



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee

Date: December 14, 2018

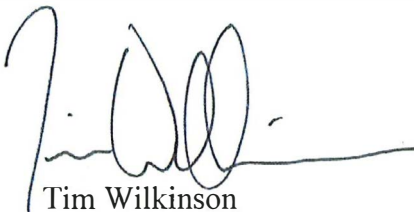
From: Tim Wilkinson
Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue

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

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



Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – November 2018”, dated December 14, 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: CJ
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.

During November staff engaged with approximately 197 children and adults, continuing to develop effective interagency relationships and partnerships within the community.

Events included:

- Safety presentations with Industrial Training Authority, ABB Enterprise Software, Richmond Kinsmen Adult Day Centre and Kwantlen Polytechnic University.
- Fire Hall tours with the 13th Richmond Scout/Cub Group, Brighthouse Elementary School and Richmond Brownies.
- An outreach presentation for grade 11/12 students, in partnership with the RCMP, for students interested in a career as first responder.

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 2018 there were a total 752 incidents, representing a 16 per cent reduction in calls from November 2017 (Attachment 1).

The average time on scene for RFR crews was 26 minutes, the same as 2017. The continued reduction of on scene time is directly attributed to the reduction in low acuity medical responses. In the past RFR would be deployed on low acuity medical events and due to the nature of the event BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) attributed a low priority to responding to the event thus leaving RFR to manage the scene for periods of time up to two hours in duration. More recently, BCEHS adopted a new Clinical Response Model which does not identify RFR as a needed resource on this type of medical event thus reducing the overall on scene time. The reduction in overall calls is due to the reclassification of medical calls by BCEHS for their triaging and deploying resources of BC Ambulance Services.

In November 2018 there were 26 reportable fires to the Office of the Fire Commissioner; representing a 62 per cent increase from November 2017. The average figure for fires reported in November, over the last five years, is 25, thus reportable fires in the month of November remains consistent with year over year trends.

RFR's emergency fire response goal is to maintain fire to the room of origin. The room of origin standard is especially important in terms of fire loss increases some ten-fold once the fire leaves the room of origin. Fire damage and property losses during November 2018 are estimated at \$48,200. This total includes \$41,480 for building/asset loss and \$6,720 for content loss. The total building/asset and content value at risk was estimated to be \$7,289,180 and the total value preserved from damage was \$7,240,980. These numbers translate to 99 per cent of value protected (Table 1); this is the same as the 99 per cent protected value observed in 2017.

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	2	170,000	30,000	20,000	5,000	155,000
Multi family	8	7,000,000	-	2,400	1,420	7,000,980
Commercial / Industrial	7	-	-	-	-	-
Outdoor	7	1,480	1,480	-	-	-
Vehicle/Vessel	4	95,000	10,000	300	300	85,000
Totals*	28	7,266,480	41,480	22,700	6,720	7,240,980

*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 loss and limited fires to the place of origin in these notable November 2018 incidents:

- Structure fire on Garry Street. RFR crews responded and were directed to an interior fire in the gymnasium of a school. First-in crew members attacked and extinguished the fire immediately. Damage was located to the area of origin and positive pressure ventilation was placed in the gymnasium to assist with ventilation in the hallways. There were no injuries reported. A RFR Fire investigator attended.
- Residential fire on Bridgeport Road. Once on scene RFR crews saw lots of smoke and proceeded to locate the fire using a Thermal Imaging camera. Once located, crews made a quick attack and extinguished the fire quickly. Positive pressure ventilation was set up while salvage operations took place. No injuries were reported. Due to the suspicious nature of the fire, RCMP were on scene. A RFR Fire Investigator attended.

December 14, 2018

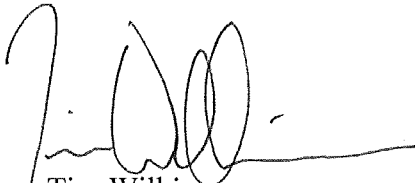
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Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

During November 2018, calls for service decreased by 16 per cent from November 2017. RFR will continue to monitor these activities to identify trends and ensure potential solutions.



Tim Wilkinson
Fire Chief
(604-303-2701)

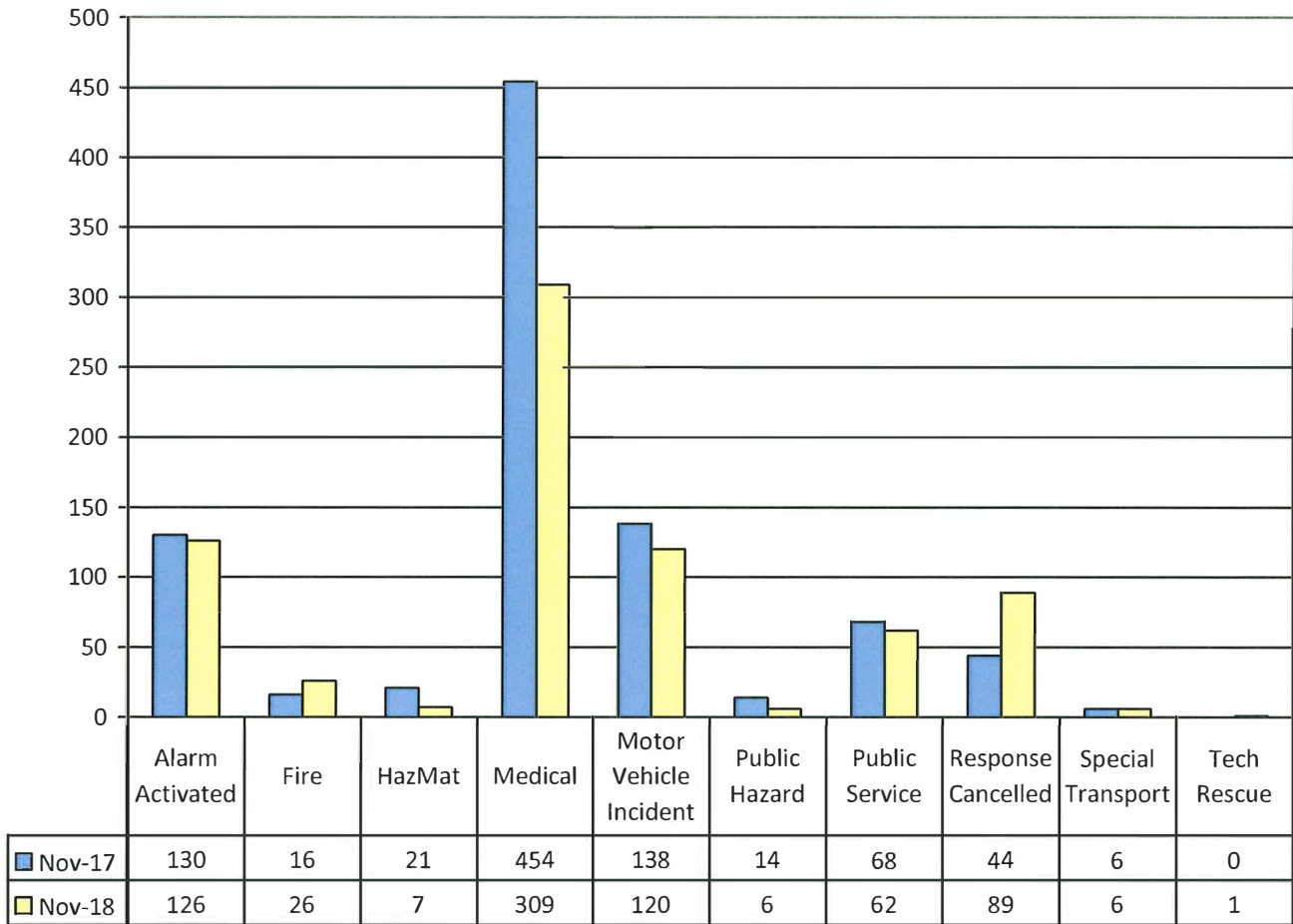
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- Att. 1: Suppression Activity
2: Location of November's Fire, Medical and MVIs

Calls for Service Volumes

The following chart provides a month to month comparison regarding incidents occurring in November 2017 and 2018. In November 2018, there were a total of 752 incidents, compared to 891 in November 2017. This represents a decrease of 16 per cent.

Table 3: November 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 41 per cent of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of November 2018. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for November 2018 and 2017 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 309 medical incidents in November 2018 compared to 454 in November 2017, a decrease of 32 per cent.

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

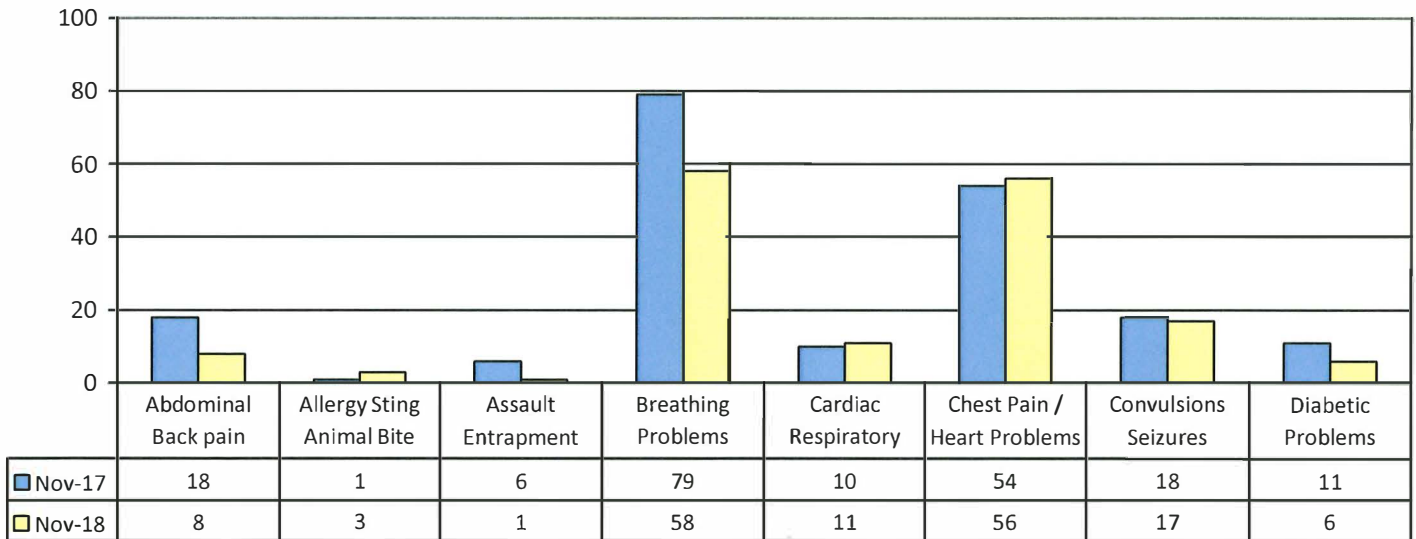
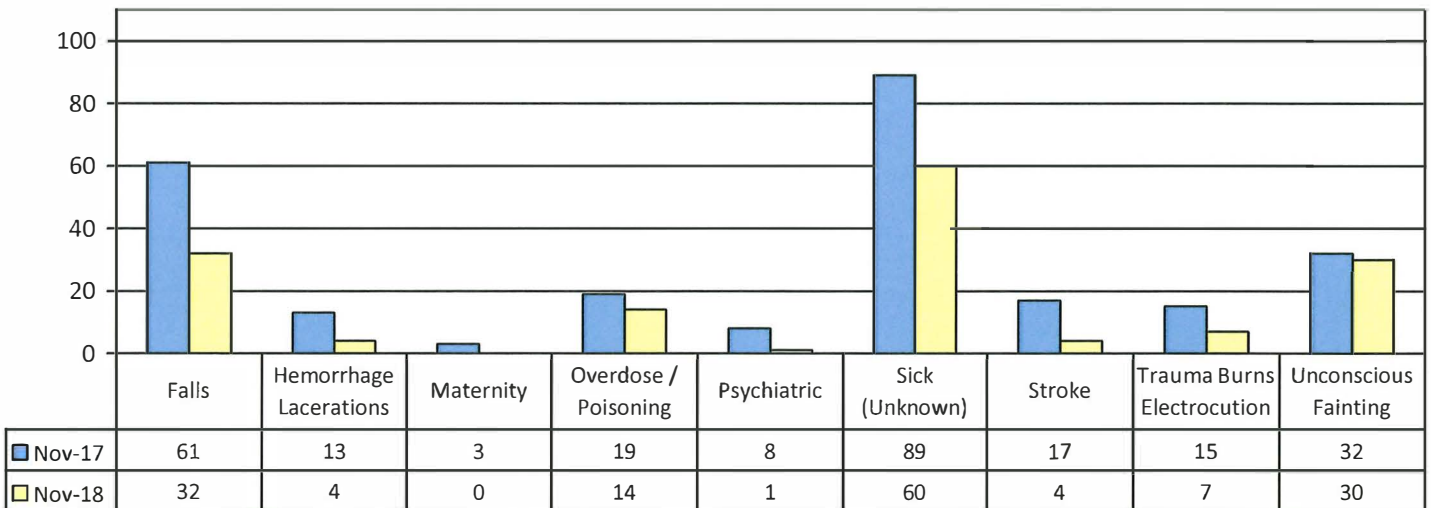


Table 4b: November 2017 & 2018 Medical Calls by Type



Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for November 2018 are listed below:

Table 5: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – November			
	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	-	1	1
Residential - Multi-family	-	5	2
Commercial/Industrial	2	2	3
Outdoor	2	2	2
Vehicle	2	-	2
Totals	6	10	10

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 – November	
	Details
Flammable / combustible Liquids	1
Natural Gas / Propane Leaks (small)	4
Unclassified	2
Totals	7

Figure 1: Location of reportable fires attended in November (total 26)



Figure 2: Location of medical calls in November (total 309)

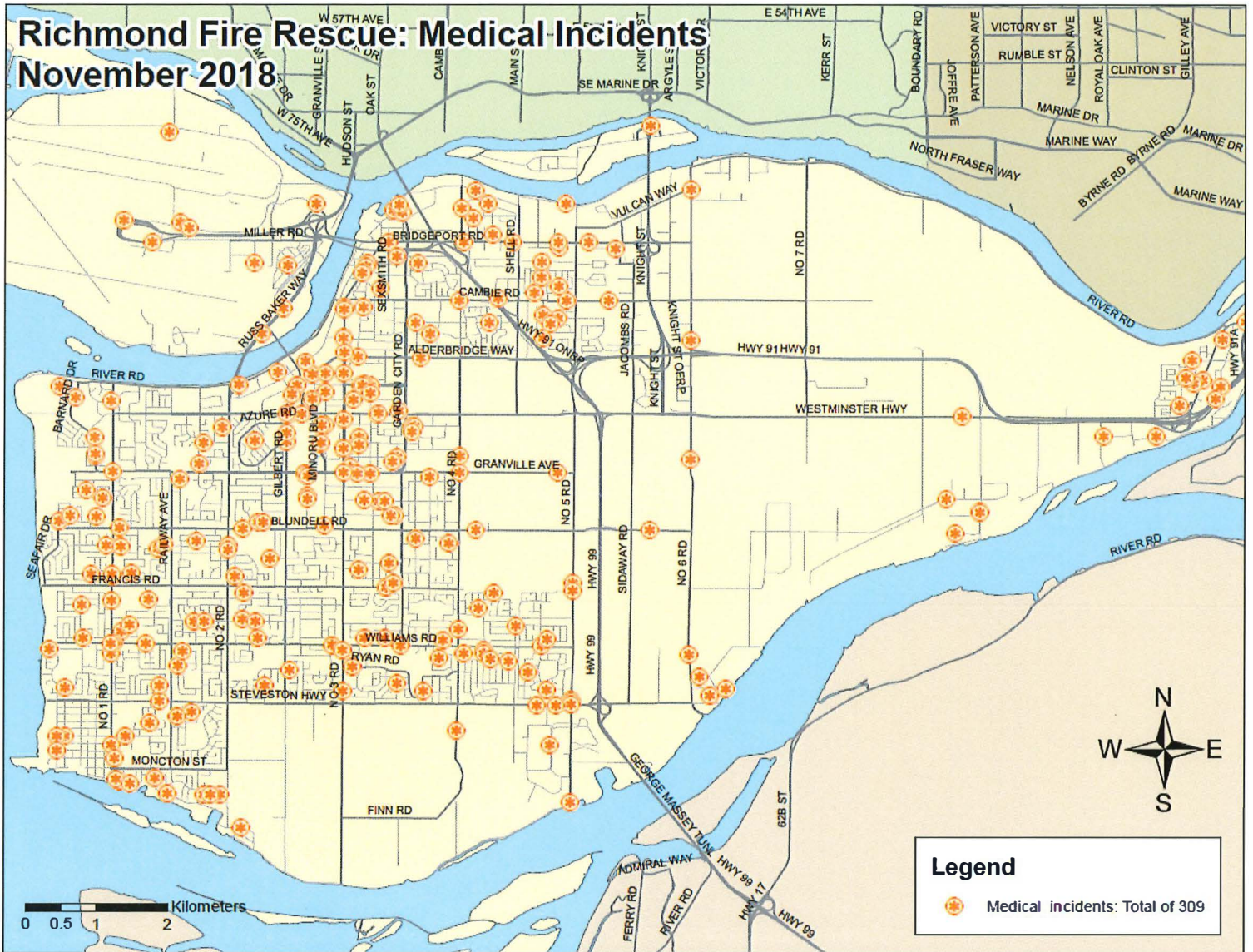


Figure 3: Location of MVI calls in November (total 120)

