



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee

Date: August 8, 2022

From: Jim Wishlove
Fire Chief

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

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

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – July 2022”, dated August 8, 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

July 2022 Heat Wave Event – Activation July 25 to August 1

Emergency Programs activated phase 2, trigger 1 in response to an Extreme Heat Warning issued by BC Provincial Heat Alert and Response System. In accordance with the plan:

- all four of the Richmond Public Library branches opened as cooling centers between the hours of 8:00 am and 9:00 pm from July 25 to August 1;
- Cooling Centres were available for the public until 9:00 pm through the entire heat event, with Brighthouse Library and Richmond Cultural Centre open from 4:00 pm – 9:00 pm during the August 1 holiday;
- Public works deployed nine misters attached to water lines and fire hydrants throughout the City; and
- The five shade tents from the June activation remained in place and will be removed in September.

In accordance with recommendations from the health authorities, a Transportation Assistance program was added to the plan and activated. Residents in need were able to receive transportation from their residence to cooling centres from 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. nightly through the duration of the event activation.

The City's Corporate Communication's department and the Richmond Public Library updated social media, in accordance with the communications plan, to reflect cooling centre activation and inform the public of facilities available for their use.

Overall, there was an average seven per cent increase in library visitations and usage during the activation, translating to a total of 1,800 more people than normal, which can be attributable to the heat event. The Brighthouse branch supported a further 319 people on Monday, August 1 – a day which generally would have seen the facility closed due to the stat holiday.

Public Outreach and Education

On July 12, Emergency Programs hosted an Emergency Preparedness Workshop for seniors. There were 18 people in attendance and 12 people signed up for Richmond BC Alert.

Emergency Social Services (ESS)

Emergency Program staff continue to enhance and streamline ESS support mechanisms with the Canadian Red Cross (CRC) to review and refine operational processes for Emergency Support

Services level 1 responses. This ongoing work sets the foundation for a seamless transition to support much larger ESS needs and responses.

EOC Operational Processes

To streamline, simplify, and facilitate interdepartmental communication during an emergency, Emergency Programs is conducting an analysis and review of our Emergency Operations Centre response and planning processes. This will drive more efficient response times, and also help develop benchmarks to measure improvements and performance metrics during large-scale activations.

ESS Reporting Information

Date	Address	Volunteers Deployed	ESS Services Deployed	# of Evacuees	Services Delivered
July 6, 2022 Apartment Complex	Tomicki Avenue	Y	Y	3 Persons	Lodging/Food (Sheraton Vancouver Airport) for 72hrs, extensions provided.

Staff Training and Public Education

During July 2022, in-house RFR fire-training staff delivered educational activities and programs including the 100 and 200 hazardous material event mitigation technical training.

During July 2022, Public Education staff attended the following events to provide meaningful educational opportunities to over 4,000 attendees at the following events:

- Canada Day/Salmon Festival;
- RCMP Fire Responders Day;
- Steveston Block Party at Lord Byng Elementary school;
- Richmond Animal Shelter Public Open House event; and
- Hall tours and safety presentations were provided to Core Education & Fine Arts (CEFA) preschool and Richmond Army and Air Cadets.

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 July 2022, there were a total of 1,011 reported incidents of all types, representing a 23 per cent increase in incidents from July 2021 (Attachment 1).

The average time on scene for RFR crews was 33 minutes, which was lower than the 56 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 July 2021	Number Change from July 2021 to 2022	5 Year Average for July
Alarm Active No Fire	181	+68	+73	143
Explosion	1	0	0	0
Fire	52	-21	-14	63
Haz-Mat	5	-29	-2	7
Medical	512	+40	+147	311
MVI	76	-7	-6	75
Public Hazard	12	-20	-3	13
Public Service	109	+4	+4	89
Response Cancelled/Unfounded	63	-10	-7	74
Specialized Transport	0	-100	-3	2
Tech Rescue	0	0	0	0
Totals	1,011	+23	+189	777

In July 2022, there were 52 fire incidents reported to the Office of the Fire Commissioner, representing a 21 per cent decrease from July 2021. The average number of fires reported each July over the last five years is 63.

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 July 2022 are estimated at \$126,970. This total includes \$25,550 for building/asset loss and \$101,420 for content loss. The total building/asset and content value at risk was estimated to be \$254,232,300 and the total value preserved from damage was \$254,105,330. 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	5	2,225,000	-	100,200	210	2,324,990
Multi family	2	61,608,000	2,000	300,000	-	61,906,000
Commercial/Industrial	5	188,677,600	-	1,100,000	210	189,777,390
Outdoor	38	97,500	550	-	-	96,950
Vehicle/Vessel	2	23,000	23,000	101,000	101,000	-
Totals*	52	252,631,100	25,550	1,601,200	101,420	254,105,330

* 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 July 2022 incidents:

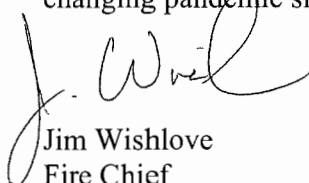
- **July 6, 2022 – Residential fire on Tomicki Avenue.** RFR crews arrived on scene of a four story residential apartment complex with a reported explosion and fire on the 2nd floor. First arriving crews encountered a fire on the 2nd floor of the complex extending to the third and fourth floors on the exterior of the building. RFR crews were able to extinguish the fire quickly on the exterior with hand hose lines. The interior fire sprinklers were able to contain the damage to the one unit and crews supplemented the building sprinkler system with water supply lines. Crews made entry to search for possible fire extension and any victims. There were no injuries reported to the public or RFR personnel. RCMP were on scene providing assistance and BC Emergency Health Services crews were onsite on standby. A Fire Investigator attended the scene. Approximately ten units on the first floor and five units on the second and third floors sustained substantial water damage and the occupants were displaced. The Emergency Support Services process was started for the displaced occupants.
- **July 27, 2022 – Vehicle and shed fire on Bridgeport Road.** RFR units responded to a fully involved car, shed and fence fire at the back of the property. RFR crews quickly extinguished the fire using water and foam and checked for any spread to the nearby buildings. There were no reported injuries to the public or RFR personnel. The RCMP attended due to the suspicious nature of the fire. A Fire Investigator attended the scene.
- **July 29, 2022 – Residential fire on Capella Drive.** RFR units responded to a reported structure fire. First on scene crews found the roof shingles of a single-family dwelling on fire. Crews proceeded to evacuate the family from the home and attack the fire using water and foam. The fire was quickly extinguished and crews checked for any extension in the attic area using a Thermal Imaging Camera. There were no reported injuries to the public or RFR personnel. The RCMP attended due to the suspicious nature of the fire. 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.



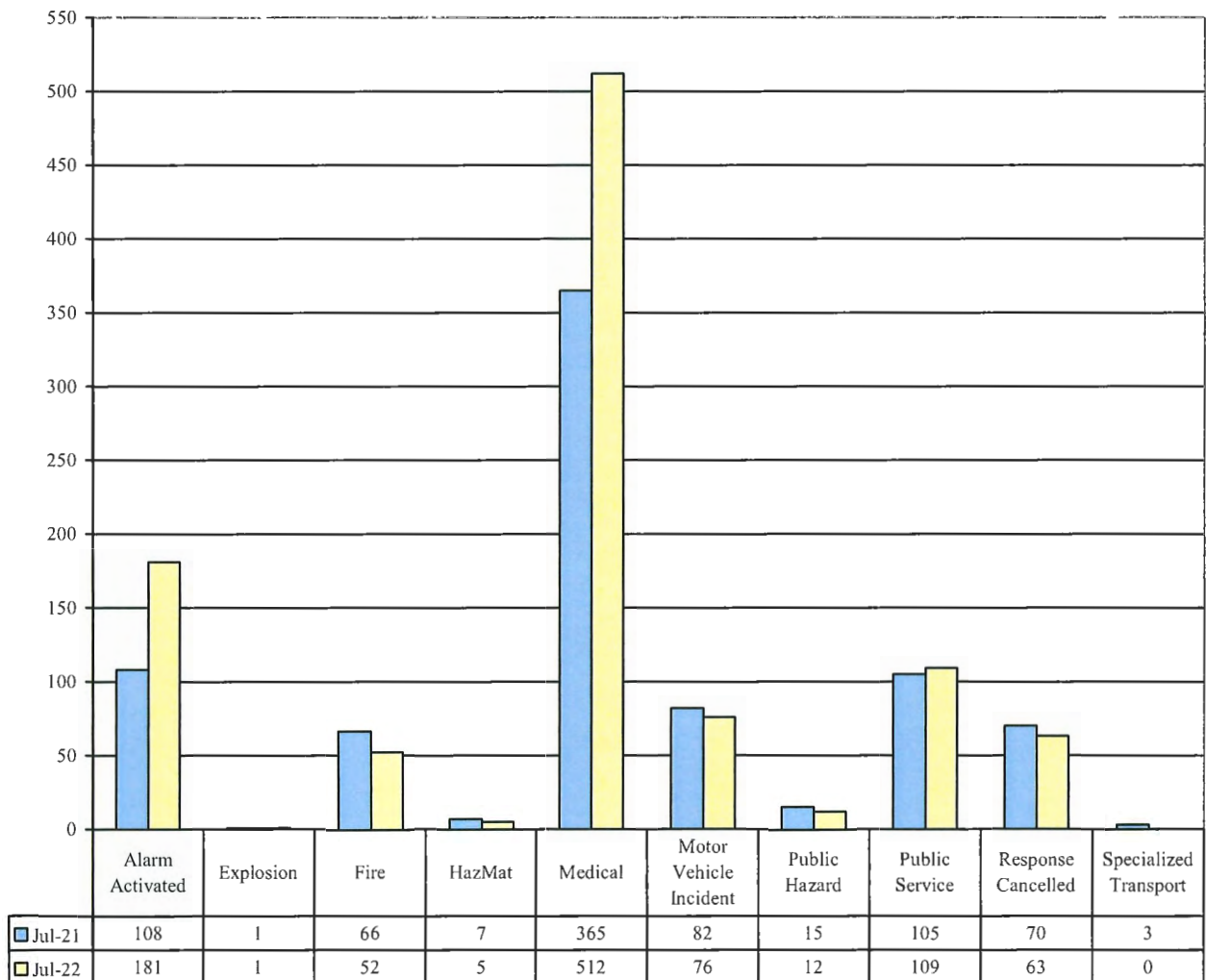
Jim Wishlove
Fire Chief
(604-303-2715)

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

The following chart provides a month-to-month comparison regarding incidents occurring in July 2022 and 2021. In July 2022, there were a total of 1,011 incidents, compared to 822 in July 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: July 2021 & July 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 51 per cent of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of July 2022. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for July 2021 and 2022 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 512 medical incidents in July 2022 compared to 365 in July 2021, an increase of 40 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: July 2021 & July 2022 Medical Calls by Type

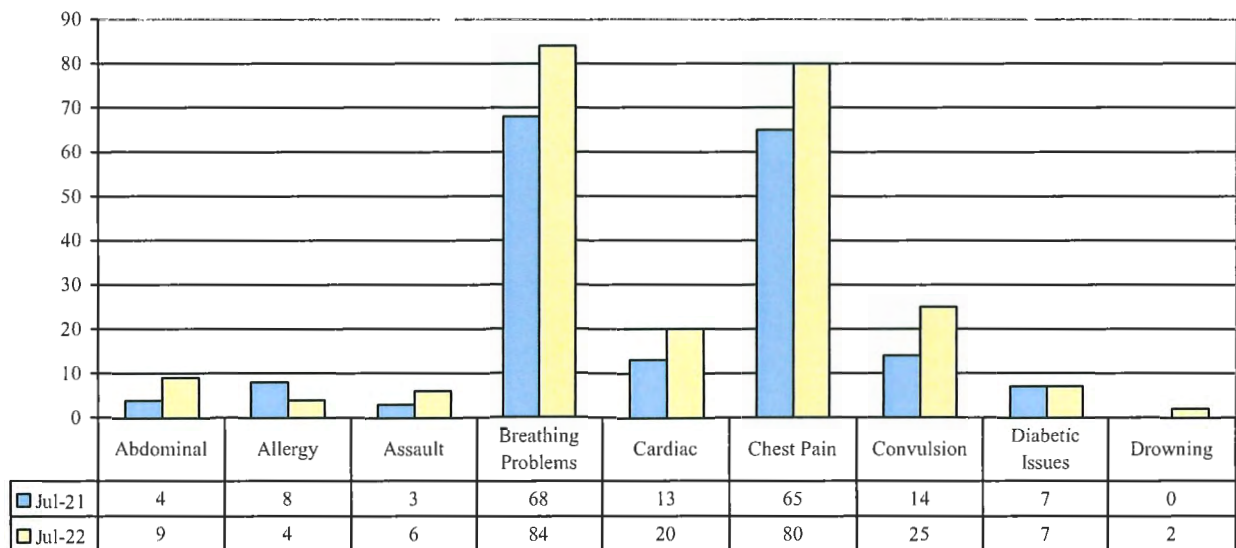
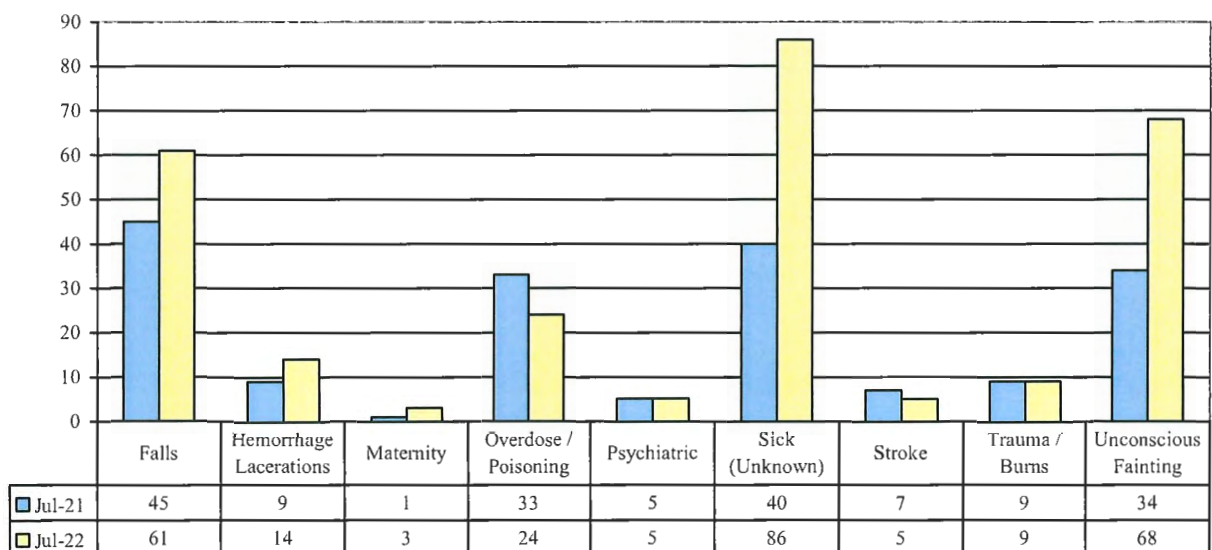


Table 4b: July 2021 & July 2022 Medical Calls by Type



Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for July 2022 are listed below:

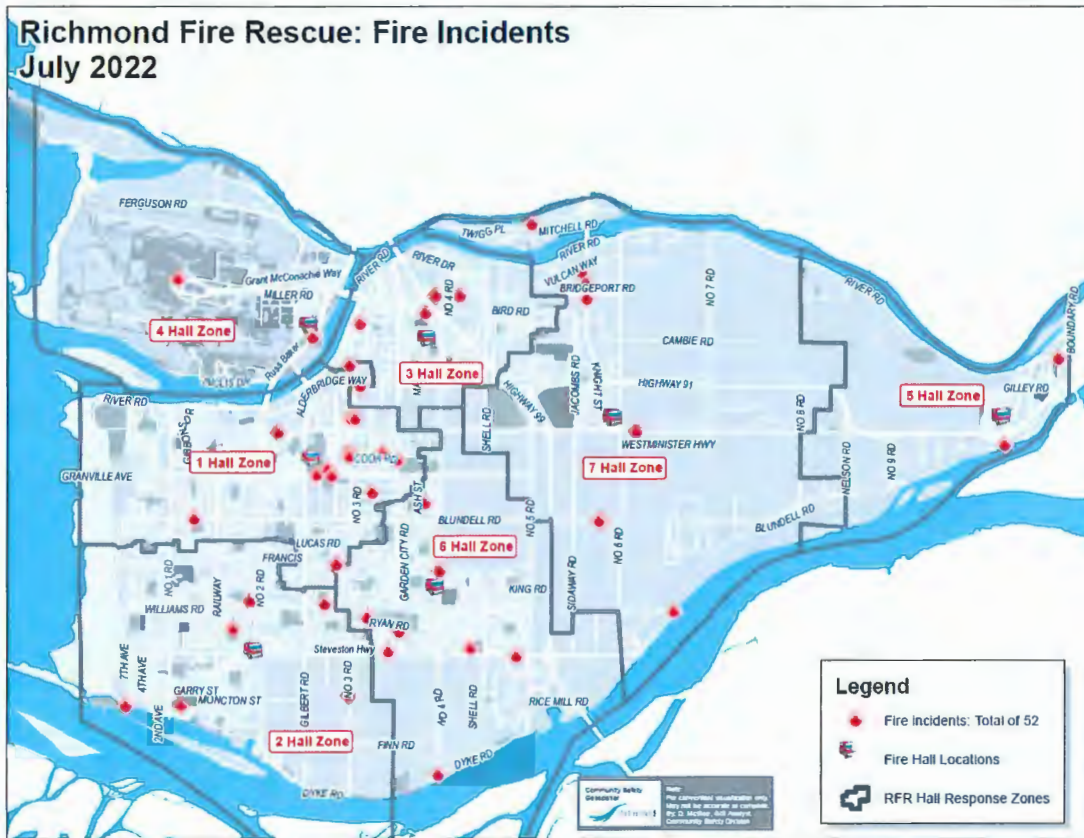
Table 5: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – July 2022			
	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	1	3	1
Residential - Multi-family	0	2	0
Commercial/Industrial	3	2	0
Outdoor	10	21	7
Vehicle	0	1	1
Totals	14	29	9

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 – July 2022	
	Details
Flammable / Combustible Liquids	2
Natural Gas / Vapour / Propane Leaks (small)	3
Totals	5

Figure 1: Location of reportable fires attended in July 2022 (total 52)



Richmond Fire Rescue: Relative Density of Locations for 52 Fire Incidents July 2022

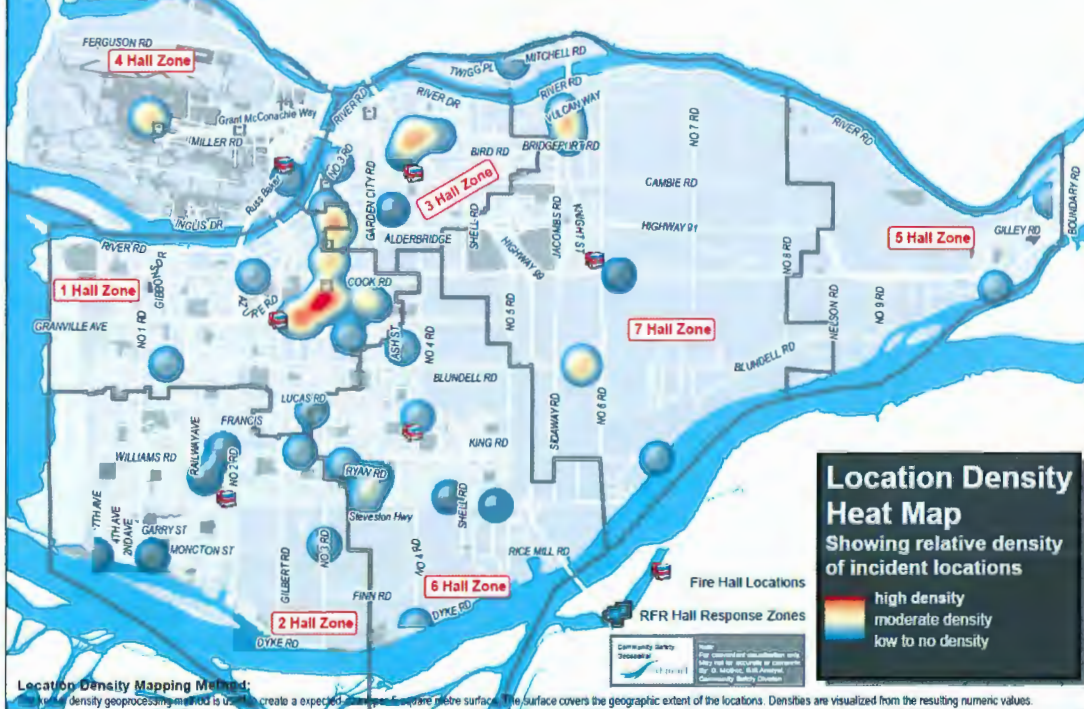


Figure 2: Location of Medical Incidents in July 2022 (total 512)

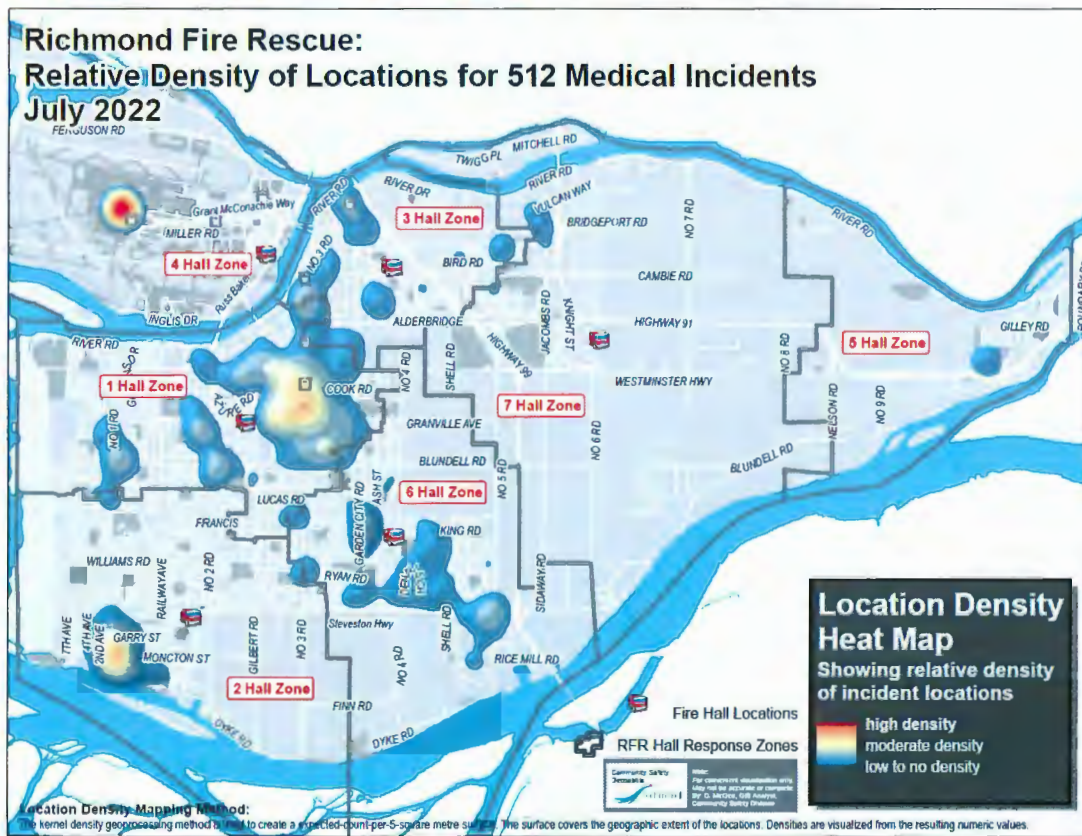
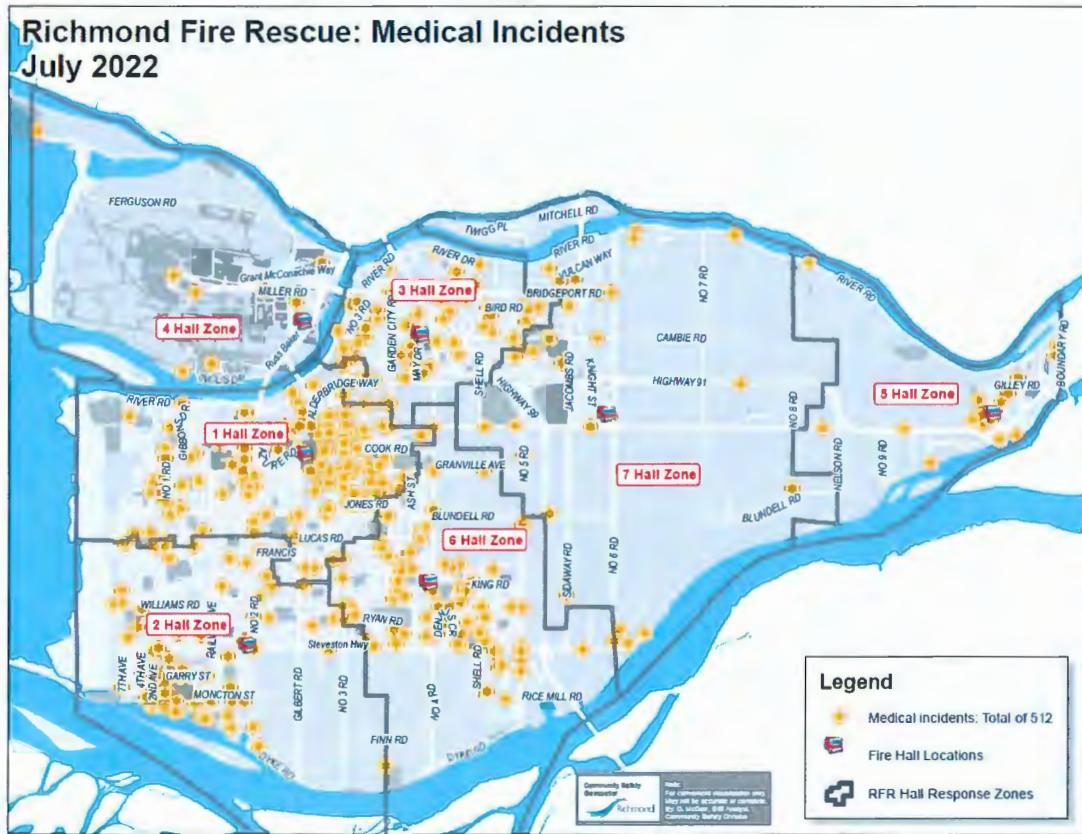


Figure 3: Location of MVI Incidents in July 2022 (total 76)

