



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee

Date: February 17, 2014

From: John McGowan
Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue

File: 09-5000-01/2014-Vol
01

Re: Richmond Fire-Rescue – January 2014 Activity Report

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled Richmond Fire-Rescue – January 2014 Activity Report, dated February 17, 2014, from the Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue, be received for information.

John McGowan
Fire Chief
(604-303-2734)

(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 updates on Richmond Fire-Rescue activities.

This report supports Council Term Goal #1:

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

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 of customer service excellence in prevention, education, and emergency response.

Prevention

Our goal is to reduce loss of life, injuries and property through prevention and education.

Richmond's positive fire property loss/save ratio is supported by preventative factors including:

- The presence in high occupancy (ie. multi-family buildings) of functioning fire alarm and suppression systems and publicly accessible fire extinguishers.
- The continuous functioning of these key fire safety systems is supported through: fire regulations, fire safety plan creation and exercising, regular inspections and testing, and civic enforcement measures.
- The prevention of loss of life and property is supported through: early fire detection by the public or occupants, early 9-1-1 reporting, rapid response by Richmond's fire crews and in some cases, actions taken by members of the public.

Each fire is investigated to determine probable cause. Six of the January fires were identified as suspicious (see Table 3 in Attachment 1 for details). RFR's Investigators report these to the RCMP and work with the RCMP on investigation and to address any risks to the community often through prevention and education initiatives.

In BC, the outcome of each fire investigation is reported to the Office of the BC Fire Commissioner. The report can be used to link products that may have malfunctioned and resulted in a fire. When enough evidence is present, product recalls are often an outcome.

Training Office Update

The Training Office updates are as listed below:

- RFR will be piloting and a testing point for a Work Safe BC program for a lifting device to prevent back injury: The lifting device is currently located at Fire Hall 1. Training for the device is now complete on all shifts.
- Six Officer Pool members attended an in-house two day course on Emergency Scene Management. The practical portion of the Officer Pool program was combined with the recruit Live Fire training in Langley. This dual training allows for a realistic application of knowledge for the Officer Pool members and gives the recruit Firefighters exposure to live fire under the safest conditions possible. The course was well received by the Officer Pool members and is a valuable asset for the program.
- 14 new recruits started employment on January 6, 2014. This first month for the recruits consisted of the following activities including a welcome and presentations by divisions within RFR, the City of Richmond and the Local 1286 Union. The new recruits have also been provided training in Water Works presentation: half day theory and practical application of hydrant types and water system; Personal Protective Equipment (gear), half day theory on construction, use, maintenance and care of their first line of defence against contaminants; radios: half day theory and practical use of radios; Small Engines: one day theory and practical of use of all small engine equipment along with the care and basic maintenance; SCBAs: 2-day course on the care, basic maintenance and the use of our Self Contained Breathing Apparatus.

These programs and presentations are a vital part of our Recruit Firefighter success. The information and exposure to the subject matter helps to ensure success of the recruits when they transition to shift duty with the suppression crews.

Education

Our goal is to reduce the loss of life, injuries and property through education and prevention.

RFR conducts annual educational and awareness campaigns based on community risk. The education messaging associated with Richmond's fire types is as follows:

- The removal of accumulated combustible materials around structures such as dead vegetation or stored materials is an annual Spring Cleaning Safety campaign will be delivered in the months of March and May.
- Kitchen fires are the primary cause of fires in Richmond. RFR, throughout the year, distribute kitchen fire safety information at all public education events and activities attended. RFR continues to monitor Richmond's emergency response statistics and focuses its education campaigns and materials to align with the community risk. The formal Burn Awareness week campaign is conducted in February.
- RFR promotes fire extinguisher training and offers upon request classes on how to use a fire extinguisher throughout the year. Individuals are encouraged to take responsibility for their safety. In the case of a January multi-family fire, individuals were able to safely extinguish the fire before it was able to take hold and grow.

- Information advising the public on when and how to call 9-1-1 is posted on the City's website and on various educational materials at RFR and E-Comm. Helping the public understand when and how to effectively place a 9-1-1 call helps emergency responders minimize the loss of life and in the case of fire, property.
- In January crews assisted BCAS with patient care for a struck pedestrian with a severe head trauma. RFR continues to work with the RCMP, other City agencies and community partners to advance pedestrian safety. The Pedestrian Campaign is scheduled being revised and will run in the spring.

In January our safety message focussed on Pedestrian Safety and the dangers of Distracted Driving.

RFR participates in events and activities for public education and community bridge building purposes. During January 2014 the following was noted:

- 23 car seat inspections were conducted to keep children safe while travelling in the motor vehicle. Fire staffs were able to talk with the parent/guardians and answer their questions. This provided an opportunity to see firefighters in a positive, non-emergency circumstance.
- Pumper visits were made to the *Moonbeams Pre-School* and *St. Paul's School Kindergarten*. Fire crews were able to provide the approximately 25 preschoolers with safety messages in Stop, Drop and Roll and 9-1-1- How to Use the Telephone. Approximately 31 kindergarten students were provided with safety messages in Home Fire Drills, Smoke Alarms and Emergency Situation Identification. Each of these visits provided an opportunity to see a firefighter in a positive, non-emergency circumstance and provide safety messaging.
- Educational workshops were provided for the *Richmond Rental Connect-Building Successful Tenant-Landlord Relations* and a *Career Crawl* for William Bridge Elementary School. The training provides an opportunity for the Community Relations Officer and Fire & Life Safety Educator to provide first-hand knowledge, education and training to groups of individuals within the community in Fire Safety and Fire Extinguisher training.
- The Local 1286 Firefighters Union organized the *Annual Tree Chip Event* at Garry Point Park and South Arm Community Centre. This provided the community an opportunity to dispose of their Christmas trees and interact with the firefighters in a positive non-emergency environment. Children were given candy with the 'Stop, Drop and Roll' safety messages.

Emergency Response

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

There were 28 fires in January 2014. Fire losses during the month are estimated at \$305,040. This total includes \$247,975 for building loss and \$57,065 for content loss. The total building and content value at risk was estimated to be \$85,691,950, and the total value preserved was \$85,386,910. These numbers translate to 99% of value protected (see Figure 1 below).

Figure 1:

Fire Calls By Type and Loss Estimates – January						
Incident Type Breakdown	Call Volume	Estimated Building Value \$	Estimated Building Loss \$	Estimated Content Value \$	Estimated Content Loss \$	Estimated Total Value Preserved \$
Residential:						
- Single-family	5	13,255,200	80,000	5,529,600	42,520	18,662,280
- Multi-family	8	13,400,000	97,925	794,600	13,545	14,083,130
Commercial/Industrial	3	32,647,000	40,000	20,010,000	1,000	52,616,000
Fire – Outdoor	7	50	50	-	-	-
Vehicle	5	55,000	30,000	-	-	25,500
Totals*	28	59,357,750	247,975	26,334,200	57,065	85,386,910

*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 January incidents:

- RFR responded to a house fire at Mellis Drive. Units arrived to a fire in the kitchen area of the two story suited home. There were 10 occupants home at the time who fortunately suffered only minor smoke inhalation, which was treated at scene. Quick actions by RFR crews stopped further spread of fire. Emergency Social Services provided the tenants assistance and the building owner found shelter with local family.
- Other fire incidents during January included: a vehicle fire on McCartney Way; a fire in the women's washrooms located on Granville Avenue; two separate incidents of stove fires on Moffat Road and Gilbert Road and a space heater fire located on Steveston Highway
- There were several rubbish fires incident responses during January, located at: Ackroyd Road, Demorest Drive, Ash Street, and two incidents at Grant McConachie Way.

A summary of 9-1-1 emergency response statistics is found in Attachment 1, Tables 2 and 3.

The location of January's fire, medical and MVI calls are depicted in Attachment 2.

RFR crews responded to a suspected overdose incident on Granville Avenue, crews assisted with the treatment and observation of the patient until the arrival of BCAS and RCMP.

During January RFR crews responded to several medical assault related incidents, including:

- A fatal self inflicted stab wound to the chest located on Lansdowne Road;
- An assault with a pellet gun to a female located on Deagle Road;
- An assault of a man on a boat located on River Road;
- A stabbing of a man in the chest on Deerfield Crescent, the man also had his vehicle stolen;
- An assault on Steveston Highway. Arriving crews were met by RCMP on scene and were directed to a male victim located in a vehicle. The victim had severe stab wounds and crews attempted to provide CPR. The victim was pronounced dead by BCAS, an RCMP investigation continues;
- RFR and RCMP responded to the assault of a child on Francis Road. The child was transported to Richmond General Hospital for assessment by a doctor; and
- RFR responded to an assault on Eckersley Road. RCMP members were on scene upon arrival a male victim had been severely beaten and was suffering from multiple stab wounds, the patient was transported to hospital for further care.

RFR crews attended to a worker who had fallen at a construction site on Alder Street. The man was working with trusses on the 3rd floor of an outside wall and lost his balance. He suffered head, hip and back injuries. RFR used technical rescue techniques to load the patient into a basket stretcher and through an exterior window onto the aerial ladder, where he was lowered to the awaiting ambulance.

RFR attended with BCAS and Coast Guard for a person that had jumped off the No 2 Road Bridge. Coast Guard managed to recover the patient and RFR crews assisted with the patient transfer to BCAS at the Hovercraft Base.

RFR crews responded to multiple Motor Vehicle incident calls, including:

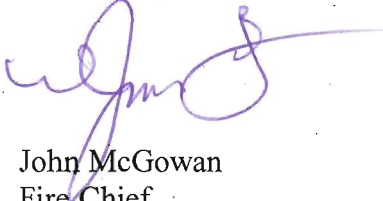
- Crews attended an MVI involving two unmarked Vancouver City Police cars on Bennett road. No persons were injured;
- On Highway 99 crews responded to a rollover car, which reportedly was fleeing the scene of a separate incident. Crews provided patient care to the people located inside the turned over vehicle. It was reported that the driver had fled the scene. RCMP also attended the event; and
- Crews responded to an incident of multiple vehicles involved in an MVI located on the Arthur Laing Bridge. Of the total of twelve vehicles involved there were no serious injuries reported. RFR crews provided on scene management and patient care.

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*.



John McGowan
Fire Chief
(604-303-2734)

JM:js

Att. 1: Suppression Activity

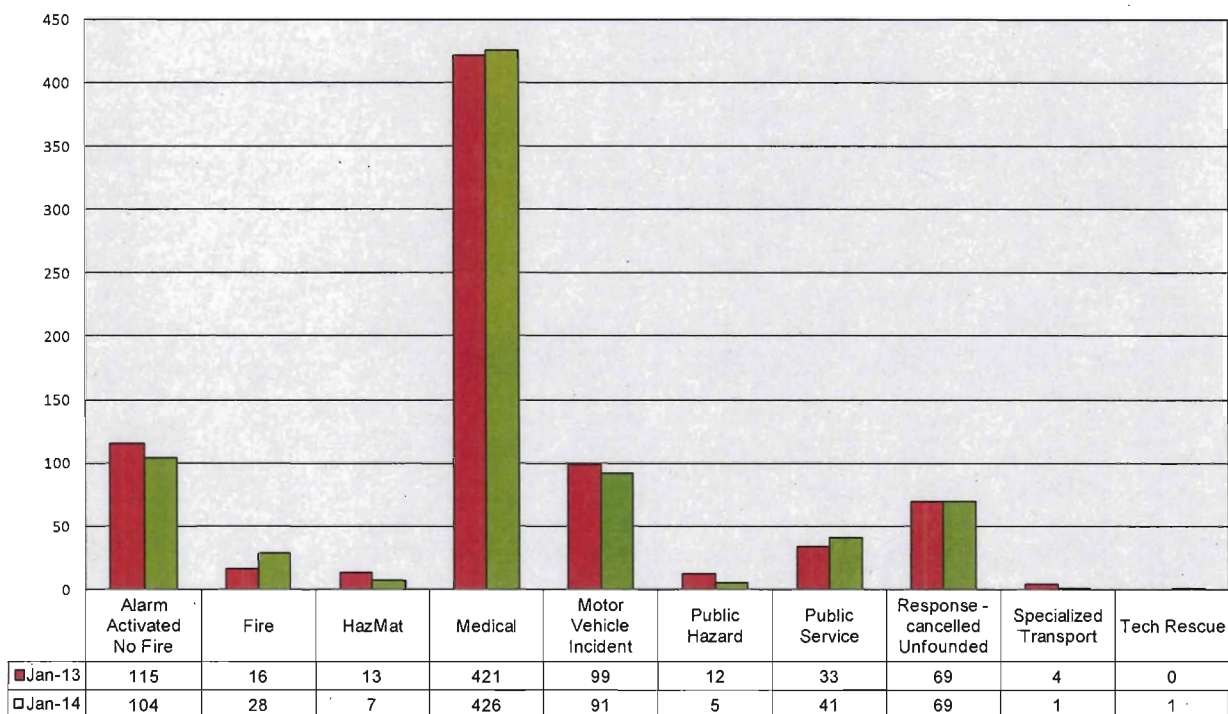
Att. 2: Location of January's Fire, Medical and MVI calls

Suppression Activity

The following chart provides a month to month comparison regarding incidents occurring in January 2013 and 2014. In January 2014, there were a total of 773 incidents, compared to 782 in January 2013. This represents a decrease of 1.2%. The majority of the decreases were attributed to reduced alarm activated/no fire call types. Calls of this nature are being monitored through the False Alarm Program.

Table 1

January 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 55.1% of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of January. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for January 2013 and 2014 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 426 medical incidents in January 2014 compared to 421 January 2013 an increase of 1.2%. Increases in medical incidents of breathing problems could be a result of colder weather during the month of January.

Table 2

January 2013 & 2014 Medical Calls by Type

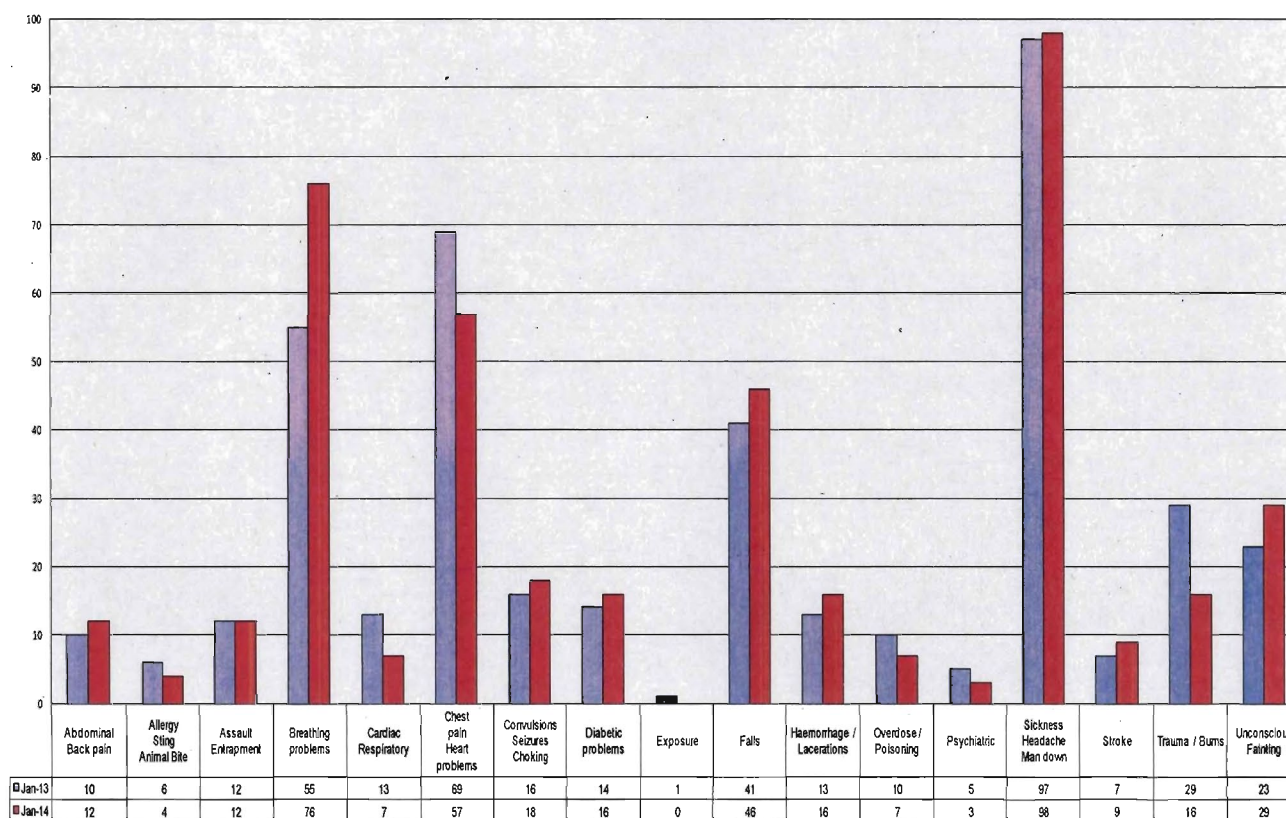


Table 3.

The fire investigation statistics for January 2014 are listed below:

Total Fire Investigation Statistics – January			
	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	2	3	0
Residential - Multi-family	0	7	1
Commercial/Industrial	0	2	1
Fire – Outdoor	2	3	2
Vehicle	2	3	0
Totals	6	18	4

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.

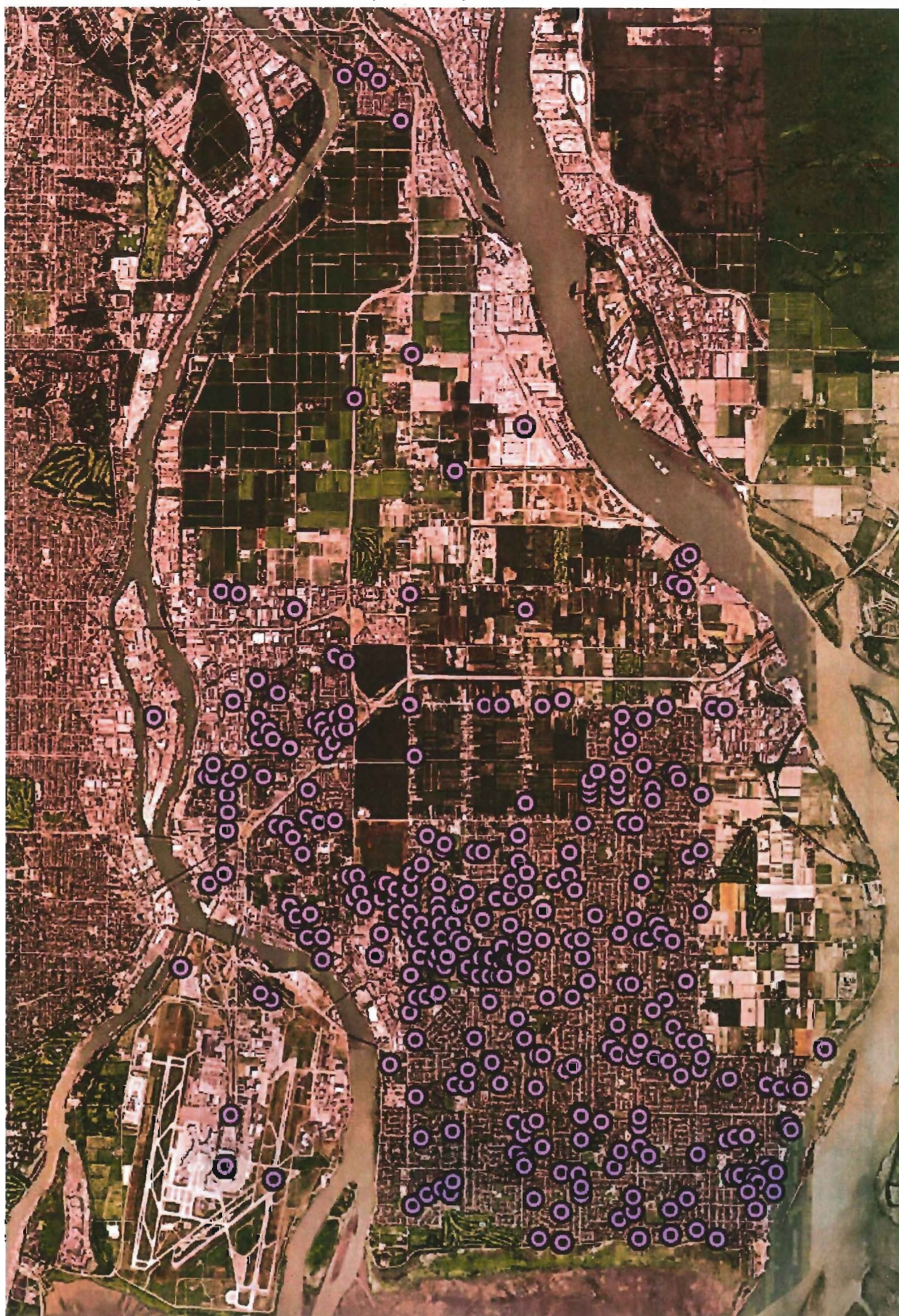
Table 4.

HazMat Calls By Type – January	
	Details
Corrosive	1
Natural Gas / Propane Leaks (small)	4
Misc. (empty containers to unknown powder)	2
Totals	7

Location of January's fires (total 28)



Location of January's medical calls (total 426)



Location of January's MVI calls (total 91)

