



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** April 17, 2014
From: John McGowan **File:** 09-5000-01/2014-Vol
 Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue 01
Re: **Richmond Fire-Rescue – March 2014 Activity Report**

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue – March 2014 Activity Report” dated April 17, 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 updates on Richmond Fire-Rescue 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 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

Training Office Update

The final portion of orientation training for RFR's thirteen new recruits included live fire training with the pool officers at the Township of Langley Training Centre. The training finished the recruits' training before they transferred to their respective suppression shifts. The recruits were able to apply the skills they learned over their 7-week orientation period including fire ground survival and fire ground task functions.

RFR participated in a "Train the Trainers" program for technical lifting using rigging. Richmond is the first Lower Mainland Department to participate in this training. A two day training session for is scheduled for the end of April. BC Ambulance Service (BCAS) has accepted an invitation to attend the training.

Certification was finalized for five instructors in the Red Cross Emergency Care Instructor Trainer (ECIT) program. This allows RFR to teach and certify new instructors for the First Responder Program transfer class in May.

Education

With a goal 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 was as follows:

- March was Smoke Alarm Month and RFR conducted a media campaign educating the public on the importance of replacing batteries and regular maintenance of smoke alarms. A news release, a Facebook post and fire hall sign messages were used to remind the public to mark the occasion as the semi-annual time to replace smoke alarm batteries that are more than six months old, and that smoke alarms maintenance and replacement significantly increases the chances of surviving a deadly home fire.

Community Involvement

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

- On two days, 22 car seat inspections were conducted to keep children safe while travelling in motor vehicles.
- Pumper visits were made to the *Gilmour Community Read Day* and *Sunshine Preschool Steveston Community Centre*. Fire crews participated in *Gilmour Community Reading Day* reaching over 350 children in a non emergency environment. Fire crews were also able provided the children at both events with safety messages in Stop, Drop and Roll and 9-1-1 How to Use the Telephone.
- Hall tours were provided to *Girl Guides Brownie Unit*, *Richmond Society for Community Living*, *City of Richmond Diversity Services* and the *Excel Education Centre for Community Awareness*. The tours provided fire safety information, truck and equipment familiarization to over 24 children and 55 adults.
- Educational workshops were provided for children at the *James Gilmore Elementary School* and *Richmond Pony Club Barn Safety Badge*, and adults at the *Pathways Clubhouse*. 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 adults and children in fire safety messages. Over 97 adults and children attended the workshops.

Emergency Response

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

There were 17 fires in March 2014. Fire losses during the month are estimated at \$204,200. This total includes \$131,150 for building loss and \$73,050 for content loss. The total building and content value at risk was estimated to be \$91,162,500, and the total value preserved was \$90,958,300. These numbers translate to 99% of value protected (see Figure 1 below).

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

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	850,000	20,000	175,000	10,000	995,000
Residential: Multi family	3	18,000,000	1,000	7,500,000	1,000	25,498,000
Commercial/Industrial	5	28,500,000	100,000	36,080,000	61,550	64,418,450
Fire – Outdoor	6	-	-	-	-	-
Vehicle	2	57,000	10,150	500	500	46,850
Totals*	17	47,407,000	131,150	43,755,500	73,050	90,958,300

*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 March incidents:

- Crews responded to a fire incident on No 3 Road. Surveillance footage revealed a person using a form of accelerant to light wood pallets and then fleeing the scene. Prompt action by arriving crews and support from second alarm units limited the damage to the suite of concern.
- A suspicious fire in the boy's bathroom of McNair Secondary School on No 4 Road. Moderate smoke in the rear interior of the school activated several sprinklers. Additional crews were called in as first reports were simply alarm calls. The fire was quickly extinguished and efforts were made to minimize further damage by shutting down the water flow and establishing a ventilation plan to isolate and remove the toxic smoke. All staff and students had evacuated successfully, and there were no reported injuries. Partial occupancy of the school was permitted and the scene was turned over to RCMP for investigation.
- Other fire incidents during March included: a fire in a bedroom on Woodhead Road, a cardboard recycling box burning freely in a dumpster on Park Road, a cigarette in a waste basket on Andrew Road and a pot on stove fire on Lindsay Road, in which the resident had extinguished the fire by using a hallway mounted fire extinguisher.

During March RFR crews responded to a number of heart related calls, including:

- A pulse was regained using CPR protocols on a cardiac on No 5 Road; and
- RFR crews set up an AED and used CPR protocols for a male who had suffered a cardiac arrest on Dixon Avenue. The patient was unable to be resuscitated.

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

- A female patient had been struck by vehicle at Cooney Road. The patient found lying by the roadside being attended to by bystanders. RFR crews assisted BCAS with patient care, spinal immobilization and transport to hospital.
- Crews attended a MVI on No 3 Road, the patient required extrication. RFR crews used the Jaws of Life to recover the patient.
- RFR crews attended an incident on Nelson Road. A man had been seriously injured and required removal from a barge. RFR crews assisted BCAS with patient stabilization before removal was made by the RFR High Angle Team, using an onside crane and a basket stretcher was lowered onto the barge. The High Angle Team secured the patient into the stretcher and safely removed them to the river bank where BCAS drove to the waiting Air Ambulance.

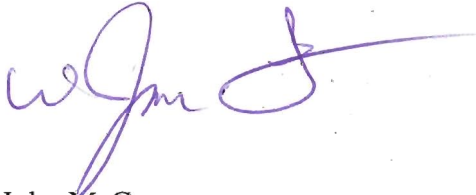
A summary of 9-1-1 emergency response statistics is found in Attachment 1, Tables 1, 2, 3 and 4. The location of March's fire, medical and motor vehicle incident calls are depicted in Attachment 2, Figures 1, 2 and 3.

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)

JM:js

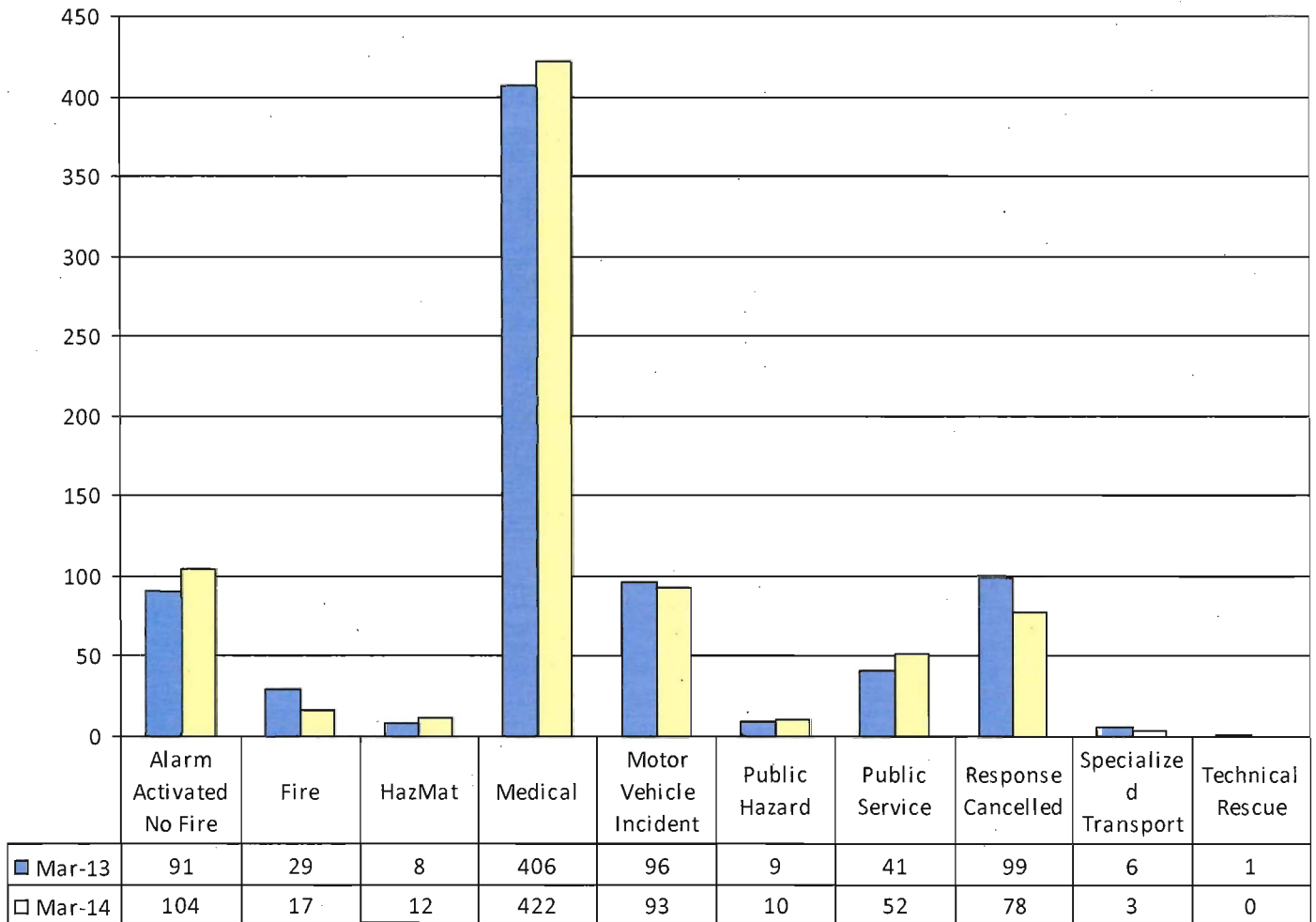
Att. 1: Suppression Activity

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

Suppression Activity

The following chart provides a month to month comparison regarding incidents occurring in March 2013 and 2014. In March 2014, there were a total of 791 incidents, compared to 786 in March 2013. This represents an increase of 0.6%. The majority of the increases were attributed to alarm activated/no fire and medical calls.

Table 1: March 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 53% of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of March. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for March 2013 and 2014 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 422 medical incidents in March 2014 compared to 406 March 2013 an increase of 3.9%.

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

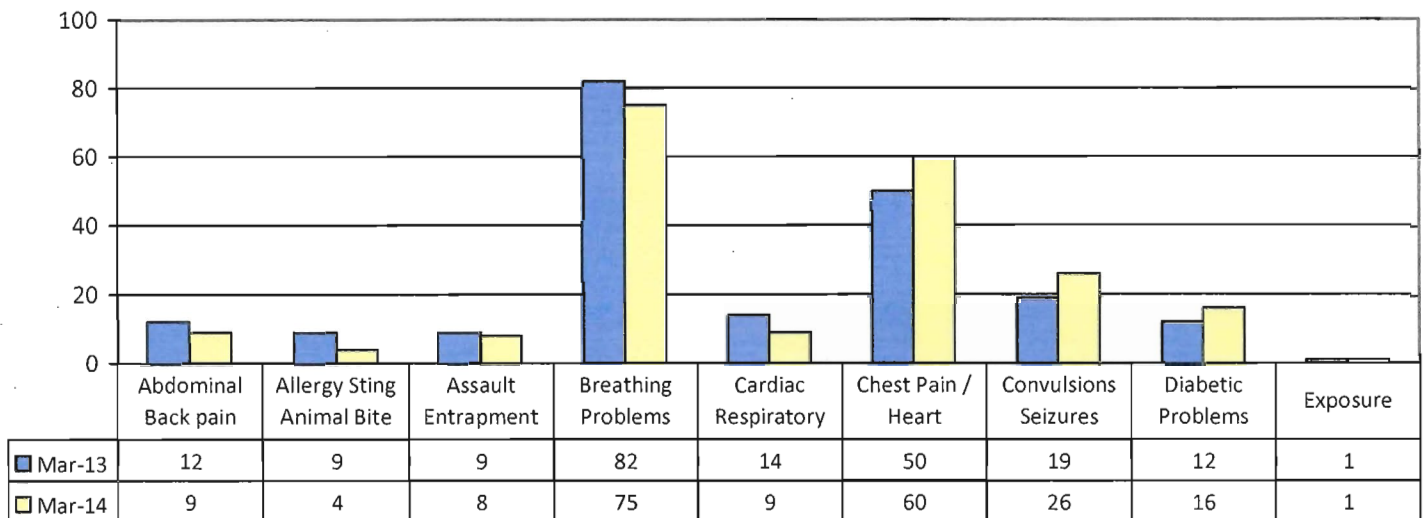
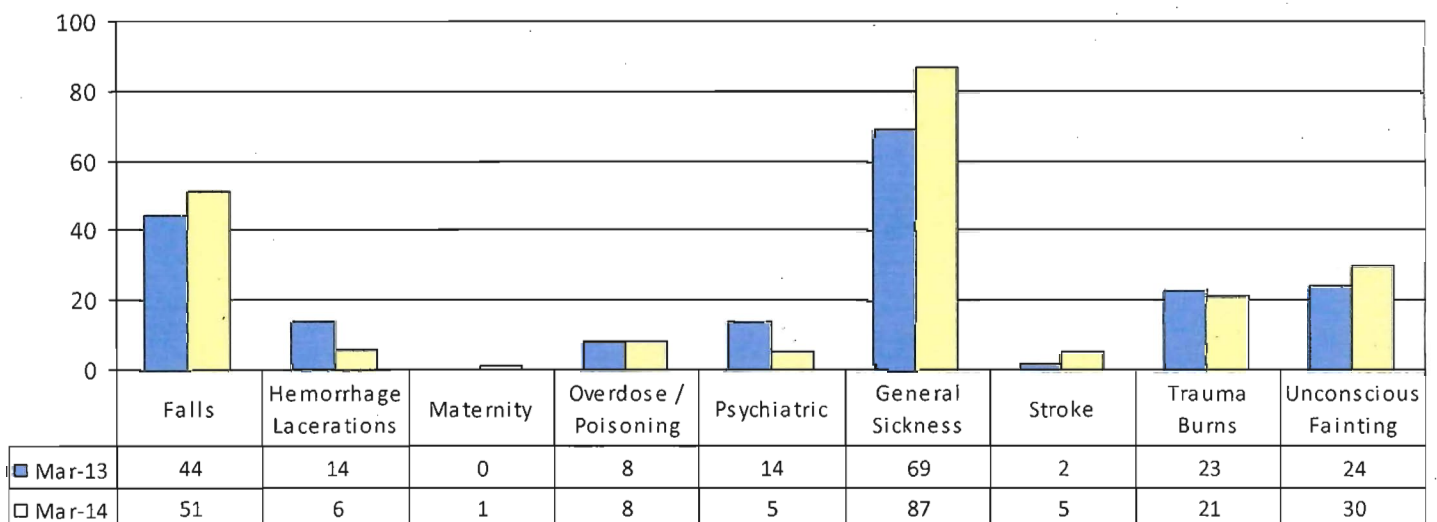


Table 2b: March 2013 & 2014 Medical Calls by Type



Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for March 2014 are listed below:

Table 3: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – March			
	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	0	0	1
Residential - Multi-family	0	3	0
Commercial/Industrial	2	2	1
Fire – Outdoor	2	1	3
Vehicle	1	1	0
Totals	5	7	5

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 – March	
	Details
Standby / Support for other agency	1
Flammable / Combustible Liquids	1
Natural Gas / Propane Leaks (small)	4
Misc. (empty containers to unknown powder)	6
Totals	12

Figure 1. Location of March's fires (total 17)



Figure 2. Location of March's medical calls (total 422)

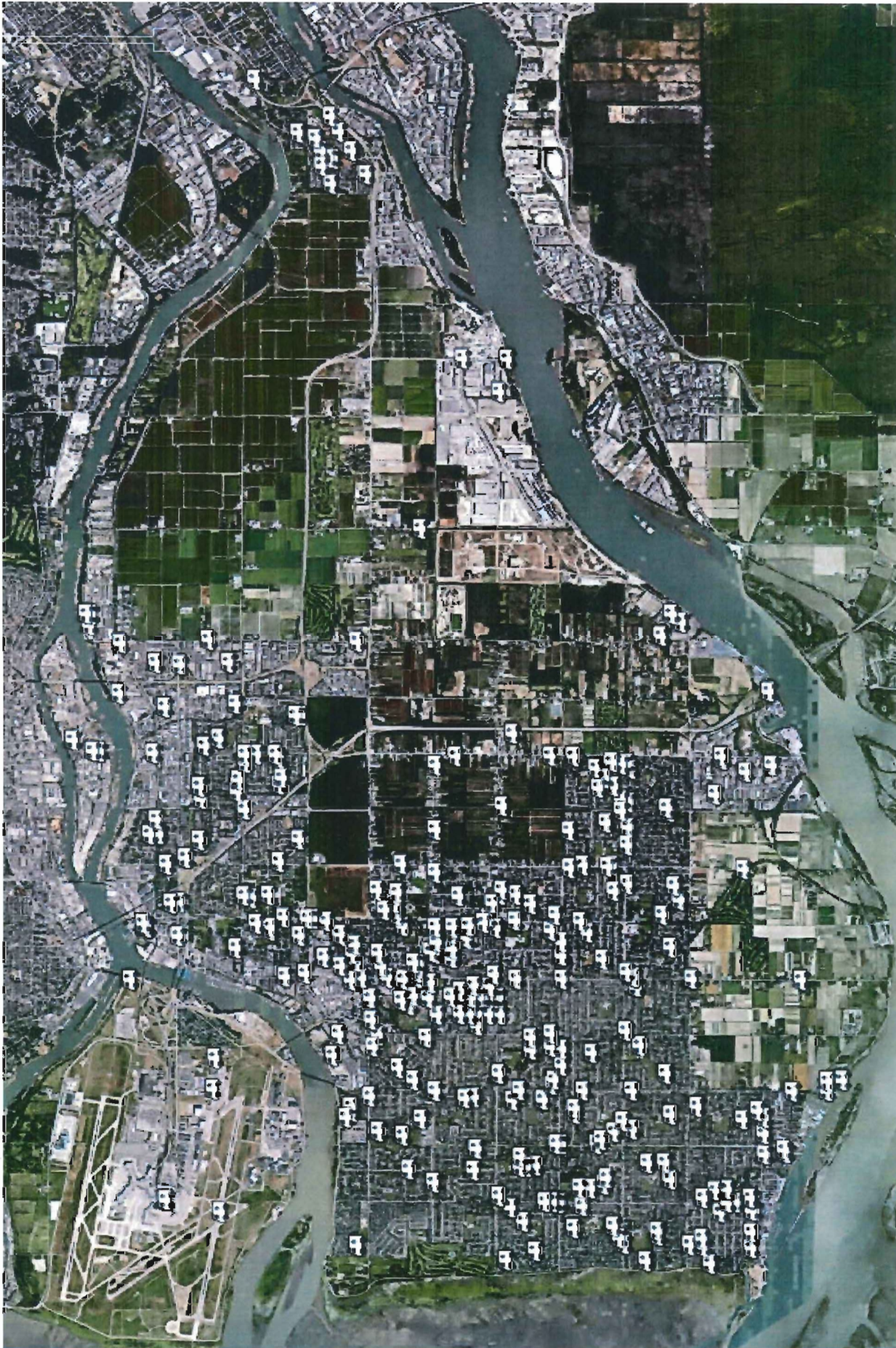


Figure 3: Location of March's MVI calls (total 93)

