



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee

Date: September 17, 2018

From: Tim Wilkinson
Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue

File: 09-5000-01/2018-Vol 01

Re: Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – August 2018

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – August 2018”, dated September 17, 2018 from the Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue, be received for information.

Tim Wilkinson
Fire Chief
(604-303-2701)

Att. 2

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| REPORT CONCURRENCE | |
| CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER | |
| | |
| REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE | INITIALS: CT |
| 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, community activities and social media.

During August staff engaged with approximately 1,521 children and adults, continuing to develop effective interagency relationships and partnerships within the community including; the Annual Seniors' Summer WHAM (Wellness, Health and More), "All Aboard" - Celebrating Richmond's Transportation Heritage and Works on Wheels Bus Tour for Kids.

Fire crews visited Steveston, Cambie, South Arm, Thompson and West Richmond Community Centres during August for their Summer Camp events.

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 August 2018 there were a total 778 incidents, representing a 17.8 per cent reduction in calls from August 2017 (Attachment 1). The average time on scene for RFR crews was 102 minutes, an increase over 2017. This can be impacted by the nature and severity of each call and the duration on scene. The reduction in overall calls is due to the reclassification of medical calls by BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) for their triaging and deploying resources of BC Ambulance Services.

In August 2018 there were 73 reportable fires to the Office of the Fire Commissioner; representing a 21 per cent decrease from August 2017. The average figure for fires reported in August, over the last five years, is 86, thus reportable fires in the month of August remains consistent with year over year trends.

Fire damage and property losses during August 2018 are estimated at \$35,000. This total includes \$35,000 for building/asset loss and \$0 for content loss. The total building/asset and content value at risk was estimated to be \$2,567,000 and the total value preserved from damage was \$2,532,000. These numbers translate to 98 per cent of value protected (Table 1); this is higher than the 90 per cent protected value observed in 2017.

| Table 1: Fire Calls By Type and Loss Estimates – August 2018 | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| 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 | 1,820,000 | 35,000 | - | - | 1,785,000 |
| Multi family | 3 | 747,000 | - | - | - | 747,000 |
| Commercial / Industrial | 5 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Outdoor | 59 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Vehicle/Vessel | 4 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Totals* | 73 | 2,567,000 | 35,000 | - | - | 2,532,000 |

*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).

Significant Events

Fire crews minimized loss and limited fires to the place of origin in these notable August 2018 incidents:

- Wildland fire on Shell Road Trail. RFR crews responded and entered the bog from Blundell Road. Firefighters surveyed the area saw gray smoke at the North side with flames in the trees and brush. A second vehicle was called to attend and CN Rail were requested to halt train traffic in the area. Once the second vehicle on scene, crews began to attack the flames and block the fire from spreading. Crews continued firefighting operations by reducing the flames and stopping any hot spots from spreading. Crews remained on site for several hours managing the scene and continued to soak surrounding areas with hand lines.
- Hazmat incident at Kingfisher Drive. Arriving crews witnessed smoke coming from the house. On arrival firefighters were refused entry into the property by the tenant. The tenant was instructed to vacate the property, but refused. RCMP were requested to attend. RFR crews began haz-mat operations to protect nearby public and properties. The incident was handed over to the RCMP for further investigation.

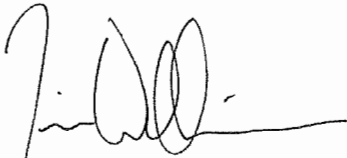
- Fire at an industrial site on Mitchell Road. Arriving, crews saw a large wood chip hopper on fire. A hydrant line was brought into the site across a road, which was secured by fire staff. Onsite workers assisted RFR staff with a forklift to open up the roof and walls of the building to enable fire crews to reach the fire. The fire was attacked and extinguished quickly. Fire crews remained on scene to assist with clean up. RCMP, BC Ambulance Services staff and a Fire Investigator attended. No injuries were reported.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

During August 2018, calls for service decreased by 17.8 per cent from August 2017. RFR will continue to monitor these activities to identify trends and ensure potential solutions.



Tim Wilkinson
Fire Chief
(604-303-2701)

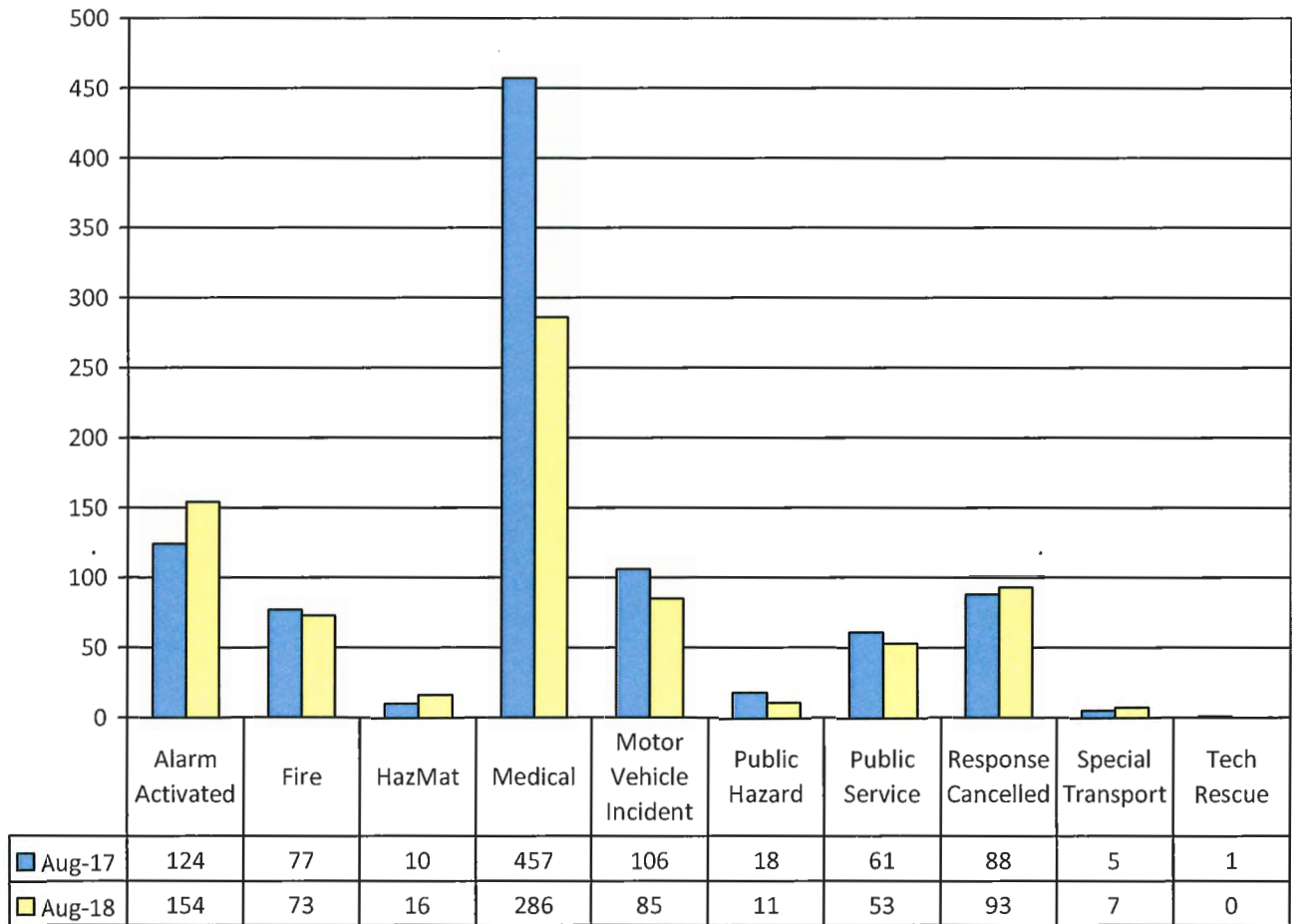
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- Att. 1: Suppression Activity
2: Location of August's Fire, Medical and MVIs

Calls for Service Volumes

The following chart provides a month to month comparison regarding incidents occurring in August 2017 and 2018. In August 2018, there were a total of 778 incidents, compared to 947 in August 2017. This represents a decrease of 17.8 per cent.

Table 3: August 2017 & 2018 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 37 per cent of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of August 2018. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for August 2018 and 2017 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 286 medical incidents in August 2018 compared to 457 in August 2017, a decrease of 37 per cent.

Table 4a: August 2017 & 2018 Medical Calls by Type

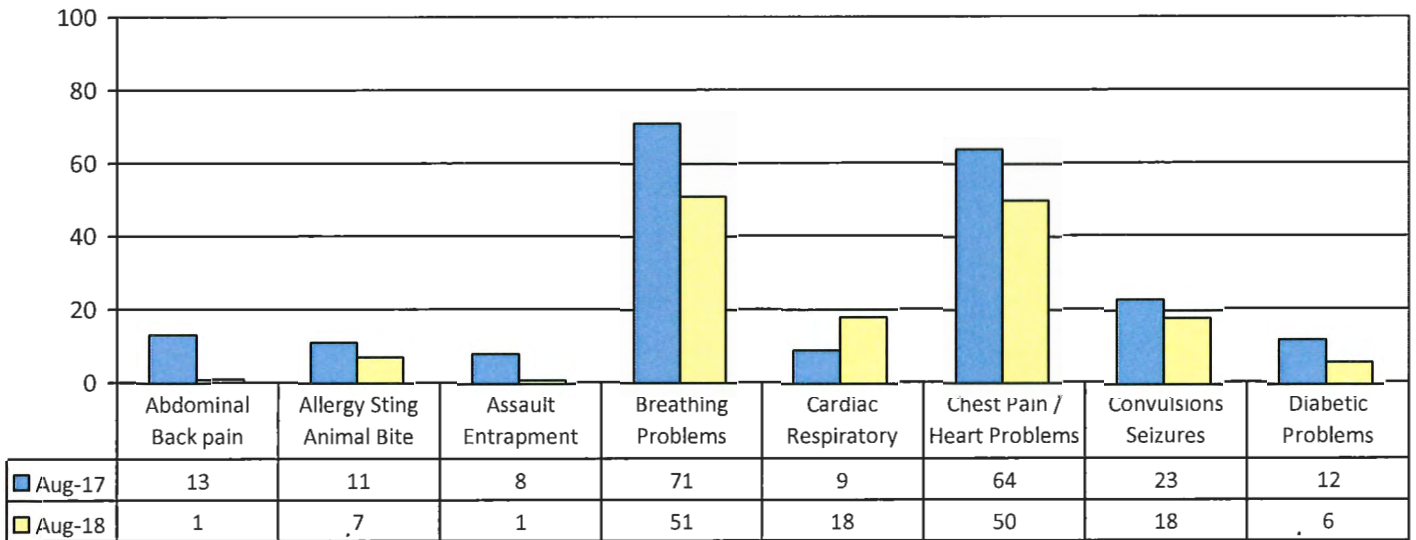
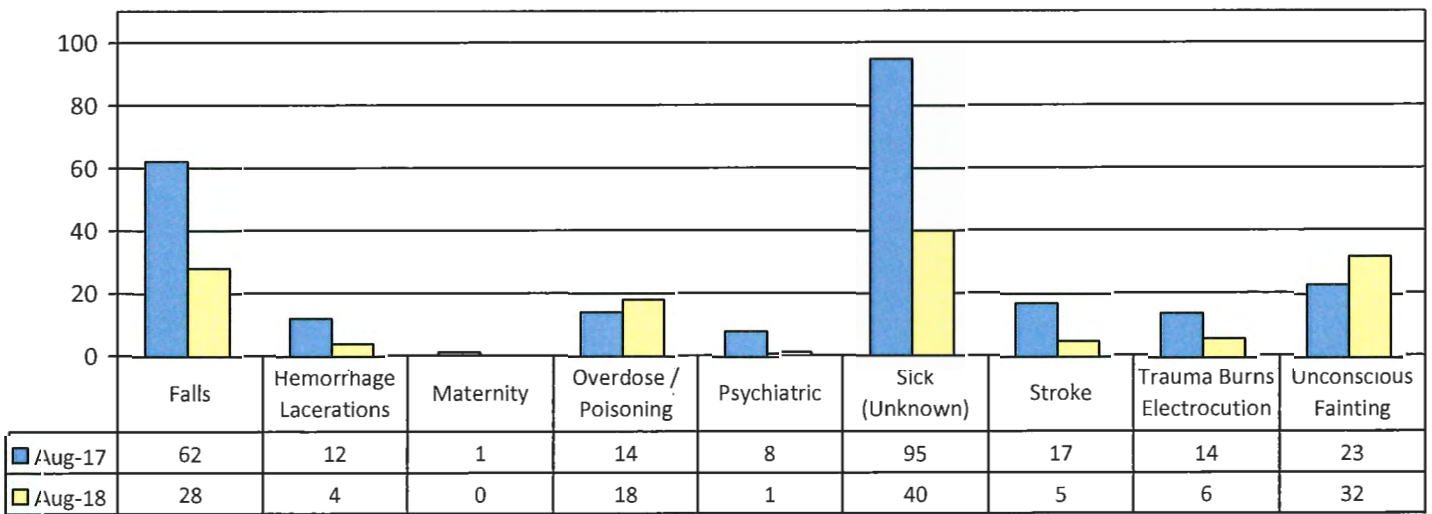


Table 4b: August 2017 & 2018 Medical Calls by Type



Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for August 2018 are listed below:

| Table 5: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – August | | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | Suspicious | Accidental | Undetermined |
| Residential - Single-family | - | 2 | - |
| Residential - Multi-family | - | 2 | 1 |
| Commercial/Industrial | - | 5 | - |
| Outdoor | 6 | 40 | 13 |
| Vehicle | - | 2 | 2 |
| Totals | 6 | 51 | 16 |

RFR investigators report all suspicious fires to the RCMP, while working alongside RCMP staff to address potential risks to the community.

Hazardous Materials

| Table 6: HazMat Calls By Type – August | |
|---|----------------|
| | Details |
| Criminal Act | 1 |
| Flammable / Combustible Liquids | 3 |
| Natural Gas / Propane Leaks (small) | 7 |
| Standby / Support for other agency | 1 |
| Unclassified | 4 |
| Totals | 16 |

Figure 1: Location of reportable fires attended in August (total 73)

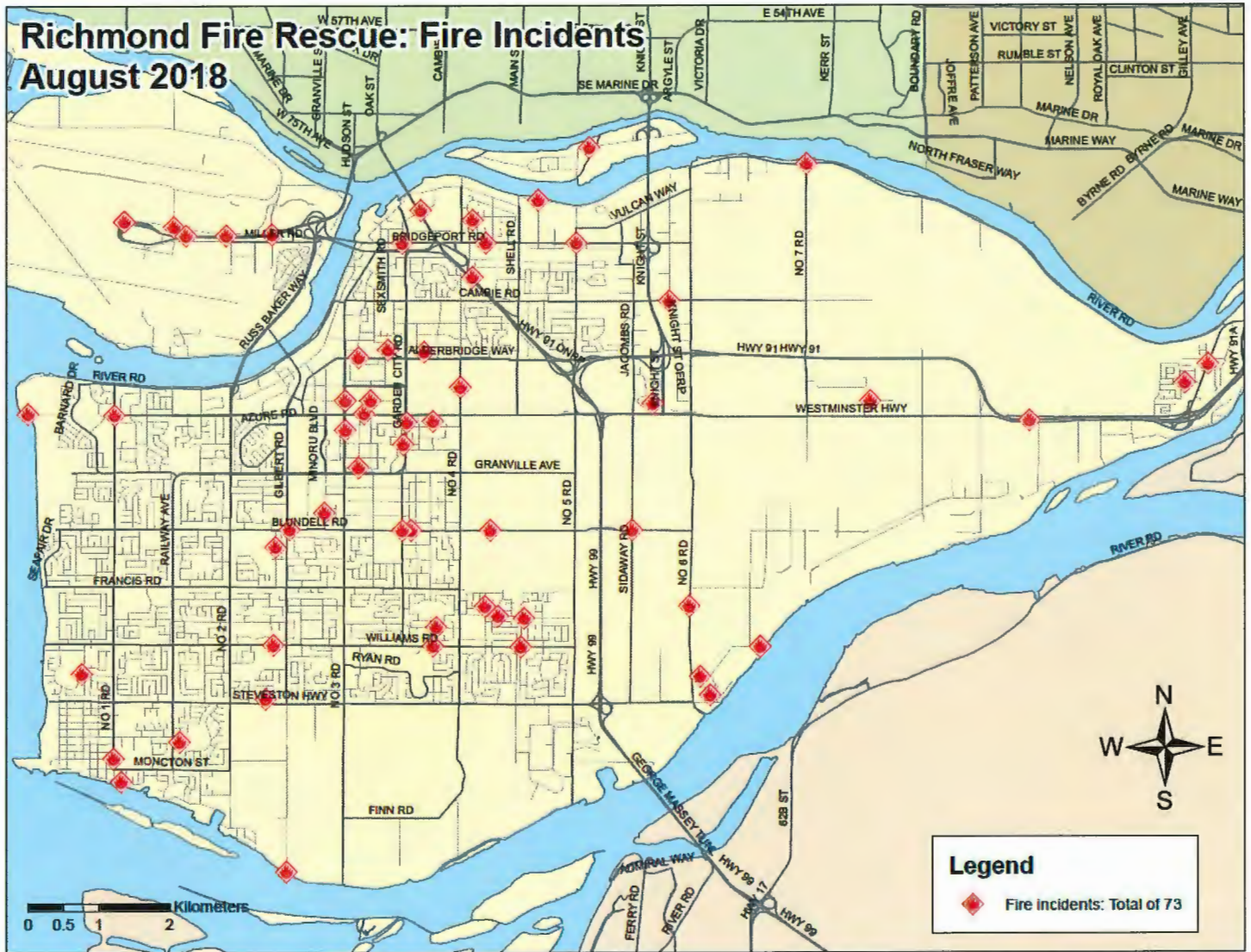


Figure 2: Location of medical calls in August (total 286)

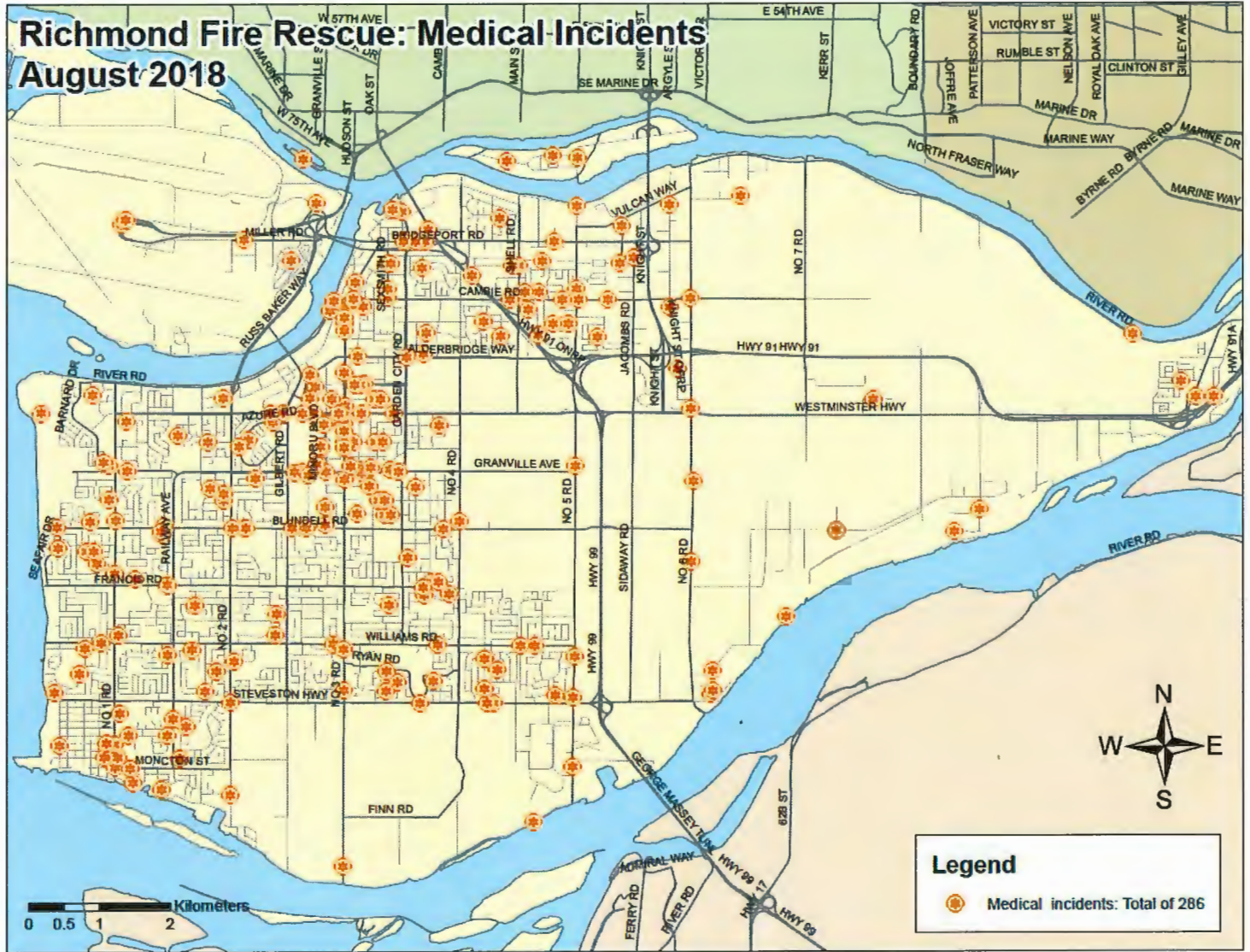


Figure 3: Location of MVI calls in August (total 85)

