



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee

Date: May 11, 2017


From: John McGowan
Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue

File: 09-5000-01/2017-Vol
01




Re: Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – April 2017

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – April 2017”, dated May 11, 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 April 2017 the following events took place:

- Public Education and Fire Safety Trailer visits to: Richmond Christian Elementary School, Hamilton Elementary School, Choice School, Az-Zahraa Islamic School, St. Paul's School, St. Joseph's School, Richmond Jewish Day School, Bridge Elementary and Wowk Elementary School. Education staff engage with 280 students providing fire safety education;
- Information sessions for fire prevention were provided to: City of Richmond staff; and
- RFR supported or hosted charitable/community events including the BC Muslim School Family Fun Day.

Staff engaged with over 525 children and adults in the community during April, 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 April 2017 there were a total 799 incidents, representing a 7.2 per cent decrease in calls from April 2016 (Attachment 1). The average time on scene for RFR crews was 28.10 minutes, an increase of 12 per cent from 2016. This is due to the nature and severity of each call and the duration on scene.

In April 2017 there were 20 dispatched fire calls. Of those, 15 were actual reportable fires, 61 apparatus' were used and 163 fire personnel attended.

Fire damage and property losses during April 2017 are estimated at \$23,580. This total includes \$22,030 for building/asset loss and \$1,550 for content loss. The total building/asset and content value at risk was estimated to be \$86,919,515 and the total value preserved from damage was \$86,895,935. These numbers translate to 99 per cent of value protected (Figure 1), this figure is an increase from the 98 per cent protected value observed in 2016.

Figure 1: Fire Calls By Type and Loss Estimates – April 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	2	1,387,750	-	416,325	50	1,804,025
Multi family	3	14,880,000	30	4,464,000	-	19,343,970
Commercial / Industrial	6	50,268,800	500	15,480,640	1,000	65,747,940
Outdoor	6	-	-	-	-	-
Vehicle / Vessel	3	21,500	21,500	500	500	-
Totals*	20	66,558,050	22,030	20,361,465	1,550	86,895,935

*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 April 2017 incidents:

- Fire at a commercial building on Graybar Road. Arriving crews found a recently demolished one story wood frame office building on fire. On site security reported they had noticed the fire and called it in. The building had been demolished and placed in a pile earlier that day. RFR crews quickly extinguished the fire and secured the site for safety. The onsite security also reported suspicious activity on the site earlier that day.
- Fire on a boat at River Bend Marina on Dyke Road. RFR crews responded to a floating home on fire. The fire was located in the roof structure of the boat and was difficult to extinguish. Crews proceeded to attack the fire, extinguishing it. A fire investigator and RCMP were requested to attend the scene. The incident is currently under investigation.
- Fire at commercial building on Grant McConachie Way. RFR crews arrived on scene and were directed to the 14th floor of a hotel to find a haze of smoke in the hallway. After a search of multiple floors crews located the source of the burning to a plastic plant which filled the hallway with smoke.

- Support provided to RCMP officers for a hazardous material event on Granville Avenue. RFR crews provided fire and medical support to RCMP staff for an illegal drug laboratory raid and decommission. Crews assisted with fire, medical and decontamination support. This event is part of an ongoing RCMP investigation.
- Hazardous material leak at River Drive. Crews attended to find one patient suffering from convulsions. The site was the location of illicit activities. RFR crews provided medical support and decontaminated one patient. The patient was then taken to hospital for further treatment. One RFR crew member was also contaminated with an unknown substance and went through the decontamination process. Other attending agencies included BC Ambulances Services and RCMP.
- Hazardous material support provided to RCMP for a small leaking propane tank at the RCMP office in Steveston. Crews assessed the propane tank for any leaks and could not find anything that presented as a hazard. The tank was very old and in a well vented area. The propane tank was transported to a recycling depot.
- Medical assistance provided at Bryson Drive. Multiple crews arrived to find the aroma of burning in the air but no sign of smoke or fire. On inspection, crews discovered two small charcoal cooking appliances located in the second storey master bedroom. Both of the appliances were actively burning charcoal briquettes. RFR crews provided initial patient care; the patient was taken by BCAS to hospital for further treatment. Ventilation fans were set up to clear the air within the suite, along with adjacent units for possible Carbon Monoxide contamination.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

During April 2017, calls for service decreased by 7.2 per cent from April 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)

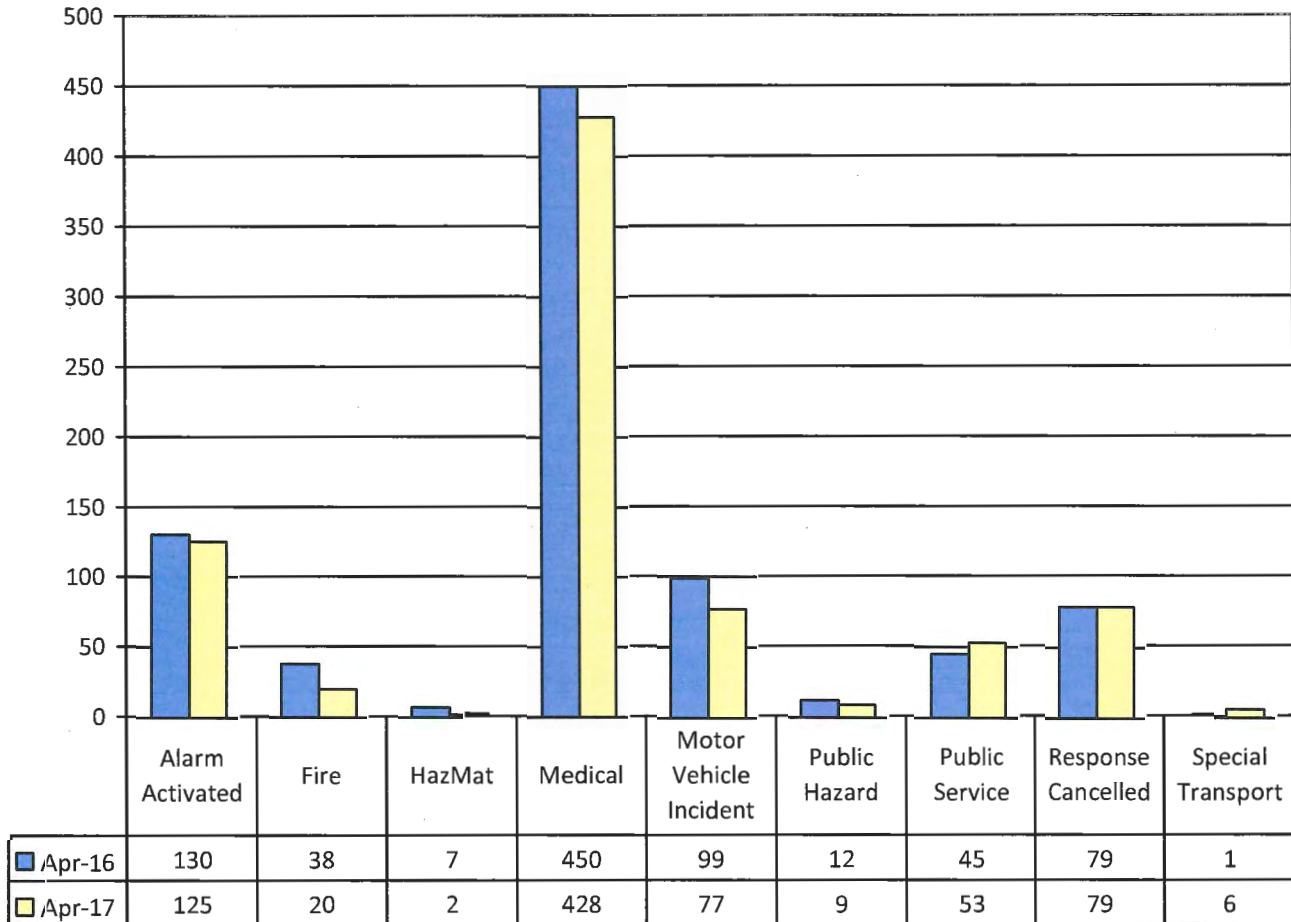
JM:js

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

Suppression Activity

The following chart provides a month to month comparison regarding incidents occurring in April 2016 and 2017. In April 2017, there were a total of 799 incidents, compared to 861. This represents a decrease of 7.2 per cent.

Table 1: April 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 53.6 per cent of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of April 2017. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for April 2016 and 2017 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 428 medical incidents in April 2017 compared to 450 in April 2016, a decrease of 4.9 per cent.

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

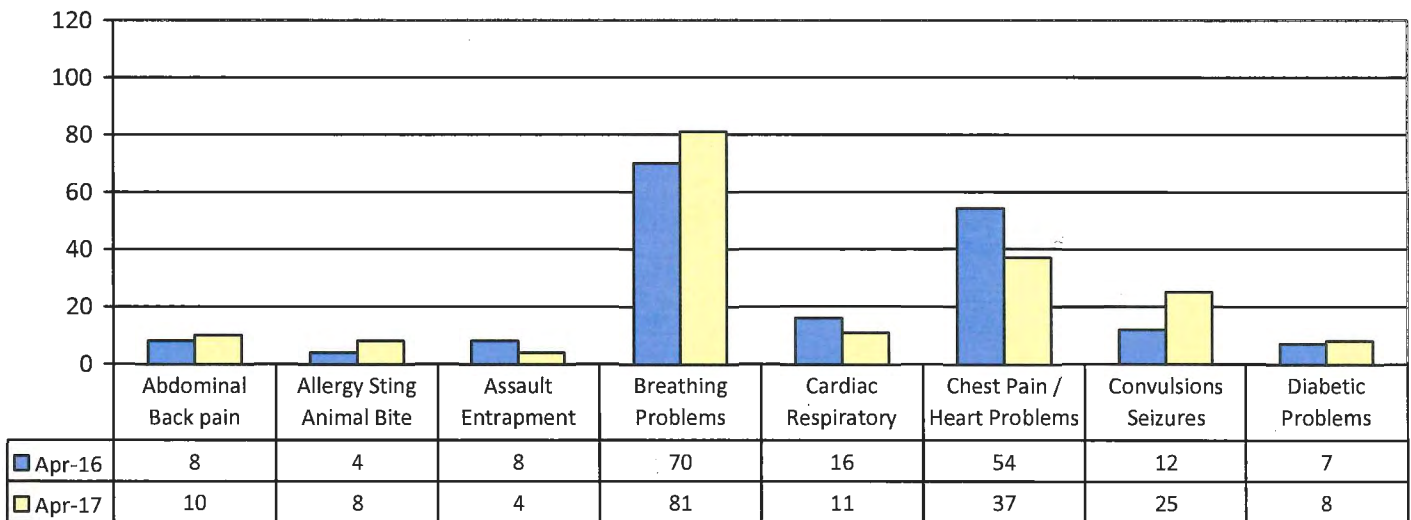
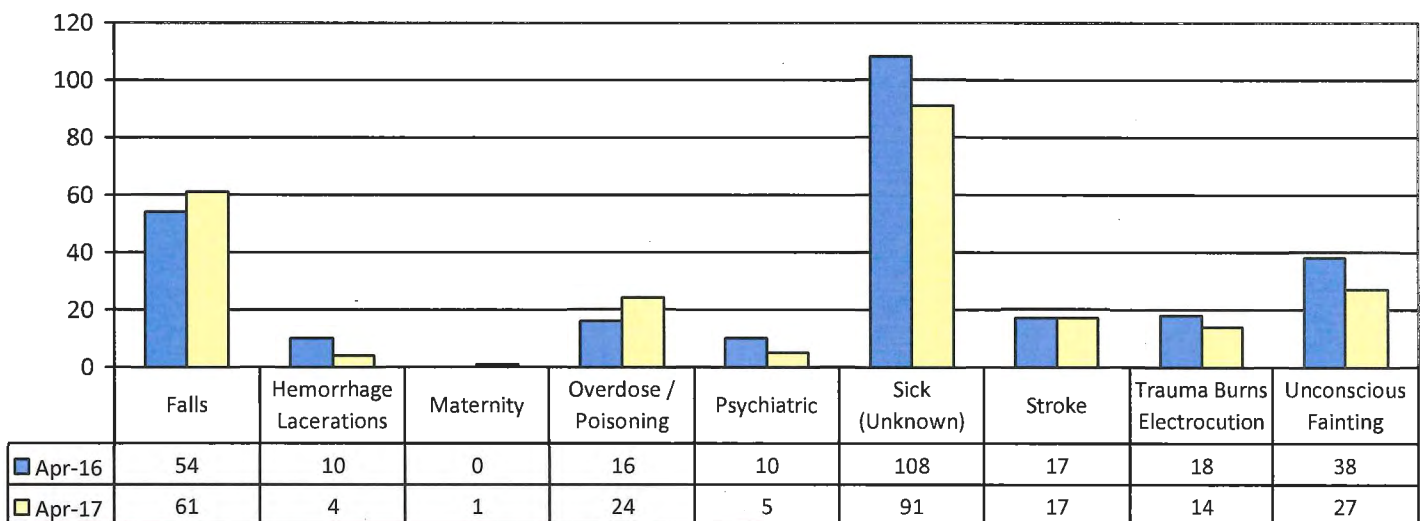


Table 2b: April 2016 & 2017 Medical Calls by Type



Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for April 2017 are listed below:

Table 3: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – April			
	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	-	1	1
Residential - Multi-family	1	2	-
Commercial/Industrial	2	2	2
Outdoor	-	4	2
Vehicle	-	2	1
Totals	3	11	6

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 – April	
	Details
Natural Gas / Propane Leaks (small)	1
Standby/Support for other Agency	1
Totals	2

Figure 1: Location of reportable fires attended in April (total 20)

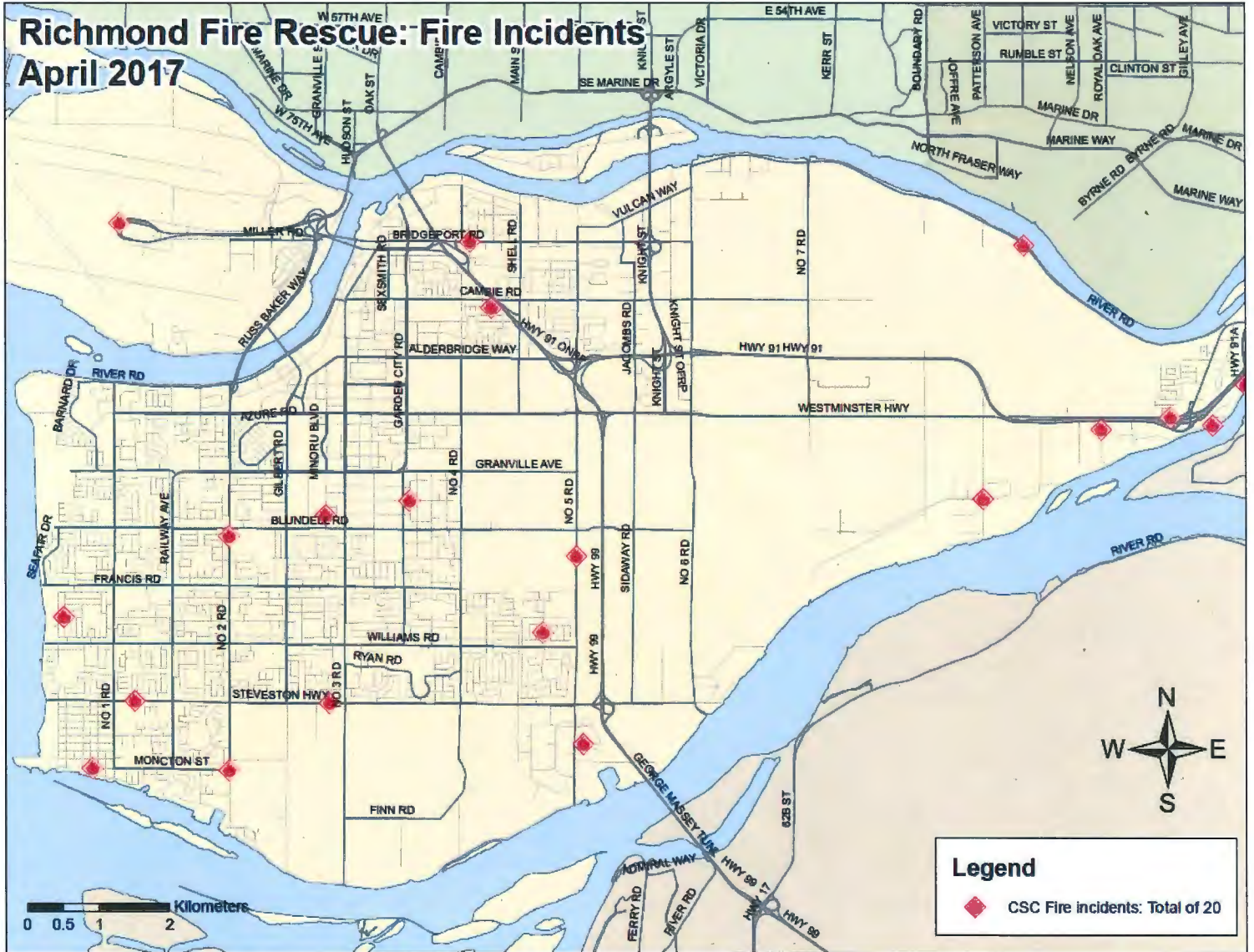


Figure 2: Location of medical calls in April (total 428)

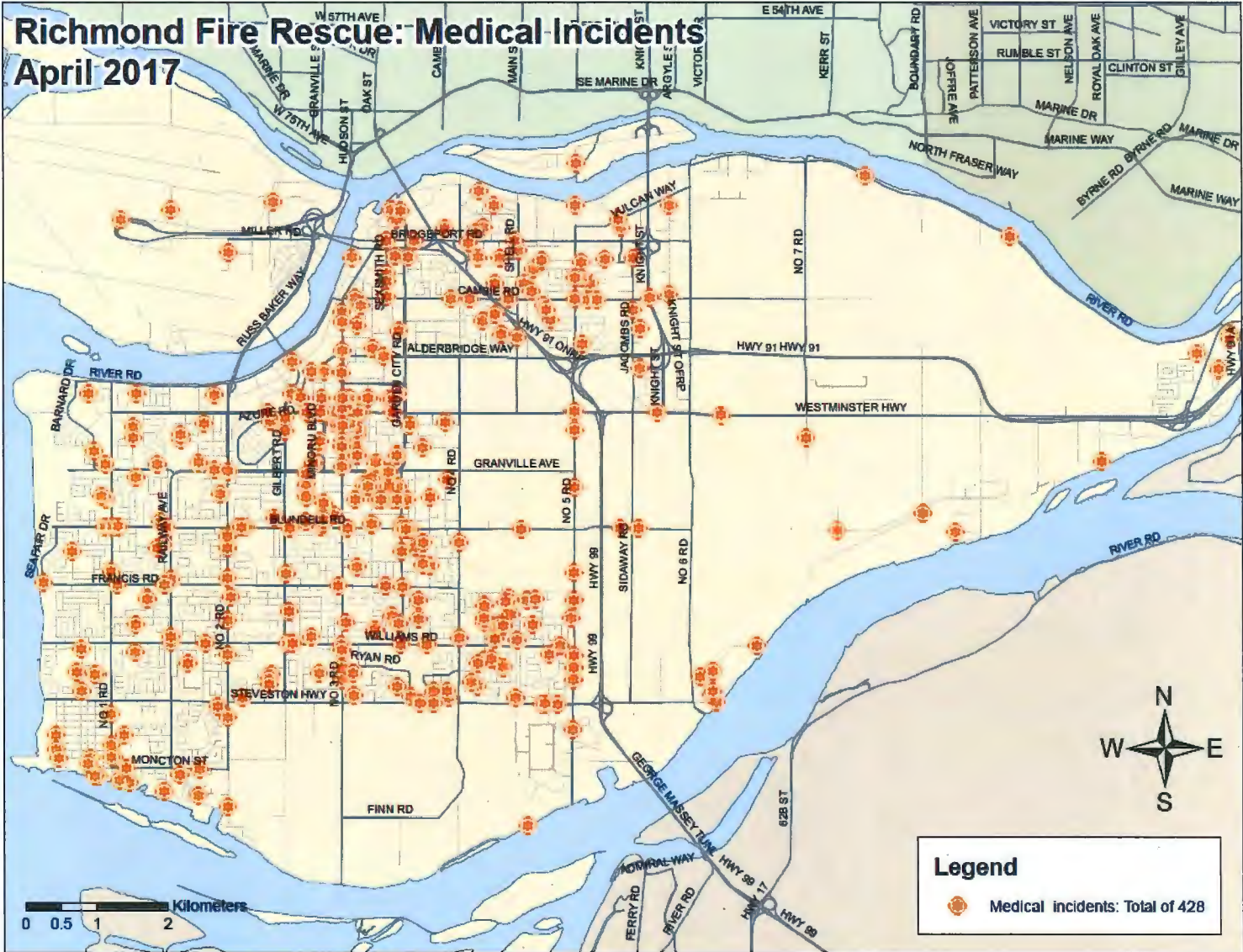


Figure 3: Location of MVI calls in April (total 77)

