



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** February 16, 2015
From: John McGowan **File:** 09-5000-01/2015-Vol
 Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue 01
Re: **Richmond Fire-Rescue – January 2015 Activity Report**

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled, “Richmond Fire-Rescue – January 2015 Activity Report”, dated February 16, 2015, from the Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue be received for information.

John McGowan
 Fire Chief
 (604-303-2734)

Att. 2

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

Staff Report

Origin

This report provides Council with an update on Richmond Fire-Rescue (RFR) activities. Through the delivery of its programs and services, RFR continues to work towards the City's vision of being the most appealing, livable, and well-managed community in Canada. 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 Term Goal #1 Community Safety:

To ensure Richmond remains a safe and desirable community to live, work and play in, through the delivery of effective public safety services that are targeted to the City's specific needs and priorities.

Analysis

Community Involvement

Safety messages for January included a focus on safe winter driving including: "*Be prepared for snow storms*" and "*what's your golden rule when it comes to driving in the winter*". Facebook posts and firehall sign messages were used to remind the public of key safety points.

RFR participates in events and activities to advance public education and community bridge building. During January 2015 the following took place:

- Safety presentations were provided to *Richmond Public Health Group*. There were a total of 12 participants in attendance.
- Hall tour was provided to the *9th Richmond Scouts Group* consisting of 3 adults and 12 children.
- Community events attended during January included the *Annual Local Firefighters Union Tree Chipping Event*. Over 500 children and adults attended these events where crews engaged with the community groups, provided fire safety and public relations information.

Training

RFR Training is working towards ensuring that all crew members have completed their HazMat Awareness and Operations training. The course is scheduled for early February 2015.

Emergency Response

Our goal is to respond to all calls quickly and minimize loss of life and property.

There were 19 fires in January 2015. Fire losses during the month are estimated at \$324,550. This total includes \$222,050 for building loss and \$102,500 for content loss. The total building and content value at risk was estimated to be \$108,901,000, and the total value preserved was \$108,576,450. These numbers translate to 99.7% of value protected (Figure 1).

Incident Type Breakdown	Call Volume	Estimated Building Value (\$)	Estimated Building Loss (\$)	Estimated Content Value (\$)	Estimated Content Loss (\$)	Estimated Total Value Preserved (\$)
Residential: Single family	2	2,700,000	-	8000,000	500	3,499,500
Multi family	4	59,311,000	20,000	17,840,000	2,000	77,129,000
Commercial / Industrial	5	22,600,000	202,050	5,100,000	100,000	27,397,950
Fire – Outdoor	8	500,000	-	50,000	-	550,000
Vehicle	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals*	19	85,111,000	222,050	23,790,000	102,500	108,576,450

*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 the fire to the place of origin in notable January incidents:

1. Crews responded to reports of a vehicle fire at the Delta side of the George Massey Tunnel. RFR crews proceeded through the tunnel to provide fire attack and water support for a Vancouver unit who had run out of their existing water. RFR crews provided support to confine and extinguished the fire.
2. Crews responded to a fire call in a recycling business on Knox Way. Responding crews initiated an offensive attack on the fire and all the burning products were brought outside and soaked down. The building owner and workers were very helpful in pointing out the hazards of the building and assisting with machinery. Crews completely extinguished the fire which had caused significant damage to the conveyor system. The cause of the fire is under investigation.
3. Crews responded to a structure fire on No 3 Road. Heavy fog made conditions difficult to see for responding crews. Fire crews took command of the site and immediately initiated a 360 review of the building. Flames and heavy black smoke were observed coming from the middle of the two buildings and from within one of the structures. Crews then proceeded to attack the fire and extinguished it. As this was a potential arson fire the RCMP and a RFR Fire investigator were also called to attend the scene.

4. Crews responded to a report of a neon sign on fire on No 3 Road. The fluorescent light was found to be arcing and showing minor flame damage on its fascia. On inspection crews found the cedar facade was smoldering and the wires appeared to be smoking. RFR crews extinguished with a dry chemical extinguisher and disconnect power at a junction box. The property manager was notified.
5. During January crews attended multiple kitchen related fires including: a pot on stove fire on No 3 Road and a kitchen stove fire on Keefer Road. All fires were quickly mitigated and at locations where a smoke was present, crews provided ventilation to the areas.
6. Crews responded to a possible Hazmat call at a commercial business on Mitchell Road. An old fuel storage tank inside a truck box was crushed but still contained fluid. The HazMat team wearing Personal Protective Equipment investigated the product and found it was diluted fuel. The amount was approximately 1 gallon. The incident was turned over to the RCMP for investigation.
7. RFR HazMat crews provided assistance to the RCMP for the decontamination of a clandestine drug laboratory located at a residence on Triangle Road.

RFR crews responded to multiple medical and rescue incident calls, including:

1. A self-inflicted stab wounds to the stomach located at Moncton Street. Crews assisted BCAS with patient care transport to the awaiting ambulance.
2. A cardiac patient, located at a loading dock on Portside Road, was provided CPR and an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) was used to resuscitate the patient. BCAS arrived on scene and took over patient care. The patient was then transported to the ambulance and on to hospital for further care.

Analysis of events shows an increase in medical incidents of just under 11%. The increase in overall call volumes is mainly attributable to medical and motor vehicle incidents. Call volumes fluctuate from year to year and can be driven by many different variables. The increase in medical events was primarily in the breathing problems and cardiac related incident types. Analysis of these incidents did not provide any one specific reason for this increase.

A summary of 9-1-1 emergency response statistics is found in Attachment 1, Tables 1, 2, 3 and 4. The location of fire, medical and motor vehicle incident calls in January are depicted in Attachment 2, Figures 1, 2 and 3.

Financial Impact

None

Conclusion

Our service delivery model is prevention focused and based on the belief that prevention, education and emergency response activities must be well established and integrated to have a positive impact on community safety. We believe “safety is everyone’s responsibility and it is always better to prevent a situation from occurring”.



John McGowan
Fire Chief
(604-303-2734)

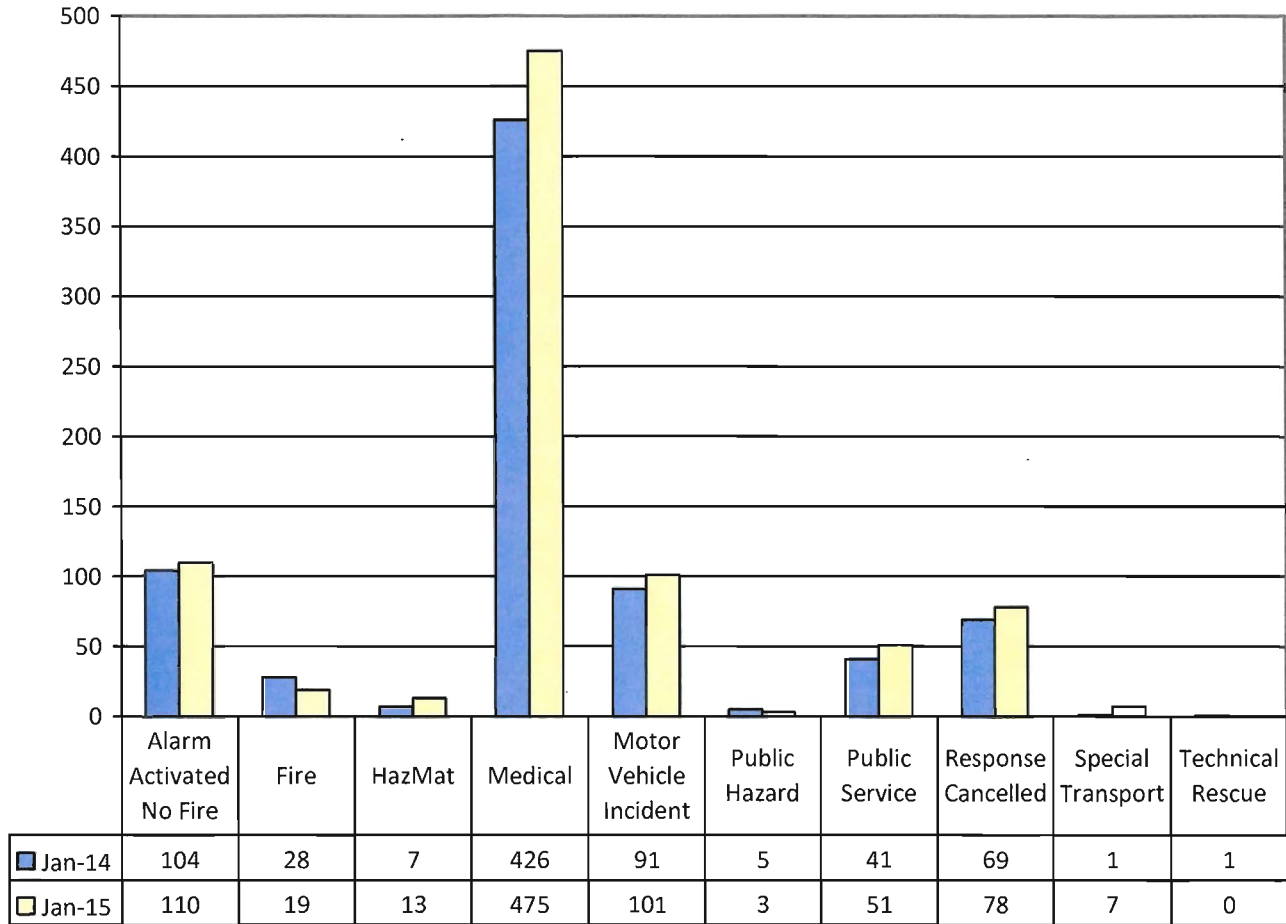
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Att. 1: Suppression Activity
Att. 2: Location of January’s Fire, Medical and MVI calls

Suppression Activity

The following chart provides a month to month comparison regarding incidents occurring in January 2014 and 2015. In January 2015, there were a total of 857 incidents, compared to 773 in January 2014. This represents an increase of 10%.

Table 1: January 2014 & 2015 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 55% of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of January. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for January 2014 and 2015 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 475 medical incidents in January 2015 compared to 426 in January 2014 an increase of 11%.

Table 2a: January 2014 & 2015 Medical Calls by Type

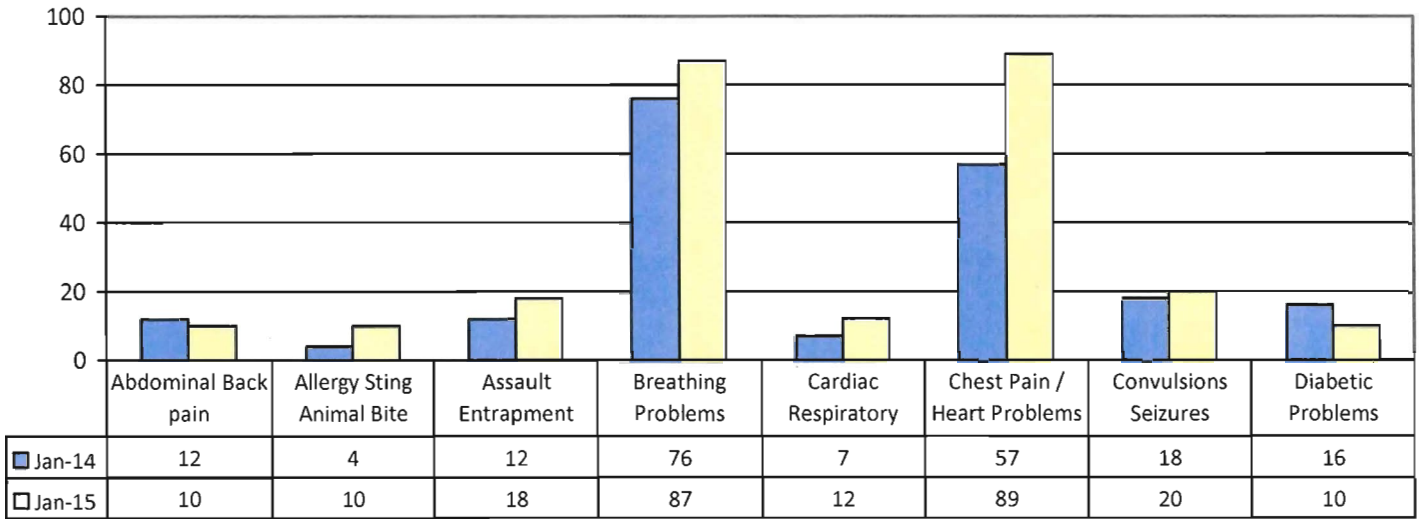
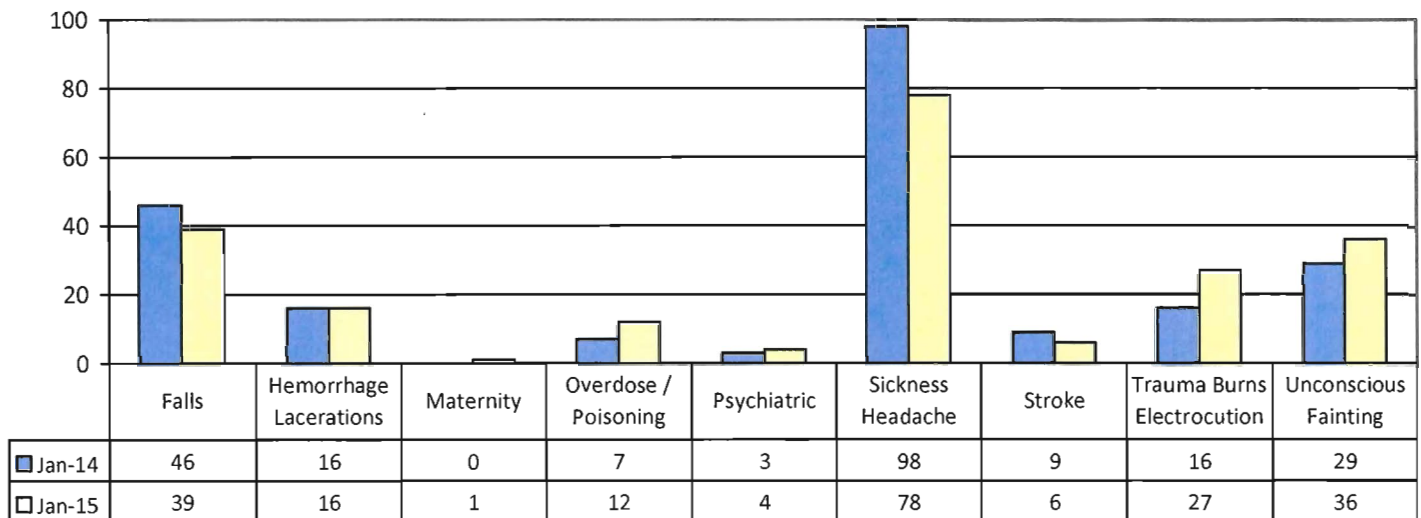


Table 2b: January 2014 & 2015 Medical Calls by Type



Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for January 2015 are listed below:

	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	-	4	-
Residential - Multi-family	-	2	-
Commercial/Industrial	1	3	1
Fire – Outdoor	-	2	6
Vehicle	-	-	-
Totals	1	11	7

All suspicious fires are reported to the RCMP, and Richmond Fire-Rescue Investigators work in conjunction with staff at the RCMP to address any risks to the community.

HazMat

	Details
Flammable / combustible Liquids	2
Natural Gas / Propane Leaks (small)	10
Standby / Support for other Agency	1
Totals	13

Figure 1: Location of fires in January (total 19)

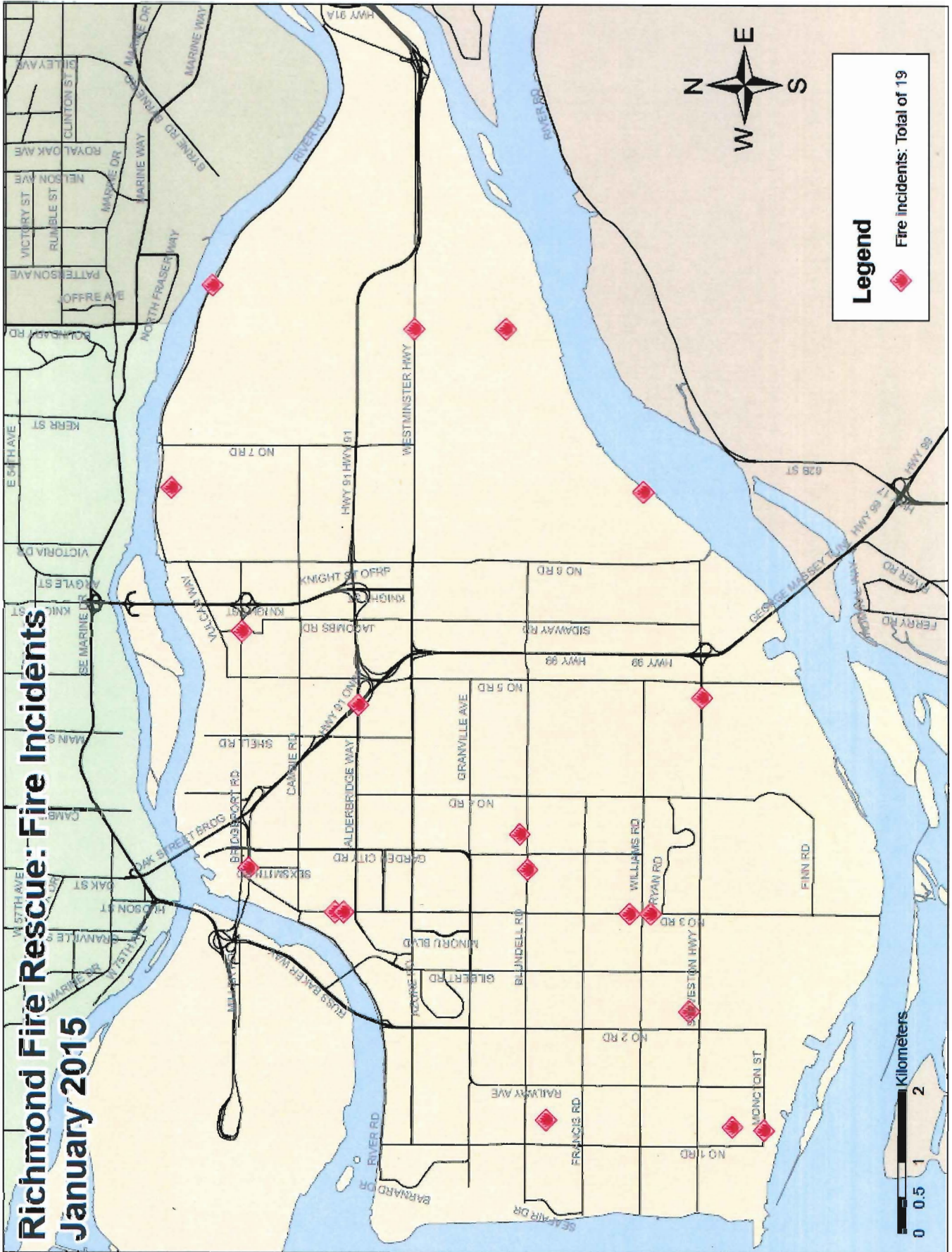


Figure 2: Location of medical calls in January (total 475)

