



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee

Date: March 17, 2017

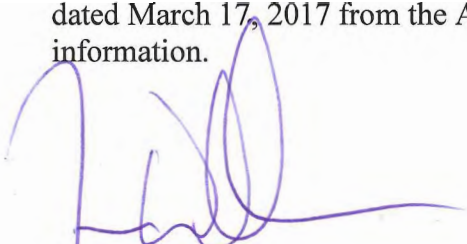
From: Tim Wilkinson
Acting Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue

File: 09-5000-01/2017-Vol
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Re: Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – February 2017

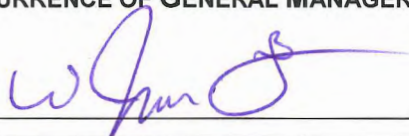

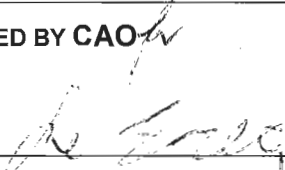
Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – February 2017”, dated March 17, 2017 from the Acting Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue, be received for information.



Tim Wilkinson
Acting Fire Chief
(604-303-2701)

Att. 2

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF ^(Acting) 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 continues to work towards the City's vision of being the most appealing, livable, and well-managed community in Canada, through the delivery of its programs and services. 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 and community activities. During February 2017 the following events took place:

- Public Education and Fire Safety Trailer visits to: Tomsett Elementary School, Talmey Elementary School, Tait Elementary School, Cook Elementary School, Thompson Elementary School, Blundell Elementary School, Whiteside Elementary School, Kingswood and Woodward Elementary School. Education staff engage with 235 students providing fire safety education;
- Information sessions for fire prevention were provided to Hamilton Community Centre; and
- RFR supported or hosted charitable/community events including the Touchstone Family Association Community and Family Pancake Breakfast event.

Staff engaged with over 519 children and adults in the community during February, providing fire safety and harm reduction information.

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 February 2017 there were a total 859 incidents, representing a 6.6 per cent increase in calls (Attachment 1). The average time on scene for RFR crews was 26.8 minutes, a decrease of 2.9 per cent from 2016. This is due to the nature and severity of each call and the duration on scene.

In February 2017 there were 33 dispatched fire calls. Of those, 19 were actual reportable fires, 125 apparatus' were used and 371 fire personnel attended.

Fire damage and property losses during the month are estimated at \$75,120. This total includes \$72,600 for building/asset loss and \$2,520 for content loss. The total building/asset and content value at risk was estimated to be \$2,132,000 and the total value preserved from damage was \$2,056,880. These numbers translate to 96 per cent of value protected (Figure 1), this figure is an decrease from the 97.9 per cent protected value observed in 2016.

Figure 1: Fire Calls By Type and Loss Estimates – February 2017

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	1	2,000,000	-	50,000	20	2,049,980
Multi family	4	-	-	-	-	,
Commercial / Industrial	5	-	100	-	-	100
Outdoor	7	-	-	-	-	1
Vehicle / Vessel	2	75,000	72,500	7,000	2,500	7,000
Totals*	19	2,075,000	72,600	57,000	2,520	2,056,880

*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 fires to the place of origin in these notable February 2017 incidents:

- Fire at a residential property on Jones Road. Crews arrived on scene to find a very large number of evacuees standing outside and alarm bells ringing. On arrival crews found tea candles had been lit and left in an empty property with the smoke alarms covered. Crews confirmed that the fire was completely extinguished and proceed to vent the property of smoke. There were no injuries and no structural damage however; smoke damage did displace occupants for the night. A fire investigator was requested to attend the scene.
- Fire at a temple on Blundell Road. Arriving crews were directed upstairs to a burning table with candles underneath it. Crews extinguished the fire and removed the table to the outside of the building. Crews proceed to ventilate the area to clear the remaining smoke.
- Fire at a residential property on Garry Street. Crews responded to a fire with reports of smoke coming from a suite. On further investigation it was found that the smoke was from a pot on the stove. Crews proceeded to search for any occupants within the unit but found none. Ventilation equipment was used in the unit to clear smoke. Emergency Social Services (ESS), RCMP, a fire investigator and building manager were called to attend the scene.

- Fire on a boat located at a marine dock at Trites Road. Arriving crews found a boat tied to a dock with smoke showing. On investigation, crews found an electrical fire on the boat. Dry chemical and cold fire extinguishers were used to extinguish the fire and ventilation was used to clear the smoke from the cabin. The Coast Guard and BC Ambulance Services were also dispatched to attend the incident.
- Fire on a boat located at a dock on Graybar Road. Arriving crews found a 50 foot boat with heavy smoke showing. On investigation crews found that the fire was contained to the interior of the vessel. Crews applied Cold Fire extinguisher and quickly extinguished the fire. A search of the vehicle was carried out, finding no occupants or pets. The vessel appeared not to be leaking any oil or gasoline into the river. Harbour Patrol and the Coast Guard crews also attended the scene to monitor the situation.

RFR will provide public education via Facebook on the hazards of candles. The message will include the following information:

- Choose flameless candles and, when the power goes out, use flashlights.
- Extinguish all candles when leaving a room and before going to sleep. Be sure the wick ember is no longer glowing.
- Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn.
- Ensure candles are in sturdy candle holders.
- Keep burning candles out of the reach of children and pets.

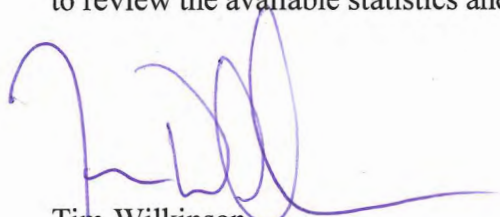
Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

During February 2017, calls for service increased by 6.6 per cent from February 2016. RFR will continue to monitor these activities to identify trends and ensure potential solutions.

The continued increase in RFR's emergency response has a direct impact on unit availability, response times, availability for non-emergency operations and in-service training. RFR continues to review the available statistics and amend resource allocation, as necessary.



Tim Wilkinson
Acting Fire Chief
(604-303-2701)

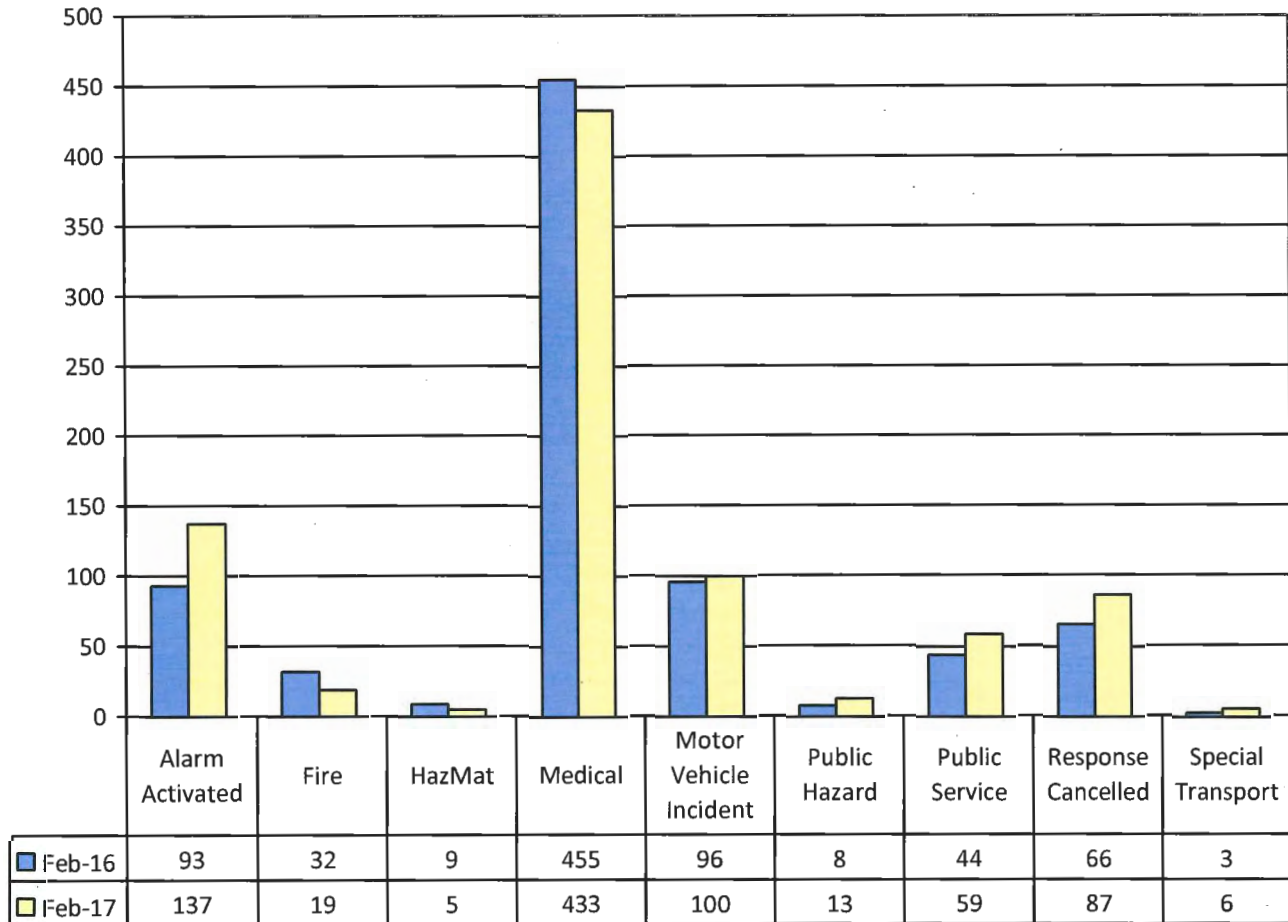
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Att. 1: Suppression Activity
Att. 2: Location of February's Fire, Medical and MVI's

Suppression Activity

The following chart provides a month to month comparison regarding incidents occurring in February 2016 and 2017. In February 2017, there were a total of 859 incidents, compared to 806 in February 2016. This represents an increase of 6.6 per cent.

Table 1: February 2016 & 2017 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 50.4 per cent of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of February 2017. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for February 2016 and 2017 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 433 medical incidents in February 2017 compared to 455 in February 2016, a decrease of 4.8 per cent.

Table 2a: February 2016 & 2017 Medical Calls by Type

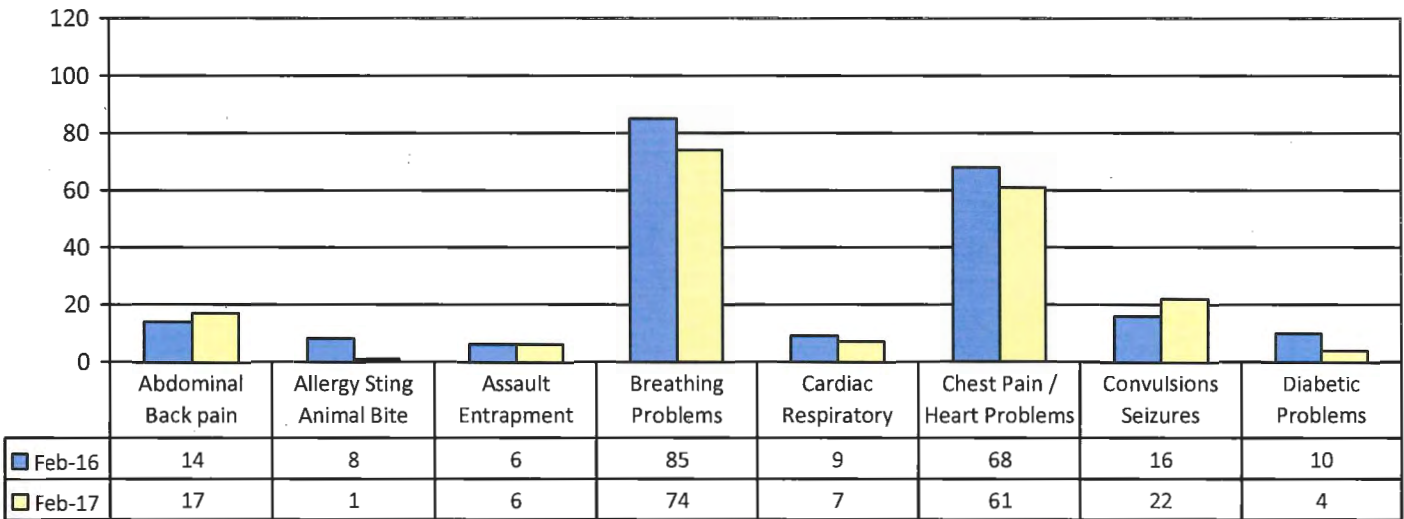
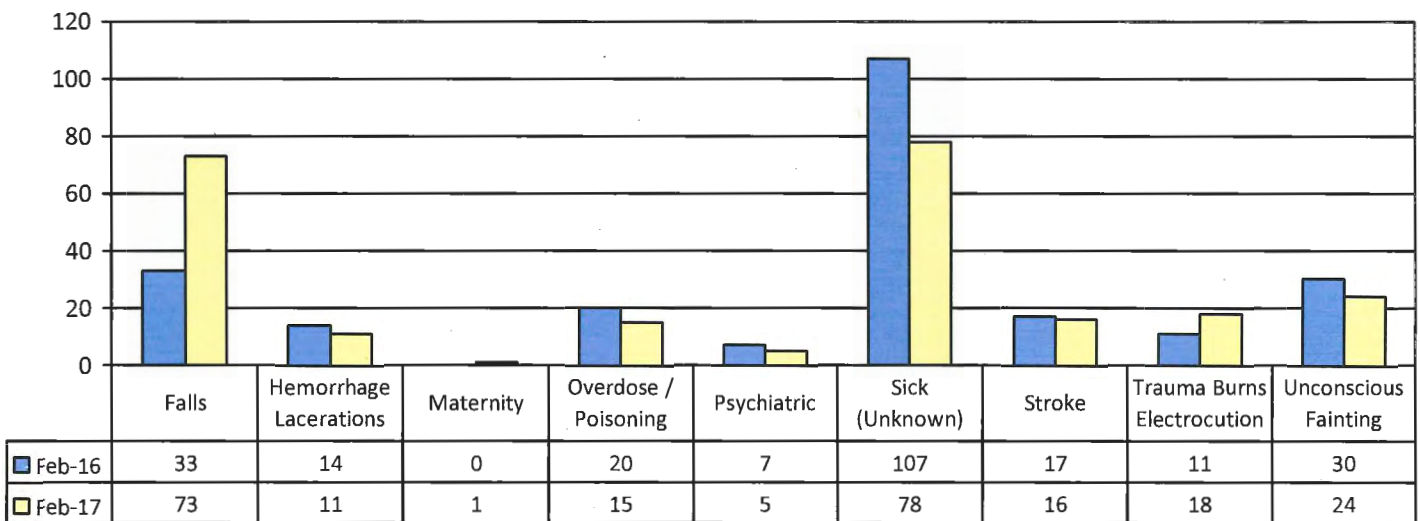


Table 2b: February 2016 & 2017 Medical Calls by Type



Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for February 2017 are listed below:

Table 3: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – February			
	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	-	1	-
Residential - Multi-family	-	4	-
Commercial/Industrial	-	3	2
Outdoor	1	4	2
Vehicle	-	1	1
Totals	1	13	5

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

Hazardous Materials

Table 4: HazMat Calls By Type – February	
	Details
Natural Gas / Propane Leaks (small)	4
Unclassified	1
Totals	5

Figure 1: Location of reportable fires attended in February (total 19)

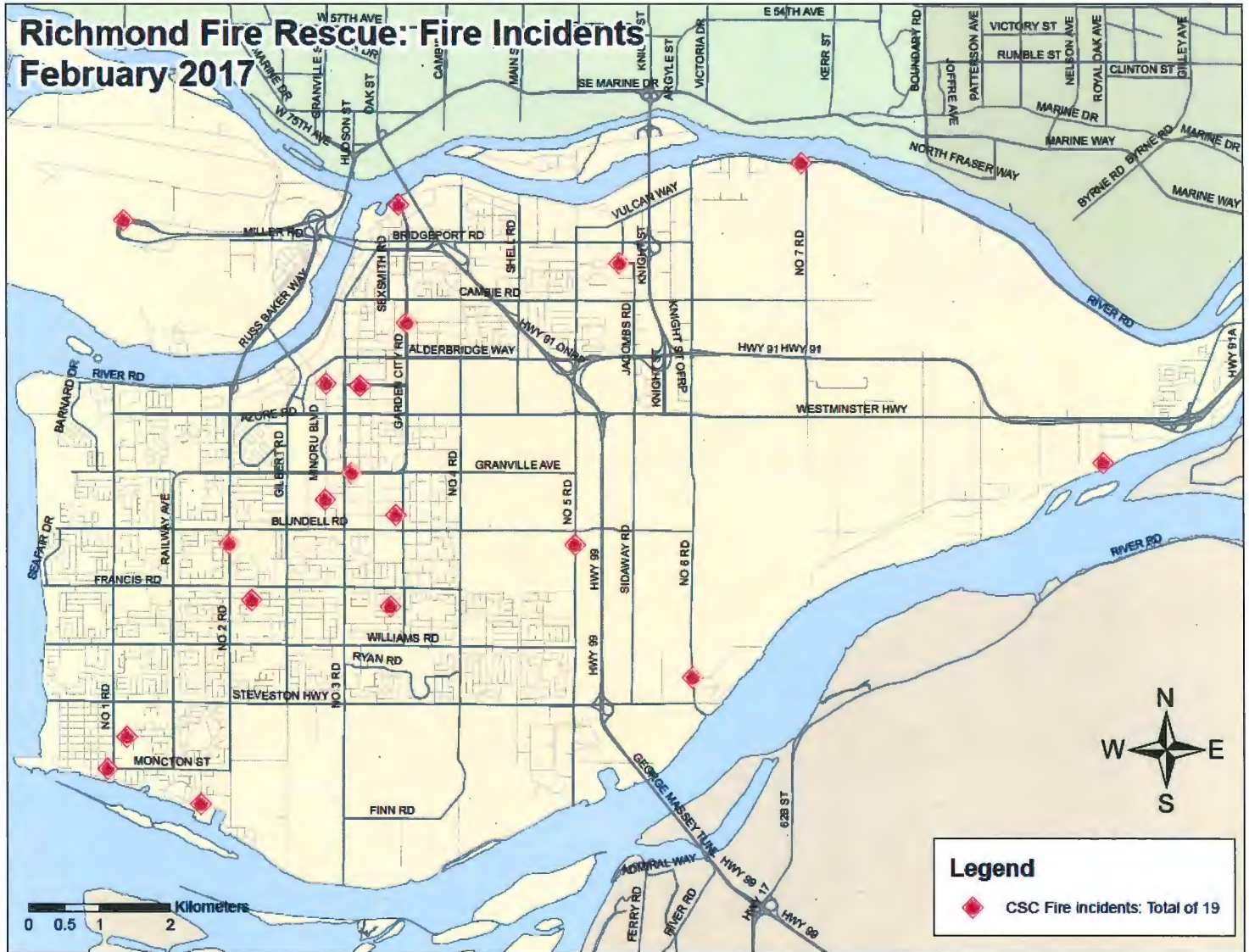


Figure 2: Location of medical calls in February (total 433)

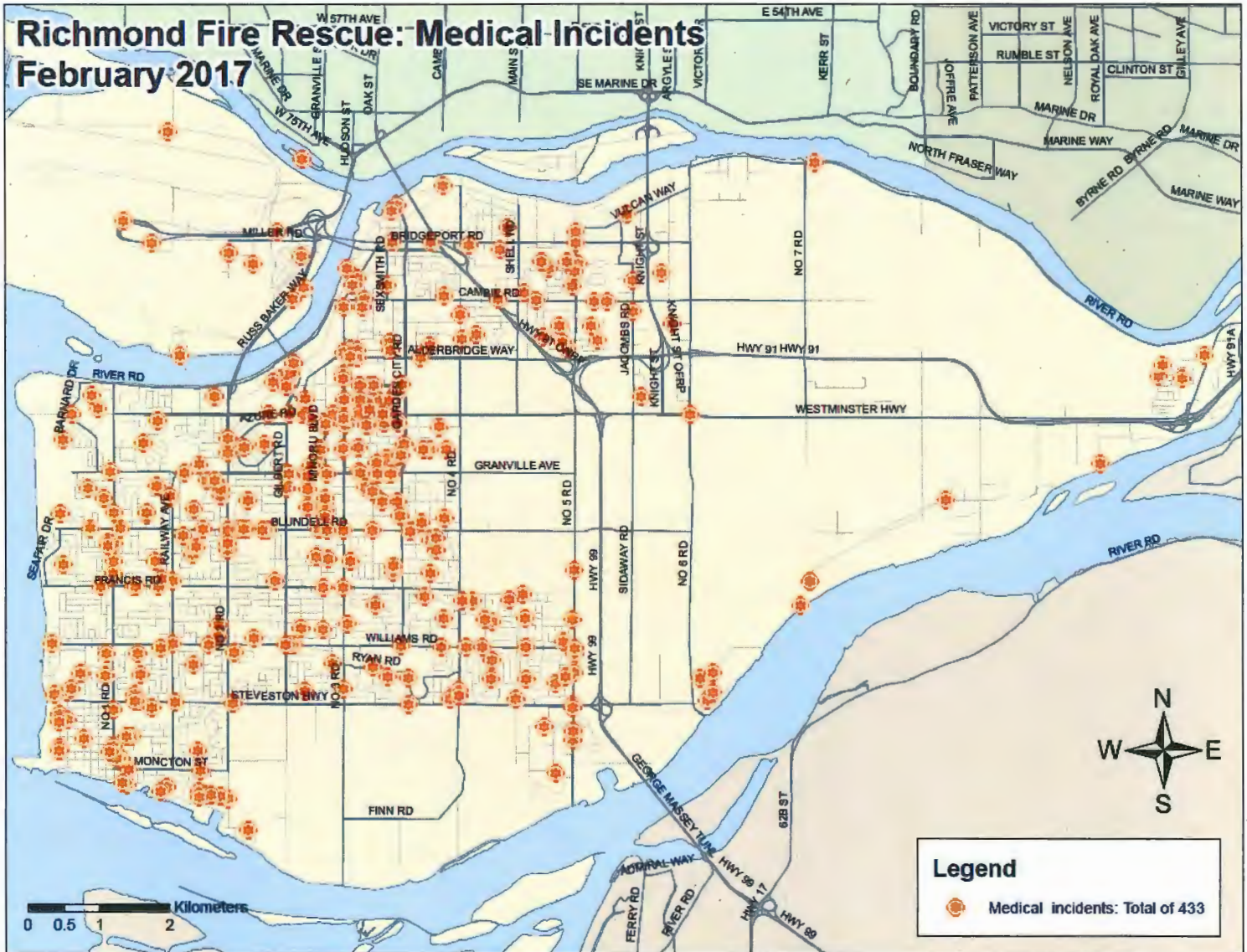


Figure 3: Location of MVI calls in February (total 100)

