



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** Community Safety Committee

**Date:** May 22, 2018

**From:** Tim Wilkinson  
Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue

**File:** 09-5000-01/2018-Vol 01

**Re:** Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – April 2018

### Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – April 2018”, dated May 22, 2018 from the Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue, be received for information.

Tim Wilkinson  
Fire Chief  
(604-303-2701)

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 (RFR) activities. 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's 2014-2018 Term Goal #1 A Safe Community:

*Maintain emphasis on community safety to ensure Richmond continues to be a safe community.*

### **Analysis**

#### Community Involvement

RFR advances public awareness, education and community bridge building by participating in training events, community activities and social media.

Safety presentations provided during April 2018, included Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee, Metro Vancouver Housing Corporation Seniors and Quilchena Green Strata Seniors.

A tour of the Cambie Fire Hall No. 3 and Richmond North Ambulance Station was provided to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Richmond Scout Group.

Staff engaged with over 170 children and adults during April, continuing to develop effective interagency relationships and partnerships within the community.

In April staff met with the Richmond School District to discuss proposed Grade 2, 8 and 12 education initiatives as part of RFR's Community Outreach and Public Education Plan. Following the meeting RFR were invited to make presentations to district elementary and secondary principals' meetings. The presentations will be completed in early June after which the curriculum will be designed.

In partnership with Kwantlen Polytechnic University Wilson School of Design, RFR created a new *9-1-1 When to Make the Call brochure*. RFR are currently working on a distribution and awareness campaign, partnering with relevant stakeholders, to share information on when and how to call 911 in the summer.

#### Emergency Response

RFR's goal is to respond to events in a manner where loss of life, reduction of property damage and protection of the environment is mitigated. In April 2018 there were a total 776 incidents, representing a 2.9 per cent reduction in calls from April 2017 (Attachment 1). The average time on scene for RFR crews was 26.00 minutes, a decrease of 7 per cent from 2017. This is due to the nature and severity of each call and the duration on scene.

In April 2018 there were 26 reportable fires to the Office of the Fire Commissioner; representing a 30 per cent increase from April 2017. The average figure for fires reported in April, over the last five years, is 33.4, thus reportable fires in the month of April remains consistent with year over year trends. In April 2018, 79 apparatus were used and 254 fire personnel attended fire related incidents.

Fire damage and property losses during April 2018 are estimated at \$72,000. This total includes \$62,000 for building/asset loss and \$10,000 for content loss. The total building/asset and content value at risk was estimated to be \$8,494,960 and the total value preserved from damage was \$8,422,960. These numbers translate to 99 per cent of value protected (Table 1), this is the same per cent protected value observed in 2017.

<b>Table 1: Fire Calls By Type and Loss Estimates – April 2018</b>						
<b>Incident Type Breakdown</b>	<b>Call Volume</b>	<b>Estimated Building / Asset Value (\$)</b>	<b>Estimated Building / Asset Loss (\$)</b>	<b>Estimated Content Value (\$)</b>	<b>Estimated Content Loss (\$)</b>	<b>Estimated Total Value Preserved (\$)</b>
Residential:						
Single family	4	6,160,300	25,000	623,460	-	6,758,760
Multi family	4	984,000	30,000	295,200	-	1,249,200
Commercial / Industrial	2	357,000	6,000	67,500	10,000	408,500
Outdoor	14	-	-	-	-	-
Vehicle / Vessel	2	7,500	1,000	-	-	6,500
<b>Totals*</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>7,508,800</b>	<b>62,000</b>	<b>986,160</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>8,422,960</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).

### Incident Response Times

The following table shows the total emergency response time per fire hall for incidents during April 2017 and 2018.

RFR tracks and reports average emergency response time. Response time is impacted by a number of factors including the time to put on personal protective equipment (PPE), when PPE is required. The industry standard allows for an additional 20 seconds for the donning of PPE.

There is significant work that needs to be undertaken to do further analysis (e.g. validate statistics) and reduce turnout time to don PPE to incrementally reduce the emergency response time.

<b>Table 2: Average Incident Response Times (in minutes) Per Hall – April 2018</b>				
	<b>April 2017</b>		<b>April 2018</b>	
	<b>PPE</b>	<b>Non PPE</b>	<b>PPE</b>	<b>Non PPE</b>
Hall 1 - City Centre	05:16	04:50	05:05	04:16
Hall 2 - Steveston	05:09	04:51	05:51	05:12
Hall 3 - Cambie	04:40	04:59	05:23	04:29
Hall 4 - Sea Island	06:06	05:55	06:28	05:40
Hall 5 - Hamilton	06:12	05:22	07:31	04:37
Hall 6 - Shellmont	05:43	04:56	05:18	04:51
Hall 7 - Crestwood	05:07	06:03	07:18	06:07

\* Times shown are for events where Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) was used. PPE figures equal fire incidents while Non PPE shows medical or other types of incident response times. Impacts to response times may include: distance to scene, weather, and the time of day.

### Significant Events

Fire crews minimized loss and limited fires to the place of origin in these notable April 2018 incidents:

- Fire at a residential property on Springmont Drive. Arriving crews saw visible flames coming from the front entry of a townhouse. An occupant from the unit had suffered burns and RFR crews provided medical response. The patient was then transferred to Vancouver General Hospital with BC Ambulance Services, but did not recover. There were multiple fires onsite and crews attacked and managed to confine the fires to one unit. Once fires were extinguished crews checked the surrounding area for any fire extension. A Fire Investigator was requested to attend.
- Fire at a commercial property on No. 9 Road. Crews responded to reports of a large fire. On arrival, crews were directed to a tower where a plastic hog fuel was on fire. Crews attacked the fire with water. Once extinguished crews proceeded with overhaul of the area and clean up. A Fire Investigator was requested to attend.
- Industrial incident at a commercial property on River Road. Crews attended to reports of a patient that had suffered major trauma after a tire explosion. The RCMP, BC Ambulance Services and WorkSafe BC were also on scene to provide patient care. Patient did not recover from injuries. Due to the nature of the call RFR crews were provided with Critical Incident Stress de-briefing after the event.

May 22, 2018

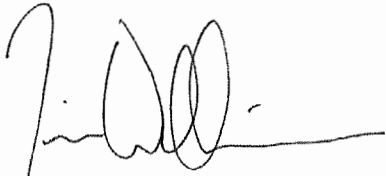
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### **Financial Impact**

None.

### **Conclusion**

During April 2018, calls for service decreased by 2.9 per cent from April 2017. RFR will continue to monitor these activities to identify trends and ensure potential solutions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Wilkinson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Tim Wilkinson  
Fire Chief  
(604-303-2701)

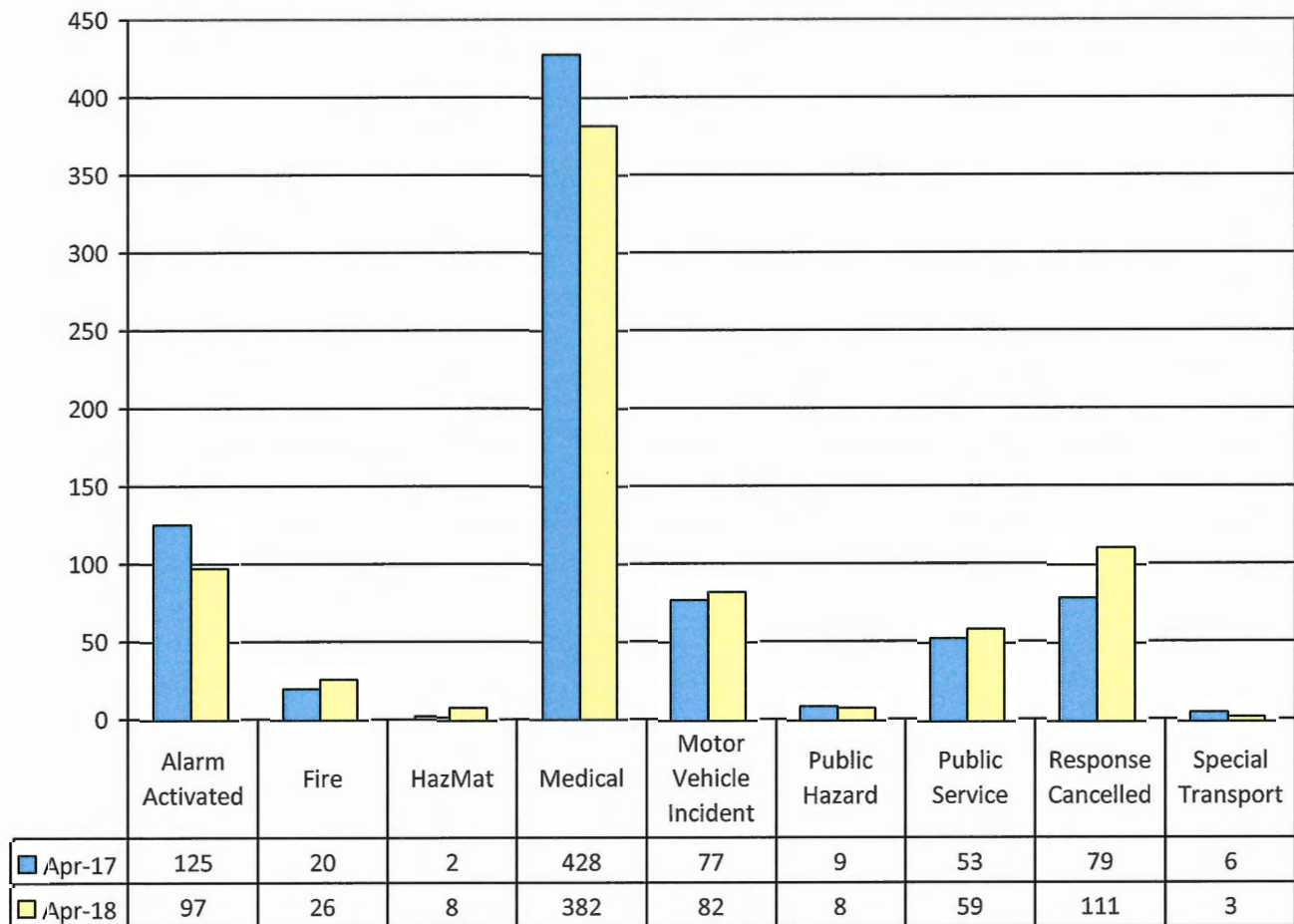
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- Att.    1: Suppression Activity  
         2: Location of April's Fire, Medical and MVIs

### Calls for Service Volumes

The following chart provides a month to month comparison regarding incidents occurring in April 2017 and 2017. In April 2018, there were a total of 776 incidents, compared to 799. This represents a decrease of 2.9 per cent.

**Table 3: April 2017 & 2018 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

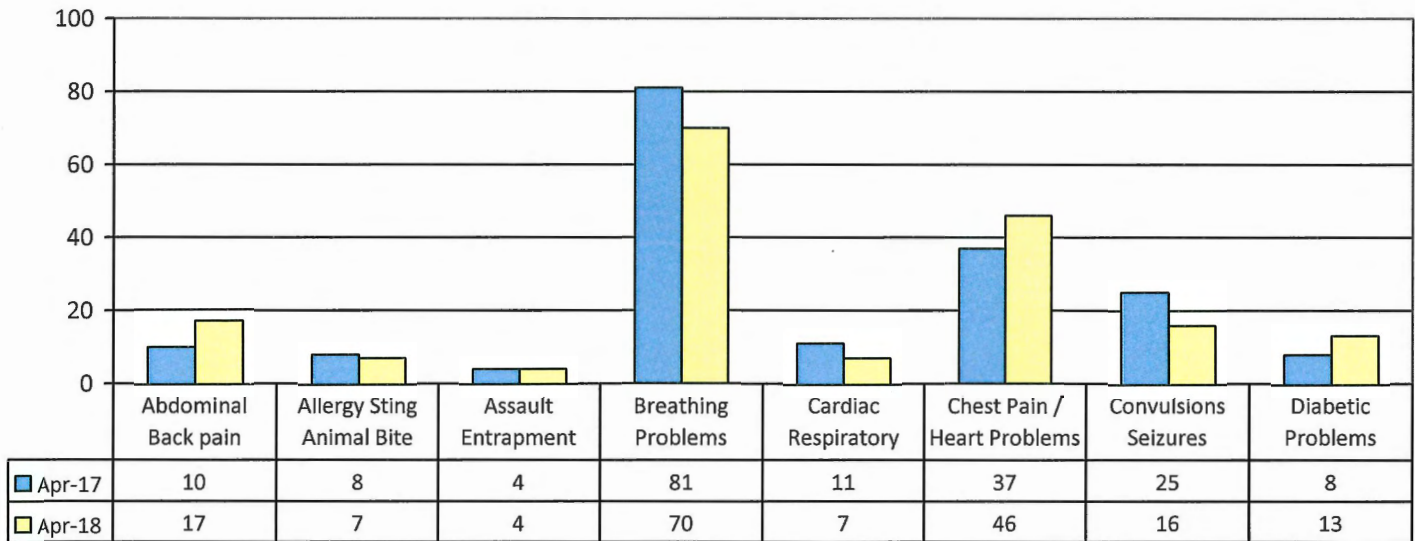
**Public Hazard** includes: aircraft emergency, bomb removal standby, object removal, or power lines down

**Public Service** includes: assisting public, ambulance or police, locked in/out, special events, trapped in elevator, water removal

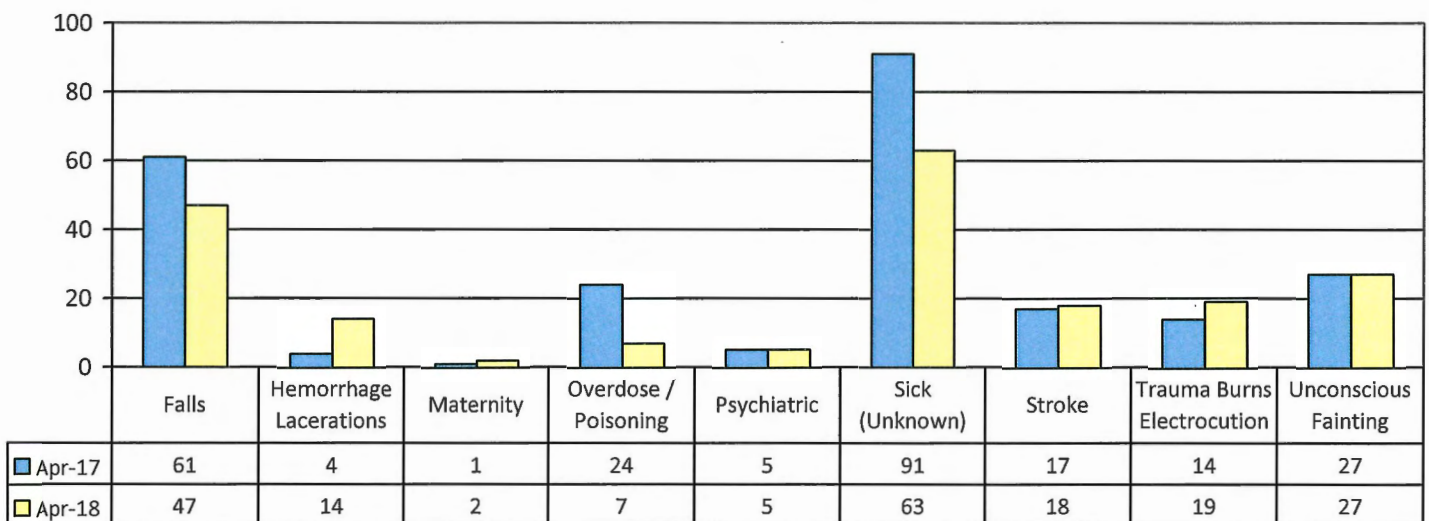
### First Responder Totals

Medical first responder incidents comprised 49.2 per cent of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of April 2018. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for April 2018 and 2017 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 382 medical incidents in April 2018 compared to 428 in April 2017, a decrease of 10.7 per cent.

**Table 4a: April 2017 & 2018 Medical Calls by Type**



**Table 4b: April 2017 & 2018 Medical Calls by Type**



## Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for April 2018 are listed below:

<b>Table 5: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – April</b>			
	<b>Suspicious</b>	<b>Accidental</b>	<b>Undetermined</b>
Residential - Single-family	-	3	1
Residential - Multi-family	1	2	1
Commercial/Industrial	-	1	1
Outdoor	4	5	5
Vehicle	-	1	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>

RFR investigators report all suspicious fires to the RCMP, while working alongside RCMP staff to address potential risks to the community.

## Hazardous Materials

<b>Table 6: HazMat Calls By Type – April</b>	
	<b>Details</b>
Natural Gas / Propane Leaks (small)	6
Unclassified	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>8</b>

Figure 1: Location of reportable fires attended in April (total 26)

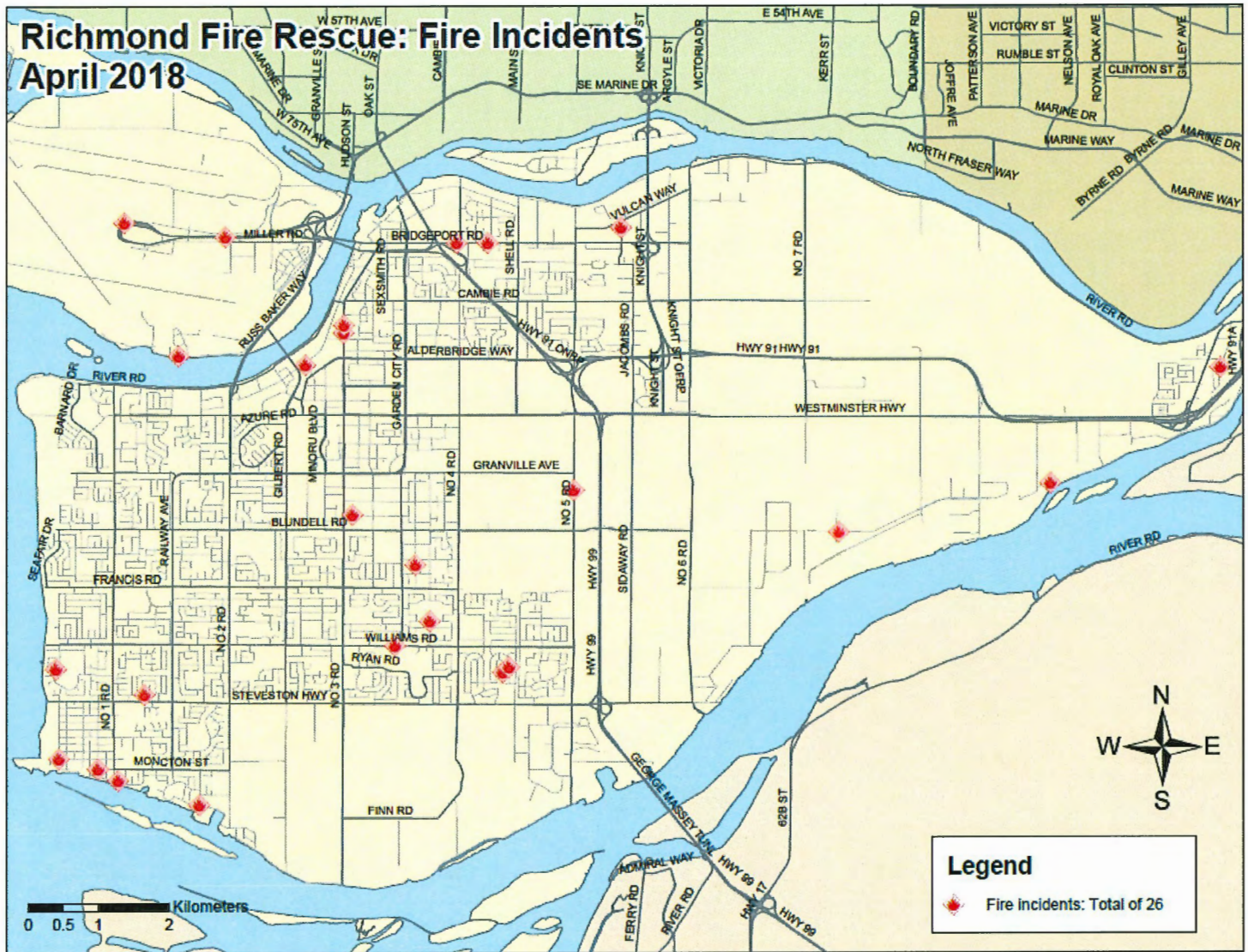


Figure 2: Location of medical calls in April (total 382)

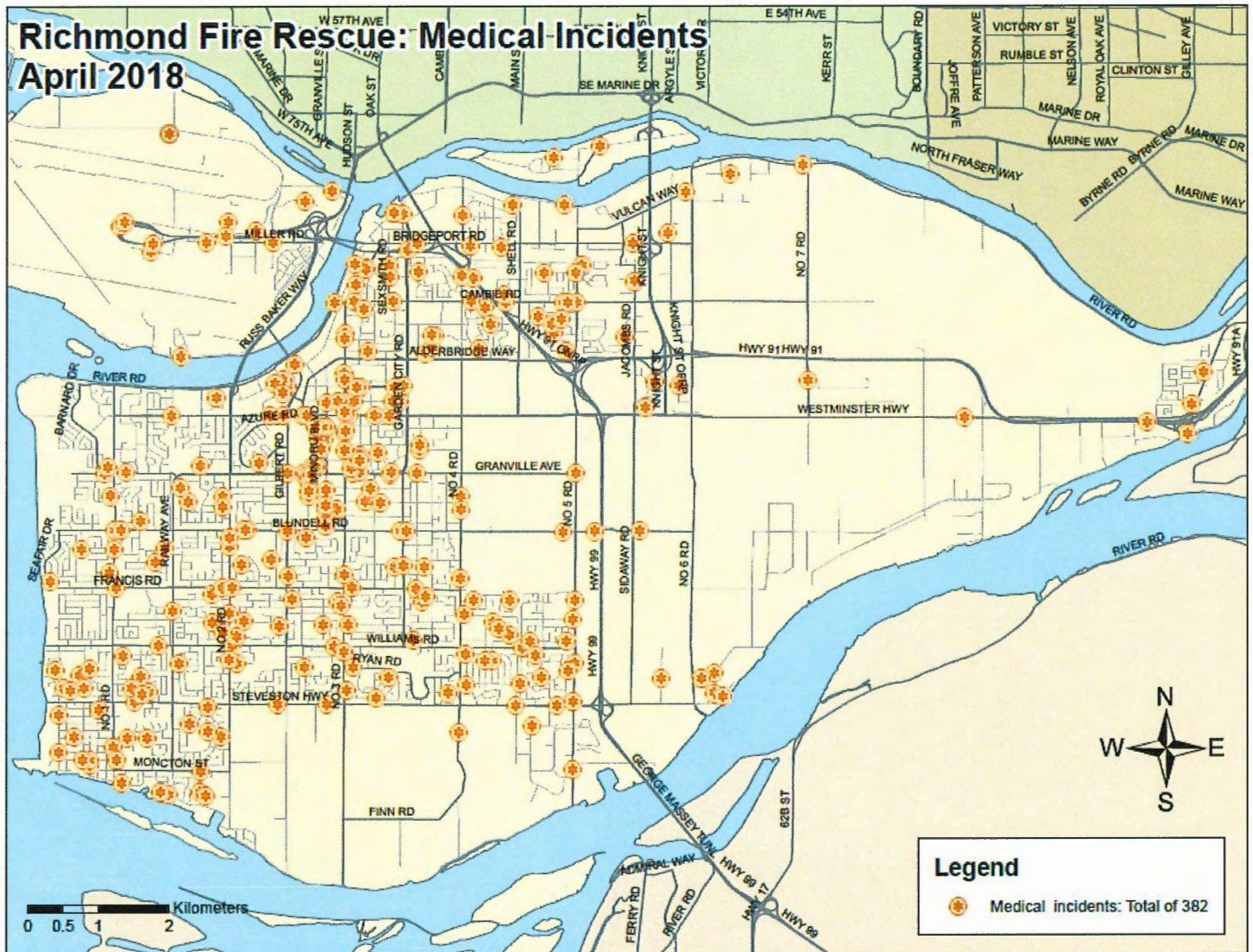


Figure 3: Location of MVI calls in April (total 82)

