



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee

Date: November 16, 2022

From: Jim Wishlove
Fire Chief

File: 09-5140-01/2022-Vol
01




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

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – October 2022”, dated November 16, 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

The Great BC Shakeout

During October staff managed an educational booth at the Brighthouse Library from 11am to 3pm offering information about earthquakes and emergency preparedness. Also, as part of the Inclusive Resilience project with Canadian Red Cross, there was a raffle for emergency kits to members of the public who attended. Staff also conducted a test of the Richmond BC Alert emergency notification system.

External After Actions Report Heat and Air Quality Events 2022

To solicit feedback to inform any plan modifications, staff developed a Let's Talk Richmond survey to receive feedback from the public on the City's response to this year's heat and air quality events. Staff also hosted a virtual feedback session with Richmond community organizations including Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives and Turning Point Recovery Society.

Emergency Preparedness Workshops

Staff hosted a series of five, one-hour virtual workshops on Tuesday, October 25 and Thursday, October 27 for SUCCESS's adult newcomers and English language classes. A total of 236 students participated in the five workshops. Presentations covered the steps to emergency preparedness with a focus on earthquakes.

Staff Training and Public Education

During October 2022, staff delivered in-house fire-training, educational activities and programs including: the Officer Development Program in Emergency Scene Management, VIERA Frontline Leadership Level 1 to RFR's cohort of junior officers, ARETE Violence Prevention and ongoing recruit firefighter performance evaluations.

During October 2022, staff facilitated events to provide educational opportunities including: a strata Fire and Life Safety presentation, and vocation skills Fire Hall tour with Burnett Secondary School.

Emergency Response

One of Richmond's emergency response goals for fire is to respond to incidents in a manner where loss of life, reduction of property damage and protection of the environment is mitigated. In October 2022, there were a total of 956 reported incidents of all types, representing a 13 per cent increase in incidents from October 2021 (Attachment 1).

The average time on scene in October 2022 for emergency response crews was 34 minutes; which is higher than the number recorded in 2021, which was 30. The time spent on scene can vary due to the nature and severity of each incident.

Table 1: Total Incidents - October 2022				
	Totals (2022)	Percentage Change from October 2021	Number Change from October 2021 to 2022	5 Year Average for October
Alarm Active No Fire	153	-8	-13	149
Explosion	0	-	-	-
Fire	49	+48	+36	36
Haz-Mat	3	-40	-2	9
Medical	495	+29	+112	373
MVI	89	-2	-2	87
Public Hazard	11	+57	+4	12
Public Service	74	-27	-27	73
Response Cancelled/Unfounded	76	+41	+22	62
Specialized Transport	4	-	-	4
Tech Rescue	2	+100	+1	1
Totals	956	+13	+111	806

In October 2022, there were 49 fire incidents reported to the Office of the Fire Commissioner, representing a 48 per cent increase from October 2021. The average number of fires reported each October over the last five years is 36.

Richmond's emergency response goal for fire 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 October 2022 are estimated at \$335,750. This total includes \$325,750 for building/asset loss and \$10,000 for content loss. The total building/asset and content value at risk was estimated to be \$12,523,100 and the total value preserved from damage was \$12,187,350. These numbers translate to 97 per cent of value protected (Table 2); this value is the same as the value observed in 2021; 98 per cent.

Table 2: Fire Incidents By Type and Loss Estimates - October 2022						
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	4	330,000	87,750	-	-	242,250
Multi family	3	253,000	-	-	-	253,000
Commercial/Industrial	1	-	-	-	-	-
Outdoor	36	11,011,100	115,000	10,000	10,000	10,896,100
Vehicle/Vessel	6	919,000	123,000	-	-	796,000
Totals*	50	12,513,100	325,750	10,000	10,000	12,187,350

* 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

Emergency response crews minimized harm, limited fire spread from the place of origin and performed medical interventions in these notable October 2022 incidents:

- October 3, 2022 – Motorcycle accident on Russ Baker Way.** Crews responded to reports of a high-speed impact of a motorcycle and a private vehicle. On arrival crews found heavy debris covering four lanes of roadway. Crews proceeded to block off all traffic at Russ Baker Way and Inglis Drive heading southbound, securing the incident on the West side of the median. BC Emergency Health Services staff attended to the second patient on site. Due to the nature of the call, a Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) debriefing was initiated for all staff involved. There were no other injuries reported. Richmond RCMP attended the scene.
- October 8, 2022 – Wildland Fire on Williams Road.** Crews responded to a storage shed that was on fire and had extended to a large grassed field and some trees. Additional units, including wildland firefighting equipment, were deployed to assist. Crews worked quickly to extinguish the fire and prevent it from spreading any further. After the fire was fully extinguished crews continued soaking the wildland area with large volumes of water to ensure there were no further sparks or hot spots. Some crews remained on site to continue monitoring of the area. There were no injuries reported. A Fire Investigator attended.

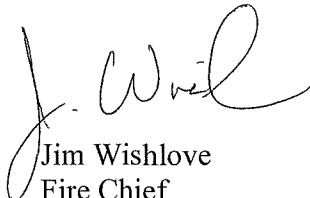
- **October 14, 2022 – Boat Fire on Dyke Road.** Crews responded to a report of smoke and flames in the proximity of Graybar Road and Dyke Road. On arrival, crews found there was light smoke but no fire. Upon closer investigation, this event was found to be an illegal burn in a controlled setting near a structure. Crews ensured that all fire was extinguished and that information from the Fire Protection and Life Safety Bylaw No. 8306, in regard to open burning within Richmond, was provided to the individuals. There were no injuries reported and no damage to any structures involved in the event.
- **October 26, 2022 – Residential Fire on Chapmond Crescent.** Crews responded to a fire in a residential home. On arrival, crews located the fire inside the property and began attacking the fire and searching for any occupants. Crews quickly extinguished the fire and continued to search for and manage any hot spots. Both the electrical and gas to the house were disconnected by BC Hydro and FortisBC. Due to the presence of a number of interior suites and electrical modifications in the property, both a Fire Investigator and a City Building Inspector were called to attend. There were no reports of injuries to occupants or staff. A security firm was requested to secure the residence overnight.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

Richmond Fire-Rescue continues to monitor activities to identify and create programs to respond to emerging trends.



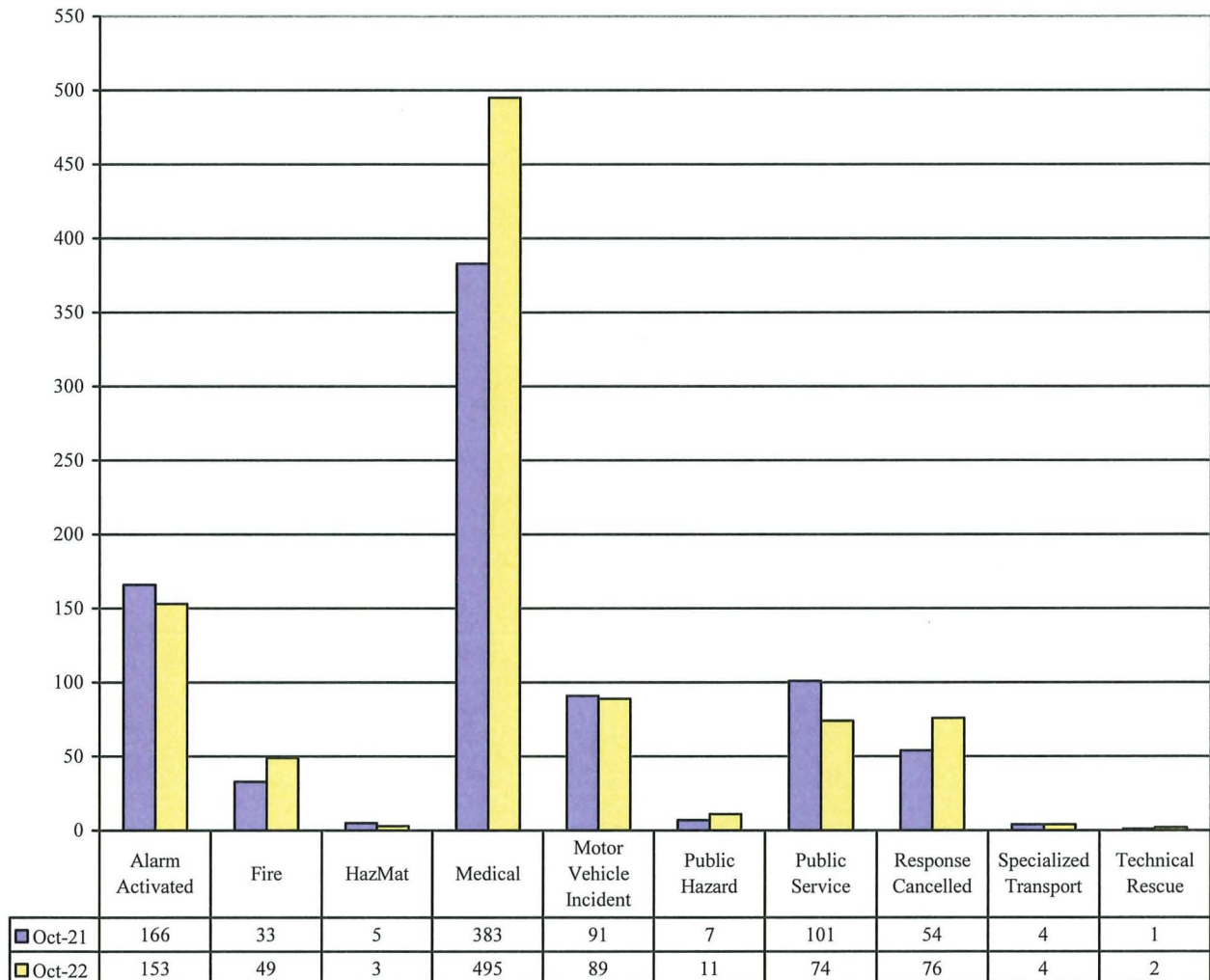
Jim Wishlove
Fire Chief
(604-303-2715)

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

Incident Volumes

The following chart provides a month-to-month comparison regarding incidents occurring in October 2022 and 2021. In October 2022, there were a total of 956 incidents, compared to 845 in October 2021. This represents an overall increase of 13 per cent.

Table 3: October 2021 & October 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 October 2022. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for October 2021 and 2022 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 495 medical incidents in October 2022 compared to 383 in October 2021, an increase of 29 per cent.

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

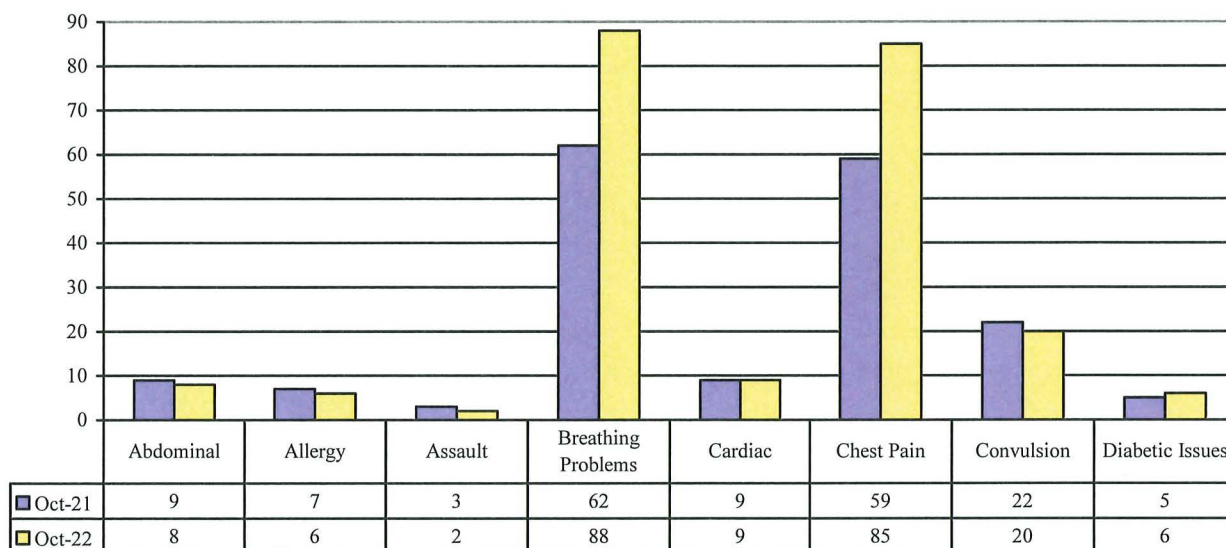
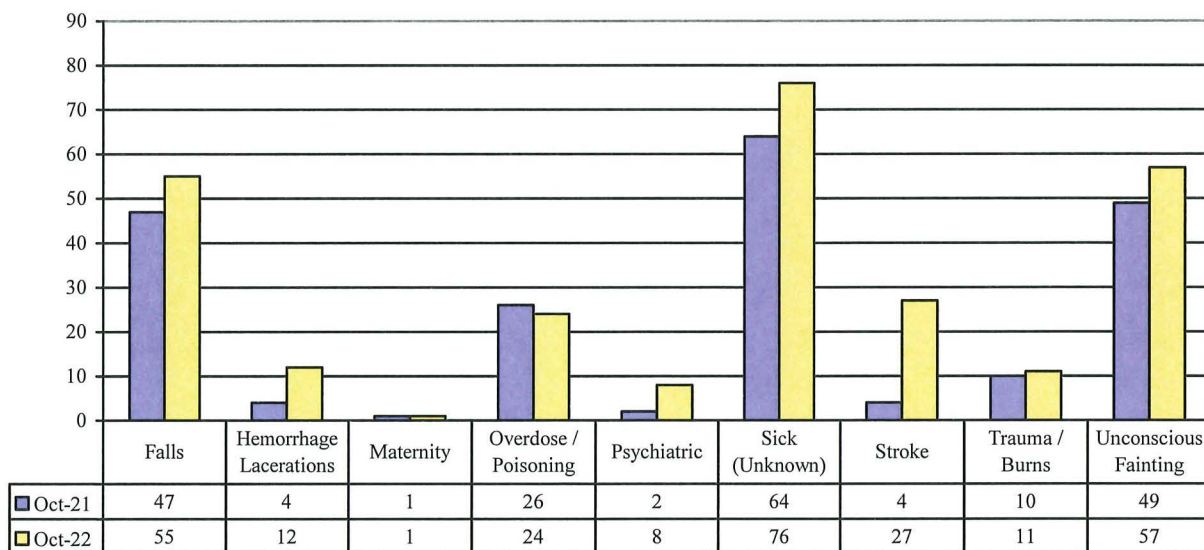


Table 4b: October 2021 & October 2022 Medical Calls by Type



Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for October 2022 are listed below:

Table 5: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – October 2022			
	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	2	2	0
Residential - Multi-family	0	2	1
Commercial/Industrial	0	1	0
Outdoor	8	23	4
Vehicle	1	2	3
Totals	11	30	8

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 – October 2022	
	Details
Flammable / Combustible Liquids	3
Totals	3

Figure 1: Location of reportable fires attended in October 2022 (total 49)

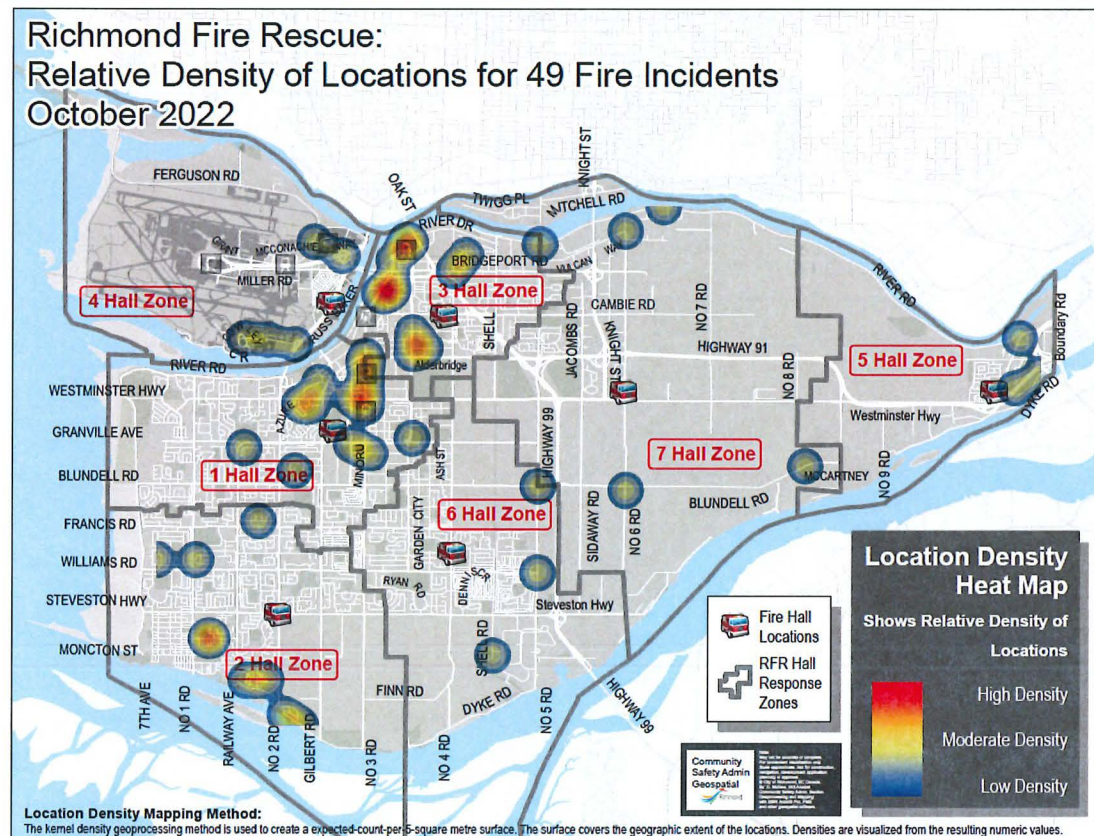
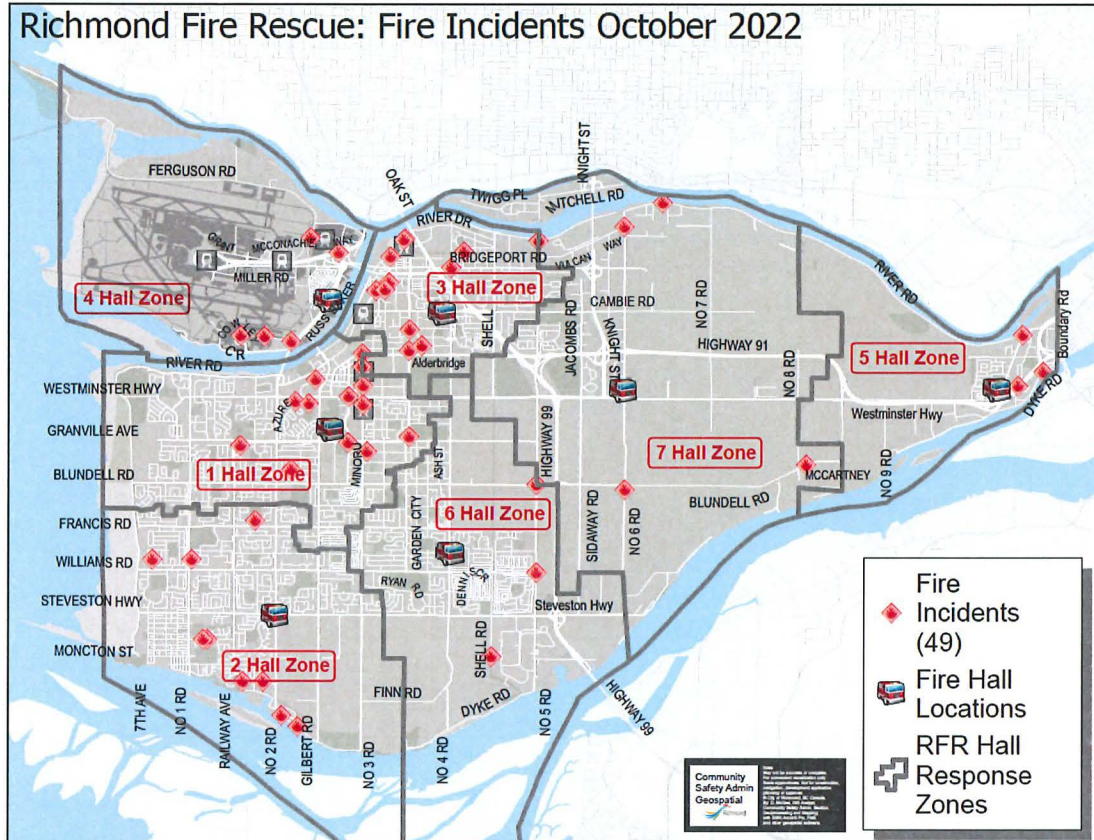


Figure 2: Location of Medical Incidents in October 2022 (total 495)

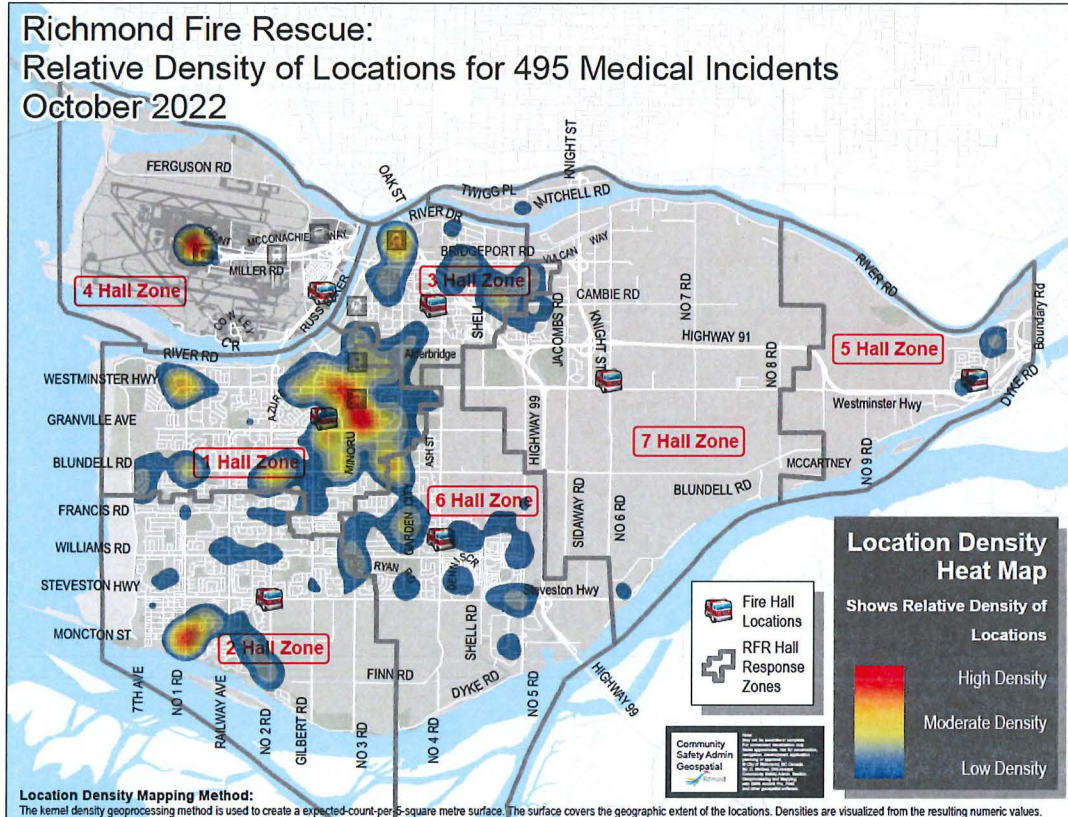
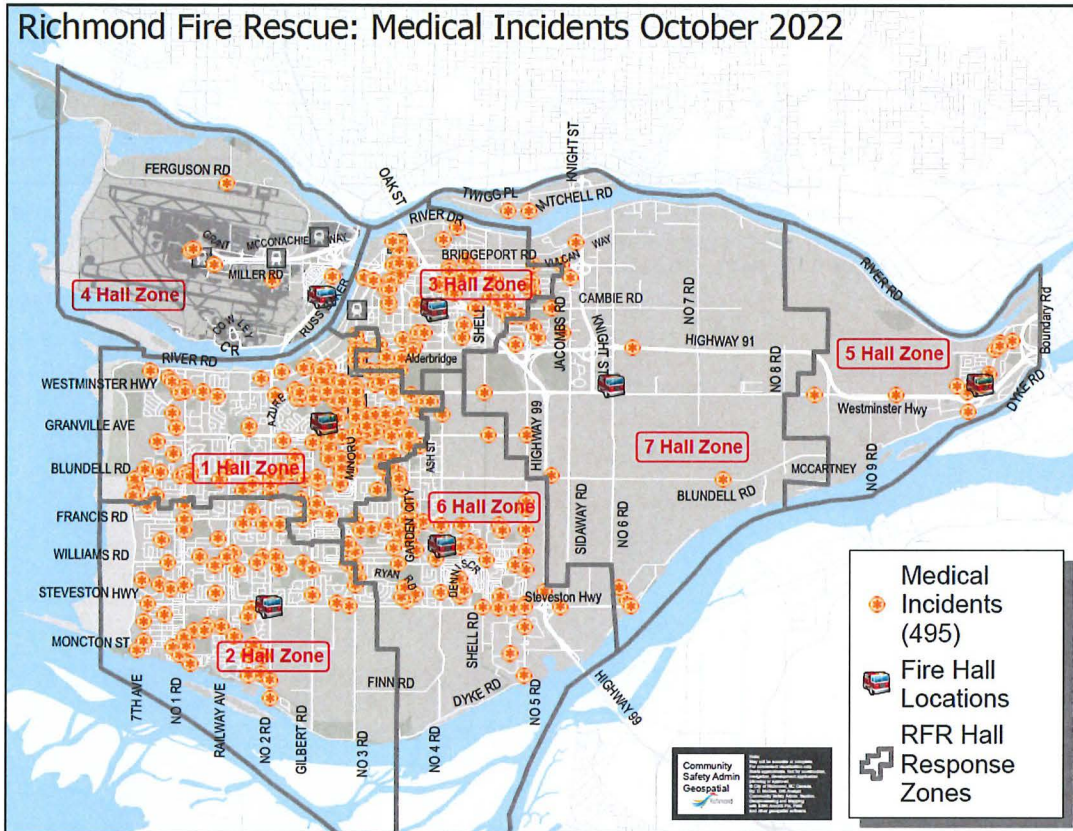
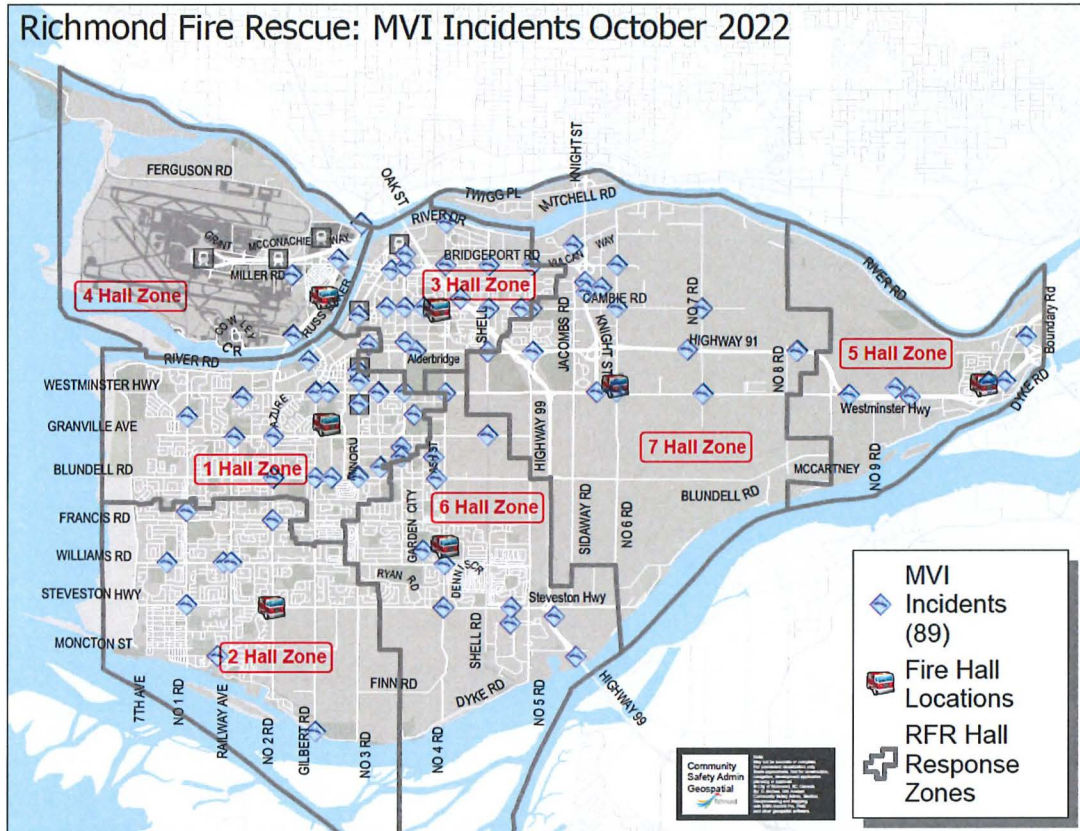


Figure 3: Location of MVI Incidents in October 2022 (total 89)



**Richmond Fire Rescue:
Relative Density of Locations for 89 MVI Incidents
October 2022**

