



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee

Date: May 10, 2021

From: Tim Wilkinson
Fire Chief

File: 99-Fire Rescue/2021-
Vol 01

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

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – April 2021”, dated May 10, 2021, from the Fire Chief, be received for information.

Tim Wilkinson
Fire Chief
(604-303-2701)

Att. 1

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS: MAG
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

As noted in April 13, 2021 Community Safety Committee, Emergency Programs updates will be included in the Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report going forward starting in the April report to provide monthly highlights instead of quarterly updates. Notable items from Emergency Programs (EP) for April 2021 are as follows:

- Staff are continuing to work toward the go-live date for the upgraded and enhanced public Emergency Notification System (ENS);
- Staff are providing ongoing support and administration of the City's Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) in response to the Provincial State of Emergency;
- Staff are collaborating with the YVR emergency programs and planning teams. Emergency communication and RFR response needs were updated. Emergency Programs staff reviewed and offered input on YVR emergency plans; and
- Staff are working with the Canadian Red Cross (CRC) on their new, national Inclusive Resilience Project. Staff are coordinating with other City business units in preparation for working with the CRC on this important project.

Vaccinations

During April Vancouver Coastal Health confirmed a five week program to immunize police, firefighters, teachers and school staff. Immunizations for RFR staff started in the first week of the program and is currently ongoing.

Training and Public Education

Fire Training staff facilitated multiple training activities during April 2021 including: Fire Grounds Survival, Fire Prevention Office Orientation and Pool Officer Exams.

During April 2021, public education events remained on hold. Fire staff continued to create and post educational videos on the RFR Facebook and website pages.

Emergency Response

Richmond Fire-Rescue staff continue to support incidences 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 April 2021 there were a total of 725 incidents, representing a 164 per cent increase in incidences from April 2020 (Attachment 1).

Richmond Fire-Rescue is experiencing increases in medical responses due to the changes of the Provincial Health Orders and Medical Health Officer's direction. The significant increase in April 2021 is as a result of the gradual return to normal of the medical event types. 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 30 minutes, which was the same as recorded in 2020. Time on scene can vary due to the nature and severity of each incident.

Table 1: Total Incidents - April 2021			
	Totals (2021)	Percentage Change (April 2020)	Number Change (April 2021)
Alarm Active No Fire	114	+36%	+30
Explosion	0	-	0
Fire	48	+9%	+4
Haz-Mat	7	-13%	-1
Medical	369	+1,172%	+340
MVI	51	+55%	+18
Public Hazard	11	+175%	+7
Public Service	65	+63%	+25
Response Cancelled/Unfounded	58	+87%	+27
Specialized Transport	1	-50%	-1
Tech Rescue	1	-	1
Totals	725	+164%	+450

In April 2021 there were 48 reportable fires to the Office of the Fire Commissioner, representing a nine per cent increase from April 2020. The average figure for fires reported in April over the last five years is 34.

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 April 2021 are estimated at \$962,700. This total includes \$178,000 for building/asset loss and \$773,700 for content loss. The total building/asset and content value at risk was estimated to be \$48,969,850 and the total value preserved from damage was \$48,007,150. These numbers translate to 98 per cent of value protected (Table 2); this is greater than the 83 per cent protected value observed in 2020.

Table 2: Fire Incidents By Type and Loss Estimates - April 2021

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	3	1,601,800	160,000	1,013,400	765,000	1,690,200
Multi family	6	2,251,100	1,000	265,000	-	2,515,100
Commercial/Industrial	7	43,804,500	17,500	2,000	-	43,789,000
Outdoor	30	4,100	1,500	7,950	3,700	6,850
Vehicle/Vessel	2	15,000	9,000	5,000	5,000	6,000
Totals*	48	47,676,500	178,000	1,293,350	773,700	48,007,150

* 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 April 2021 incidents:

- **April 4 – Structure fire on Patterson Road.** On arrival RFR crews found a structure on fire. Crews quickly extinguished the fire and proceeded to look for any extension. There were no injuries to residents or RFR personnel. A Fire Investigator attended the scene to determine the cause and origin of the fire.
- **April 9 – Gas leak on Garden City Road.** Crews responded to reports of a gas leak. On arrival RFR crews secured the area by blocking off access at Garden City Road, Westminster Highway and Alderbridge Way. The RCMP and BC Emergency Health Services were also on scene. The compressed gas leak was eventually shut off by Fortis Gas.
- **April 16 – Motor Vehicle Incident on Alderbridge Way.** RFR crews responded to the scene of a single car that had collided with a fire hydrant. The impact had sheared the hydrant off and subsequently flooded the intersection of Alderbridge Way and Hazlebridge Way. This had caused significant traffic disruptions in all directions. The driver sustained only minor injuries and was provided medical care. RFR crews shut the water off to the hydrant with the assistance of the City's Water Works crew. The RCMP controlled traffic as major flooding had occurred. There were no other injuries reported.
- **April 24 – Structure fire on No. 5 Road.** RFR crews arrived on scene to an ongoing barn fire. Crews were notified that there had been squatters in the structure and performed a primary search. Due to the size and aggressive nature of the fire there were multiple crews on scene. The RCMP were also on site supporting the incident traffic management. A mutual aid was requested from Vancouver Fire to assist with city coverage as other RFR crews were assigned to separate incidents. There were no reports of injuries to the public or RFR personnel. The fire was eventually extinguished and a fire crews stayed on scene to continue a fire watch of the site. City crews were notified to secure the property. A Fire Investigator attended the scene to determine the cause and origin of the fire.

Financial Impact

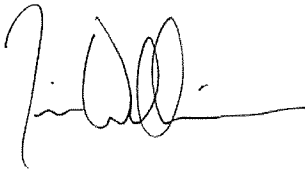
None.

Conclusion

During April 2021, Richmond Fire-Rescue crews continue to experience impacts on all incident volumes. RFR are starting to see incident numbers slowly returning to normal levels due to gradual changes in the Provincial Medical Health Officer orders in response to the pandemic.

The impacts of the pandemic, on incident volumes, has resulted in RFR Management pivoting staff to learning, development and preparedness activities. RFR staff remain ready to react and adapt to the ever changing pandemic situation.

Richmond Fire-Rescue has not experienced any negative impacts to emergency response and continues to monitor activities to identify and create programs to respond to emerging trends.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Wilkinson', with a stylized, cursive script.

Tim Wilkinson
Fire Chief
(604-303-2701)

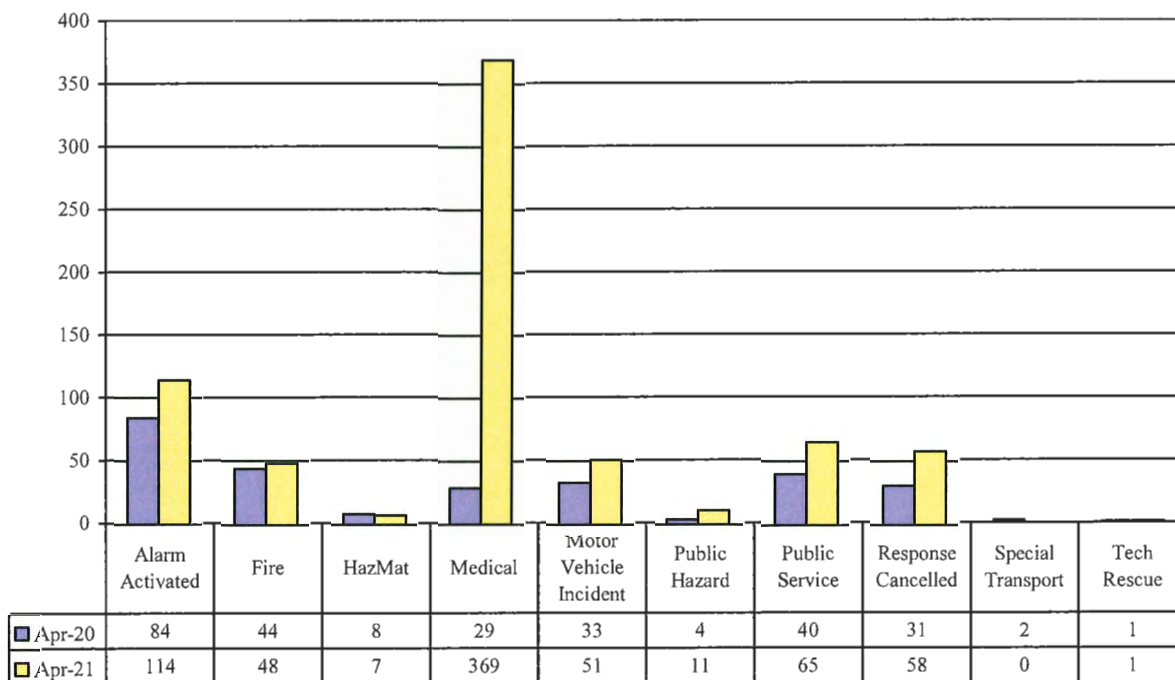
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Att. 1: Suppression Activity, including location of April's Fire, Medical and MVIs

Incident Volumes

The following chart provides a month to month comparison regarding incidents occurring in April 2021 and 2020. In April 2021, there were a total of 725 incidents, compared to 275 in April 2020. This represents an increase of 164 per cent.

Table 3: April 2020 & April 2021



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 April 2021. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for April 2020 and 2021 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 369 medical incidents in April 2021 compared to 29 in April 2020, an increase of 1,172 per cent.

Table 4a: April 2020 & April 2021 Medical Calls by Type

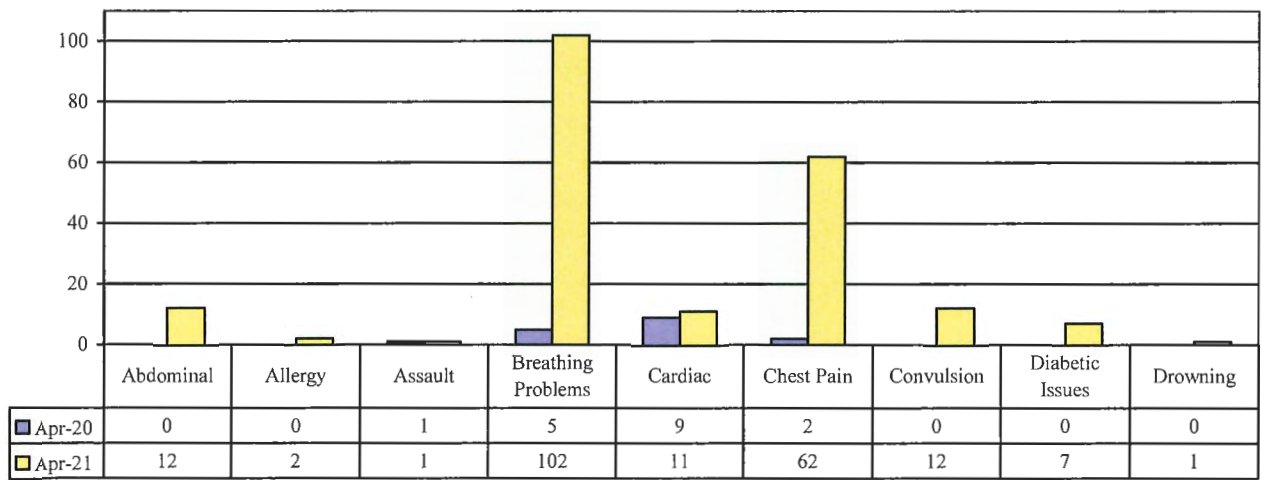
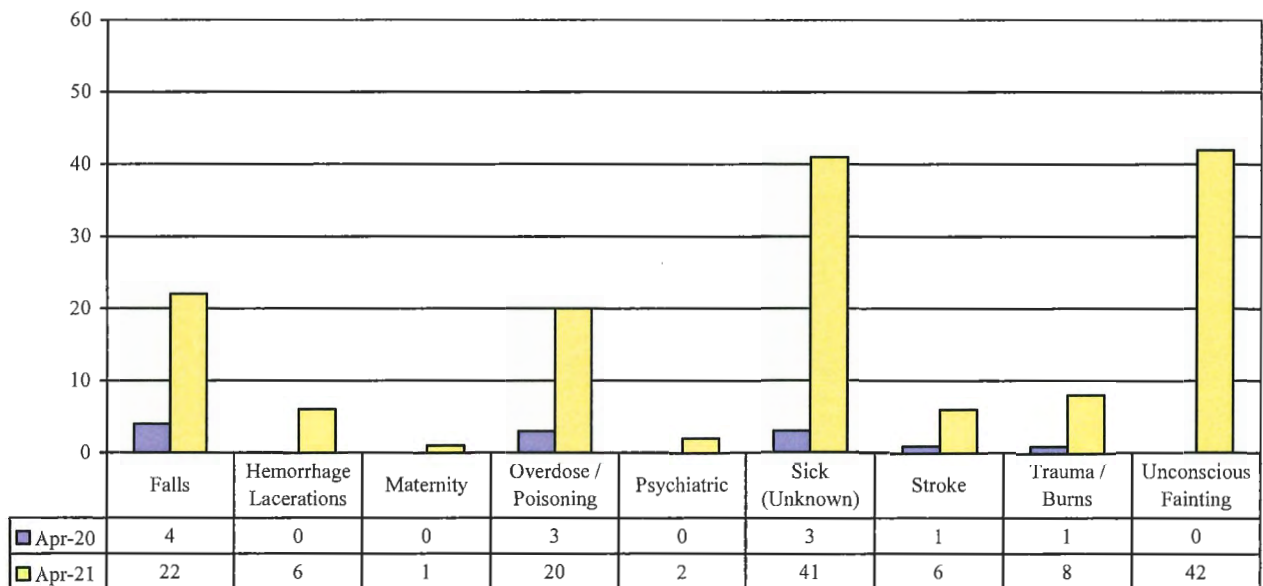


Table 4b: April 2020 & April 2021 Medical Calls by Type



Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for April 2021 are listed below:

Table 5: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – April 2021			
	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	-	3	-
Residential - Multi-family	-	6	-
Commercial/Industrial	1	3	3
Outdoor	5	16	9
Vehicle	1	-	1
Totals	7	28	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 – April 2021	
	Details
Natural Gas / Propane Leaks (small)	4
Unclassified	1
Flammable / Combustible Liquids	2
Totals	7

Figure 1: Location of reportable fires attended in April 2021 (total 48)

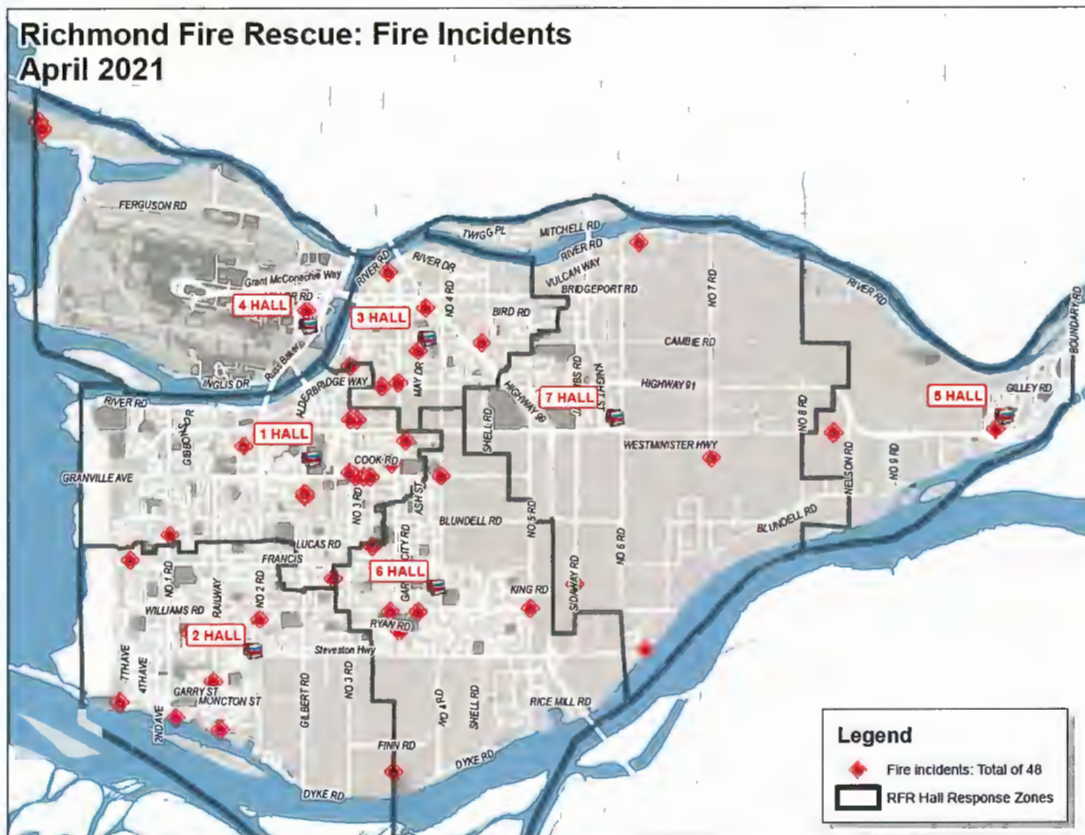


Figure 2: Location of medical Incidents in April 2021 (total 369)

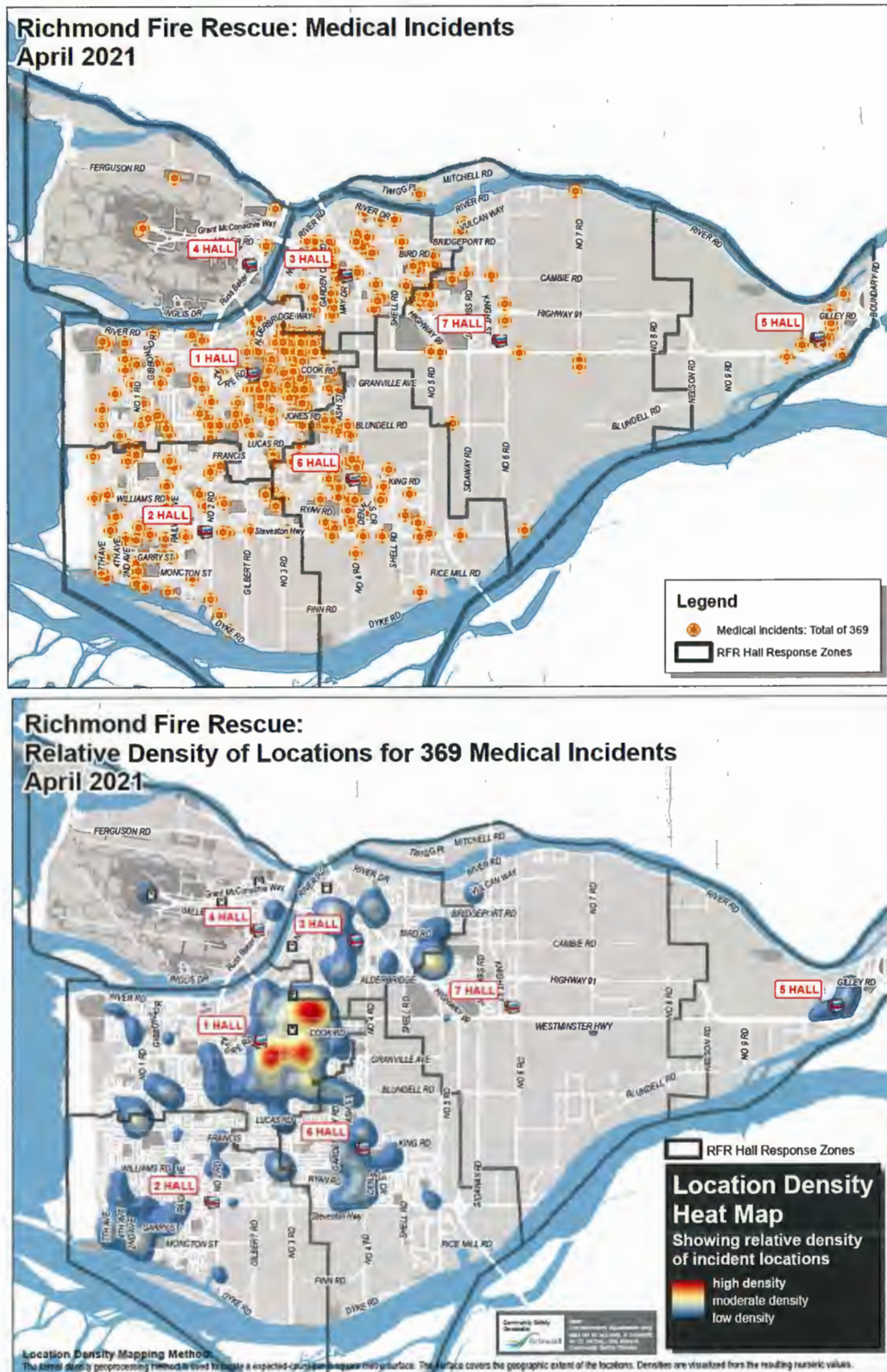
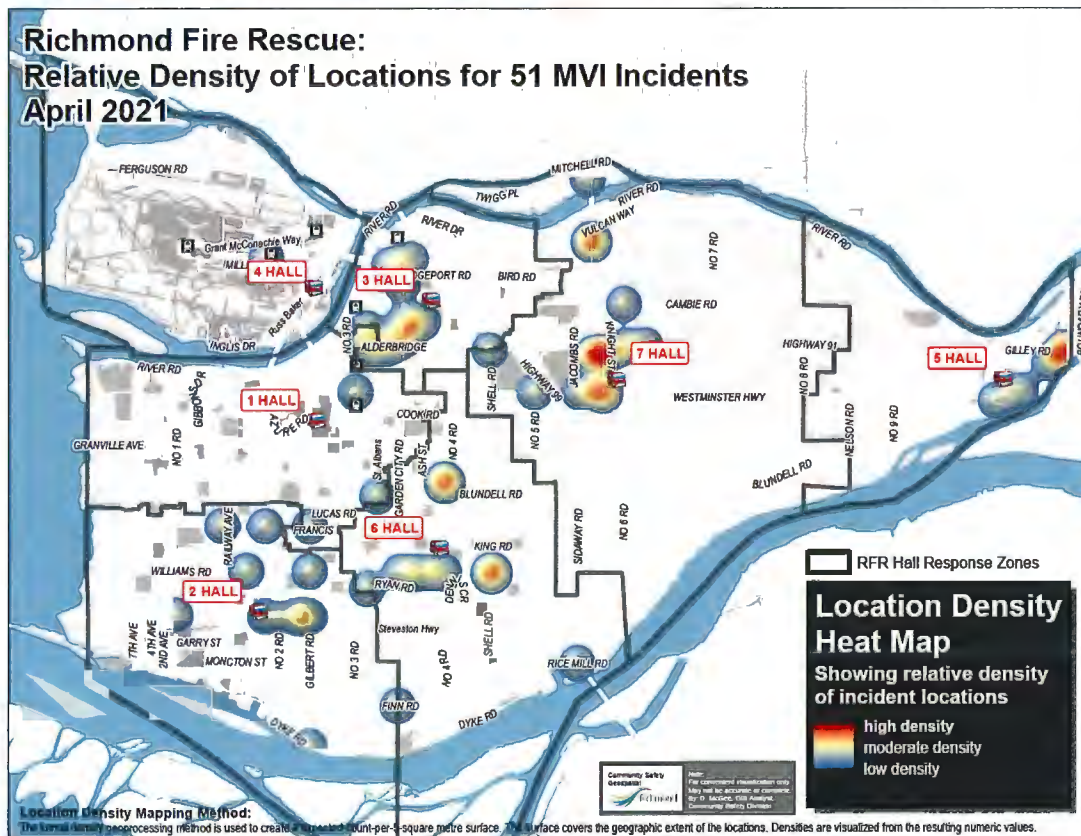
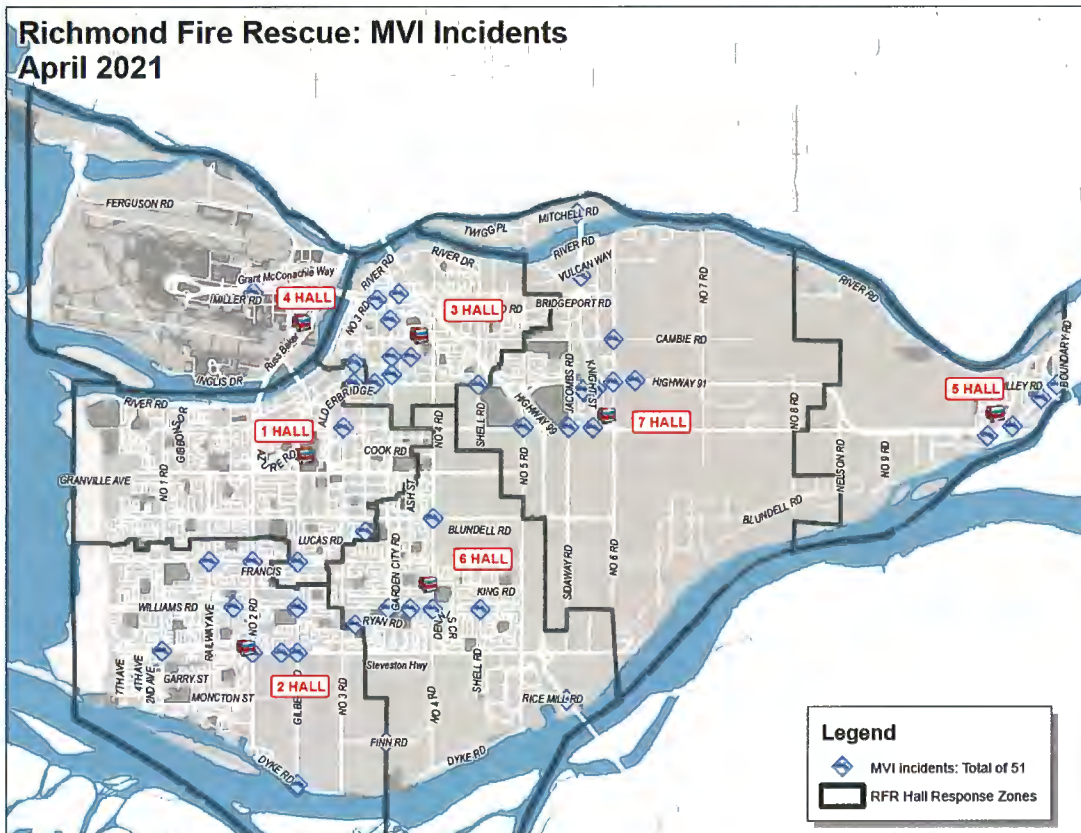


Figure 3: Location of MVI Incidents in April 2021 (total 51)



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