



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** September 25, 2014
From: John McGowan **File:** 09-5000-01/2014-Vol
Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue 01
Re: **Richmond Fire-Rescue – August 2014 Activity Report**

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled, “Richmond Fire-Rescue – August 2014 Activity Report”, dated September 25, 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 (RFR) 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's Term Goal #1 Community Safety:

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

Community Involvement

Safety messages for August focused on driving safety including no texting while driving, reminders around not being a distracted driver and speed reduction. Media releases, Facebook posts and firehall sign messages were used to remind the public of these key safety points.

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

- Pumper visits were made to the *Family Friendly Festival at the Olympic Oval, Steveston Community Centre Preschool Camp, Core Education & Fine Arts (CEFA) Richmond-Crestwood Visit, Bridgeview Block Party* and *South Arm Neighbourhood Block Party* reaching over 2,215 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.
- An educational hall tour was provided to *Potts Education Studio Summer Camp* with 12 participants.
- Safety presentations were provided to *Bentley Wynd Senior Complex* and *the Richmond Star Childcare* for preschoolers. There were a total of 327 participants in attendance.
- Community events attended during August included: the *11th Annual Richmond Maritime Festival, Outdoor Movie Night at King George Park* and *YVR Golf for Kids Tournament*. Over 18,300 children and adults attended these events where crews engaged with the community groups, provided fire safety and public relations information.

- 21 car seat inspections were conducted to keep children safe while travelling in motor vehicles. This is a reduction from 32 car seat inspections carried out in August 2013.

Emergency Response

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

There were 69 fires in August 2014. Fire losses during the month are estimated at \$309,800. This total includes \$57,450 for building loss and \$252,350 for content loss. The total building and content value at risk was estimated to be \$76,283,600, and the total value preserved was \$75,973,800. These numbers translate to 99.6% of value protected (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Fire Calls By Type and Loss Estimates – August

Incident Type Breakdown	Call Volume	Estimated Building Value (\$)	Estimated Building Loss (\$)	Estimated Content Value (\$)	Estimated Content Loss (\$)	Estimated Total Value Preserved (\$)
Residential: Single family	1	500,000	-	30,000	-	530,000
Multi family	2	8,000,000	-	630,000	100	8,629,900
Commercial / Industrial	2	43,561,600	2,200	13,782,000	800	57,340,600
Fire – Outdoor	59	3,457,800	35,250	2,901,050	1,450	6,322,150
Vehicle	5	3,171,000	20,000	250,150	250,000	3,151,150
Totals*	69	58,690,400	57,450	17,593,200	252,350	75,973,800

*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 August incidents:

1. A fully involved fire of three trucks located at River Road. After gaining access through the locked gate, crews traveled to the back of the large property where the fire was located. At the back of the truck yard there were three dump trucks with the front ends fully involved with flames, and thick black smoke. There were no occupants or employees around the fire scene. Crews knocked down a small amount of the fire, using 300 gallons of water and 25 gallons of Cold Fire foam. Crews then connected a hydrant line from River Road and firefighting efforts continued until the fire was extinguished. Crews cooled down hot spots, broke down the lines and cleaned up the fire scene. The scene was left with RCMP for investigation.

2. Crews responded to a rubbish fire near a tree on River Road. On arrival, a small fire was directly beside some concrete dividers and a large tree, it initially looked to involve some sort of cylinder. After extinguishment, crews noticed that there was a 40 lb propane bottle burning. The side of the bottle had been heated enough to cause the safety valve to vent and relieve pressure. Crew members continued to cool the cylinder until the pressure risk was mitigated. Crews requested RCMP attendance for investigation along with a Fire Investigator.
3. A boat fire located near Shady Island. Crews attended to the marine vessel, which had exploded with three passengers on board. Two people suffered burns and were taken to Richmond General Hospital for further treatment. The boat was a 26 foot skiff and the fire was extinguished by the Harbour Authority. The incident was handed over to RCMP and Fire Prevention for further investigation.
4. Outdoor fire responses attended during August included a bark mulch fire on Blundell Road, an artificial turf fire on No. 1 Road and a large brush fire on Van Horne Way.
5. Haz-mat calls during August included 20 gallons of diesel spilled in the Massey tunnel and a can of bug spray discharged in laundry room on Deagle Road.

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

1. A five year old that had fallen out a window approximately 20 feet on Lucas Road. The boy had suffered facial injuries and was bleeding. Patient care was provided by RFR crews including spinal protocols. Crews then assisted BC Ambulance Services (BCAS) to package the patient for transport to hospital.
2. A motor vehicle incident on Azure Road involving a pedestrian being struck. The pedestrian was observed jumping in front of a moving vehicle and had suffered injuries to the head and torso. RFR crews assisted BCAS with patient care and a crew member accompanied the patient to Vancouver General Hospital. RFR crew also remained on scene to assist RCMP with the scene investigation.
3. There were two incidents involving stabbings in August, they include one on Granville Avenue and one on Mang Road. Both incidents are under RCMP investigation and RFR crews were provided Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) defusing immediately after each event.
4. There were several medical incidents including cardiac issues where a pulse was restored; they included a male patient located at River Road, a female located on No. 3 Road and an elderly female on Romaniuk Drive. In all incidents, CPR and an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) were used.
5. There was a cardiac incident, involving a male located on Citation Drive. RFR crews provided CPR and an AED was used. Crews were unable to regain pulse and respirations.

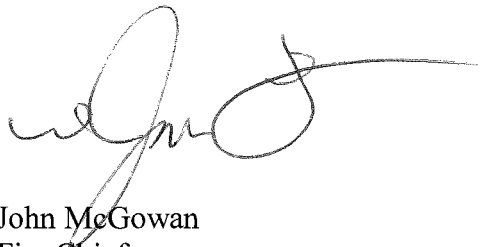
A summary of 9-1-1 emergency response statistics is found in Attachment 1, Tables 1, 2, 3 and 4. The location of fire, medical and motor vehicle incident calls in August are depicted in Attachment 2, Figures 1, 2 and 3.

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)

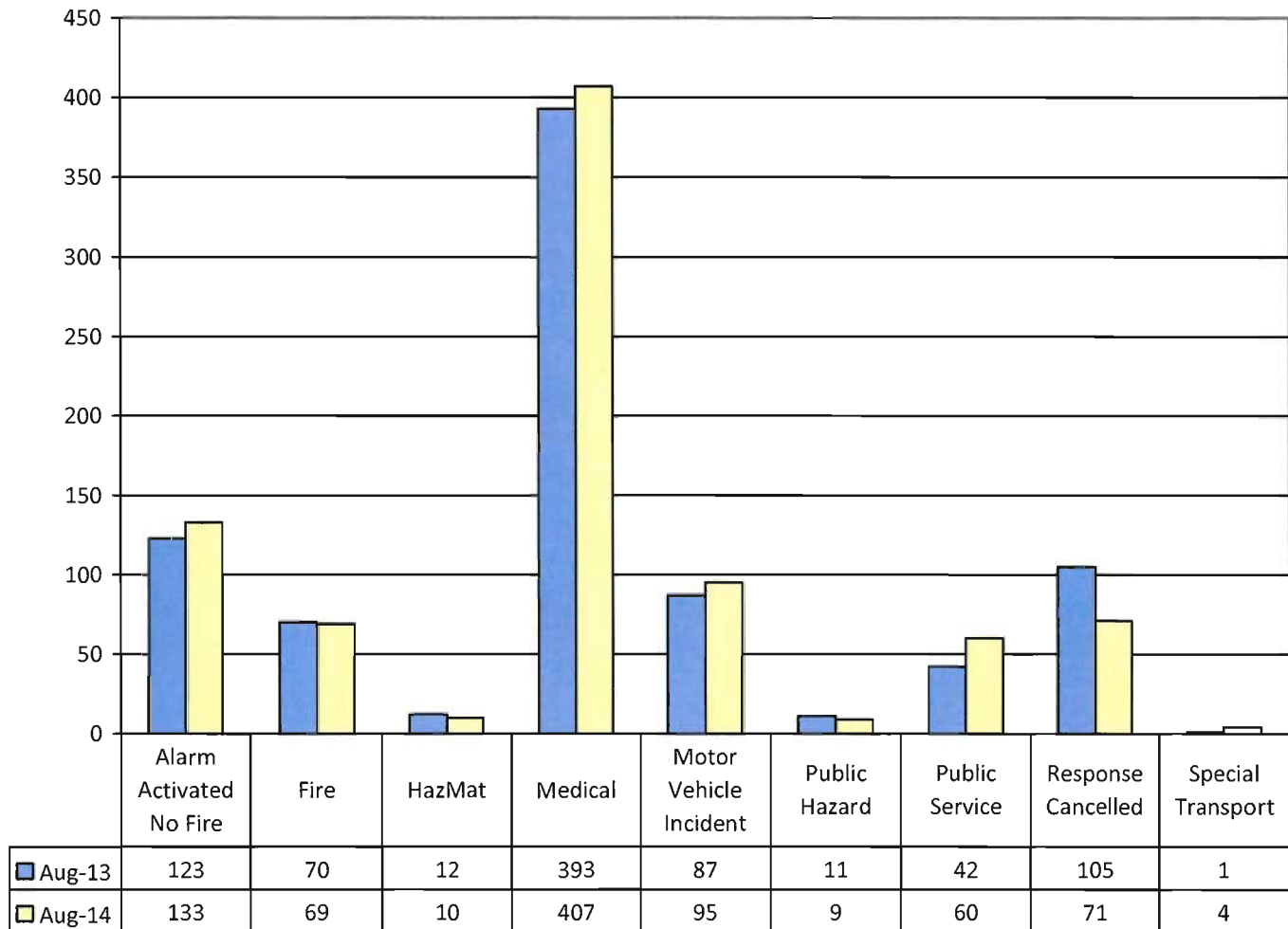
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Att. 1: Suppression Activity
Att. 2: Location of August’s Fire, Medical and MVI calls

Suppression Activity

The following chart provides a month to month comparison regarding incidents occurring in August 2013 and 2014. In August 2014, there were a total of 858 incidents, compared to 844 in August 2013. This represents an increase of 1.7%.

Table 1: August 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 47.3% of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of August. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for August 2013 and 2014 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 407 medical incidents in August 2014 compared to 393 in August 2013 an increase of 3.6%.

Table 2a: August 2013 & 2014 Medical Calls by Type

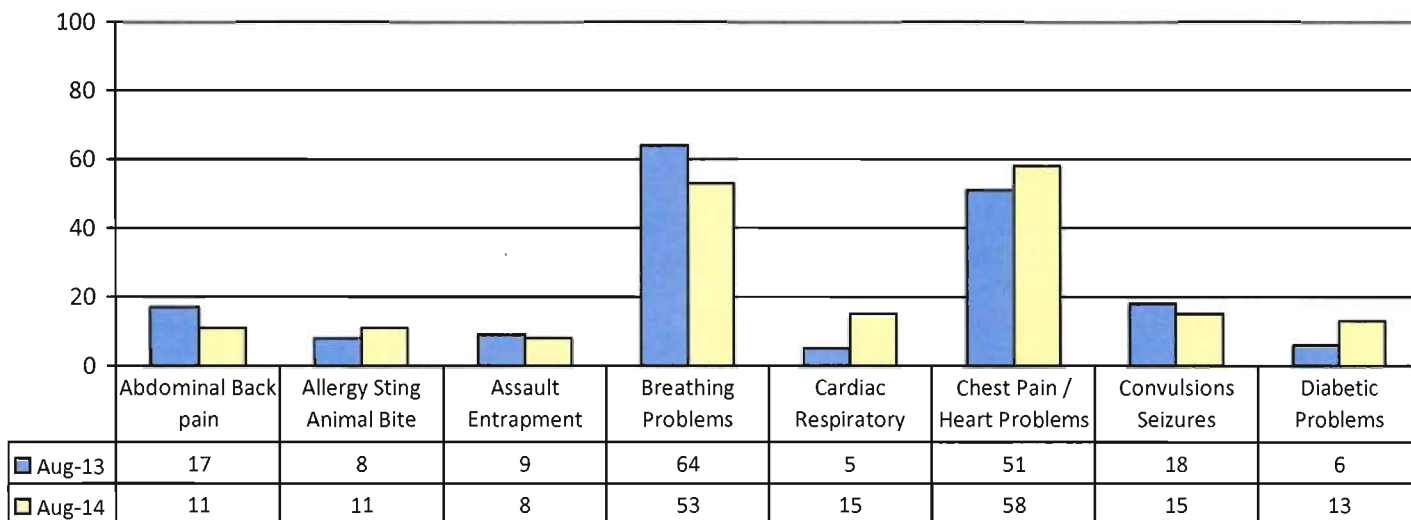
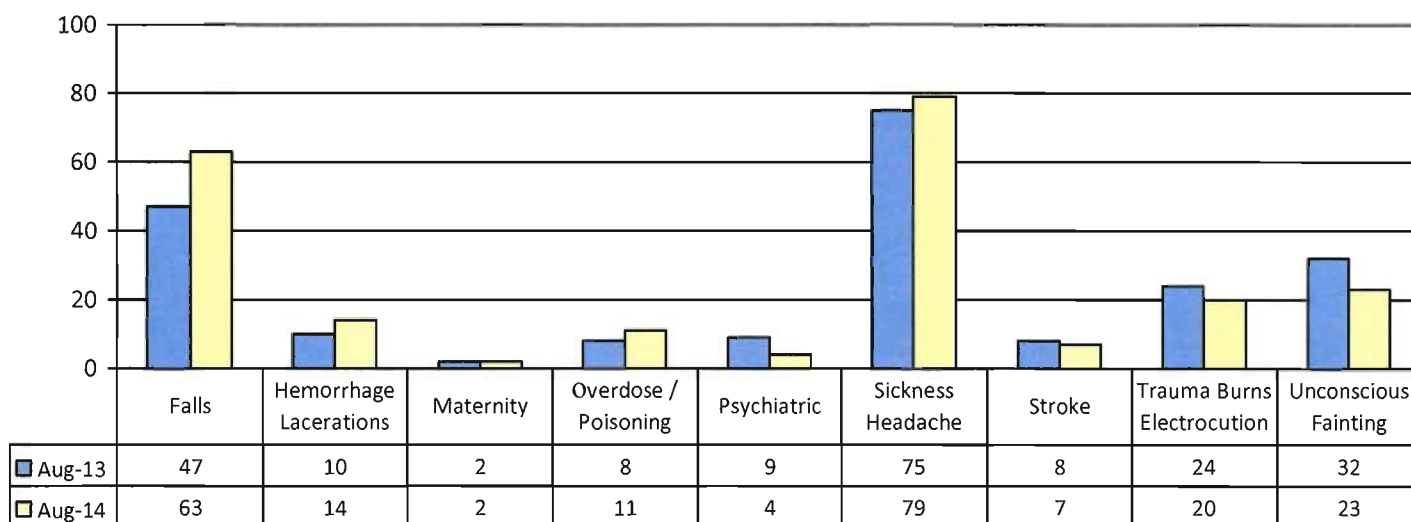


Table 2b: August 2013 & 2014 Medical Calls by Type



Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for August 2014 are listed below:

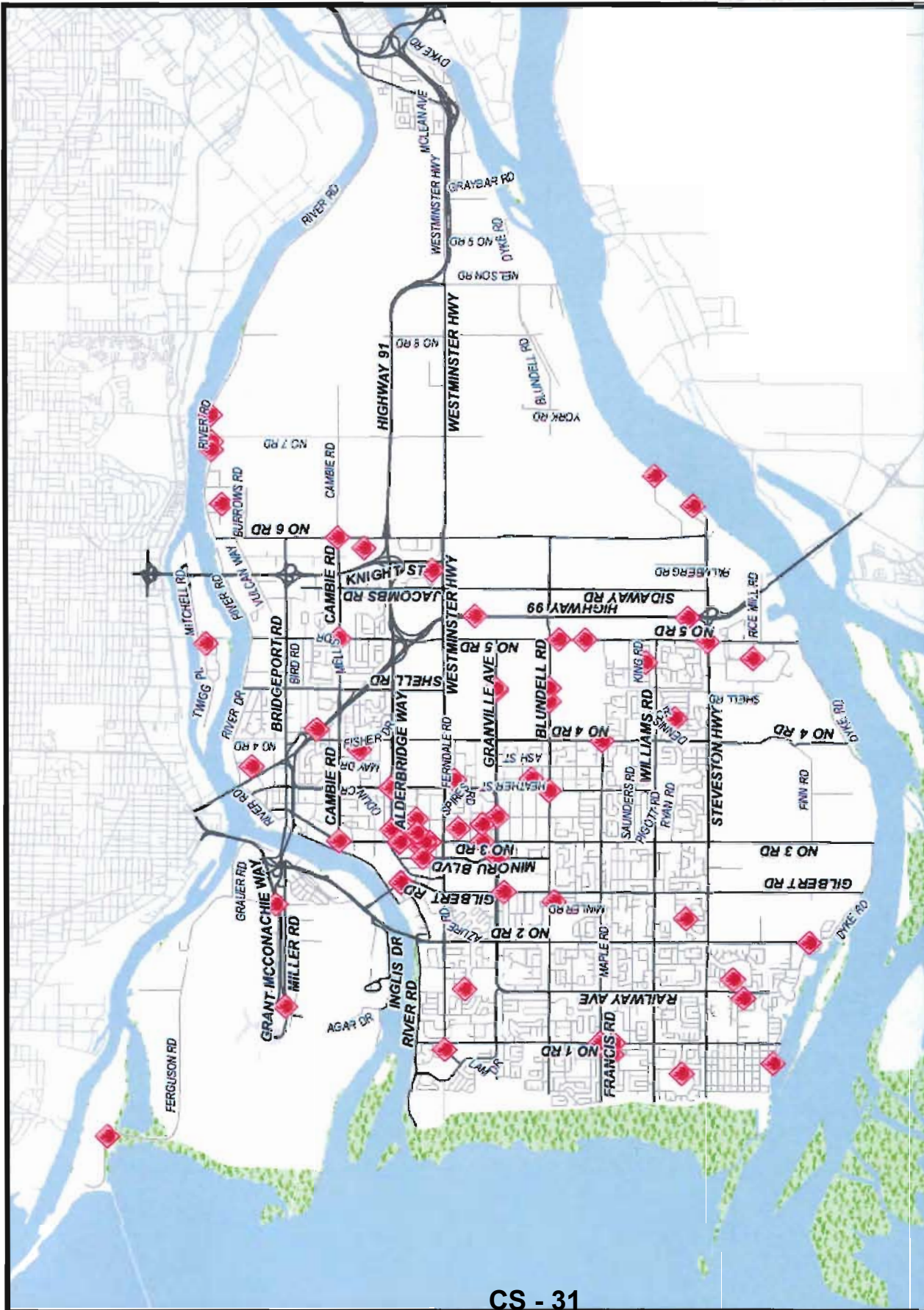
Table 3: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – August			
	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	-	-	1
Residential - Multi-family	-	1	1
Commercial/Industrial	-	2	-
Fire – Outdoor	4	43	12
Vehicle	-	4	1
Totals	4	50	15

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

Table 4: HazMat Calls By Type – August	
	Details
Flammable / combustible Liquids	2
Natural Gas / Propane Leaks (small)	5
Misc. (empty containers to unknown powder)	3
Totals	10

Figure 1. Location of fires in August (total 69)

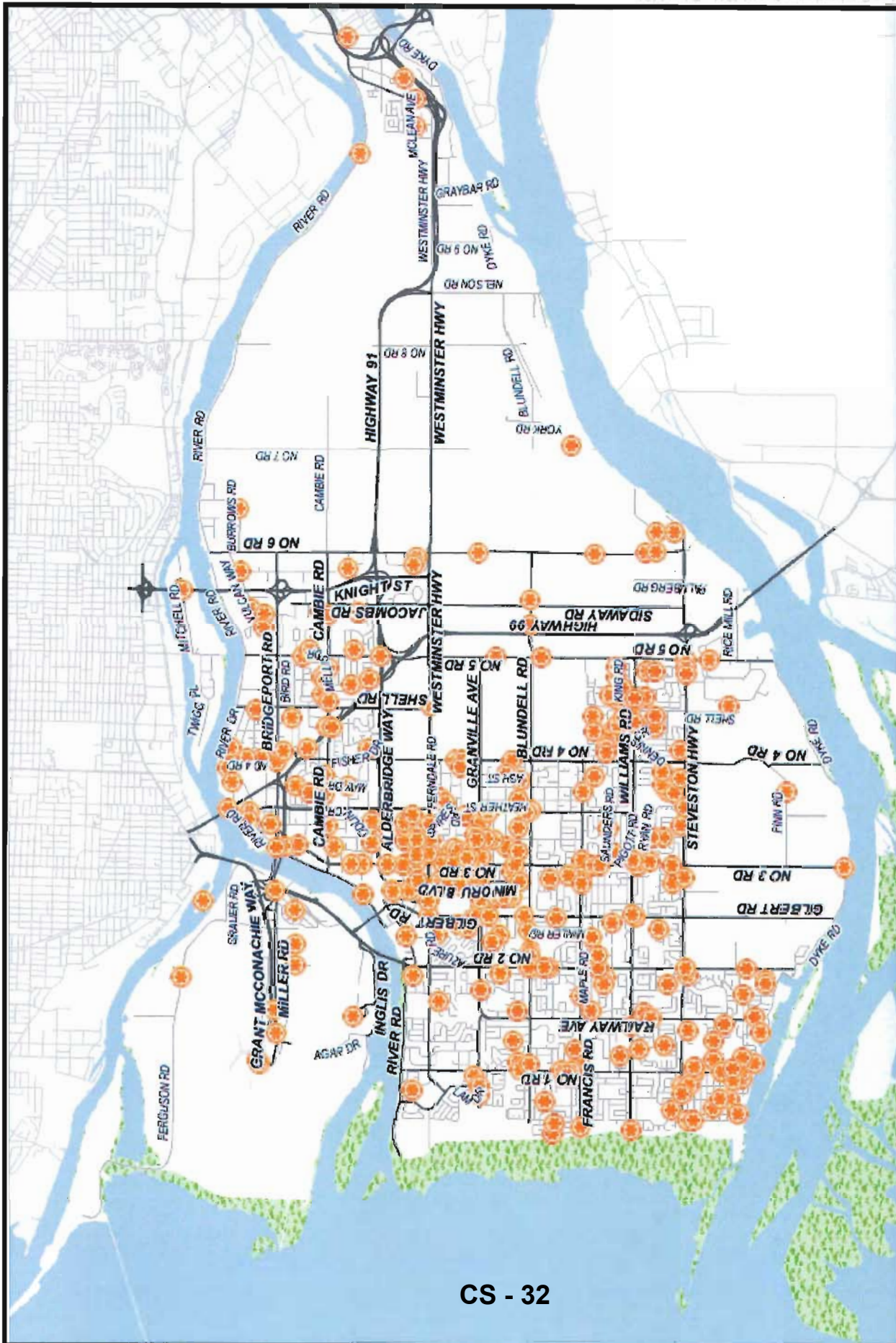


RFR Fire Call Locations - August 2014

Note:
For convenient visualization and only.
Scale, units and directions are approximate.
By: D. McGee, GIS Analyst, LACS Dept. September 28, 2014



Figure 2. Location of medical calls in August (total 407)



RFR Medical Call Locations - August 2014

Note:
Eye comment visualization and only
Scale, units and directions are approximate.
By: D. McGee, GIS Analyst, L&CS Dept. September 28, 2014



Figure 3: Location of MVI calls in August (total 95)

