



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee

Date: December 6, 2021

From: Jim Wishlove
Acting Fire Chief

File: 99-Fire Rescue/2021-
Vol 01

Re: Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – November 2021

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – November 2021”, dated December 6, 2021, from the Acting Fire Chief, be received for information.

Jim Wishlove
Acting 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

During November, staff responded to a request for support from the City of Abbotsford for the atmospheric river and flooding. The request was to assist in an Emergency Operations Centre coordination and advisory role, in particular in the agriculture operations section and for recovery planning. During this deployment, staff maintained all capacities within the City and facilitated regular ongoing coordination of informational updates and coordination calls from the region with internal partners throughout the event.

Staff continue to collaborate with the Canadian Red Cross (CRC) on the National Inclusive Resiliency, three-year project. The first phase, consisting of communications and outreach, is underway and this includes conducting the project design, community engagement and baseline data collection.

The following table shows the Emergency Support Services (ESS) deployment for November.

Date	Address	Volunteers Deployed	# of Evacuees	Suppliers Used
November 26, 2021	No. 4 Road	Y	2 Adults, 1 child	Lodging (Accent Inn Vancouver Airport), Food/Clothing/Incidentals (The Real Canadian Superstore)
November 27, 2021	Rosewell Avenue	Y	7 Adults, 2 children	Lodging (Accent Inn Vancouver Airport), Food/Clothing/Incidentals (The Real Canadian Superstore)

Training and Public Education

During November 2021, Fire Training staff continued to facilitate the training for the 29 new firefighter recruits. Other training activities included Leadership training for future Officers.

Public events for the month of November included hosting the 29 probationary recruits who passed their 10 weeks of training. During this private event and following strict COVID-19 guidelines, the recruit's family and friends were invited to attend a ceremony at Brighthouse Fire Hall 1. The probationary recruits were presented with their first insignia from the Fire Chief and later performed firefighting demonstrations for their guests.

Emergency Response

Richmond Fire-Rescue staff continues to support incidents emanating from Health Orders issued by the Province to combat the COVID-19 pandemic as well as provide regular services to the community.

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 November 2021, there were a total of 912 incidents, representing a 57 per cent increase in incidences from November 2020 (Attachment 1).

Richmond Fire-Rescue is experiencing increases in medical responses due to changes in the Provincial Health Orders and Medical Health Officer's direction. The increase in November 2021 is a result of the gradual return to normal levels of service of medical event types and responses to medical calls for hot weather responses. RFR continues to monitor all activities to identify and create programs to respond to emerging trends.

The average time on scene for RFR crews was 34 minutes, which was the same as recorded in 2020. Time on scene can vary due to the nature and severity of each incident.

	Totals (2021)	Percentage Change from November 2020	Number Change from November 2020 to 2021	5 Year Average for November
Alarm Active No Fire	201	+88	+94	140
Explosion	0	-	-	0
Fire	41	+116	+22	27
Haz-Mat	4	+33	+1	9
Medical	418	+53	+144	361
MVI	88	+40	+25	107
Public Hazard	19	+111	+10	12
Public Service	93	+33	+23	71
Response Cancelled/Unfounded	44	+33	+11	53
Specialized Transport	4	+100	+2	5
Tech Rescue	0	-	-	0
Totals	912	+57	+323	785

In November 2021, there were 41 reportable fires to the Office of the Fire Commissioner, representing a 116 per cent increase from November 2020. The average figure for fires reported in November over the last five years is 27.

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

Fire damage and property losses during November 2021 are estimated at \$1,205,400. This total includes \$154,400 for building/asset loss and \$1,051,000 for content loss. The total building/asset and content value at risk was estimated to be \$9,848,600 and the total value preserved from damage was \$8,643,200. These numbers translate to 88 per cent of value protected (Table 2); this is lower than the value observed in 2020.

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	5	3,958,500	3,000	11,000	9,000	3,957,500
Multi family	6	2,827,500	1,400	55,000	2,000	2,879,100
Commercial/Industrial	7	1,800,600	10,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,790,600
Outdoor	20	1,000	-	-	-	1,000
Vehicle/Vessel	3	155,000	140,000	40,000	40,000	15,000
Totals*	41	8,742,600	154,400	1,106,000	1,051,000	8,643,200

* 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 November 2021 incidents:

- November 16, 2021 – Residential fire on Westminster Highway.** RFR crews responded to a single apartment fire on Westminster Highway. On arrival, crews had difficulty accessing the property due to obstructions, which also made the fire challenging to extinguish. The fire was eventually extinguished and crews proceeded to ventilate the apartment. The tenant of the suite had to be carried out of the apartment and RFR crews attended to them until BC Emergency Health Services staff arrived and transported them to the hospital. There were no other injuries reported. A Fire Investigator attended the scene.
- November 20, 2021 – Vehicle fire on Riverside Way.** RFR crews responded to a commercial vehicle fire involving a single five-ton truck parked outside of a storage facility on Riverside Way. Richmond RCMP were on the scene prior to RFR arrival. The driver had exited the vehicle and was found safe nearby. Crews used an elevated aerial platform to douse the large vehicle with water from above. Due to the amount of contaminants in the water run off and the amount of standing water at the scene, a hazardous material vacuum truck was called out to suction the water from the surrounding area. There were no injuries reported. A Fire Investigator attended the scene.

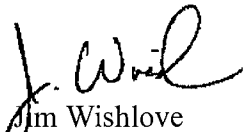
- **November 25, 2021 – Pot on Stove Fire on No. 4 Road.** RFR crews responded to reports of a kitchen fire. On arrival, RFR crews were told that some oil in a pan has caught on fire and that the resident had thrown it outside. There was no residual fire present but there was damage to the surrounding areas. Crews checked the damaged area and carried out an investigation for fire extension using a Thermal Imaging Camera. The resident suffered burns to their arms and face and BC Emergency Health Services were on scene to provide patient care. A Fire Investigator attended the scene to assist with the cause and origin investigation. The residents were provided accommodation through Red Cross Emergency Support Services process.
- **November 27, 2021 – Residential fire on Rosewell Avenue.** RFR emergency response crews were dispatched to a report of a house fire on Rosewell Avenue. Crews arriving on scene found a fire in the kitchen, which had extended into the ceiling and attic. Crews attacked the fire and were successful in extinguishing it. A number of RFR units remained on scene to assist with the recovery of important items and checking for any remaining hot spots. The residents were removed from the home and temporarily relocated to their neighbour's home. There were no injuries reported and the residents were accommodated through the Red Cross Emergency Support Services process. A Fire Investigator attended the scene to assist with the cause and origin investigation.
- **November 28, 2021 – Commercial fire on Alderbridge Way.** RFR crews responded to a reported structure fire in a warehouse on Alderbridge Way. On arrival crews found that a natural gas warehouse heater had caught fire due to the gas line being entirely separated from the unit at the valve. The fire was contained to an overhead heating unit in the warehouse rafters. The natural gas was shut off to the building and crews remained on scene to investigate and ensure that the fire remained extinguished. There are no injuries to any occupants or RFR staff. A Fire Investigator attended the scene to assist with the cause and origin investigation.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

During November 2021, Richmond Fire-Rescue crews continued to experience increases to incident volumes that are a return to volumes experienced in years prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. RFR staff remain ready to react and adapt to the ever changing pandemic situation.


Jim Wishlove
Acting Fire Chief
(604-303-2715)

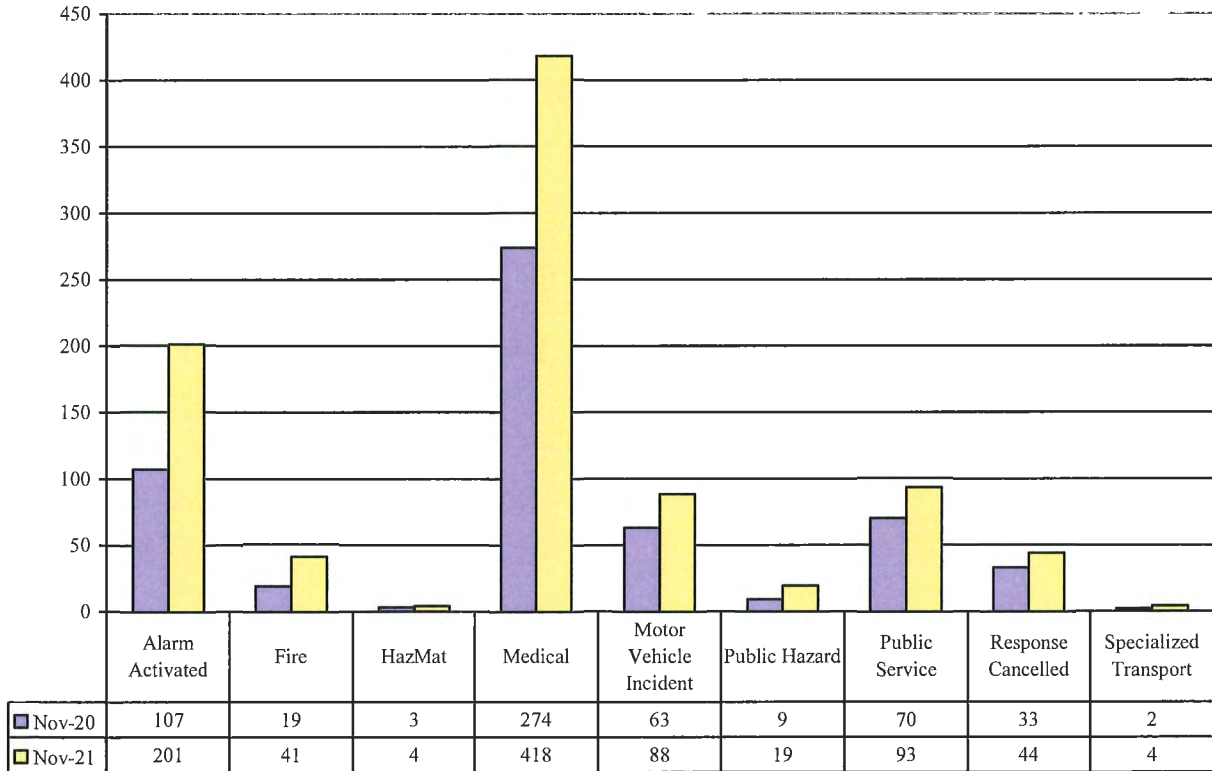
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Att. 1: Suppression Activity, including location of November's Fire, Medical and MVI's

Incident Volumes

The following chart provides a month to month comparison regarding incidents occurring in November 2021 and 2020. In November 2021, there were a total of 912 incidents, compared to 580 in November 2020. This represents an increase of 57 per cent.

Table 4: November 2020 & November 2021 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 46 per cent of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of November 2021. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for November 2020 and 2021 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 418 medical incidents in November 2021 compared to 274 in November 2020, an increase of 53 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 5a: November 2020 & November 2021 Medical Calls by Type

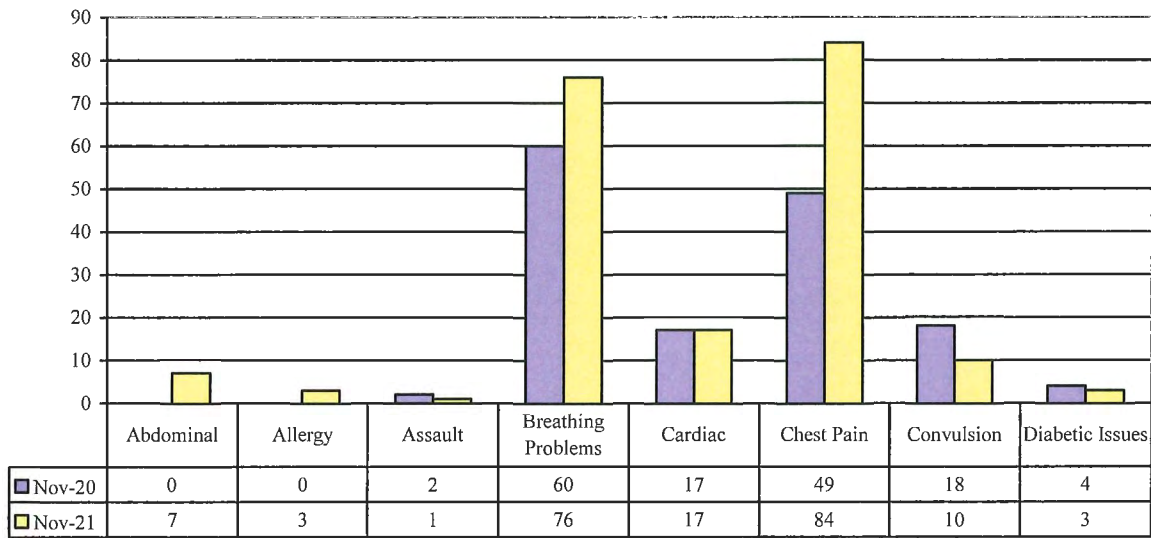
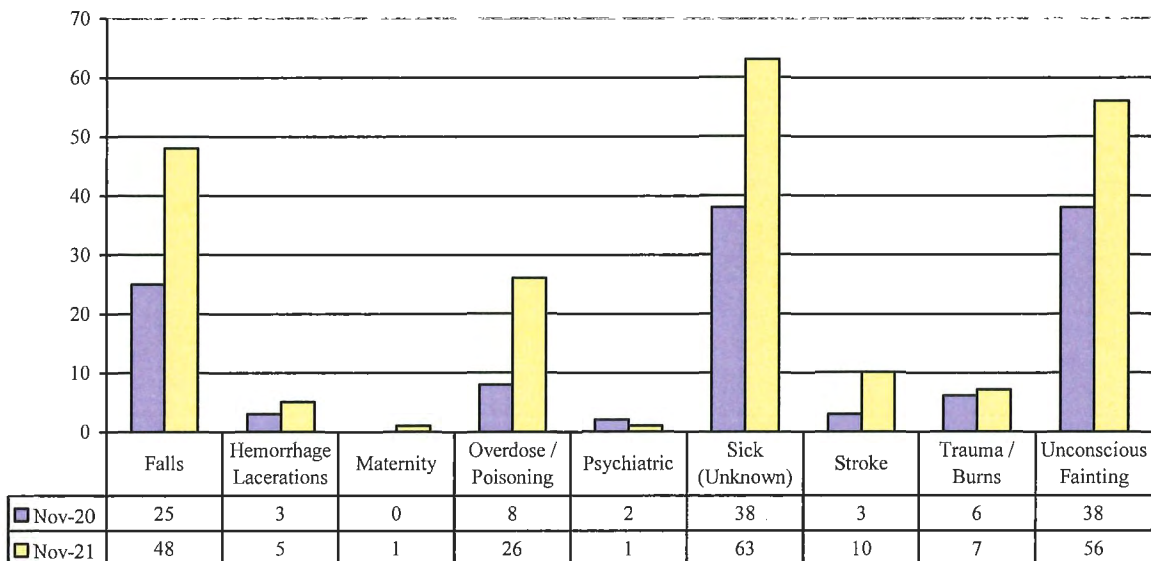


Table 5b: November 2020 & November 2021 Medical Calls by Type



Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for November 2021 are listed below:

Table 6: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – November 2021			
	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	-	4	1
Residential - Multi-family	-	6	-
Commercial/Industrial	3	3	1
Outdoor	8	11	1
Vehicle	-	1	2
Totals	11	25	5

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 7: Hazardous Materials Incidents By Type – November 2021	
	Details
Natural Gas / Propane Leaks (small)	3
Unclassified	1
Totals	4

Figure 1: Location of reportable fires attended in November 2021 (total 41)

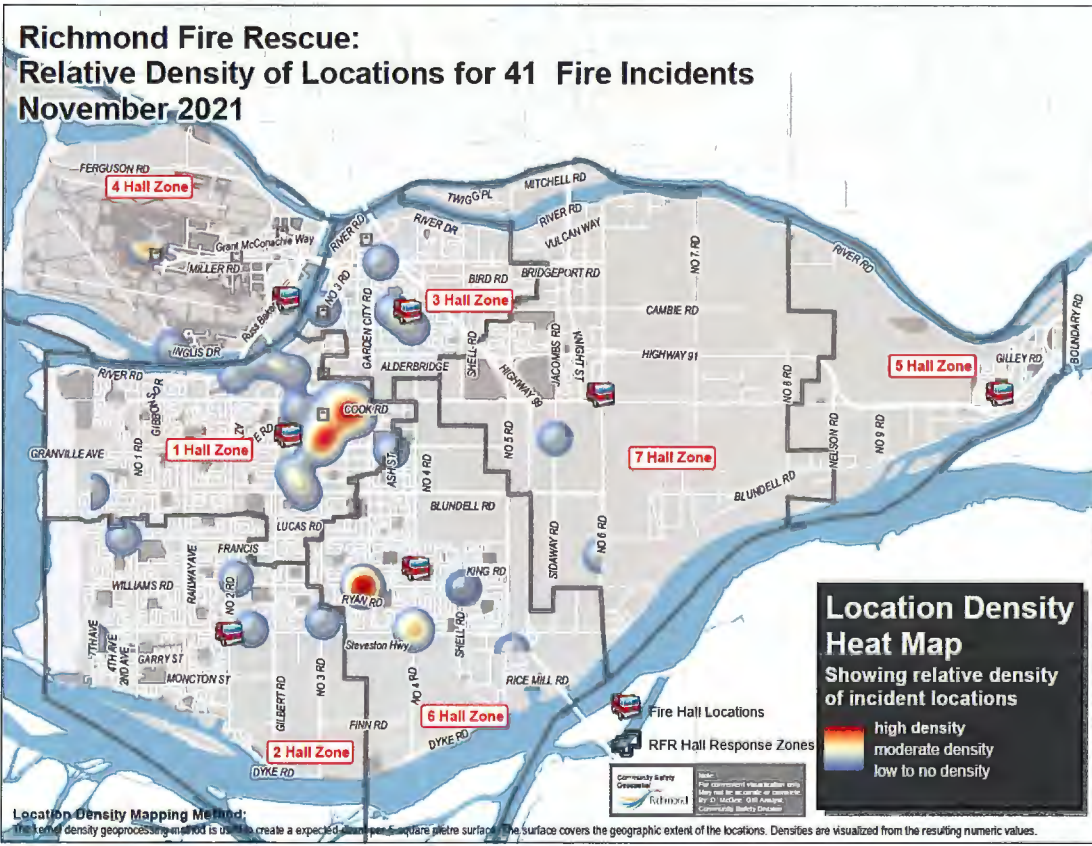
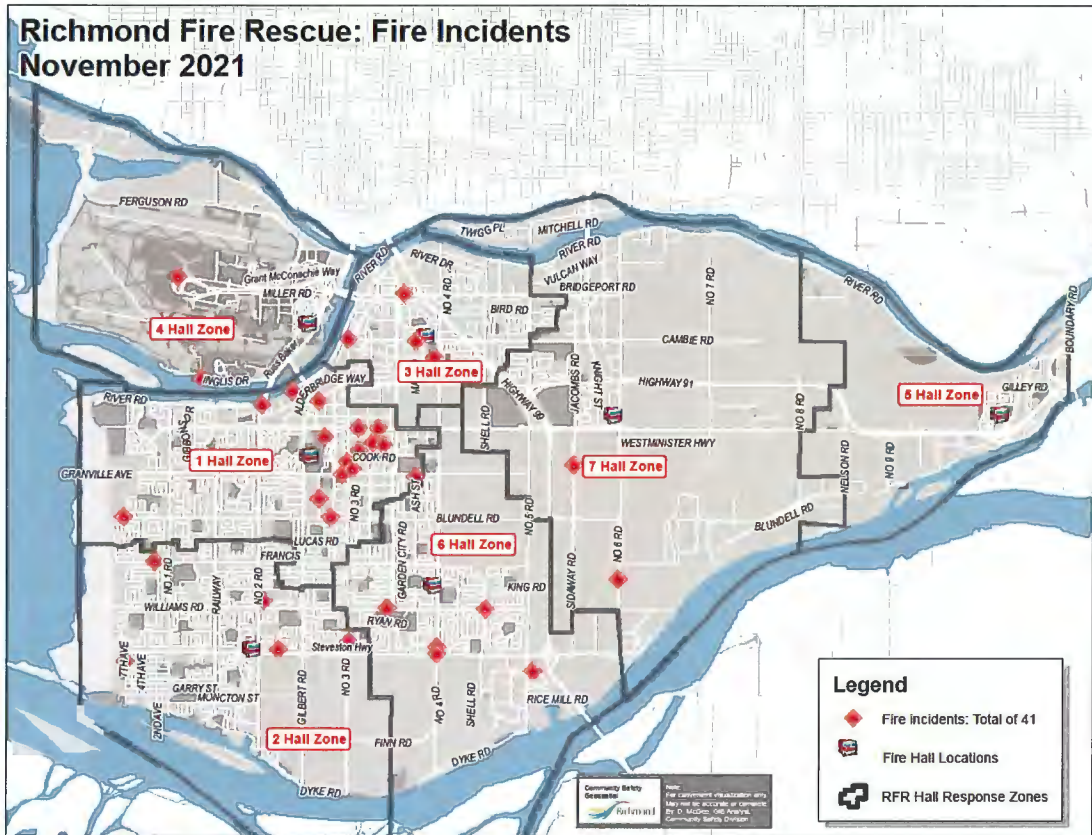


Figure 2: Location of medical incidents in November 2021 (total 418)

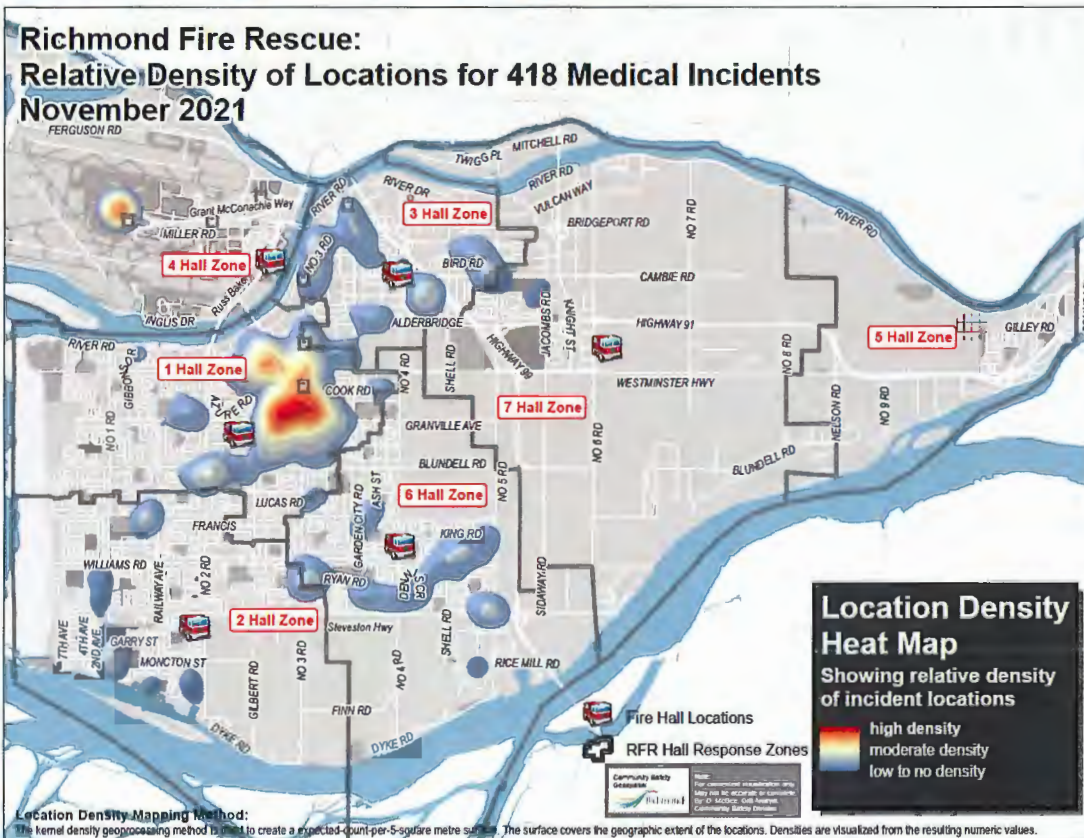
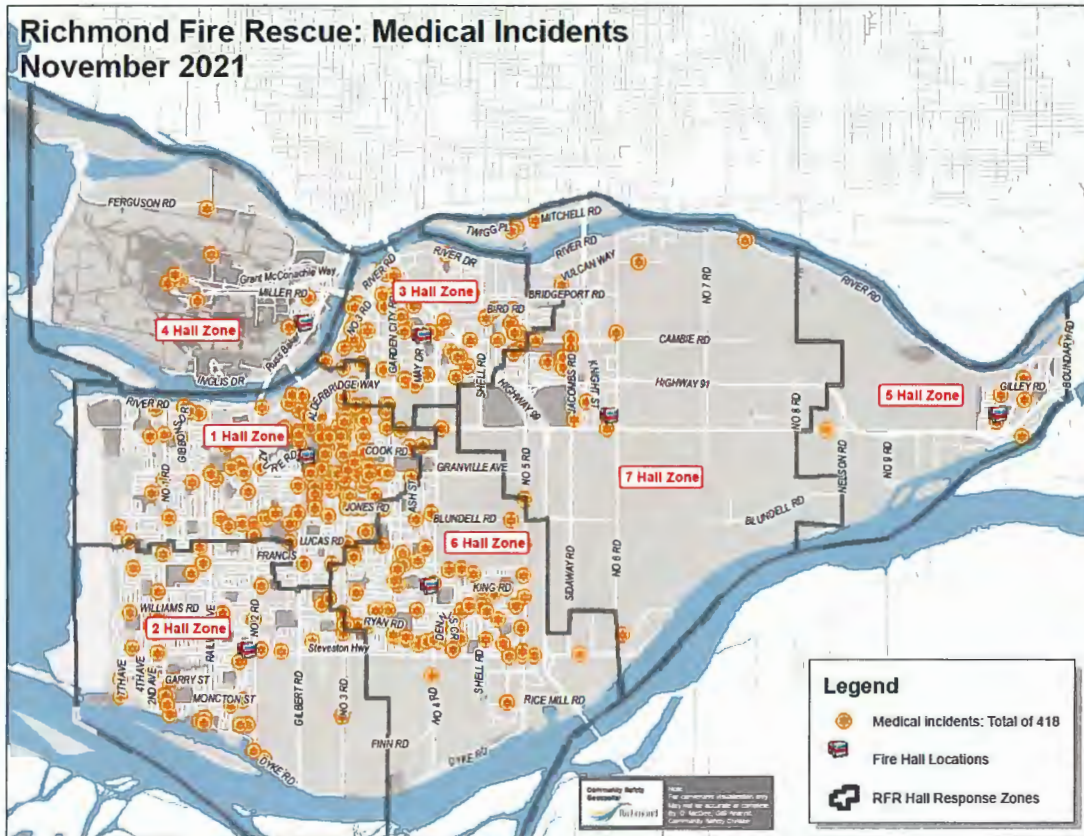


Figure 3: Location of MVI Incidents in November 2021 (total 88)

