



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** Community Safety Committee

**Date:** April 13, 2016

**From:** John McGowan  
Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue

**File:** 09-5000-01/2016-Vol  
01

**Re:** Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report - March 2016

### Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled "Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report - March 2016", dated April 13, 2016 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: DW
APPROVED BY CAO 	

## **Staff Report**

### **Origin**

This report provides Council with an update on Richmond Fire-Rescue (RFR) activities. RFR continues to work towards the City's vision of being the most appealing, livable, and well-managed community in Canada, through the delivery of its programs and services. 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 March 2016 the following took place:

- Public Education and Fire Safety Trailer visits to: Woodward Elementary School, Settlement Workers in School (SWIS) Office, McKay School Information Workshop for Newcomers, Blair Elementary School, Richmond Jewish School, West Richmond Community Centre, Blundell Elementary School, Kidd Elementary School and Maple Lane Elementary School.
- Fire Hall Tours provided to the 9th Richmond Cub Group and British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT) Aerospace Cadets.

Staff engaged with over 420 children and adults in the community providing fire safety and harm reduction information.

Safety messaging for March 2016 focused around the BC Government, ICBC and the police month-long distracted driving campaign highlighting the dangers of distracted driving. Other community messages for March 2016 included information on the importance of checking Smoke Alarms and changing the batteries regularly. Facebook posts and fire hall sign messages were used to share key safety points regarding RFR's focus areas.

#### **Emergency Response**

Richmond Fire-Rescue's goal is to respond to events in an efficient and effective manner where loss of life, reduction of property damage and protection of the environment is mitigated.

There were 19 fires in March 2016. Fire damage and property losses during the month are estimated at \$447,150. This total includes \$402,100 for building/asset loss and \$45,050 for content loss. The total building/asset and content value at risk was estimated to be \$7,227,700 and the total value preserved was \$6,780,550. These numbers translate to 94% of value protected (Figure 1).

<b>Figure 1: Fire Calls By Type and Loss Estimates – March 2016</b>						
<b>Incident Type Breakdown</b>	<b>Call Volume</b>	<b>Estimated Building / Asset Value (\$)</b>	<b>Estimated Building / Asset Loss (\$)</b>	<b>Estimated Content Value (\$)</b>	<b>Estimated Content Loss (\$)</b>	<b>Estimated Total Value Preserved (\$)</b>
Residential:						
Single family	4	3,000,000	500	9,00,000	50	3,899,450
Multi family	3	3,241,000	400,000	-	-	2,841,000
Commercial / Industrial	1	-	-	85,000	45,000	40,000
Fire – Outdoor	7	200	100	-	-	100
Vehicle	4	1,500	1,500	-	-	-
<b>Totals*</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>6,242,700</b>	<b>402,100</b>	<b>985,000</b>	<b>45,050</b>	<b>6,780,550</b>

\*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 2016 incidents:

- Structure (house) fire at Francis Road. Fire fighters completing their investigation discovered a fire that incorporated approximately 10% of the rear of the building. A rapid fire attack was initiated and the fire was knocked down quickly. The Fire Investigator attended the scene to determine cause and origin of the fire.
- Structure (townhouse) fire on Moffatt Road. A townhouse of approximately 1500 square feet was discovered to have 60% of the building on fire. The fact that the building was 60% involved in fire is important as the initial fire attack was initiated by fire crews from the exterior of the building. Once the fire was controlled and under 20% involved in fire; the fire fighters entered the structure to complete extinguishment. One occupant was injured in the fire.
- Structure (high rise apartment) fire located at Buswell Street. A 14 storey high rise building had a small fire in the kitchen of a single apartment. The fire occurred as a result of unattended cooking. High rise firefighting protocols were used to ensure an efficient and effective response.

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

- A Heroin overdose on Gilbert Road. The patient was resuscitated after NARCAN was administered by the attending BC Ambulance Services crew.
- Hazardous material incident on Miller Road. RFR crews attended and discovered four Canine Behavioural School (CBS) Officers and a canine unit had been exposed to liquid Nicotine. The officers were sent to Richmond General Hospital where exposure was deemed mild. RFR crews determined the liquid to be sealed and safe. The liquid was then disposed of by Terivta.
- Assistance provided following a motor vehicle incident on No 9 Road. Crews aided the coroner and provided site wash down of the area.

A summary of 9-1-1 emergency response statistics is found in Attachment 1, in Tables 1, 2, 3 and 4. The location of fire, medical and motor vehicle incident calls in March 2016 are depicted in Attachment 2, in Figures 1, 2 and 3.

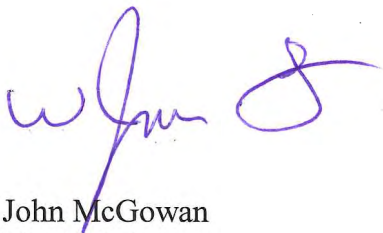
### **Financial Impact**

None

### **Conclusion**

During March 2016, calls for emergency response increased by 13.8 percent over March 2015. The largest component of change was in the area of medical response, specifically breathing and heart related events. RFR will monitor these medical event types to identify on going trends and potential solutions.

The continued increase in emergency response has a direct impact on unit availability, response times, availability for non-emergency operations and in-service training. RFR will review the available statistics and amend resource allocation as necessary.



John McGowan  
Fire Chief  
(604-303-2734)

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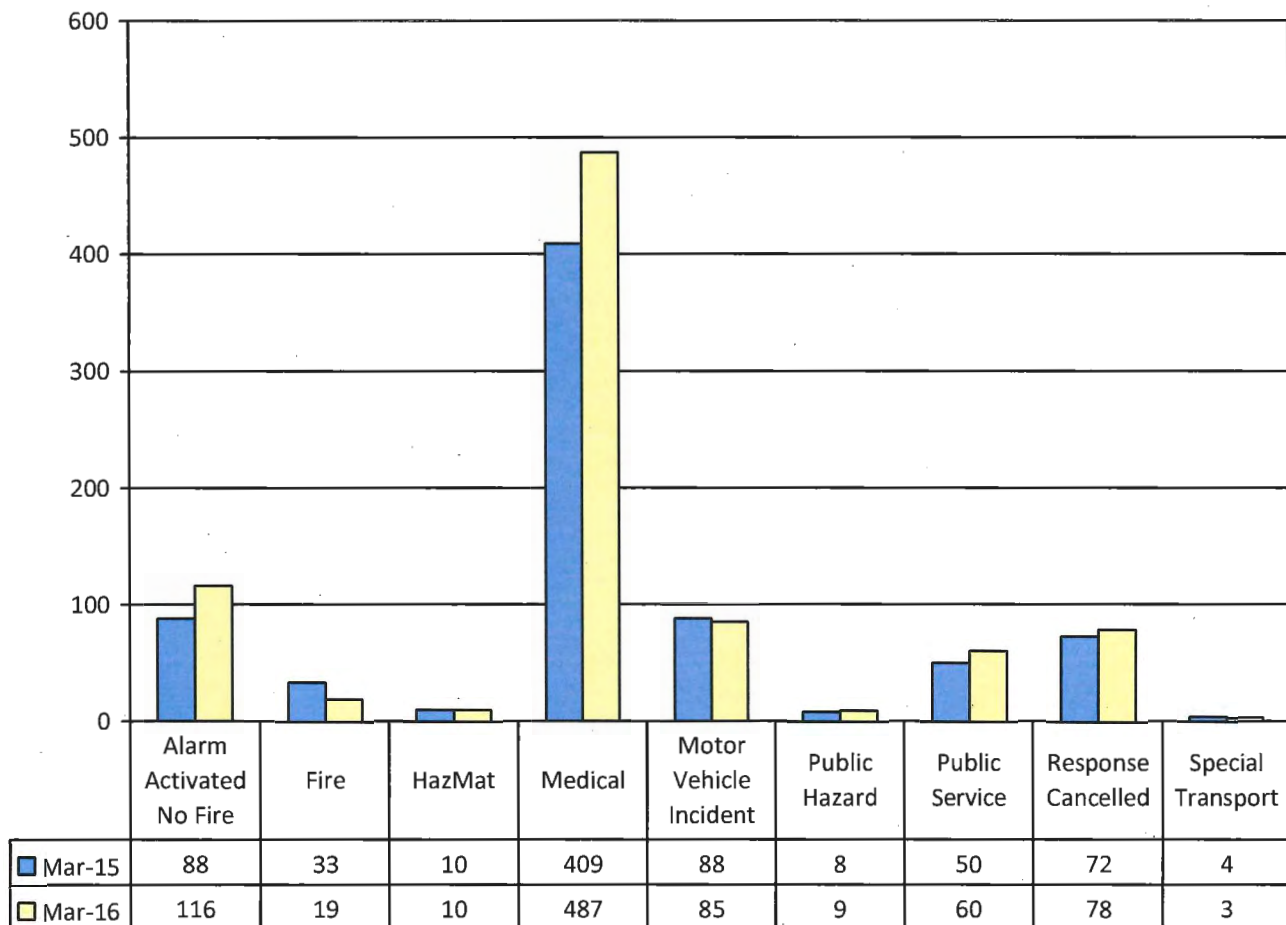
Att. 1: Suppression Activity

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

## Suppression Activity

The following chart provides a month to month comparison regarding incidents occurring in March 2015 and 2016. In March 2016, there were a total of 867 incidents, compared to 762 in March 2015. This represents an increase of 13.8%. The increase in call volumes was primarily in medical related incident types.

**Table 1: March 2015 & 2016 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

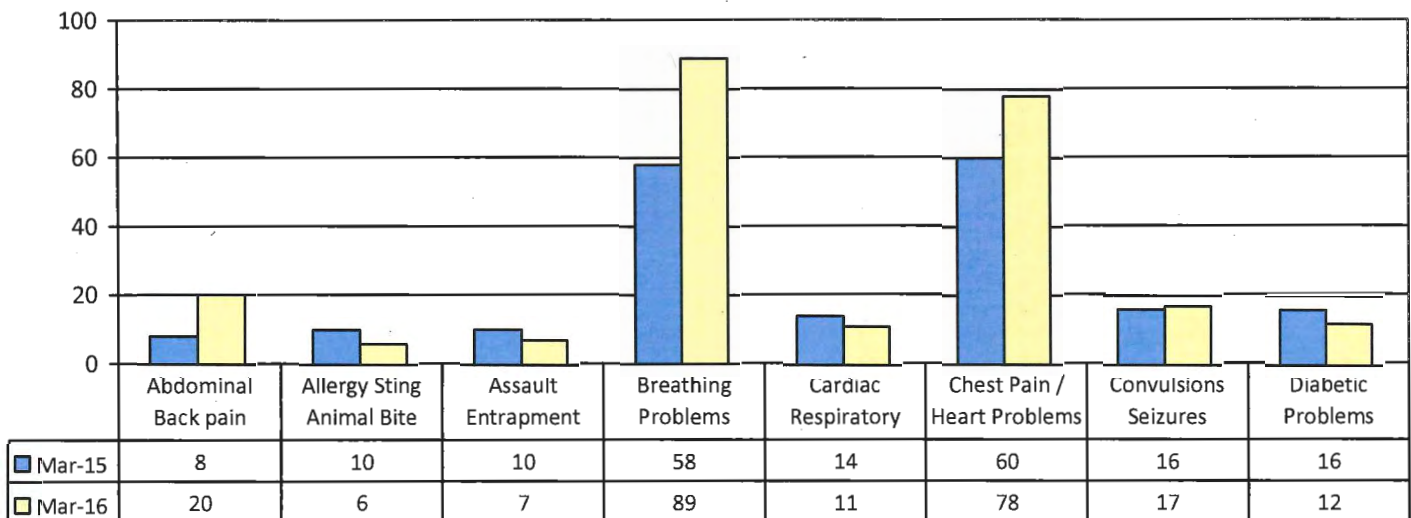
**Public Hazard:** includes: aircraft emergency, bomb removal standby, object removal, or power lines down

**Public Service:** includes: assisting public, ambulance or police, locked in/out, special events, trapped in elevator, water removal

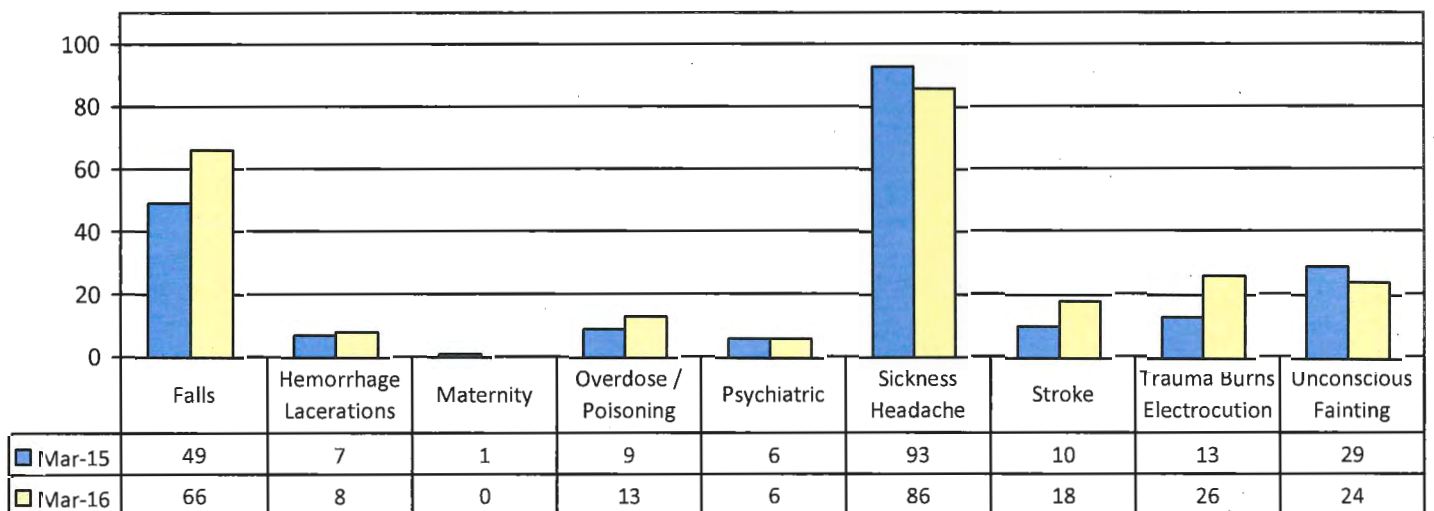
### First Responder Totals

Medical First Responder incidents comprised 56% of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of March. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for March 2015 and 2016 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 487 medical incidents in March 2016 compared to 409 in March 2015, an increase of 19%. The increase in medical call volumes was primarily in breathing problems, chest or heart pain complaints or falls.

**Table 2a: March 2015 & 2016 Medical Calls by Type**



**Table 2b: March 2015 & 2016 Medical Calls by Type**



## Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for March 2016 are listed below:

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

RFR investigators report all suspicious fires to the RCMP, while working in conjunction with staff at the RCMP to address any risks to the community.

## Hazardous Materials

<b>Table 4: HazMat Calls By Type – March</b>	
	<b>Details</b>
Natural Gas / Propane Leaks (small)	5
Flammable / Combustible Liquids	1
Toxic / Infectious Substances	1
Unclassified (powder / liquids)	3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>10</b>



Figure 1: Location of fires in March (total 19)

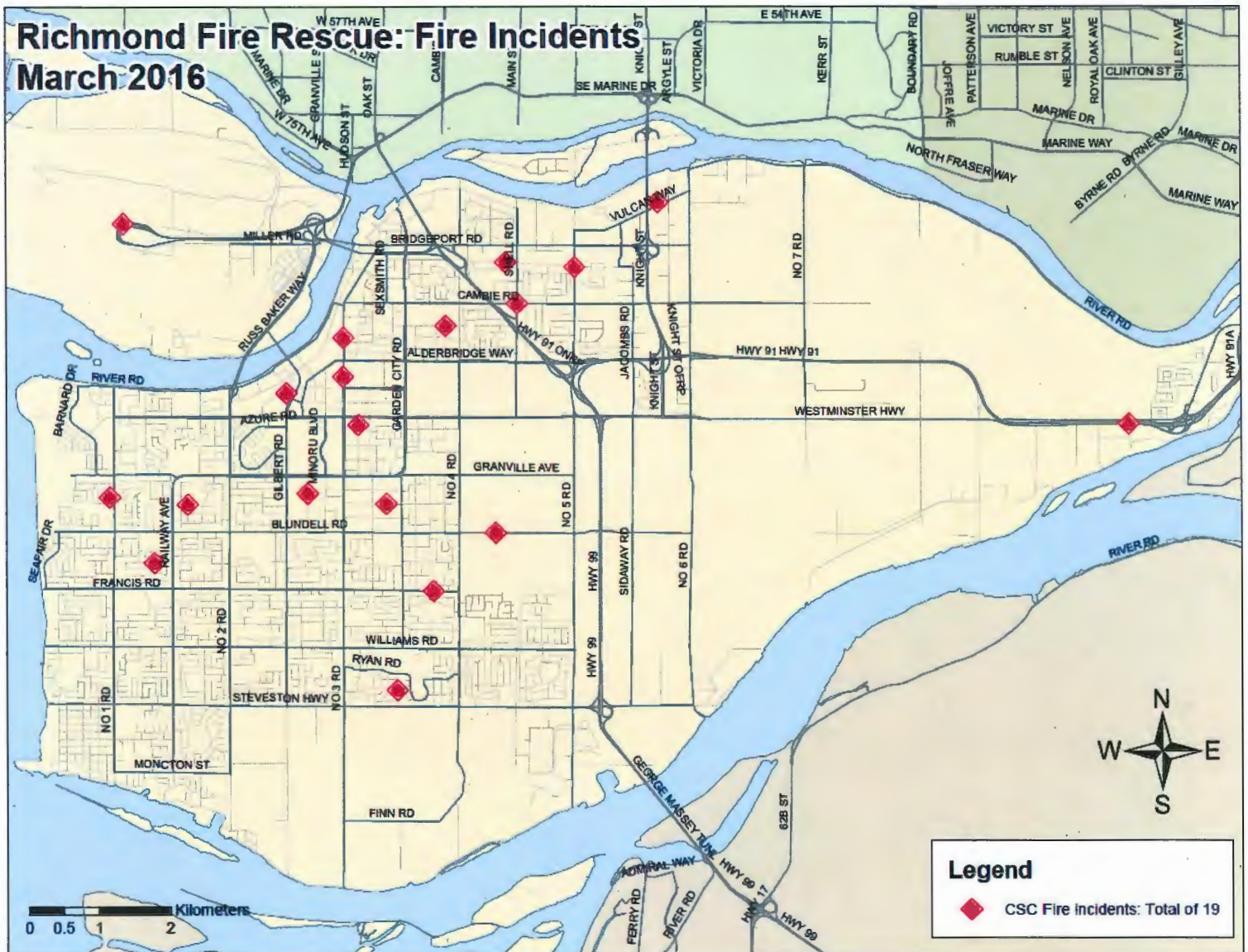
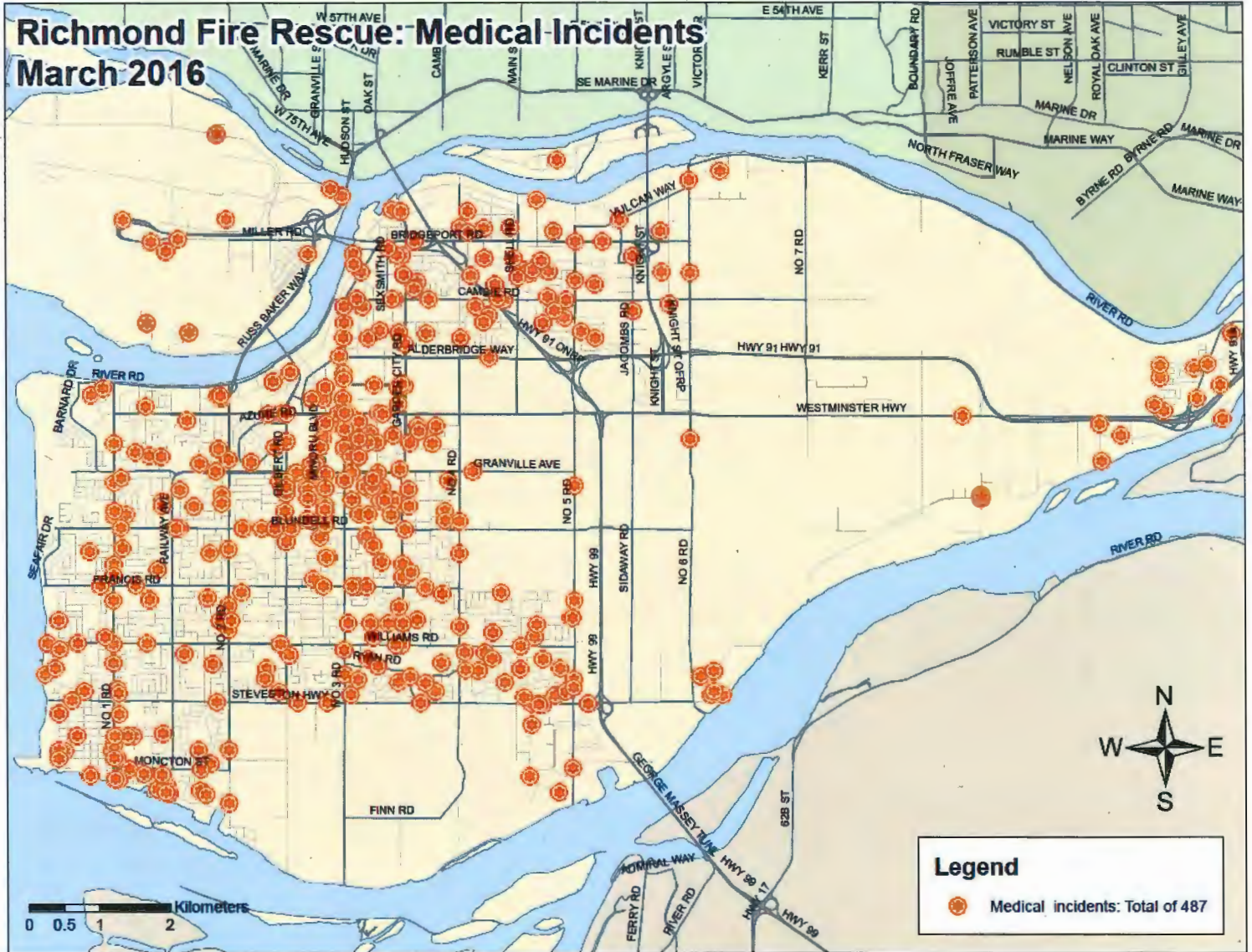




Figure 2: Location of medical calls in March (total 487)



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

