



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** July 17, 2017
From: John McGowan **File:** 09-5000-01/2017-Vol
Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue 01

Re: **Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – June 2017**

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – June 2017”, dated July 17, 2017 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. 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 June 2017 the following events took place:

- Public Education / Open Doors events were held over two days during June, with approximately 1,300 people attending;
- RFR supported or hosted charitable/community events including: South Arm Community Centre Canada 150 birthday celebration event and the Sea Island Community Association Burkeville Daze.
- Car seat inspections were provided to 16 members of the public.

Staff engaged with over 2,766 children and adults in the community during June, 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 June 2017 there were a total 951 incidents, representing a 3.1 per cent increase in calls from June 2016 (Attachment 1). The average time on scene for RFR crews was 28 minutes, a decrease of nine per cent from 2016. This is due to the nature and severity of each call and the duration on scene.

In June 2017 there were 61 dispatched fire calls. Of those, 50 were actual reportable fires, 120 were used and 401 fire personnel attended.

Fire damage and property losses during June 2017 are estimated at \$2,627,674. This total includes \$1,258,954 for building/asset loss and \$1,368,720 for content loss. The total building/asset and content value at risk was estimated to be \$34,381,014 and the total value preserved from damage was \$31,753,340. These numbers translate to 92 per cent of value protected (Figure 1), this figure is a decrease from the 100 per cent protected value observed in 2016.

Figure 1: Fire Calls By Type and Loss Estimates – June 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	3	1,086,500	1,020	408,000	200	1,493,280
Multi family	5	1,575,600	3,120	20,000	520	1,591,960
Commercial / Industrial	5	7,301,314	1,241,314	22,807,100	1,367,000	27,500,100
Outdoor	34	824,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	823,000
Vehicle / Vessel	3	357,500	12,500	-	-	345,000
Totals*	50	11,144,914	1,258,954	23,236,100	1,368,720	31,753,340

*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 June 2017 incidents:

- Structure fire at a warehouse on Twigg Place, Mitchell Island. Arriving crews saw a large warehouse fire and proceeded to attack and worked to extinguish the fire in a safe and efficient manner. RCMP, BC Ambulance Services (BCAS), BC Hydro and Fortis Gas were also dispatched to the scene along with fire prevention to initiate an investigation.

The fire swept through the yard and into a structure which was mostly destroyed and later collapsed. A structural engineer attended with an excavator to take down the remainder of the building so fire crew could extinguish the fire inside, as well as other piles of burned debris where fire was unable to be reached. All occupants were safely evacuated and there were no injuries. This was a large fire and took multiple crews several hours to contain.

- Structure fire at a commercial property on Alderbridge Way. Arriving crews saw smoke coming out of a kitchen vent of a commercial unit of a multi-tenant complex. Crews breached the premises and proceeded to the kitchen area where they found a pot on a stove still burning. Crews turned off the gas stove and extinguished the burning pot and ventilation was used to clear the premises of smoke. The unsecure property was left in the care of the RCMP.

- Structure fire at a commercial property on No. 6 Road. Arriving crews quickly contained the fire which was located in an extractor on the outside of the building. Crews extinguished the fire and no injuries occurred. Crews cleared the area of smoke using positive pressure ventilation. WorkSafe BC and a Fire Investigator were requested to the scene.

- Hazardous materials call at a manufacturing facility on No. 5 Road. Arriving crews investigated and found a sprinkler head had activated. This had released water into a manufacturing area, causing a chemical reaction producing Hydrogen gas. Crews ventilated the building to reduce the spread of gas. Due to the nature of the incident the Health Department was advised. The property was placed on fire watch and a follow up inspection was carried out the following day by fire staff.

- Hazardous material call at a commercial property on Ferguson Road. Crews responded to a call for a hazardous material of a granular substance. The substance was split when a package was broken on a conveyor belt and two persons were contaminated. The two patients were decontaminated and moved to BCAS for further medical examination. The substance was isolated and RFR crews worked with Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) to identify the substance. Twelve people were isolated and protected in place as they were potentially contaminated but were showing no medical symptoms. BCAS and RCMP were on scene with CBSA acting as the lead agency.

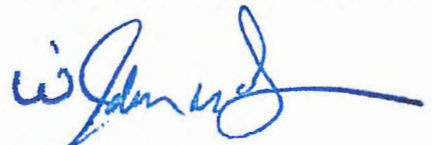
Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

During June 2017, calls for service increased by 3.1 per cent from June 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.



John McGowan
Fire Chief
(604-303-2734)

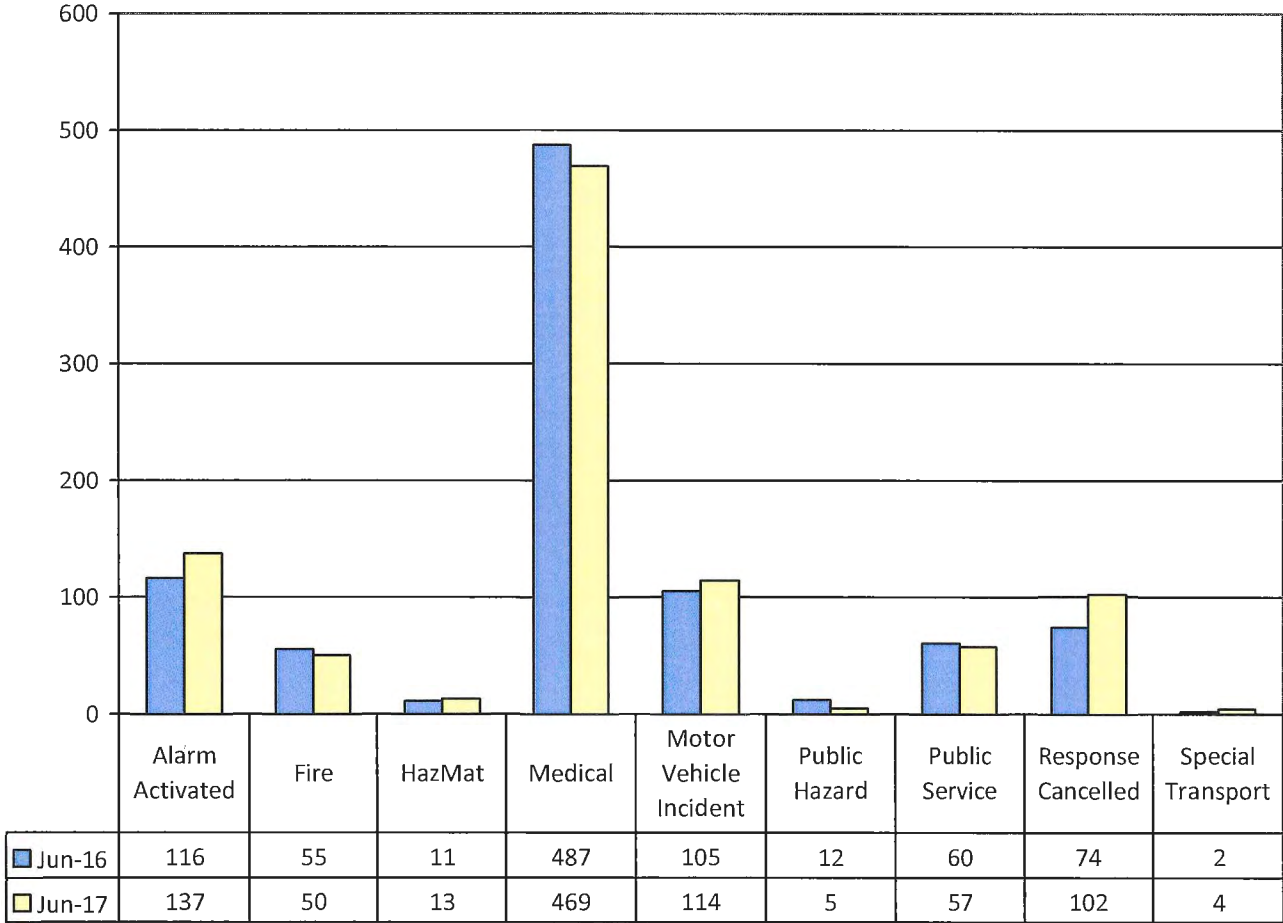
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- Att. 1: Suppression Activity
- Att. 2: Location of June's Fire, Medical and MVIs

Suppression Activity

The following chart provides a month to month comparison regarding incidents occurring in June 2016 and 2017. In June 2017, there were a total of 951 incidents, compared to 922. This represents an increase of 3.1 per cent.

Table 1: June 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 49.3 per cent of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of June 2017. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for June 2016 and 2017 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 469 medical incidents in June 2017 compared to 487 in June 2016, a decrease of 3.7 per cent.

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

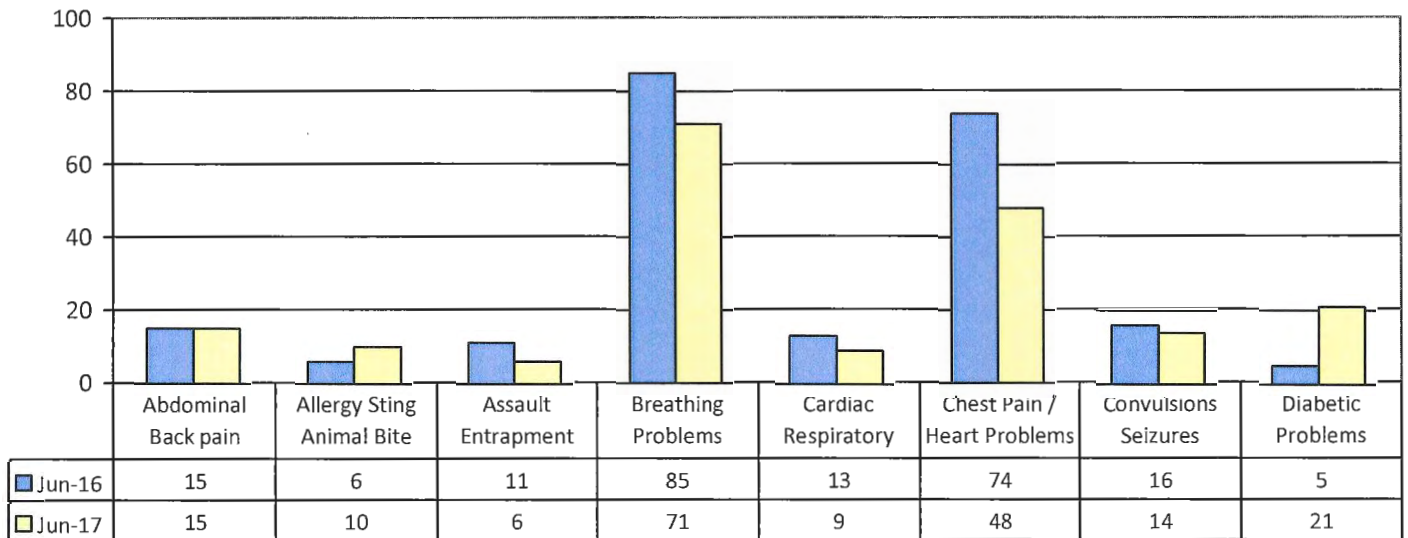
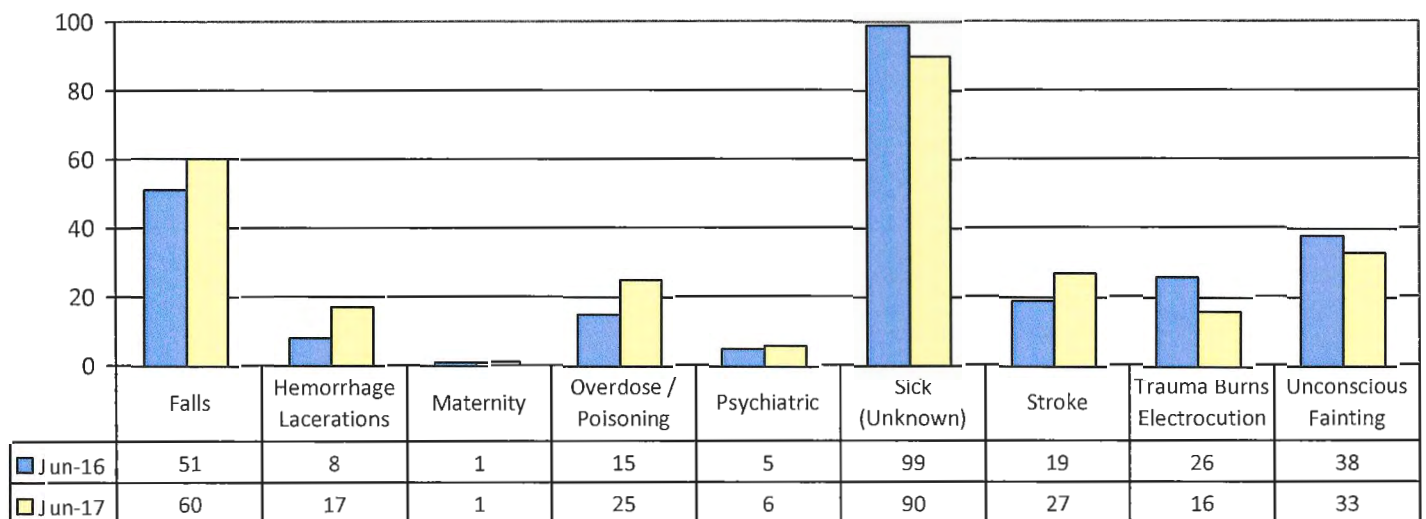


Table 2b: June 2016 & 2017 Medical Calls by Type



Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for June 2017 are listed below:

Table 3: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – June			
	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	-	3	-
Residential - Multi-family	-	5	-
Commercial/Industrial	-	6	-
Outdoor	3	30	-
Vehicle	-	1	2
Totals	3	45	2

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 – June	
	Details
Natural Gas / Propane Leaks (small)	7
Flammable / Combustible Liquids	2
Toxic / Infectious Substances	1
Unclassified	3
Totals	13

Figure 1: Location of reportable fires attended in June (total 50)

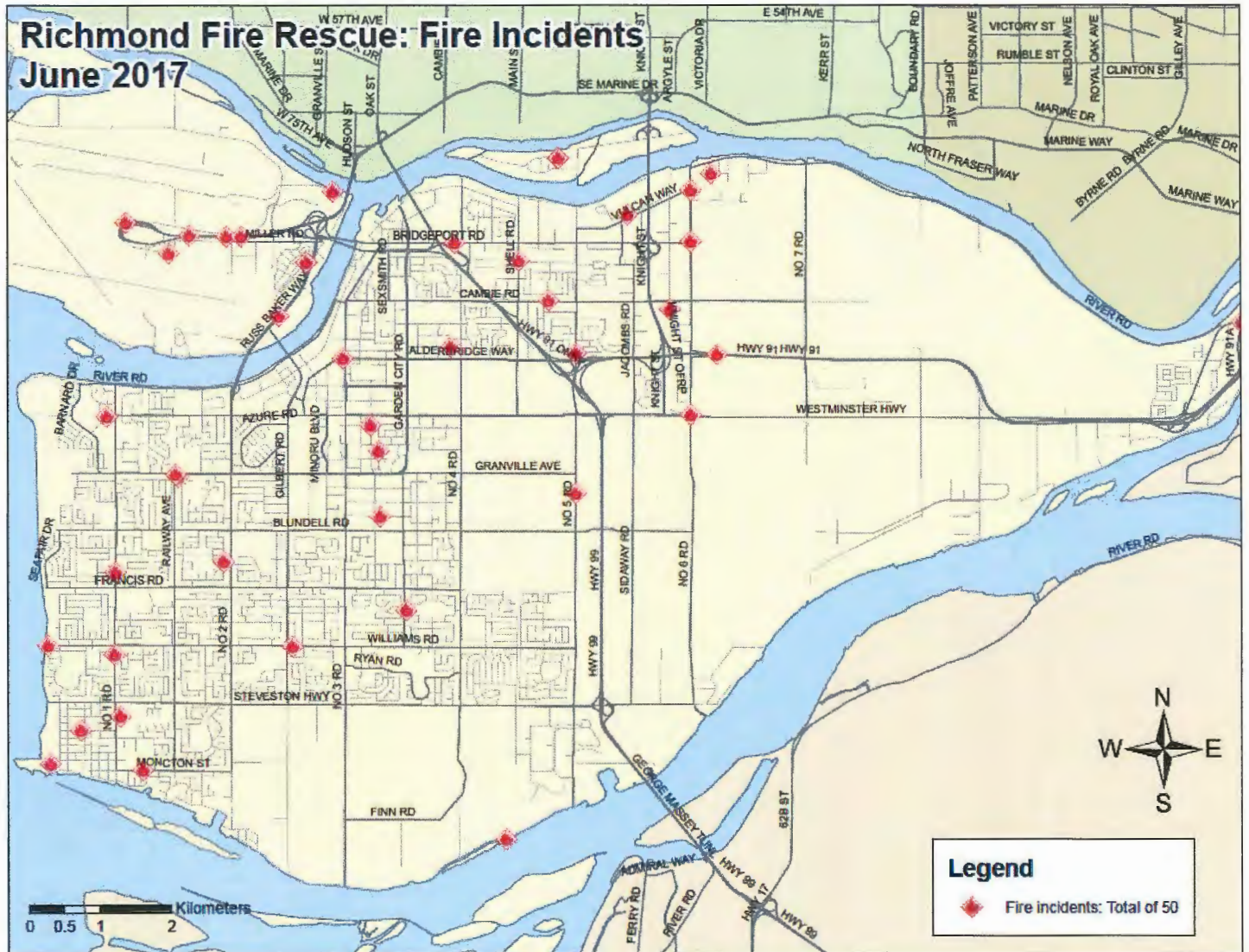


Figure 2: Location of medical calls in June (total 469)

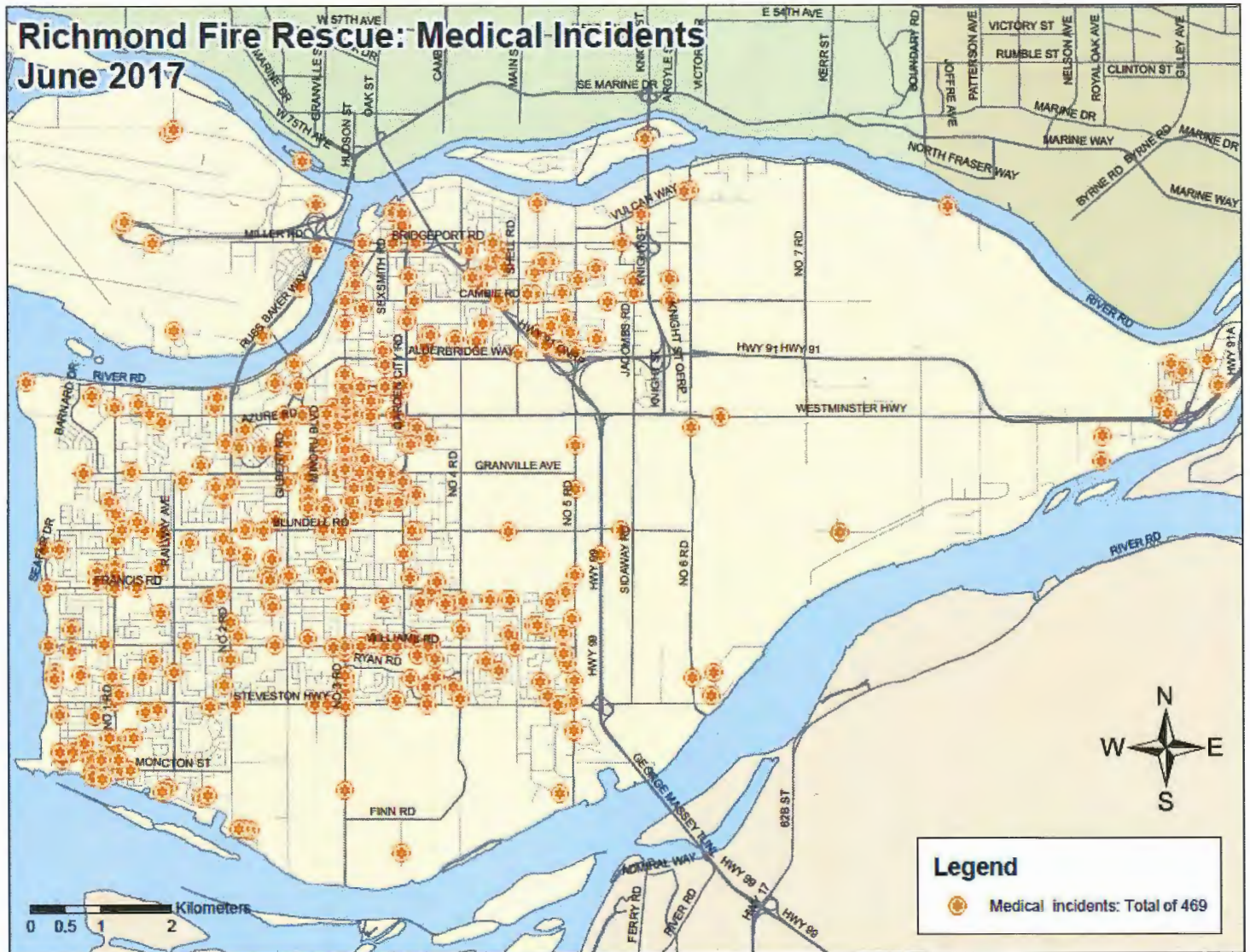


Figure 3: Location of MVI calls in June (total 114)

