



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee

Date: January 8, 2020

From: Tim Wilkinson
Fire Chief

File: 09-5140-01/2020-Vol
01

Re: Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – December 2019

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – December 2019”, dated January 8, 2020, from the General Manager, Community Safety, be received for information.

Tim Wilkinson
Fire Chief
(604-303-2701)

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

Community Involvement

Richmond Fire-Rescue advances public safety awareness, education and community connections by providing valuable training activities, participation in community events and social media updates.

During December 2019 RFR staff engaged with approximately 500 children and adults, while continuing to develop effective interagency relationships and partnerships within the community.

December 2019 events included:

- RFR hosted the Richmond Care Richmond Gives (RCRG) toy drive event in the bay area of Fire Hall No. 1. This was RFR's first year hosting the event. RCRG commented it was their most successful toy drive to date.
- The annual lighting of the Hamilton Fire Hall No. 5, in partnership with the Hamilton Community Centre. This year's attendance was the highest recorded for this event.
- RFR were presented with an award for Outstanding Contribution to Public Safety from the Canadian Alliance of Chinese Associations and North America Artist Association.

Emergency Response

Richmond Fire-Rescue'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 December 2019 there were a total of 787 incidents, representing a nine per cent increase in calls from December 2018 (Attachment 1).

The average time on scene for RFR crews was 33 minutes. This is an increase over the 31 minutes in 2018, which is due to the nature and severity of each call.

In December 2019 there were 18 reportable fires to the Office of the Fire Commissioner, representing a 53 per cent decrease from December 2018. This could be due to a wetter than average December in comparison to previous years. The average figure for fires reported in December over the last five years is 28. RFR continues to monitor fire activities to identify and create programs to respond to emerging trends.

Richmond Fire-Rescue's emergency fire response goal is to maintain the fire to the room of origin. The room of origin standard is especially important in terms of fire loss, which increases some ten-fold once the fire leaves the room of origin. Fire damage and property losses during December 2019 are estimated at \$60,822. This total includes \$25,647 for building/asset loss and \$35,175 for content loss. The total building/asset and content value at risk was estimated to be \$12,873,022 and the total value preserved from damage was \$12,812,200. These numbers translate to 99 per cent of value protected (Table 1); this is the same as the 99 per cent protected value observed in 2018.

Table 1: Fire Calls By Type and Loss Estimates – December 2019						
Incident Type Breakdown	Call Volume	Estimated Building/Asset Value (\$)	Estimated Building/Asset Loss (\$)	Estimated Content Value (\$)	Estimated Content Loss (\$)	Estimated Total Value Preserved (\$)
Residential: Single family	4	1,475,040	20,000	360,000	11,500	1,803,540
Multi family	4	4,477,500	620	96,305	15,025	4,558,160
Commercial/Industrial	3	6,249,000	-	210,000	8,500	6,450,500
Outdoor	4	-	-	150	150	-
Vehicle/Vessel	3	5,027	5,027	-	-	-
Totals*	18	12,206,567	25,647	666,455	35,175	12,812,200

* 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 December 2019 incidents:

- December 2 – Hazardous Materials at Bayview Street.** Crews responded to reports of three patients who had lost consciousness due to the presence of Carbon Monoxide (CO) on a boat. First arriving RFR crews entered the boat in self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). Crews removed the patients and assisted BC Emergency Health Services with medical treatment. RFR crews then assessed the environmental quality inside the docked boat to determine the exact levels of CO and other potential health impacts. Once cleared RFR crews ventilated and taped off the area for safety. The Coast Guard, Steveston Harbour Authority and Richmond Public Works were all notified and the vessel was left in the care of the RCMP. The three patients were taken to hospital by BC Ambulance Services for hyperbaric chamber treatment. There were no other injuries reported.
- December 2 – Residential Fire at Robson Place.** Crews responded to a structure fire, which was located in a single family house. On arrival, crews discovered that the residents had extinguished the fire, which was located in the kitchen. Two of the occupants had suffered surface oil burns while trying to extinguish the fire and were provided with medical care. Crews remained on scene to check for fire extension and provide ventilation to the property. Both injured occupants were transported to hospital by BC Ambulance Services. A Fire Investigator attended the scene.

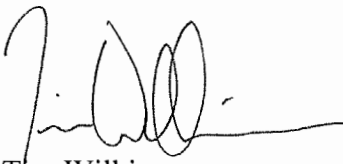
- **December 24 – Residential Fire at Sidaway Road.** RFR crews were initially dispatched for a report of smoke coming from a large home. On arrival RFR crews saw heavy smoke coming from the rear of the house. Crews used a long hydrant line to reach the back of the house to extinguish the fire. Positive Pressure Ventilation (PPV) was set up at the entry point of the home to remove the smoke. Crews quickly extinguished the fire before it could spread into the attic or crawl space. Searches were conducted for occupants but the home was found to be empty. Once extinguished, crews checked for hotspots. The scene was turned over to the RCMP and a property representative. A Fire Investigator attended the scene. There were no reports of injuries.
- **December 31 – Multiple Alarm calls at Bayview Street.** Crews responded to an alarm call reportedly caused by a group of youths smoking in a parkade area. RFR crews checked the parkade for fire and found none. Once the fire alarm was reset the residents were allowed back into their homes. RFR crews provided ventilation to the parkade due to a strong smell of marijuana. There were no reports of injuries and Richmond RCMP attended for further investigation.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

Richmond Fire-Rescue crews attended a lower than average amount of Fire events during December 2019. This could be due to a wetter than average December in comparison to previous years. RFR continues to monitor activities to identify and create programs to respond to emerging trends.



Tim Wilkinson
Fire Chief
(604-303-2701)

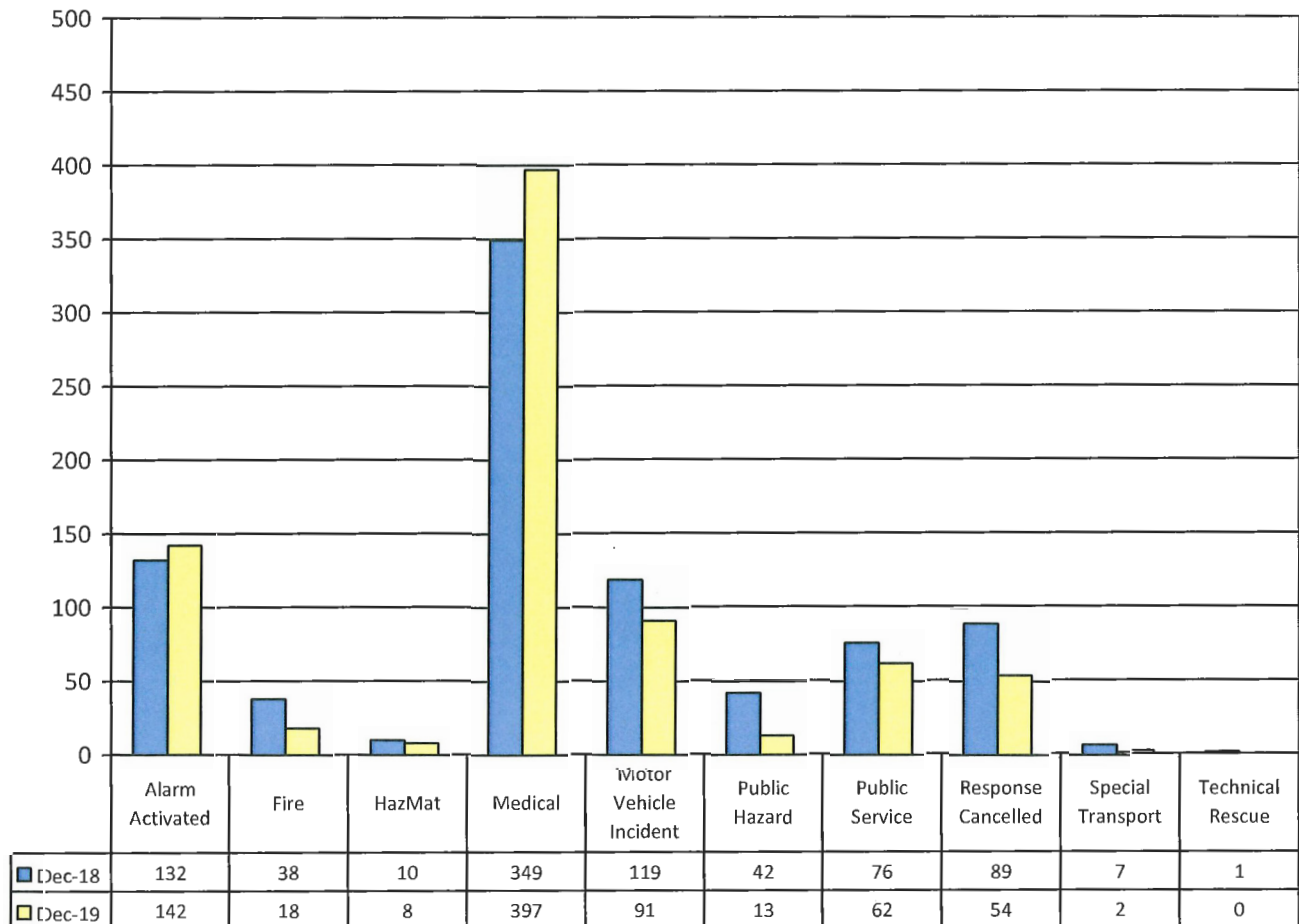
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Att. 1: Suppression Activity, including location of December's Fire, Medical and MVIs

Calls for Service Volumes

The following chart provides a month to month comparison regarding incidents occurring in December 2018 and 2019. In December 2019, there were a total of 787 incidents, compared to 863 in December 2018. This represents a decrease of 9 per cent.

Table 2: December 2018 & 2019 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 per cent of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of December 2019. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for December 2018 and 2019 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 397 medical incidents in December 2019 compared to 349 in December 2018, an increase of 14 per cent.

Table 3a: December 2018 & 2019 Medical Calls by Type

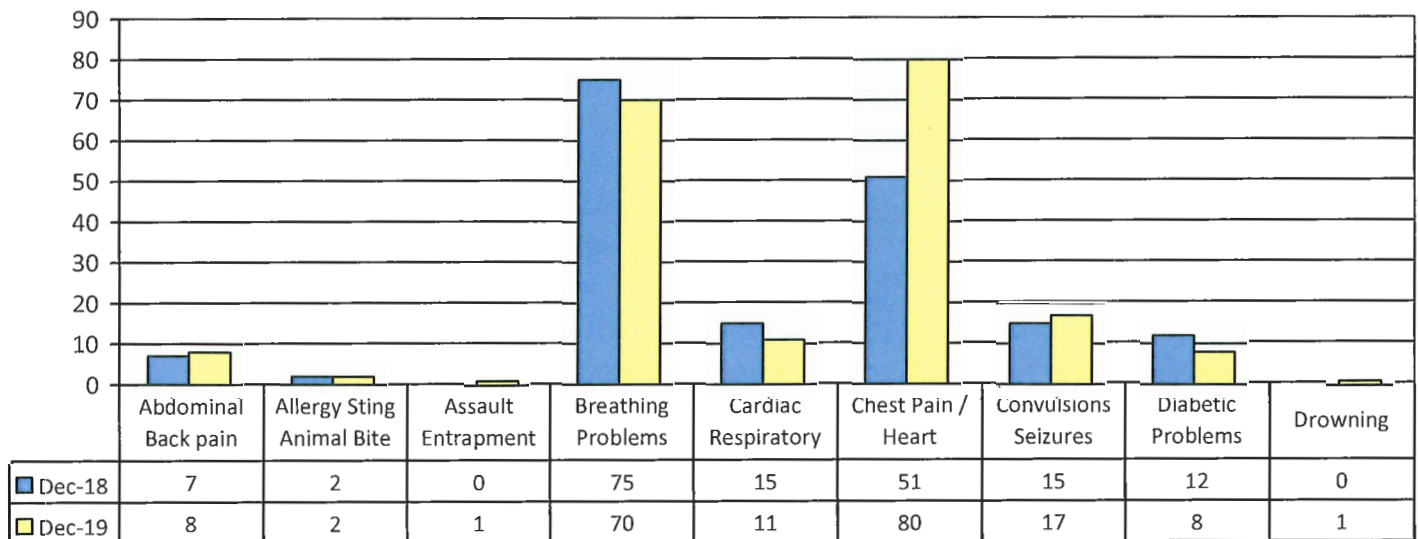
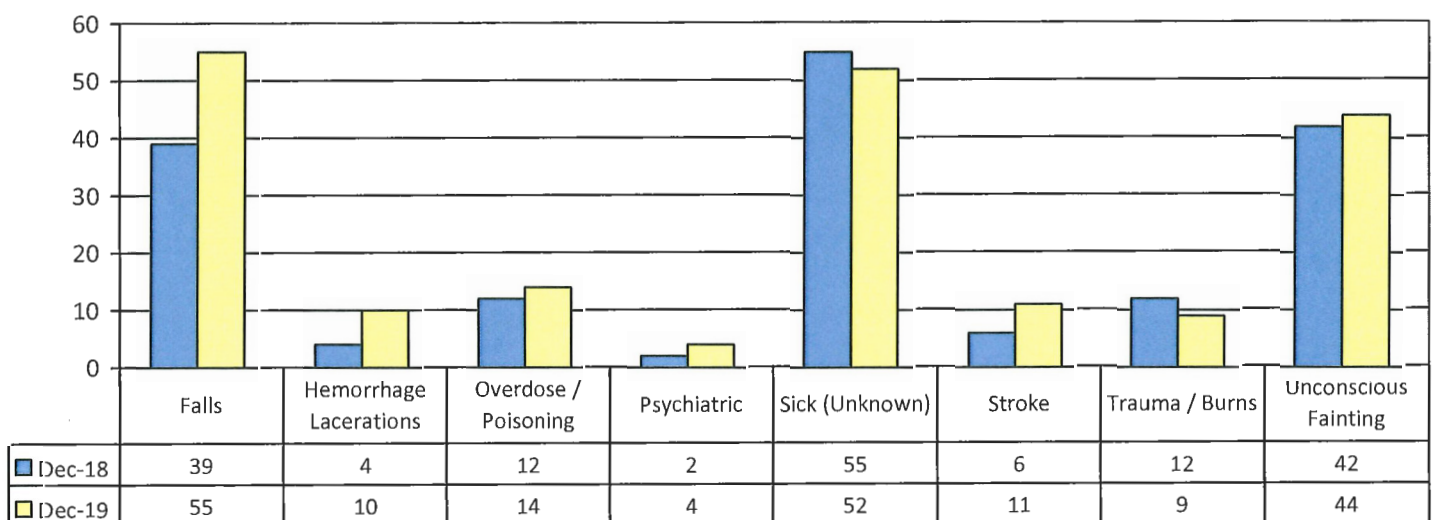


Table 3b: December 2018 & 2019 Medical Calls by Type



Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for December 2019 are listed below:

Table 4: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – December 2019			
	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	-	3	1
Residential - Multi-family	-	4	-
Commercial/Industrial	-	3	-
Outdoor	-	3	1
Vehicle	-	1	2
Totals	-	14	4

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 5: HazMat Calls By Type – December 2019	
	Details
Flammable / Combustible Liquids	1
Natural Gas / Propane Leaks (small)	6
Unclassified	1
Totals	8

Figure 1: Location of reportable fires attended in December 2019 (total 18)

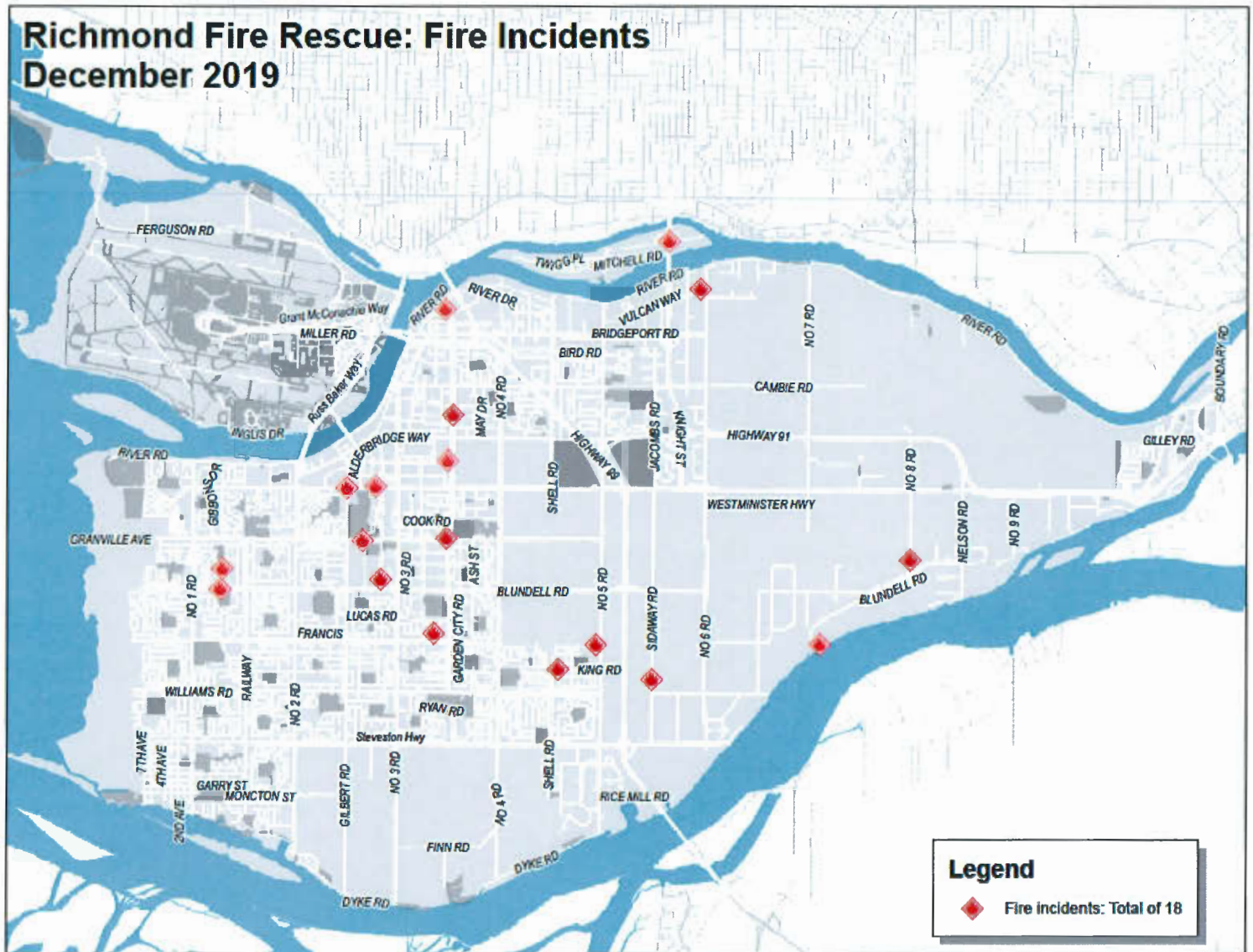


Figure 2: Location of medical calls in December 2019 (total 397)

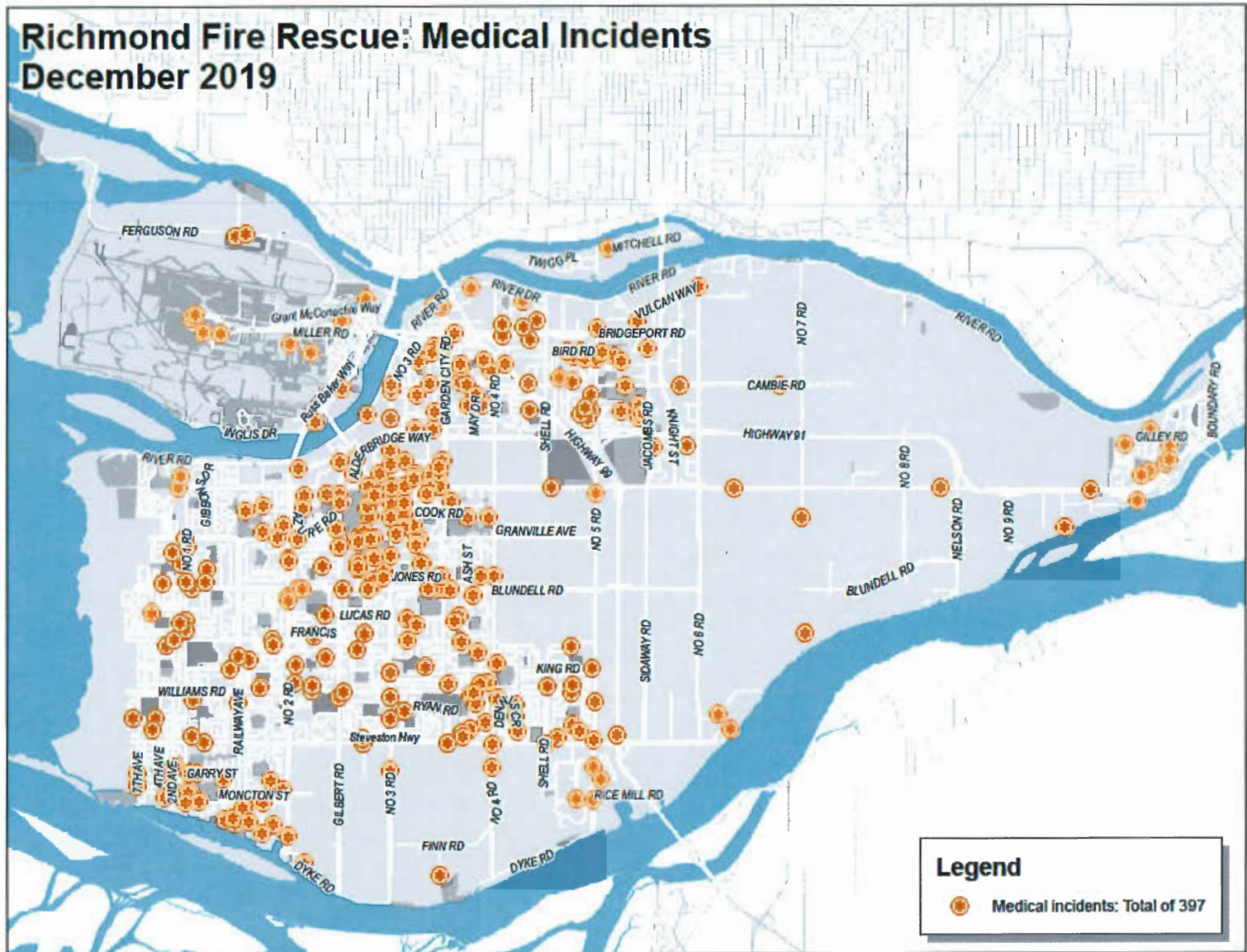


Figure 3: Location of MVI calls in December 2019 (total 91)

