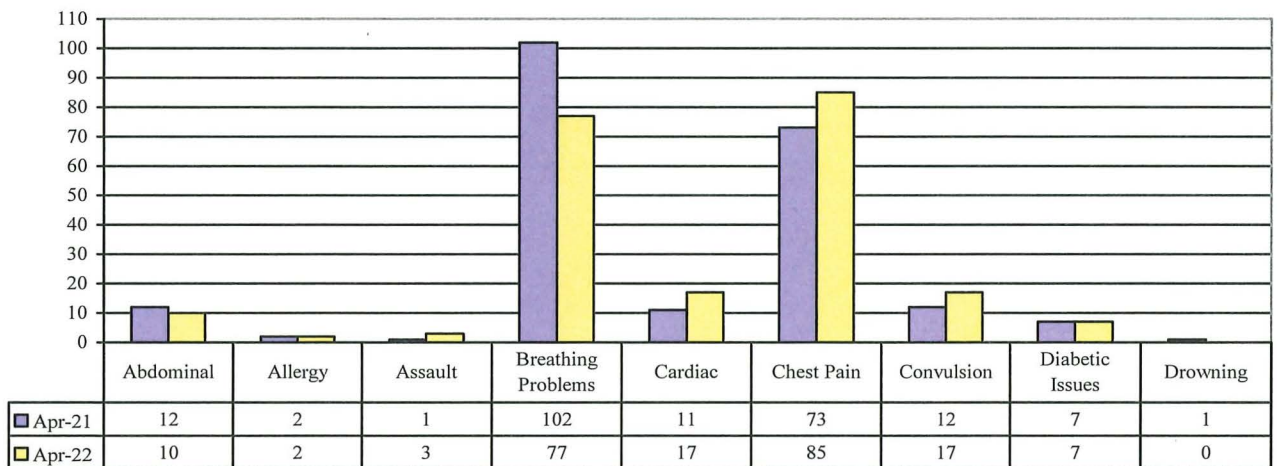
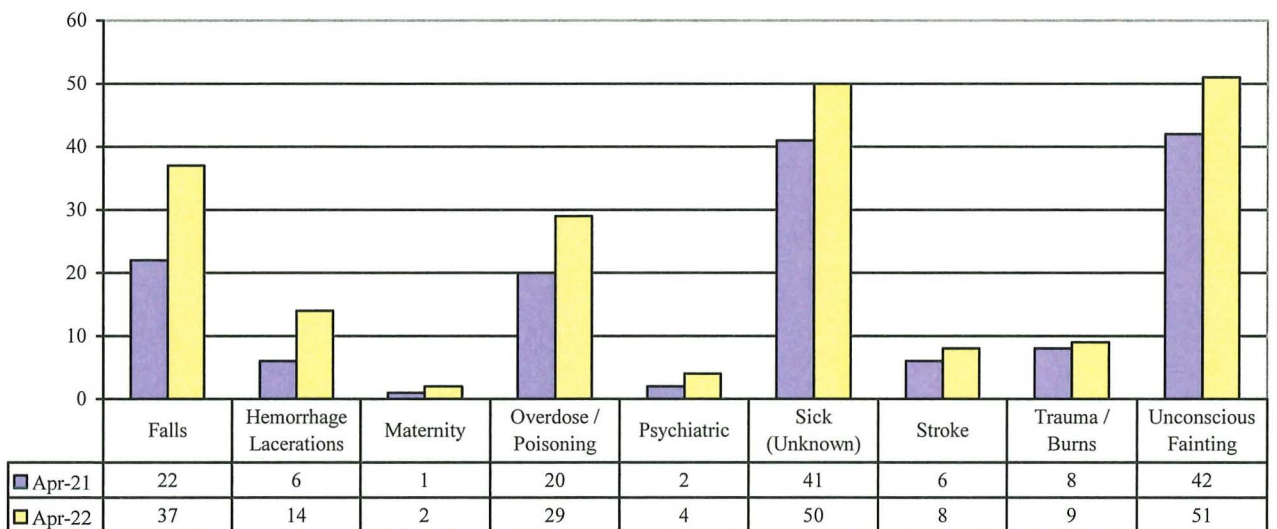


Table 4b: April 2021 & April 2022 Medical Calls by Type



Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for April 2022 are listed below:

Table 5: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – April 2022			
	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	-	1	2
Residential - Multi-family	-	3	4
Commercial/Industrial	-	5	-
Outdoor	6	9	6
Vehicle	1	1	2
Totals	7	19	14

Richmond Fire-Rescue investigators report all suspicious fires to the RCMP, while working alongside RCMP staff to address potential risks to the community.

Hazardous Materials

Table 6: Hazardous Materials Incidents By Type – April 2022	
	Details
Unclassified	1
Natural Gas / Vapour / Propane Leaks (small)	2
Totals	3

Figure 1: Location of reportable Fires attended in April 2022 (total 40)

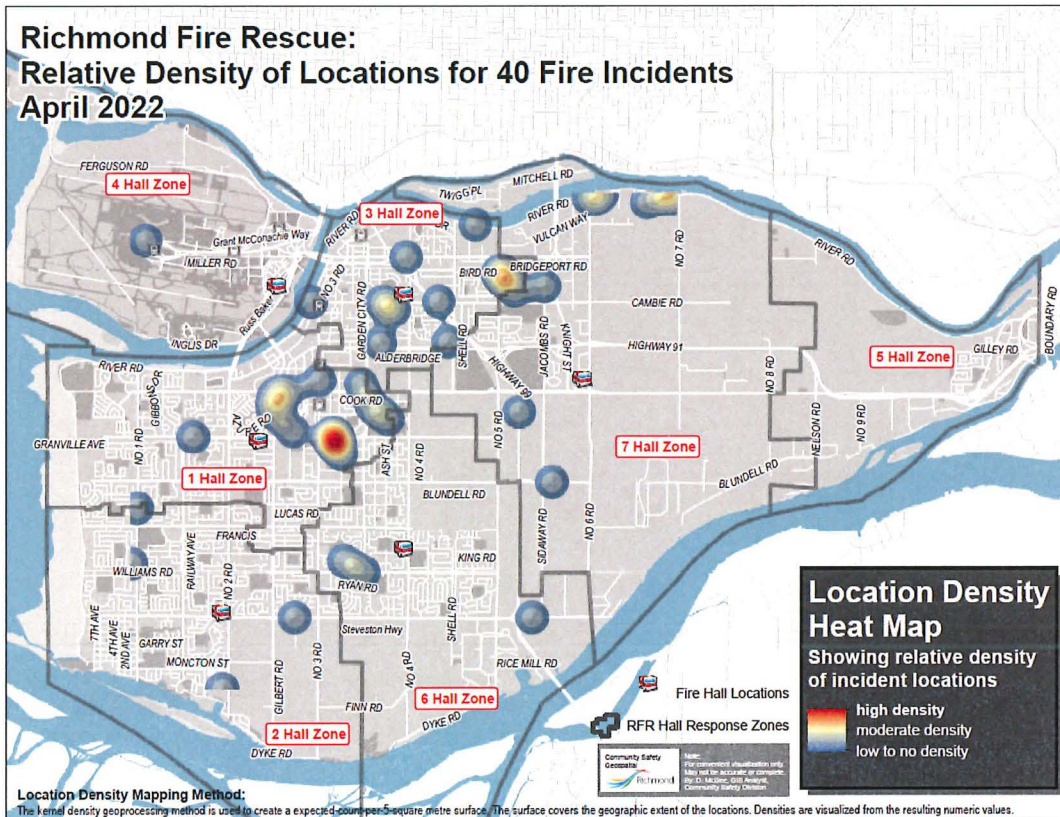
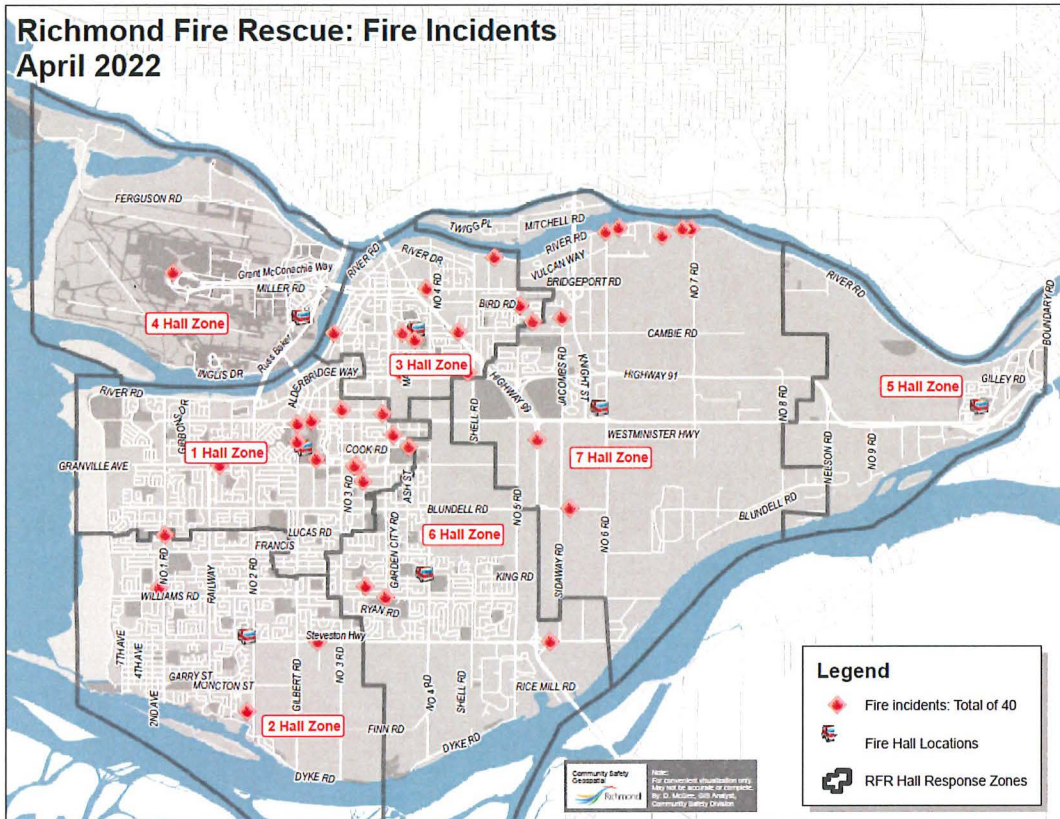


Figure 2: Location of Medical Incidents in April 2022 (total 422)

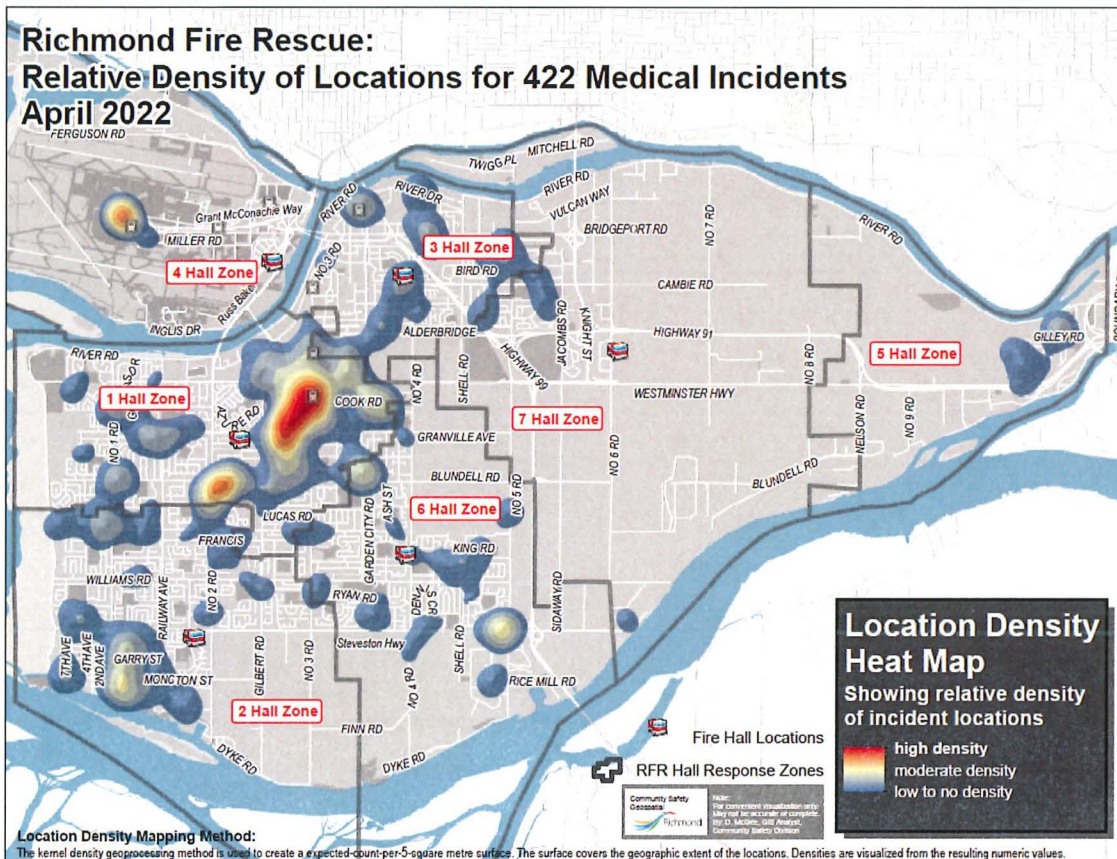
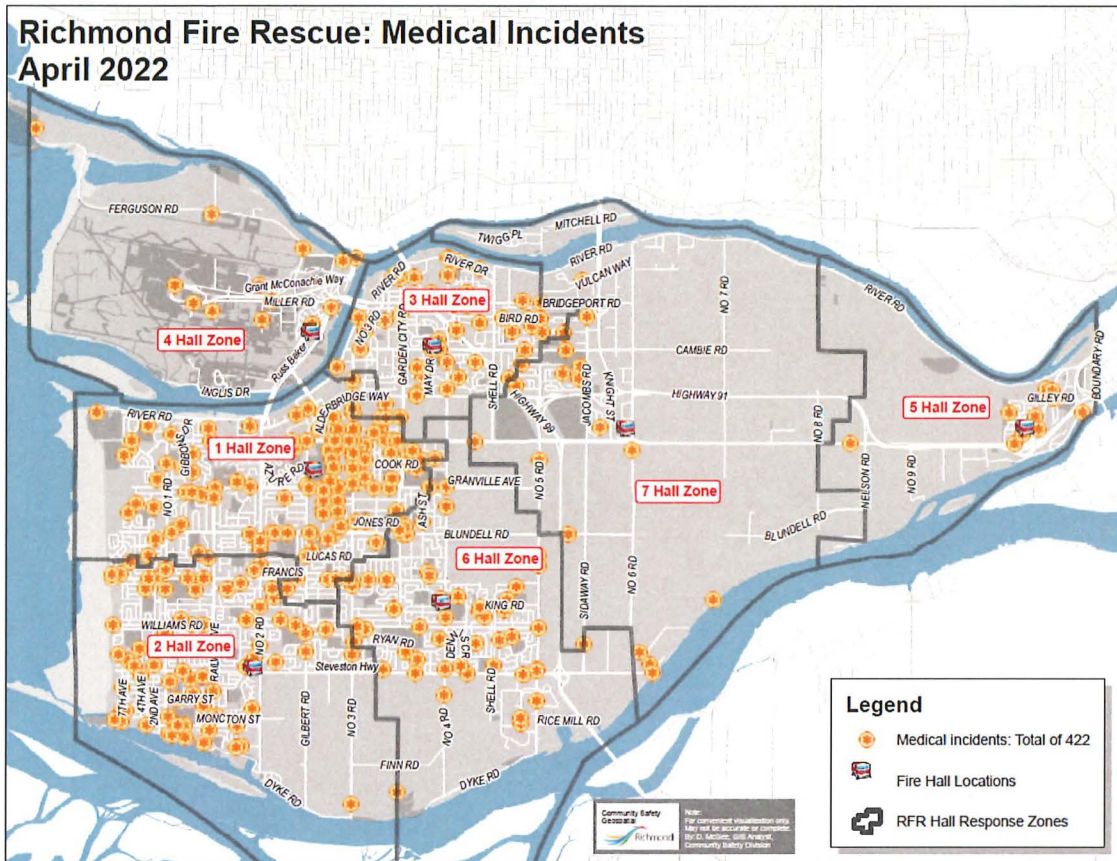


Figure 3: Location of Motor Vehicle Incidents in April 2022 (total 63)

