



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee

Date: July 25, 2022

From: Jim Wishlove
Fire Chief

File: 09-5375-03/2022-Vol
01

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

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – June 2022”, dated July 25, 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

Heat Plan

The City of Richmond's Extreme Heat and Poor Air Quality Operations Guide was reviewed, practiced and updated with internal City stakeholder input and circulated for future activation.

June 2022 Heat Wave Event – Activation June 26 and 27

Emergency Programs staff activated phase two, trigger one in response to an Extreme Heat Warning issued by the BC Provincial Heat Alert and Response System. During this heat wave event:

- all four of the Richmond Public Library branches opened as cooling centers between the hours of 8:00 am and 9:00 pm on June 26 and 27;
- five water misters were installed by Public Works staff in parks throughout the City; and
- five shade tents were installed in popular parks throughout the City by Public Works staff.

The City and Richmond Public Library updated social media to reflect heat safety messaging and identifying cooling centres to inform the public that these facilities are available for their use.

Outreach and Emergency Planning Public Education

- June 5 - Doors Open Richmond: Staff promoted emergency preparedness, community resilience, and registration for Richmond BC Alert (ENS), which resulted in 105 new subscriptions.
- June 23 - Cambie Seniors Emergency Preparedness Workshop: There were 18 people in attendance and seven new ENS subscriptions as a result.
- June 23 - South Arm Block Party: Staff promoted emergency preparedness, community resilience and registration for ENS, which resulted in 11 new subscriptions.

EP Radio Loan Program

Emergency Programs recently updated their Radio Loan Program and streamlined it to make it faster to process requests, and easier for internal and external customers to request use of the radios for various City events. This included the use of 72 radios for the Steveston Salmon Festival being held on the July long weekend, with the assistance of the Radio Shop.

Emergency Social Services (ESS) Reporting Information

Date	Address	Volunteers Deployed	ESS Services Deployed	# of Evacuees	Services Delivered
June 15, 2022 Townhouse Fire	Cambie Road	Y	Y	10 Persons	Lodging (Accent Inn Vancouver Airport), Food / Clothing / Incidentals (The Real Canadian Superstore)

Staff Training and Public Education

During June 2022, in-house RFR fire-training staff delivered educational activities and programs including all three levels of Incident Command System management: 100, 200 and 300; hazardous material event mitigation technical training; and specialized motor vehicle extrication training on hybrid and electrical vehicles.

During June 2022, Public Education staff hosted Doors Open Richmond at Fire Hall No. 1 to provide meaningful educational opportunities to over 5,000 people visiting the Fire Hall, in just under four hours. The new Engine 4 and Quint 3 vehicles with assigned crews were displayed for public interaction and viewing, in addition to several other RFR operational vehicles. There was a BC Emergency Health Services ambulance and crew along with a YVR Emergency Response Services Striker Crash Truck and crew.

Other events that RFR outreach and response crews attended included the Burkeville Days community event with over 700 attendees, and the RCMP Block Watch Party with over 100 attendees.

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 June 2022, there was a total of 1,026 reported incidents of all types, representing a 24 per cent increase in incidents from June 2021 (Attachment 1).

The average time on scene for RFR crews was 35 minutes, which was higher than the 33 minutes recorded in 2021. The time spent on scene can vary due to the nature and severity of each incident.

	Totals (2022)	Percentage Change from June 2021	Number Change from June 2021 to 2022	5 Year Average for June
Alarm Active No Fire	163	+9	+14	138
Explosion	0	-	0	0
Fire	45	+2	+1	48
Haz-Mat	7	-42	-5	8
Medical	556	+43	+166	321
MVI	93	+41	+27	83
Public Hazard	9	+13	+1	10
Public Service	92	-17	-19	73
Response Cancelled/Unfounded	59	+23	+11	66
Specialized Transport	2	-	0	2
Tech Rescue	0	-	0	0
Totals	1,026	+24	+190	750

In June 2022, there were 45 fire incidents which were reported to the Office of the Fire Commissioner representing a two per cent increase from June 2021. The average number of fires reported each June over the last five years is 48.

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 June 2022 are estimated at \$197,050. This total includes \$194,600 for building/asset loss and \$2,450 for content loss. The total building/asset and content value at risk was estimated to be \$16,684,030 and the total value preserved from damage was \$16,486,980. These numbers translate to 99 per cent of value protected (Table 2); this value is the same as the value observed in 2021; 99 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	7	12,759,400	69,600	1,400	1,400	12,689,800
Multi family	6	1,772,200	-	125,030	50	1,897,180
Commercial/Industrial	3	-	-	1,000	1,000	-
Outdoor	24	-	-	-	-	-
Vehicle/Vessel	5	2,025,000	125,000	-	-	1,900,000
Totals*	45	16,556,600	194,600	127,430	2,450	16,486,980

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

- **June 4, 2022 – Medical incident on Ackroyd Road.** RFR crews were dispatched to a medical incident on Ackroyd Road with a suspected double fatality. RCMP were first on scene and were in command of the scene. Once RCMP had cleared the scene, RFR personnel assessed the two patients, gave police statements and then cleared the scene. BC Emergency Health Services staff also arrived on scene to confirm the patients were deceased. Due to the grave nature of the event, RFR staff were offered Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) assistance.
- **June 5, 2022 – Residential fire on River Road.** RFR crews responded to a structure fire. Upon arrival, crews found heavy smoke and flame coming from the side of the house. Crews initiated a rapid attack and multiple lines were deployed. It was determined that there were multiple firearms and ammunition in the house. This information was relayed to all crews and the subsequent re-establishment of this event being managed as a defensive attack only. The fire was extinguished and crews proceeded to check and manage hot spots. The RCMP and a Fire Investigator attended the scene. There were no injuries reported by public or RFR personnel.
- **June 10, 2022 – Residential fire on Westminster Highway.** Crews responded to a reported illegal back yard burn. During the investigation, the person doing the burning was not the owner of the property and the RCMP were requested to attend the scene. Care of the individual was assumed by RCMP on arrival. No injuries were reported to civilians or RFR members. A Fire Investigator attended the scene.
- **June 14, 2022 – Residential fire on Swansea Drive.** RFR crews attended to a single-family home structure fire where crews found a fire in the roof space of a residential home. Crews gained access to the roof, found the fire and extinguished it. There were no reported injuries to the public or RFR crews. Due to the fire damage, the roof was declared unsafe. The two occupants were displaced but had alternative accommodations for at least one night. A Fire Investigator attended the scene.
- **June 15, 2022 – Residential fire on Cambie Road.** Multiple RFR crews responded to a first alarm response to a townhouse fire. The fire was quickly attacked and extinguished by RFR crews, who also stayed on scene to perform overhaul. The fire was contained to four units with no additional fire spread to the other units. There were thirteen people displaced due to the fire with several of them able to make their own arrangements. Some other residents required the assistance of the Red Cross using the Emergency Programs Emergency Social Services process. There were no injuries to the public or RFR personnel. A Fire Investigator attended the scene.

- **June 21, 2022 - Residential fire on Azure Road.** RFR crews responded Azure Road for a fire. The first arriving crew investigated and found a fire under the washing machine of the residence with visible flame coming from underneath and behind a back panel. The crew extinguished the fire with a portable extinguisher and performed scene overhaul to ensure there was no extension or spread using a Thermal Imaging Camera. RFR crews removed the washing machine to the front lawn. Crews used an Altair 4 gas monitor to determine there were no gas hazards inside the house. There were no injuries to the public or RFR personnel. A Fire Investigator attended the scene.
- **June 25, 2022 – Commercial Building fire on Twigg Place.** Multiple RFR emergency response crews attended a significant fire at an industrial site on Mitchell Island. Approximately 10 firefighting crews and incident command staff attended the scene. Crews worked quickly to attack the fire and bring it under control. Once extinguished, one RFR crew remained on scene to continue cooling off the area. The property owner was on site providing information to operation command. There were no reports of any injuries to crews or to the public. A Fire Investigator attended the scene.
- **June 26, 2022 – Medical event at Catalina Crescent.** While RFR crews participated in the Burkeville Park community event, a patron at the event suffered a medical episode and subsequently needed immediate intervention. RFR crews immediately attended to the patient and performed all appropriate interventions for a significant period of time. BC Emergency Health Services crews arrived and continued to work with RFR to manage patient care. BC EHS made the decision to transport the patient to Richmond General Hospital. Two RFR crew members accompanied the patient to continue to provide patient assistance.
- **June 28, 2022 – Medical event at Railway Avenue.** RFR crews responded to reports of flooding from a ruptured hot water pipe in a four-storey apartment building. The water had originated in a second floor unit. An onsite maintenance worker had sustained scalding burns to both hands as a result. A single occupant in a lower unit had sustained water damage to their unit, but did not suffer any injuries. The occupant was also displaced but had made arrangements with their family. Electricity and water were shut-off in the unit of origin and a restoration company was dispatched. The maintenance worker was treated by RFR and BC Emergency Health Services staff and was later transported to the Vancouver General Hospital's Burn Unit. RFR staff were provided with a CISM incident diffusion service. RCMP, WorkSafe BC and a Fire Investigator attended the scene.
- **June 29, 2022 – Hazardous materials incident on Westminster Highway.** Crews responded to a vehicle, which had collided with a strip mall property and had ruptured a gas supply line into the building. Multiple RFR crews evacuated all adjacent occupants and created an isolated safety zone. Fortis arrived on scene and attempted to shut down the main gas supply line. Fortis successfully shut down the gas line and RFR crews demobilized the scene. No injuries were reported to the public or RFR crews. A Fire Investigator attended the scene.

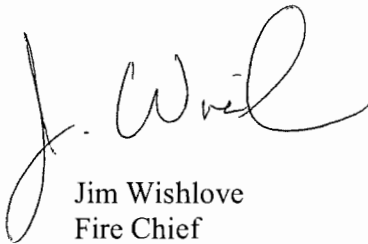
- **June 30, 2022 – Boat fire on Graybar Road.** RFR crews responded to a smoke showing from a boat in dry dock on Graybar Road. Arriving crews extinguished the fire in the boat and performed overhaul. Crews used a Thermal Imaging Camera to confirm there was no fire spread. There were no occupants found on the boat and no injuries to the public or RFR personnel. RFR crews secured the boat prior to departure. A Fire Investigator attended the scene.

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.



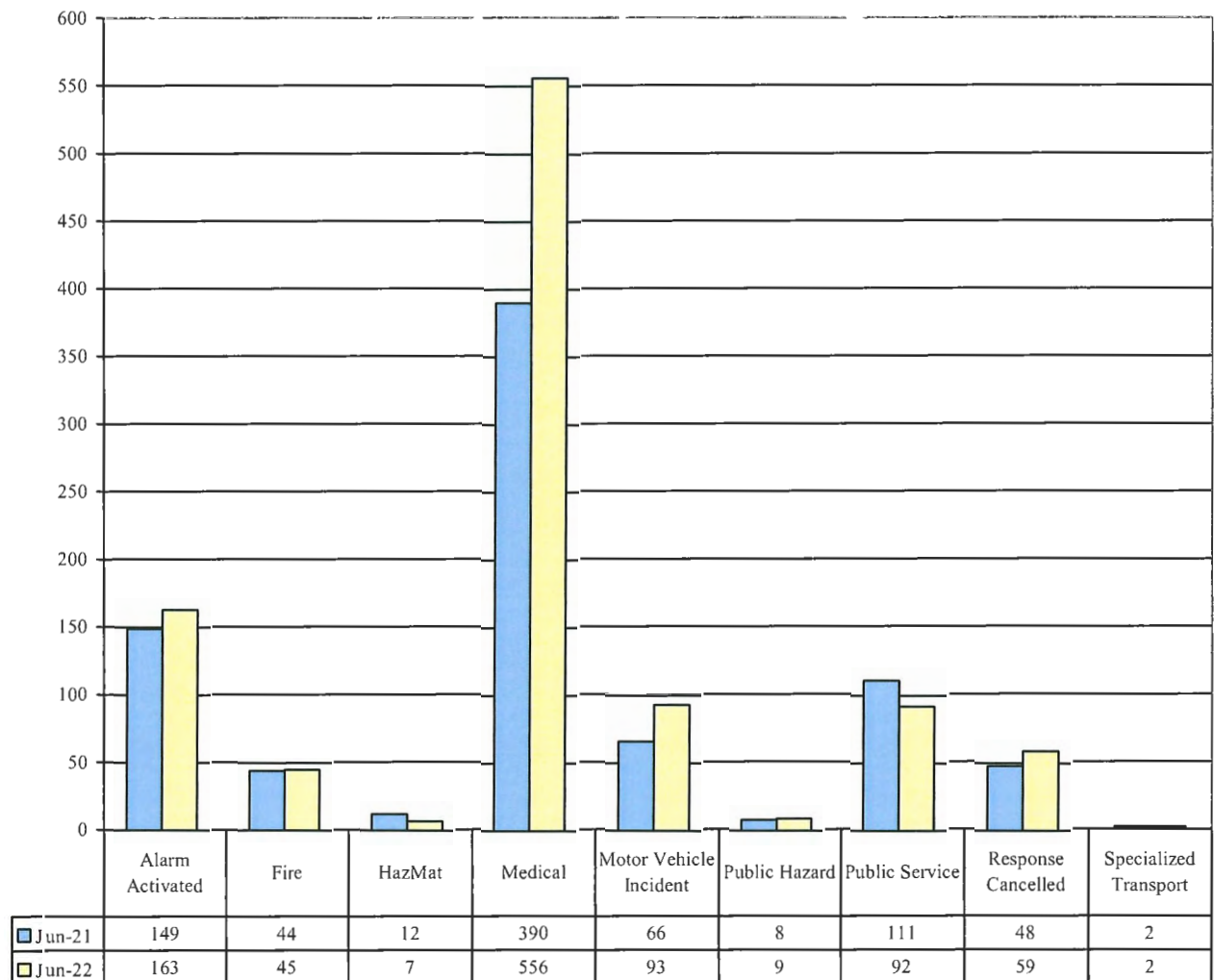
Jim Wishlove
Fire Chief
(604-303-2715)

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

Incident Volumes

The following chart provides a month-to-month comparison regarding incidents occurring in June 2022 and 2021. In June 2022, there were a total of 1,026 incidents, compared to 830 in June 2021. This represents an overall increase of 24 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: June 2021 & June 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 54 per cent of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of June 2022. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for June 2021 and 2022 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 556 medical incidents in June 2022 compared to 390 in June 2021, an increase of 43 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: June 2021 & June 2022 Medical Calls by Type

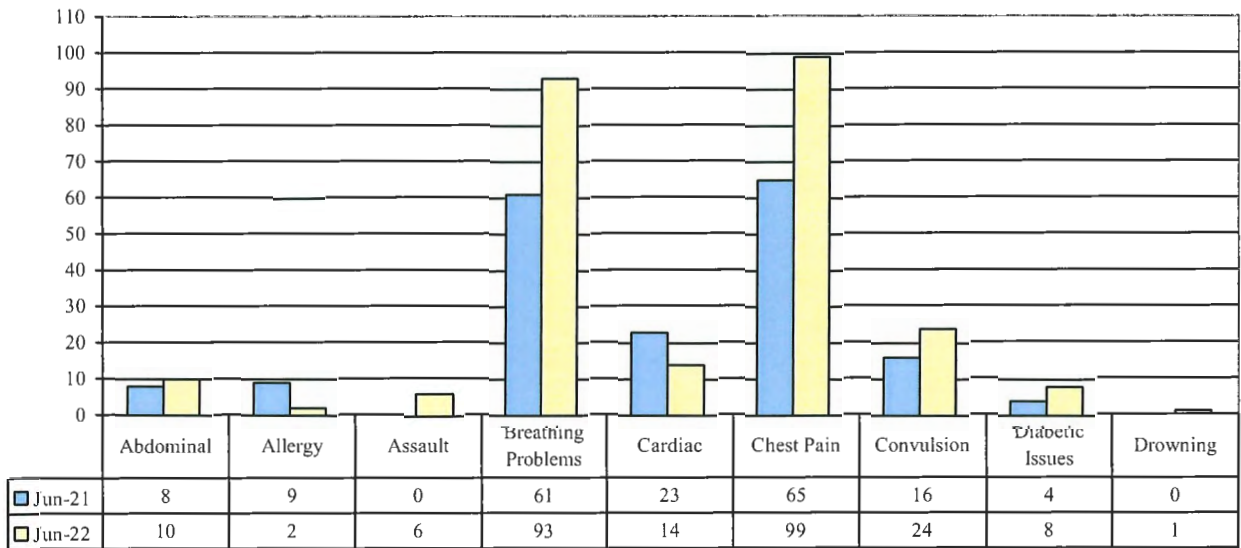
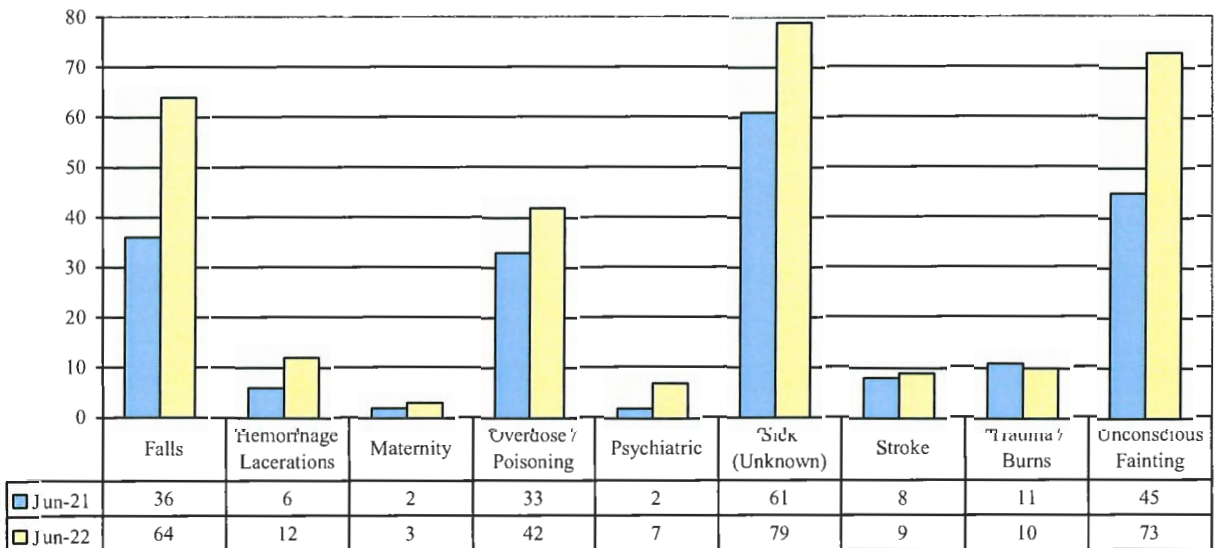


Table 4b: June 2021 & June 2022 Medical Calls by Type



Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for June 2022 are listed below:

Table 5: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – June 2022			
	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	0	5	2
Residential - Multi-family	2	4	0
Commercial/Industrial	0	2	1
Outdoor	5	10	9
Vehicle	0	4	1
Totals	7	25	13

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 – June 2022	
	Details
Flammable / Combustible Liquids	1
Natural Gas / Vapour / Propane Leaks (small)	4
Unclassified	2
Totals	7

Figure 1: Location of reportable fires attended in June 2022 (total 45)

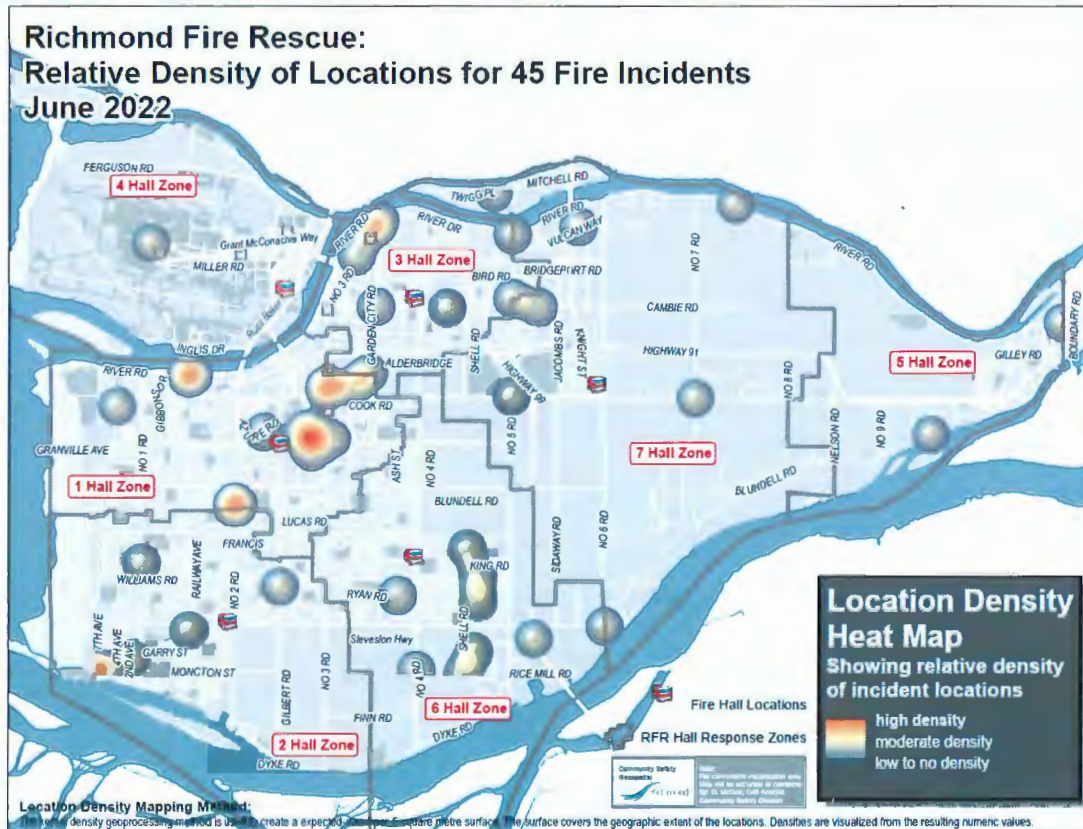
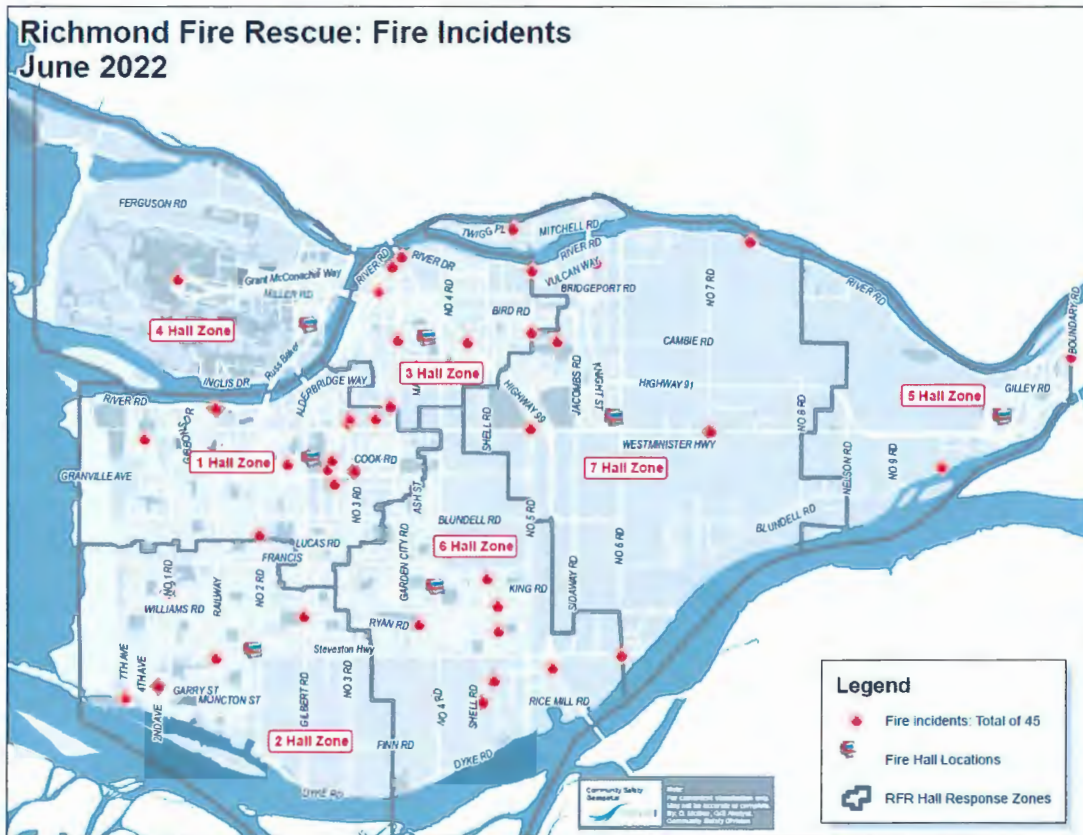


Figure 2: Location of Medical Incidents in June 2022 (total 556)

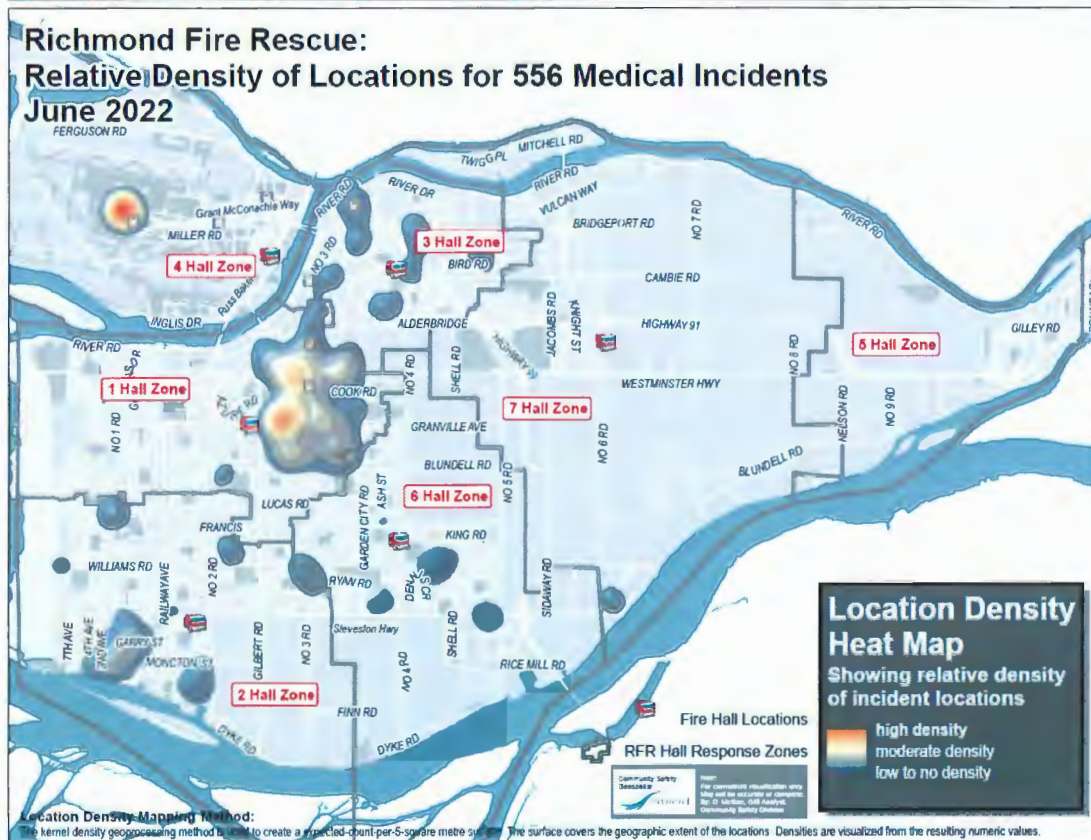
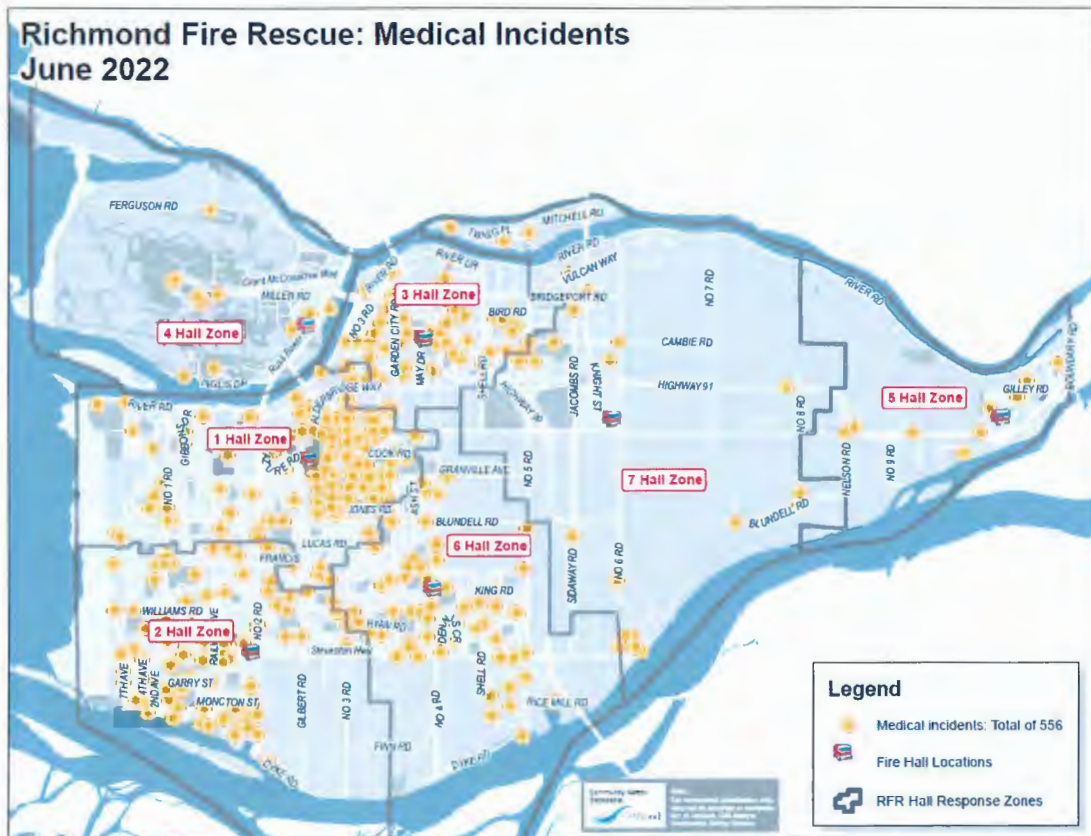


Figure 3: Location of MVI Incidents in June 2022 (total 93)

