



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

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**To:** Community Safety Committee **Date:** July 31, 2014  
**From:** John McGowan **File:** 09-5000-01/2014-Vol  
Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue 01  
**Re:** **Richmond Fire-Rescue – June 2014 Activity Report**

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### Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue – June 2014 Activity Report” dated July 31, 2014 from the Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue be received for information.

John McGowan  
Fire Chief  
(604-303-2734)

Att. 2

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER 	
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: 
APPROVED BY CAO 	

## Staff Report

### Origin

This report provides Council with an update on Richmond Fire-Rescue activities. Through the delivery of its programs and services, RFR continues to work towards the City's vision of being the most appealing, livable, and well-managed community in Canada. RFR is reporting on its activities in support of its mission:

*To protect and enhance the City's livability through service excellence in prevention, education and emergency response.*

This report supports Council Term Goal 1:

*To ensure Richmond remains a safe and desirable community to live, work and play in, through the delivery of effective public safety services that are targeted to the City's specific needs and priorities.*

### Analysis

#### Training Office Update

RFR took part in an ongoing Train the Trainer Program for Bariatric Lifting and Transfer of patients. This is a lifting and patient transfer course, incorporating portions of the Bariatric program. This will be developed for a later date delivery to staff.

Pet Safety Kits were placed on two rescue trucks; they include specially designed animal masks which can be used both on conscious pets that have suffered from smoke inhalation and pets that need to be resuscitated after losing consciousness from toxic fumes. All crews had a familiarization session of the kits prior to placement on the apparatus.

#### Community Involvement

June's safety messages focused on boating safety and the importance of wearing a personal floatation device when in or around water. Every year in Canada hundreds of people drown while boating. According to the Canadian Red Cross Drowning Reports, over 87%, are not wearing a lifejacket or a PFD. Facebook posts and fire hall sign messages were used to remind the public of these key safety points. Other messaging included reminders for the upcoming Canada Day and Ship to Shore celebrations.

RFR participates in events and activities advancing public education and community bridge building. During June 2014 the following took place:

- Pumper visits were made to the Fine Art Montessori Child Care Centre, Burkeville Daze and Tim Horton's Camp Day reaching over 1,700 children and adults in a non emergency environment. Fire crews provided the children with safety messages on Stop, Drop and Roll and 9-1-1 How to Use the Telephone.

- Hall tours were provided to a *Steveston Neighbourhood Community Group* and two separate groups from the *City of Richmond Diversity Services Newcomer Program*. The tours provided fire safety information, Fire Hall introductory tours, fire truck and equipment familiarization to over 50 children and adults.
- Community events attended during June included: *General Currie Elementary School Carnival*, *Stroll for Liver Family Walk* and the *Richmond Amateur Radio Club*. Over 900 children and adults attended these events where crews engaged with the community groups, provided fire safety and public relations information.
- Safety training was provided to 90 adults at the *Bentley Wynd Apartments* (2 dates) and *Rosewood Manor* (2 dates).
- 24 car seat inspections were conducted to keep children safe while travelling in motor vehicles. This is a reduction from 28 car seat inspections carried out in June 2013.

### Emergency Response

Our goal is to respond quickly to all calls and minimize loss of life and property.

There were 42 fires in June 2014. Fire losses during the month are estimated at \$148,100. This total includes \$143,100 for building loss and \$5,000 for content loss. The total building and content value at risk was estimated to be \$5,548,400 and the total value preserved was \$5,400,300. These numbers translate to 97% of value protected (Figure 1).

<b>Figure 1: Fire Calls By Type and Loss Estimates – June</b>						
<b>Incident Type Breakdown</b>	<b>Call Volume</b>	<b>Estimated Building Value (\$)</b>	<b>Estimated Building Loss (\$)</b>	<b>Estimated Content Value (\$)</b>	<b>Estimated Content Loss (\$)</b>	<b>Estimated Total Value Preserved (\$)</b>
Residential:						
Single family	1	-	-	-	-	-
Multi family	4	3,500,000	100,000	30,000	4,000	326,000
Commercial / Industrial	4	100	100	-	-	-
Fire – Outdoor	30	817,300	500	-	-	816,800
Vehicle	3	1,200,000	42,500	1,000	1,000	1,157,500
<b>Totals*</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>5,517,400</b>	<b>143,100</b>	<b>31,000</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>5,400,300</b>

\*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).

Fire crews minimized loss and limited the fire to the place of origin in notable June incidents:

1. A reported explosion in a high rise on Saba Road. Arriving units found people evacuating, a pungent choking odour and alarm activations on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor. Crews investigated and had to use Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus as the choking irritant increased. Once on the floor, it was apparent that an explosive device had been detonated outside the elevator lobby area. No civilians were injured. RFR Haz-Mat personnel surveyed the area and a sweep was made of the building for affected occupants and any secondary devices. The building was ventilated and a limited re-occupancy was permitted in cooperation with the RCMP. RCMP took control as a crime scene and their Serious Crimes Unit and Explosive Disposal Unit were summoned to attend. This is an ongoing investigation by RCMP.
2. A structure fire on Blundell Road. Arriving units found a fire at the rear of a unit of a multi-unit apartment. A quick attack stopped extensive loss and damage was limited to the affected unit. Two adults were displaced and cared for by Emergency Social Services.
3. A balcony fire at private residence on Lansdowne Road. The resident was using an accelerant to start the BBQ which resulted in the balcony catching fire. Crews advised the residents that this was not an acceptable practice.
4. Reported fire in an apartment building on Elbridge Way. There had been a fire but the sprinkler system had activated and extinguished the fire. Crews stayed at the scene to assist with the removal of water until the flow was shut off and a restoration company was on scene.
5. Attendance at a fire in a fifth wheel RV trailer on Glen Thorne Place. The fire was quickly extinguished and is under investigation.
6. A water leak in an apartment block on Minoru Boulevard. Crews found a considerable amount of water on the floor and significant water damage to several other suites. RFR crews removed most of the water to reduce further damage.
7. Outdoor fire responses attended during June included: construction debris on Blundell Road, a garage at Chelmsford Place, a trailer fire on No 9 Road, an electrical fire on Steveston Highway, grass on Westminster Highway, a dumpster on Savage Road, a fence on Woodward Road a fire on 4th Avenue, two separate incidents of bark mulch at Minoru Gate and No 3 Road and a back yard burning on Fedoruk Place. All fires were quickly mitigated.

RFR crews responded to multiple medical and rescue incident calls, including:

1. A two vehicle head-on collision on Steveston Highway and No 3 Road. Bystanders had started performing CPR on a driver before crew's arrival. RFR crews assumed medical attention for injured driver and prepared the patient for extrication from vehicle. RFR crews assisted BCAS with medical care but occupant was pronounced dead by BCAS. The two occupants from the other vehicle were transported to hospital for further medical care. RFR crews remained on scene to assist with traffic management and security.

2. An incident of a possible jumper from Westminster Highway overpass. On approach crews witnessed the person jump and requested that BCAS and RCMP attend the incident. The patient suffered very serious injuries. RFR assisted BCAS with patient care and preparation for transport to hospital. Due to the nature of the incident responding crews were provided support as part of the Critical Incident Stress Management program.
3. A vehicle roll-over, into a large ditch, on Granville Avenue. The elderly female driver had a lowered level of consciousness and was trapped in the vehicle. RFR crews accessed the patient and carefully removed the patient with full spinal care.
4. A rider who had fallen and was trapped under her horse down an embankment on Dyke Road. The rider was treated for shock and provided spine care and placed on a clamshell stretcher for removal from the embankment. The patient was transported to hospital for further care.
5. Two separate medical incidents of a cardiac nature requiring CPR were attended in June. At Hall Avenue crews worked with BCAS and assisted with patient care and on Buttermere Drive. An automated external defibrillator protocols were used to regain pulse on the patient.
6. A three vehicle incident on Westminster Highway with one vehicle rolled over on its roof beside the median and the driver lying beside the vehicle. RFR Crews provided patient care and assisted BCAS with patient preparation for transport to hospital. The occupants of the two other vehicles were uninjured.

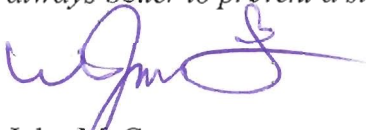
A summary of 9-1-1 emergency response statistics is found in Attachment 1, Tables 1, 2, 3 and 4. The location of June's fire, medical and motor vehicle incident calls are depicted in Attachment 2, Figures 1, 2 and 3.

### **Financial Impact**

None

### **Conclusion**

Our service delivery model is prevention focussed and based on the belief that prevention, education and emergency response activities must be well established and integrated to have a positive impact on community safety. We believe *safety is everyone's responsibility and it is always better to prevent a situation from occurring.*



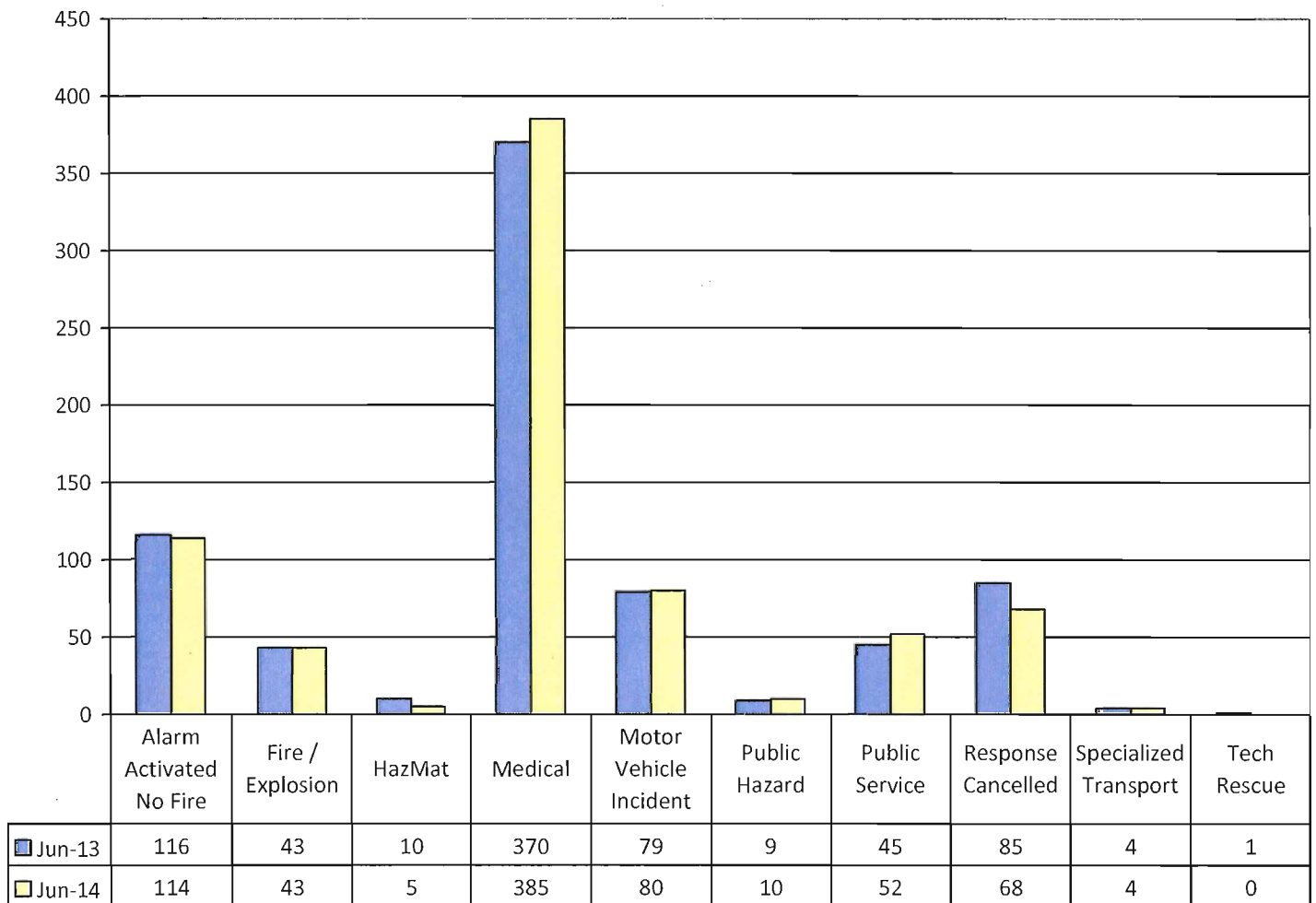
John McGowan  
Fire Chief  
(604-303-2734)

JM:js  
Att. 1: Suppression Activity  
Att. 2: Location of June's Fire, Medical and MVI calls

**Suppression Activity**

The following chart provides a month to month comparison regarding incidents occurring in June 2013 and 2014. In June 2014, there were a total of 761 incidents, compared to 762 in June 2013. This represents a decrease of 0.1%.

**Table 1: June 2013 & 2014 Calls for Service Volumes**

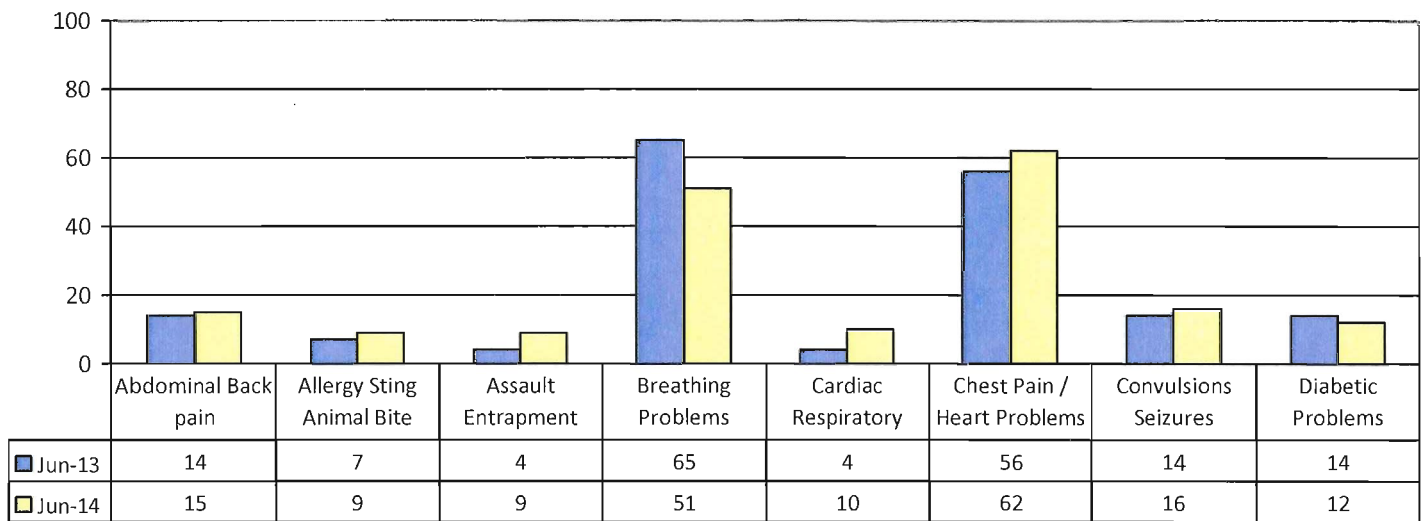


**Call Type Legend:**  
*HazMat*: includes fuel or vapour; spills, leaks, or containment  
*Medical* includes: cardiac arrest, emergency response, home or industrial accidents  
*Public Hazard* includes: aircraft emergency, bomb removal standby, object removal, or power lines down  
*Public Service* includes: assisting public, ambulance or police, locked in/out, special events, trapped in elevator, water removal

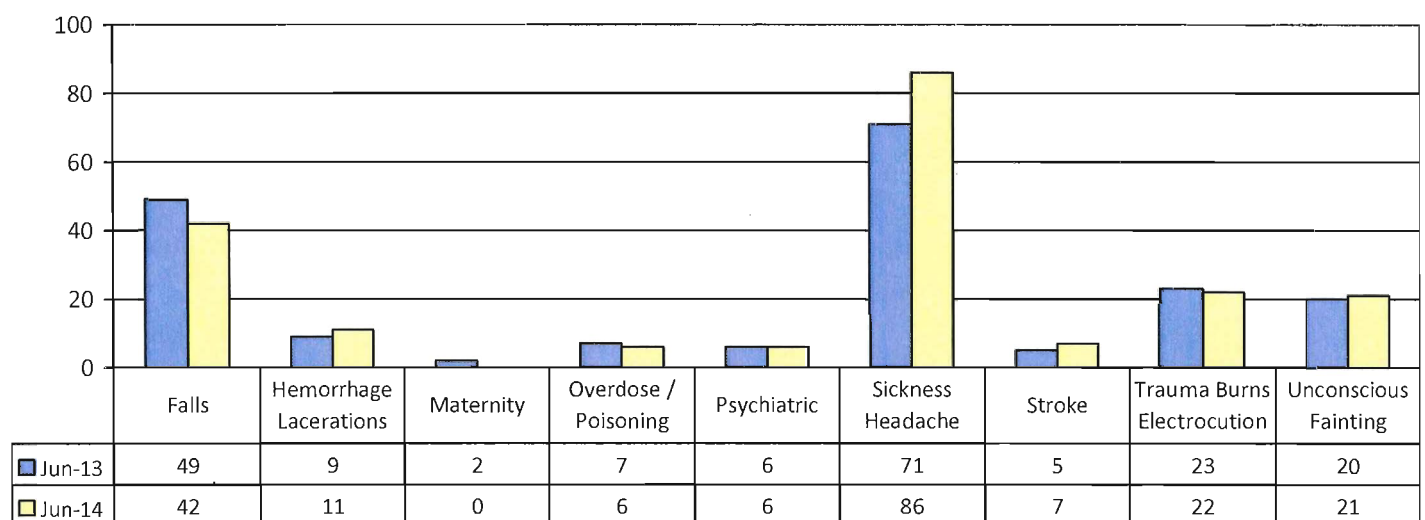
**First Responder Totals**

Medical First Responder incidents comprised 50.6% of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of June. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for June 2013 and 2014 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 385 medical incidents in June 2014 compared to 370 in June 2013 an increase of 4.1%.

**Table 2a: June 2013 & 2014 Medical Calls by Type**



**Table 2b: June 2013 & 2014 Medical Calls by Type**



## Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for June 2014 are listed below:

	<b>Suspicious</b>	<b>Accidental</b>	<b>Undetermined</b>
Residential - Single-family	1	2	1
Residential - Multi-family	-	1	-
Commercial/Industrial	1	2	1
Fire – Outdoor	2	20	8
Vehicle	-	1	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>12</b>

All suspicious fires are reported to the RCMP, and Richmond Fire-Rescue Investigators work in conjunction with staff at the RCMP to address any risks to the community.

## HazMat

	<b>Details</b>
Flammable / Combustible Liquids	1
Natural Gas / Propane Leaks (small)	3
Vapour Leak - Propane	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5</b>



Figure 1. Location of June's fires (total 43)

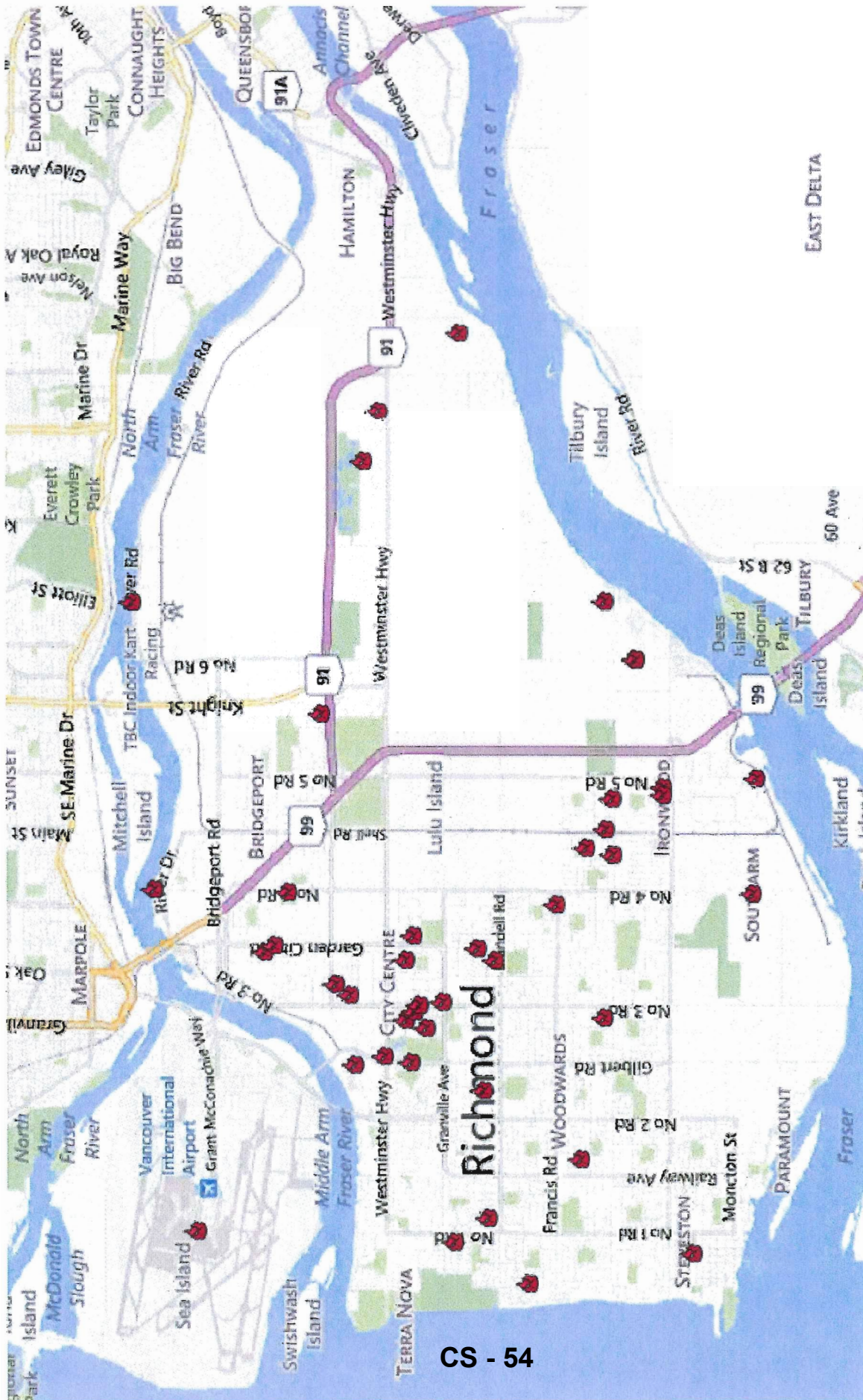


Figure 2. Location of June's medical calls (total 385)

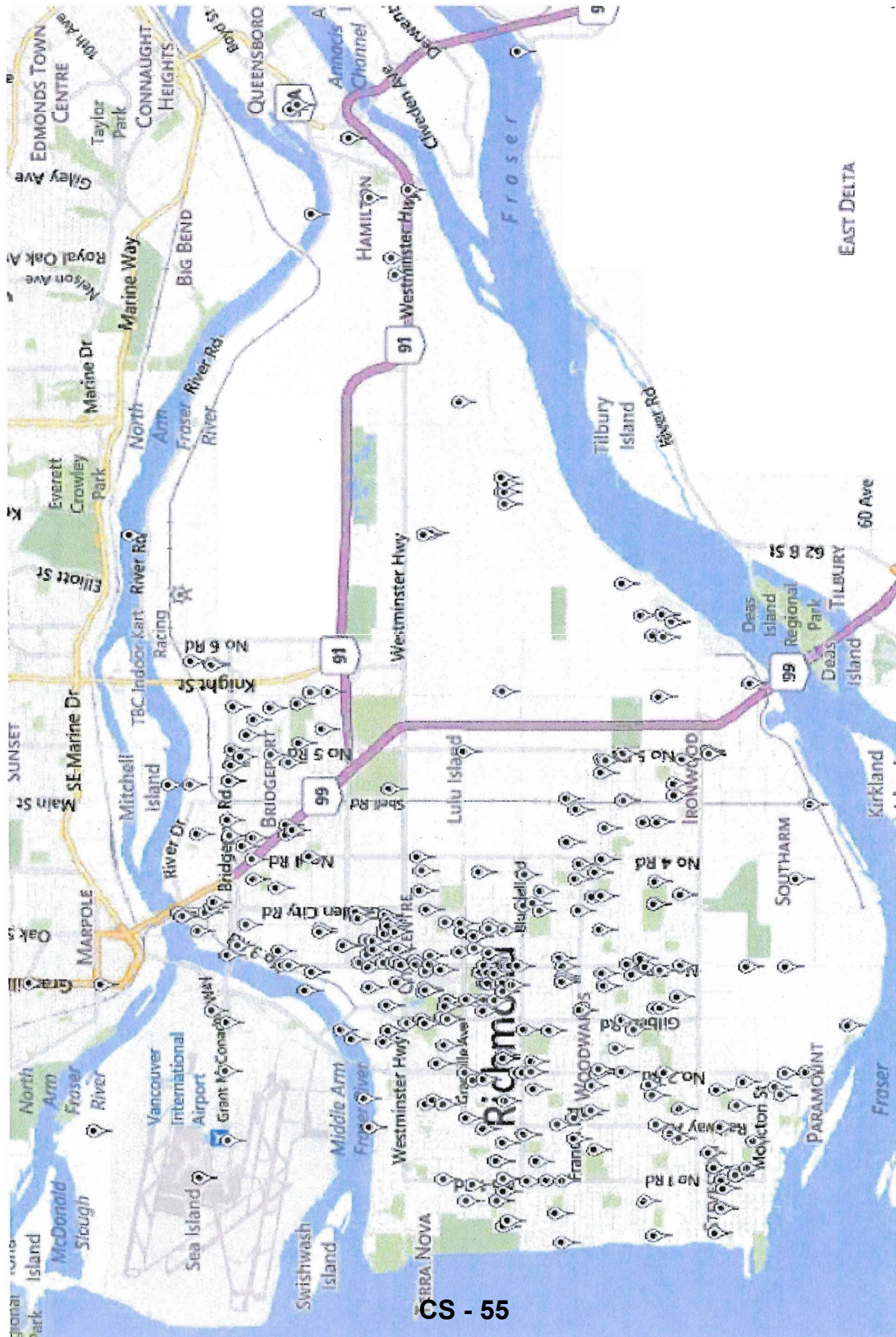


Figure 3: Location of June's MVI calls (total 80)

