



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee

Date: September 12, 2022

From: Jim Wishlove
Fire Chief

File: 5375-03/2022-U




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

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – August 2022”, dated September 12, 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

August 2022 Heat Wave Event - Activation August 16 to August 19

Throughout August 2022, Richmond Fire-Rescue (RFR) Emergency Programs (EP) Branch worked in coordination with Richmond Public Library, Public Works, Community Services, Corporate Communications and Parks Services, along with numerous community partners in response to the hot weather event.

Public Outreach and Education

- EP presented an Emergency Preparedness Workshop for SUCCESS co-hosted with the Richmond Public Library. SUCCESS staff provided live Mandarin translation.
- EP participated in the annual Kids World summer event, hosted at Fire Hall No. 1.
- EP attended the Our Saviour Church's Neighbourhood Celebration to promote emergency preparedness, community resilience, and registration for Richmond BC Alert.

Staff Training and Public Education

During August 2022, in-house RFR fire-training staff delivered educational activities and programs including the ongoing recruit training and a Scott breathing apparatus Level 1 course.

During August 2022, Public Education staff attended/facilitated the following events to provide meaningful educational opportunities.

Community Events:

- Kidsworld Event – 200 youths (ages 4 – 13) and parents from the lower mainland attended this family program. The event was hosted at Brighthouse Fire Hall No. 1, and included showing the truck “live hose”, auto-x tool (can crush) and Thermal Imaging Camera demonstrations, picture wall for turnout gear and photographs, and education booths.
- Maritime Festival – The team attended the two day festival and set up a public education booth to engage with the community. A suppression crew was also assigned to the event, along with Fire Prevention Officers for general event support. The crews also showed the truck and engaged with the public.
- Our Saviour Church Community Event – Around 60 people attended the emergency preparedness event.
- Kiwanis Seniors Community BBQ – August 30; 250 attendees.

Fire and Life Safety Education Presentations:

- Tomorrows Top Kids
- Nido de Montessori
- Amazon

Fire Hall Tours:

- Primrose Daycare
- CEFA Daycare (two separate tours)
- Richmond Youth Group

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 August 2022, there were a total of 1,015 reported incidents of all types, representing a 13 per cent increase in incidents from August 2021 (Attachment 1).

The average time on scene for RFR crews was 33 minutes, which was lower than the 44 minutes recorded in 2021. The time spent on scene can vary due to the nature and severity of each incident.

Table 1: Total Incidents - August 2022

	Totals (2022)	Percentage Change from August 2021	Number Change from August 2021 to 2022	5 Year Average for August
Alarm Active No Fire	159	+ 30	+37	140
Explosion	2	-	+2	0
Fire	60	+33	+15	55
Haz-Mat	10	+11	+1	11
Medical	523	+13	+62	339
MVI	83	-	0	75
Public Hazard	9	-	0	10
Public Service	107	-6	-7	85
Response Cancelled/Unfounded	59	+18	+9	66
Specialized Transport	3	-40	-2	5
Tech Rescue	0	-	-	0
Totals	1,015	+13	+117	786

In August 2022, there were 60 fire incidents reported to the Office of the Fire Commissioner, representing a 33 per cent increase from August 2021. The average number of fires reported each August over the last five years is 55.

Richmond Fire-Rescue’s emergency fire response goal is to arrive on-scene in time and with enough resources 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 can increase significantly once a fire extends beyond the room of origin.

Fire damage and property losses during August 2022 are estimated at \$105,505. This total includes \$80,000 for building/asset loss and \$25,505 for content loss. The total building/asset and content value at risk was estimated to be \$60,325,700 and the total value preserved from damage was \$60,220,195. These numbers translate to 99 per cent of value protected (Table 2); this value is greater than the value observed in 2021; 90 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	2	937,000	-	100,000	5	1,036,995
Multi family	3	605,000	-	-	-	605,000
Commercial/Industrial	10	58,418,200	15,000	-	-	58,403,200
Outdoor	41	-	-	150,000	25,000	125,000
Vehicle/Vessel	4	105,000	65,000	10,500	500	50,000
Totals*	60	60,065,200	80,000	260,500	25,505	60,220,195

* 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, limited fire spread from the place of origin and performed medical interventions in these notable August 2022 incidents:

- **August 4, 2022 - Vehicle incident on Granville Avenue.** RFR crews responded to Granville Avenue for a motor vehicle incident involving a minivan and a train. The occupants of the van were unharmed and out of the vehicle on RFR crews arrival. BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) crews arrived and interviewed the occupants; there were no injuries reported. The train hit by the vehicle in the rail crossing on Granville Avenue and Shell Road and pushed the vehicle down the tracks. The train was moved away from the vehicle, under RFR and RCMP supervision, to allow for the vehicle's removal. Once the vehicle was removed, care of the scene was handed over to the onsite RCMP.
- **August 6, 2022 – Structure fire on Smith Street.** RFR crews responded to a multi-unit commercial structure fire. Arriving crews found heavy smoke coming from the side of the structure. The fire was extinguished and crews performed an overhaul and checked for fire extension. One member of the public was injured and was transported to hospital by BCEHS. A Fire Investigator attended and arranged for oversite security for the site.
- **August 6, 2022 – Gas leak on North Service Road.** RFR crews responded to a gas leak on North Service Road. First in crew found an underground gas line that had ruptured close to the building. The area has been secured and the building ventilated. Fortis BC arrived on scene to address the broken gas line. There were no injuries to the public or RFR personnel.

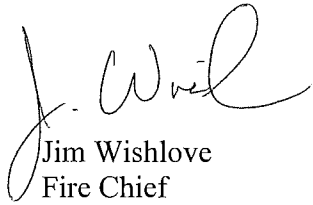
- **August 9, 2022 – Hazardous materials leak on No. 3 Road.** RFR crews arrived, along with the RCMP, to a commercial property on No. 3 Road for a report of smoke in the building. Crews were advised by staff that several canisters of bear spray had been released. The building was ventilated to allow access by RCMP for investigation. One patient was treated for exposure to the spray by RFR crews before passing patient care to the waiting BCEHS unit.
- **August 17, 2022 – Hazardous materials leak on Westminster Highway.** RFR hazardous materials team responded to a nursery on Westminster Highway for a chemical spill. Crews arrived and conducting an analysis of the situation to create an action plan. RFR crews set up a hot zone and waited for Nucor Environmental to arrive for clean up. One worker was checked for coming in contact with product but was fine. There were no reports of injuries to the public or RFR staff.
- **August 22, 2022 – Technical rescue on No. 9 Road.** In the morning, RFR Crews responded to No. 9 Road for a technical rescue of a patient two stories up a building platform. The first in crew found a patient with a twisted knee that was unable to be extracted without assistance. RFR crews packaged the patient onto a spine board for removal down and handed the patient over to BCEHS.
- **August 23, 2022 – Vehicle Fire on No. 8 Road.** RFR crews responded to a van on fire close to a commercial property. The flames were seen coming from the front hood and inside of the vehicle. The nearby grass along the boulevard was also on fire. RFR crews controlled the fire with water, while other crews were able to open up the rear roll-up door. Once the roll-up door was opened the van was noted to have materials inside that had burnt. Crews carried out an overhaul of the van until the fire was completely extinguished. Once the fire was extinguished the RCMP towed the van to their holding area for further investigation.
- **August 24, 2022 – Commercial fire on Twigg Place.** RFR crews attended a large fire on Mitchell Island. The fire was limited to a large pile of scrap materials. Crews attacked the fire and eventually managed to extinguish the fire despite access challenges. RCMP were on scene managing traffic and limiting access to the area downwind of the smoke plume. There were no injuries to employees of the facility or RFR staff. The nearby water pump station was shut down and a pump truck removed any contaminated water. The coast guard attended to manage any contaminants that may have entered the river. A Fire Investigator attended.

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.



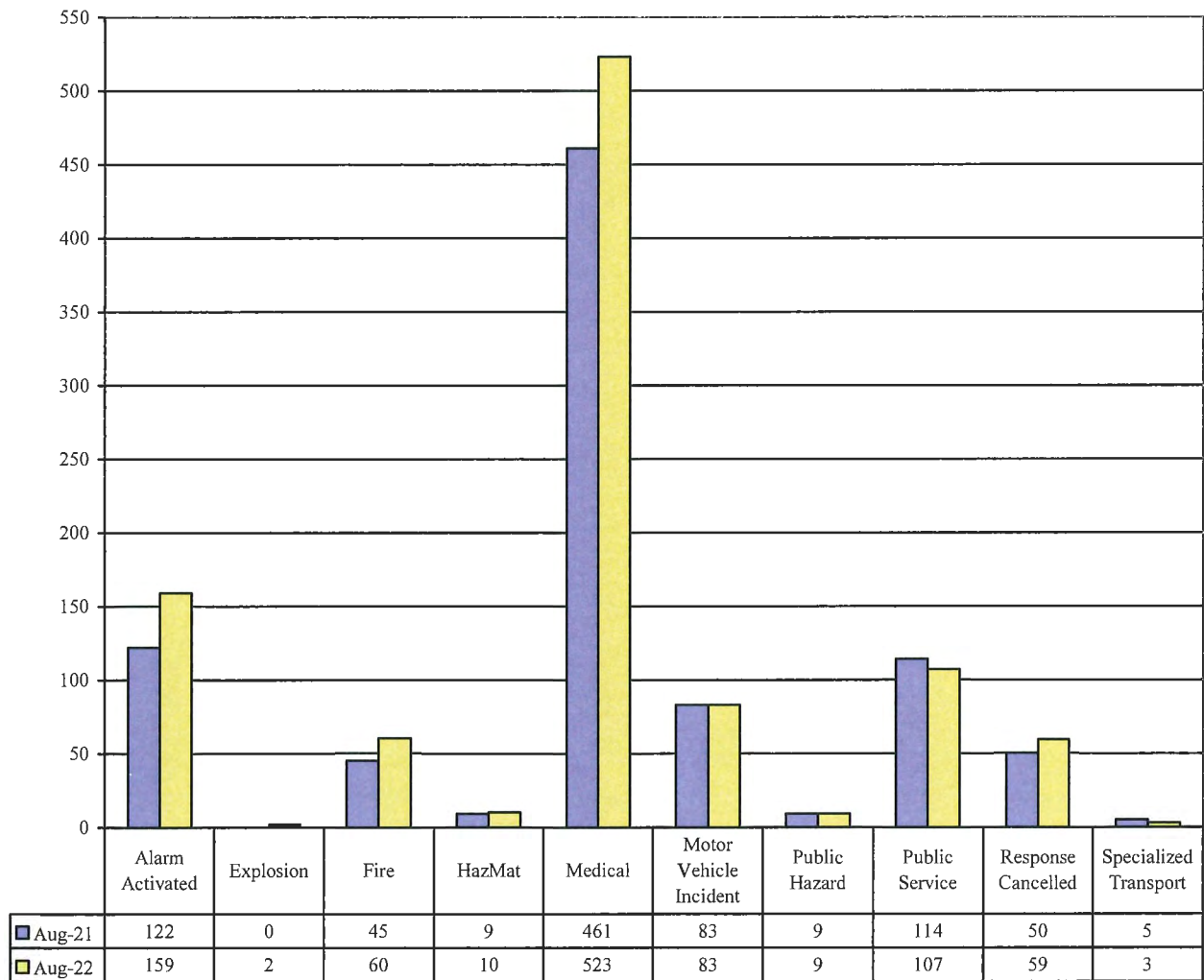
Jim Wishlove
Fire Chief
(604-303-2715)

Att. 1: Suppression Activity, including location of August's Fire, Medical and MVIs

Incident Volumes

The following chart provides a month-to-month comparison regarding incidents occurring in August 2022 and 2021. In August 2022, there were a total of 1,015 incidents, compared to 898 in August 2021. This represents an overall increase of 13 per cent. RFR continues 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: August 2021 & August 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 52 per cent of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of August 2022. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for August 2021 and 2022 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 523 medical incidents in August 2022 compared to 461 in August 2021, an increase of 13 per cent. RFR continues 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: August 2021 & August 2022 Medical Calls by Type

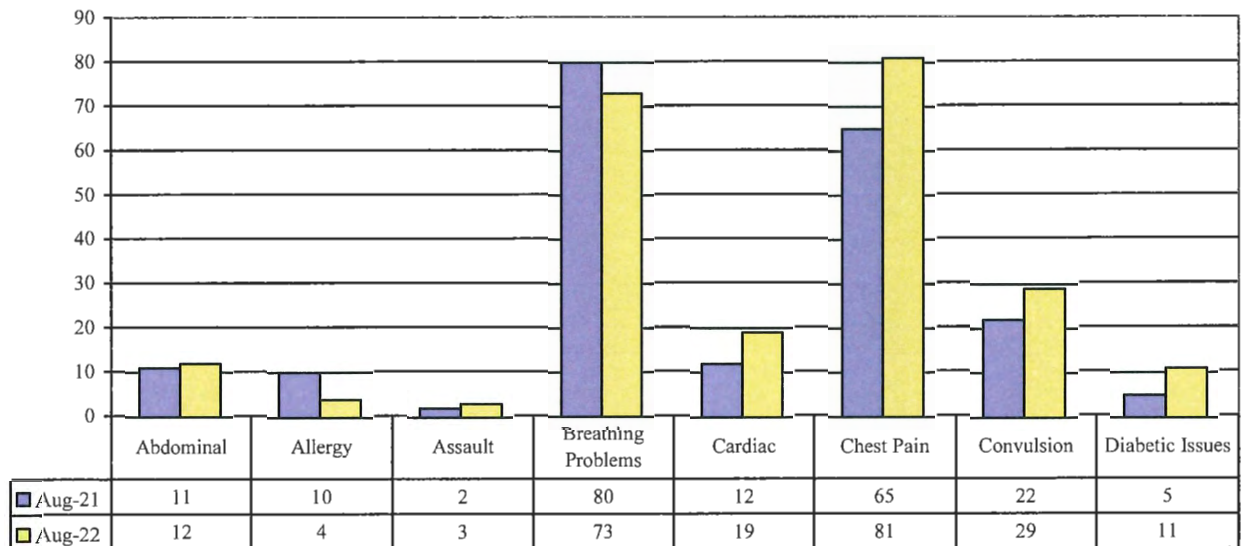
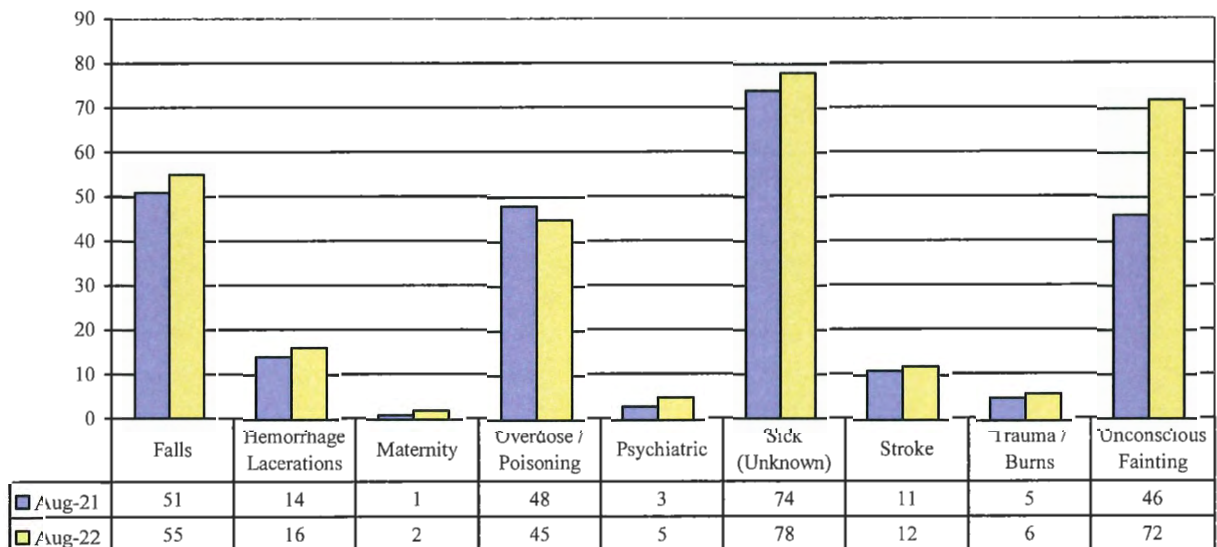


Table 4b: August 2021 & August 2022 Medical Calls by Type



Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for August 2022 are listed below:

Table 5: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – August 2022			
	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	-	2	-
Residential - Multi-family	-	2	1
Commercial/Industrial	3	7	-
Outdoor	4	32	5
Vehicle	2	1	1
Totals	9	44	7

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 – August 2022	
	Details
Corrosive	1
Flammable / Combustible Liquids	1
Natural Gas / Vapour / Propane Leaks (small)	6
Toxix/Infectious Substances	1
Unclassified	1
Totals	10

Figure 1: Location of reportable fires attended in August 2022 (total 60)

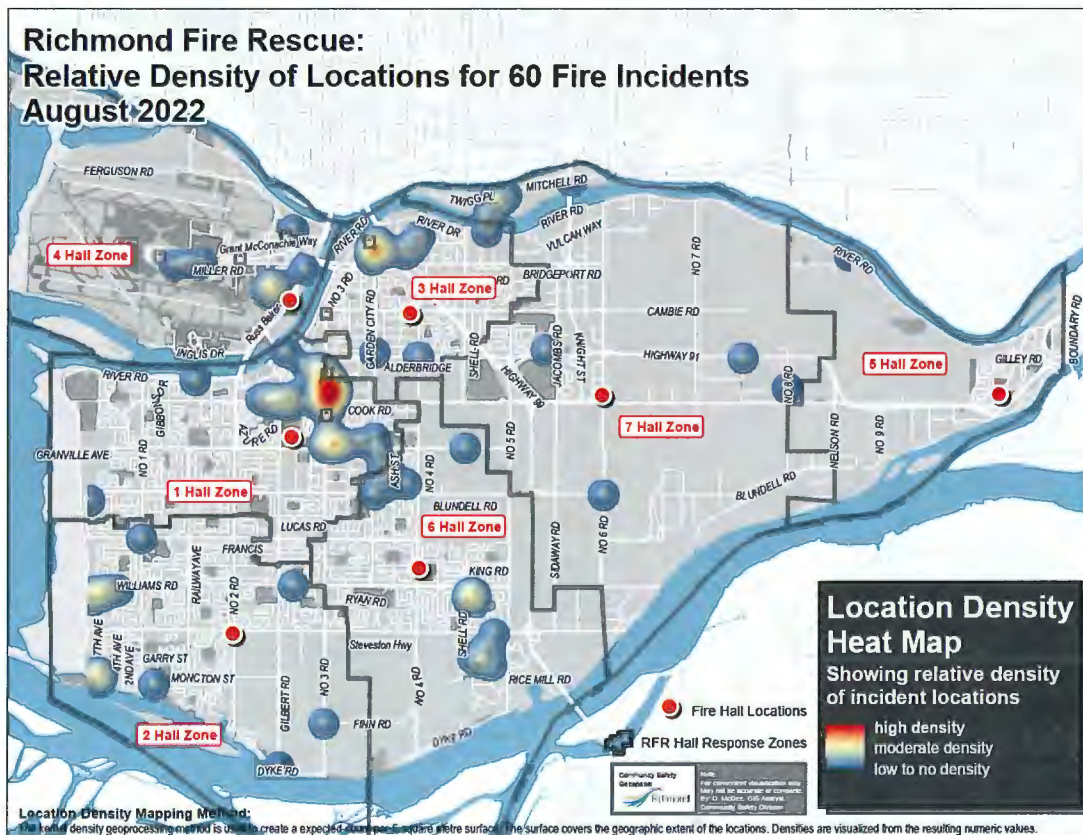
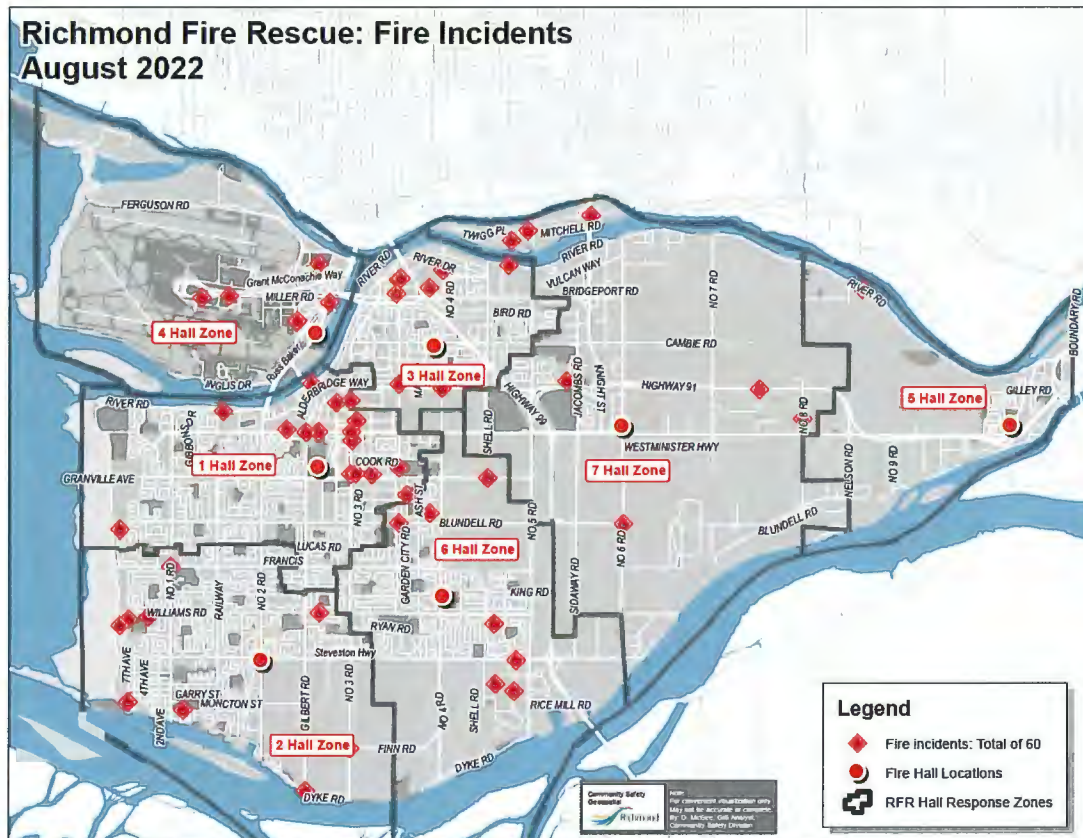


Figure 2: Location of Medical Incidents in August 2022 (total 523)

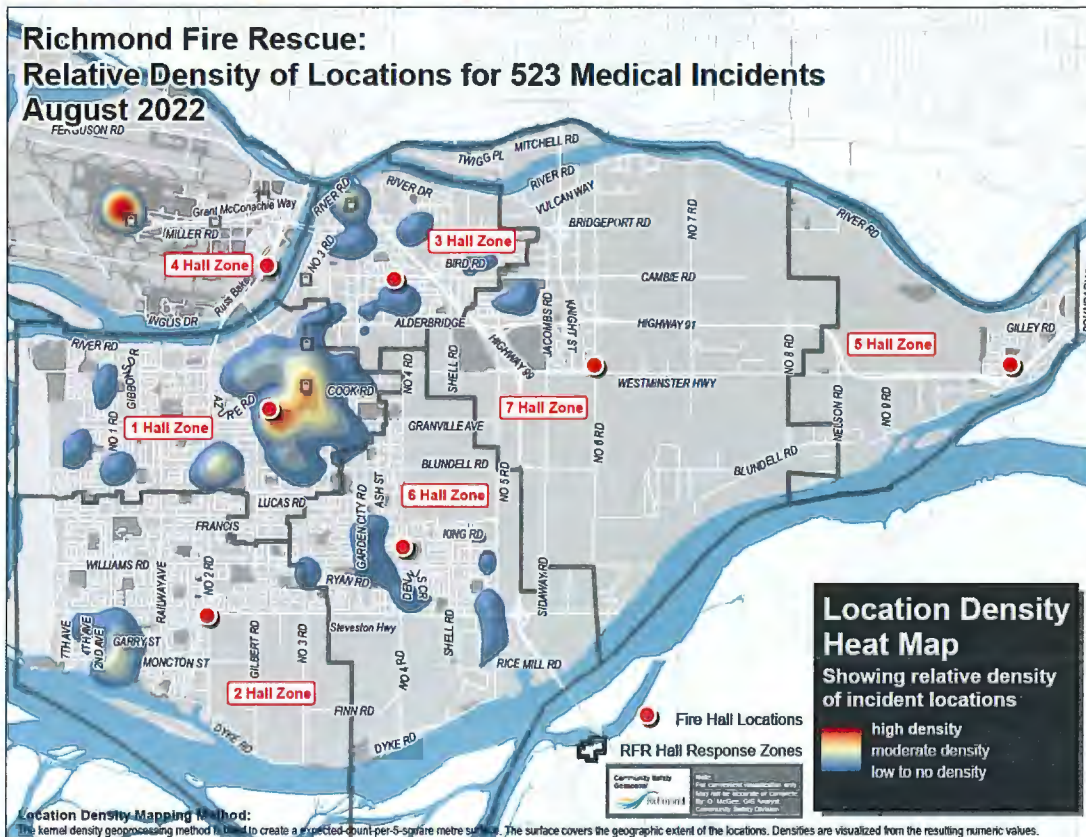
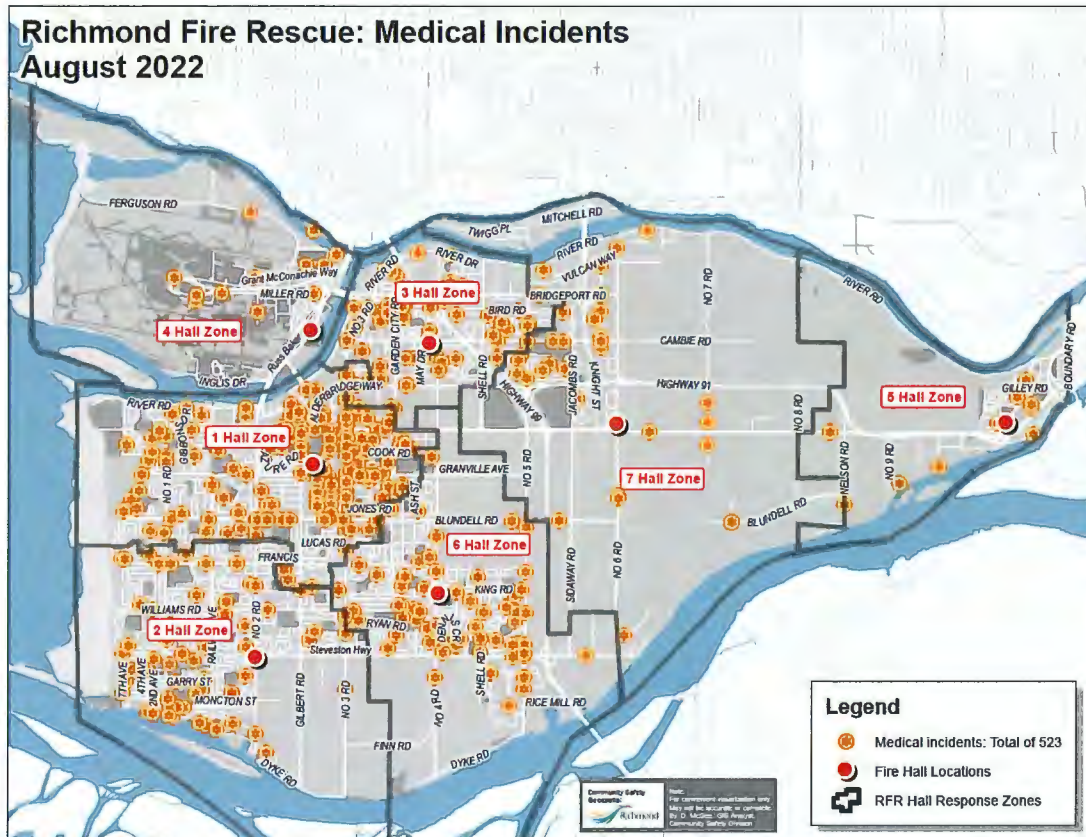


Figure 3: Location of MVI Incidents in August 2022 (total 83)

