



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** September 21, 2015
From: John McGowan **File:** 09-5000-01/2015-Vol
Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue 01
Re: **Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report - August 2015**

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled "Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report - August 2015," dated September 21, 2015 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. 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'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

Safety messaging for August focused on prevention of outdoor fires, cycling safety and distracted driving. Facebook posts and fire hall sign messages were used to solidify the key safety points regarding RFR's focus areas.

Images and video of the Brighthouse Fire Hall (#1) demolition was shared with the public on Facebook. The images received many positive messages and shares.

RFR participates in events and activities to advance public education and community bridge building. During August 2015 the following took place:

- Safety presentations were provided to *Pathway's Clubhouse*.

Community events attended included:

- *East Richmond Community Association Community Outdoor Event;*
- *Cops for Cancer outdoor event;* and
- *Richmond RCMP Youth Outreach events.*

Over 1,385 children and adults attended these events where staff engaged with the community providing fire safety and harm reduction information.

Training

RFR continues to align training programs with the applicable industry standard as directed by the Office of the Fire Commissioner. To this end the firefighter recruit program was reviewed, amended and rolled out to staff in preparation for the September arrival of new hires.

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.

August 2015, saw 72 fires which with the change in climatic condition has become the norm. Many of the 72 fire calls RFR crews attended were small areas of grass, bark mulch or beach fires. While many of the fires were small, the potential of huge fire growth was present. RFR uses a soya based, environmentally friendly wetting agent, “Cold Fire”, to extinguish and control fires.

Fire losses during the month are estimated at \$133,300. This total includes \$88,250 for building loss and \$45,050 for content loss. The total building and content value at risk was estimated to be \$143,133,200, and the total value preserved was \$142,999,900. These numbers translate to 99.9% of value protected (Figure 1).

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

Incident Type Breakdown	Call Volume	Estimated Building Value (\$)	Estimated Building Loss (\$)	Estimated Content Value (\$)	Estimated Content Loss (\$)	Estimated Total Value Preserved (\$)
Residential:						
Single family	2	1,032,200	80,000	417,000	45,000	1,313,200
Multi family	5	26,150,000	1,000	2,325,000	50	28,473,950
Commercial / Industrial	3	58,000,000	5,200	5,200,000	-	63,194,800
Fire – Outdoor	60	50,020,000	2,050	-	-	50,017,950
Vehicle	2	-	-	-	-	-
Totals*	72	135,191,200	88,250	7,942,000	45,050	142,999,900

*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 August incidents:

A house fire on Valmont Way, where upon arrival, crews attacked the fire using aggressive fire tactics. The fire was contained to a single unit.

Crews responded to a fire on Glendower Drive, the fire originated within some bushes and a cedar fence and then moved into the residence. RFR crews extinguished the fire quickly and mitigated the damage to the interior of the structure to a small area.

On August 29th, in connection with the windstorms, there were 61 emergency events. In comparison to a normal Saturday this was a 300% increase in calls for service. RFR coordinated with other emergency services and public works to quickly reduce risk of harm and to assist in restoring power back to affected homes.

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

Along with the Canadian Coast Guard, crews responded to a personal water craft incident, in which two males on a jet ski were injured and subsequently died from their injuries. The Canadian Coast Guard had retrieved the patients from the river. RFR staff assisted with transferring the patients from the hovercraft to BCAS. CPR was performed.

Crews responded to a motorcycle and car motor vehicle accident where both vehicles caught fire. The motorcyclist suffered injuries and was taken to hospital by BCAS. Crew extinguished the fires and secured the scene to prevent environmental damage due to leaking fuel tanks.

Crews responded to a motor vehicle accident where a semi-trailer truck had tipped over on its side causing diesel fuel to leak. RFR crews controlled the diesel limiting environmental damage and temporarily repaired the fuel leak to ensure that the scene was safe.

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

Financial Impact

None

Conclusion

RFR strives to deliver service excellence through a delivery model that is prevention focused 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. In the month of August, the calls for service within the City were constant, wide and varied. Richmond Fire-Rescue's activity in this month would be considered to more busy than normal. The two drivers of this effect were the extreme heat situation and the wind storm of August 29th.



John McGowan
Fire Chief
(604-303-2734)

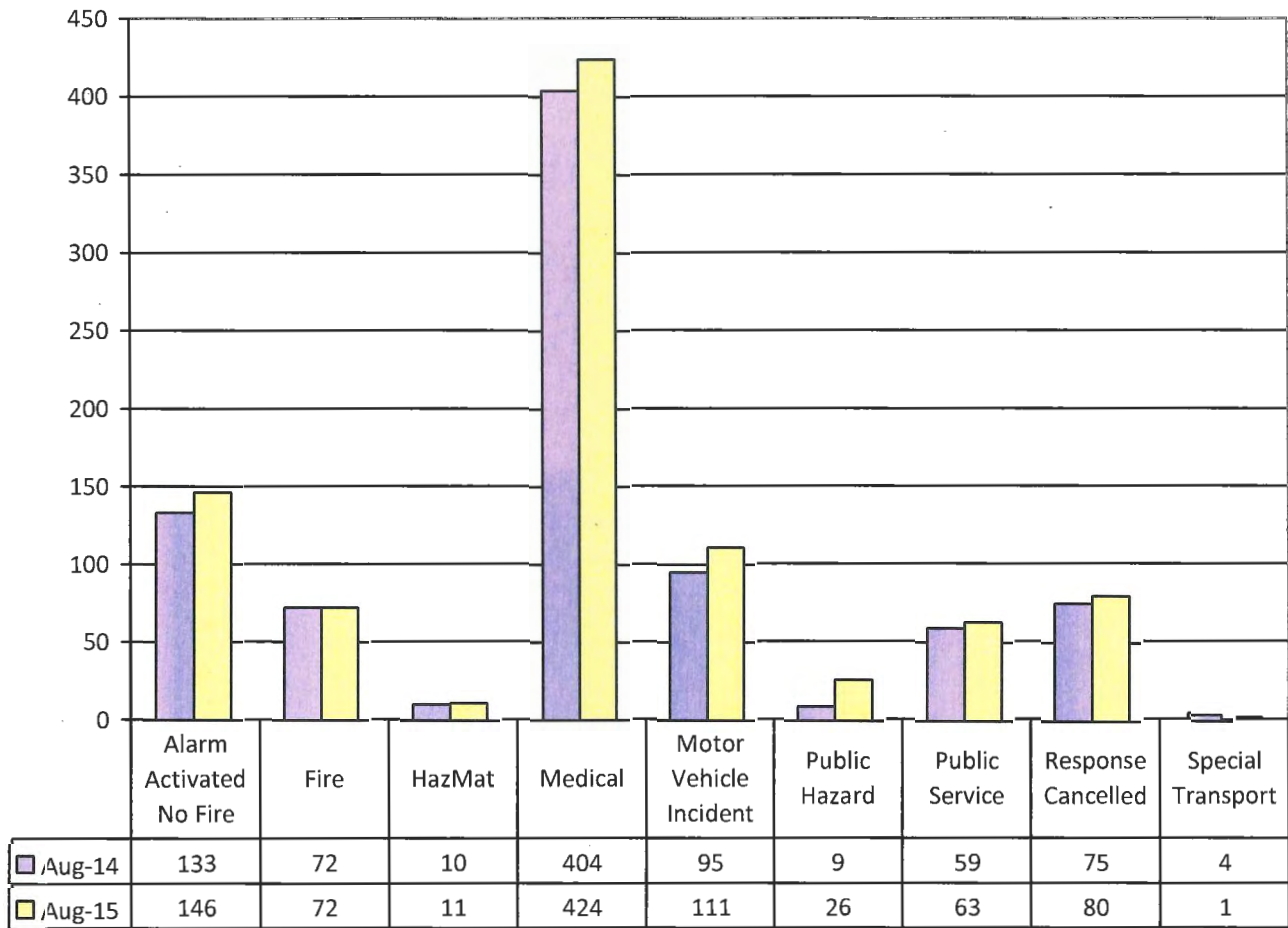
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Att. 1: Suppression Activity
Att. 2: Location of August's Fire, Medical and MVI calls

Suppression Activity

The following chart provides a month to month comparison regarding incidents occurring in August 2014 and 2015. In August 2015, there were a total of 934 incidents, compared to 861 in August 2014. This represents an increase of 8.4%. The increase in call volumes was primarily in medical related incident types. Increases in outdoor activities and very dry weather conditions in August have contributed to the incident number rise.

Table 1: August 2014 & 2015 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 45% of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of August. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for August 2014 and 2015 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 424 medical incidents in August 2015 compared to 404 in August 2014 an increase of 5%. The rise in the Breathing Problems and Chest Pain categories could be attributed to an increase in outdoor activity due to the sunny weather experienced during August.

Table 2a: August 2014 & 2015 Medical Calls by Type

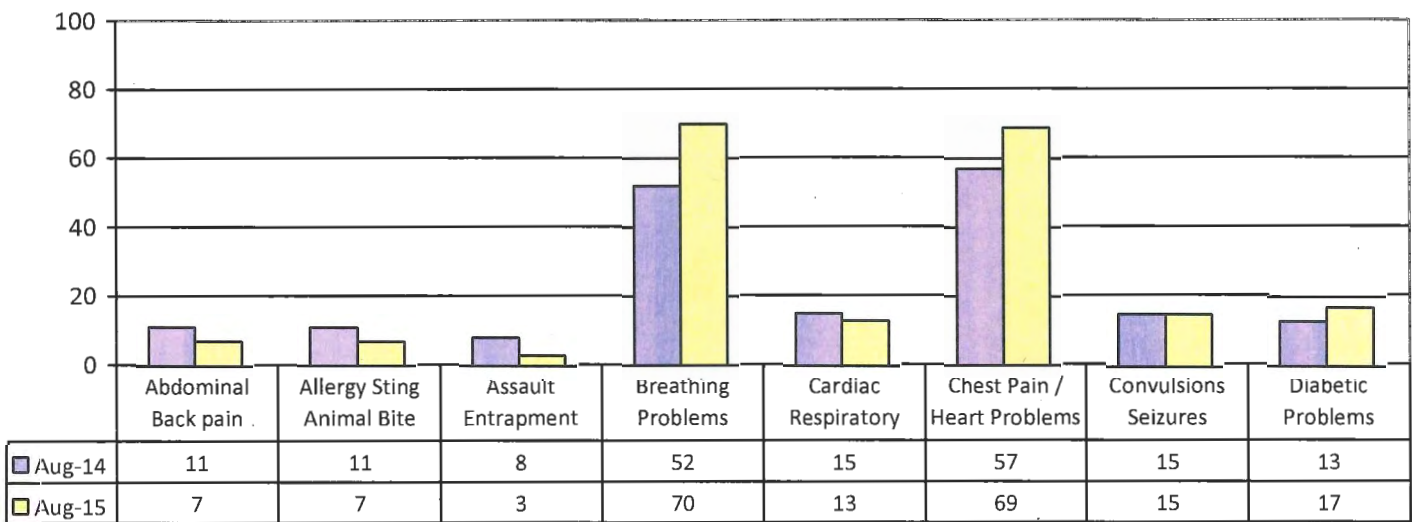
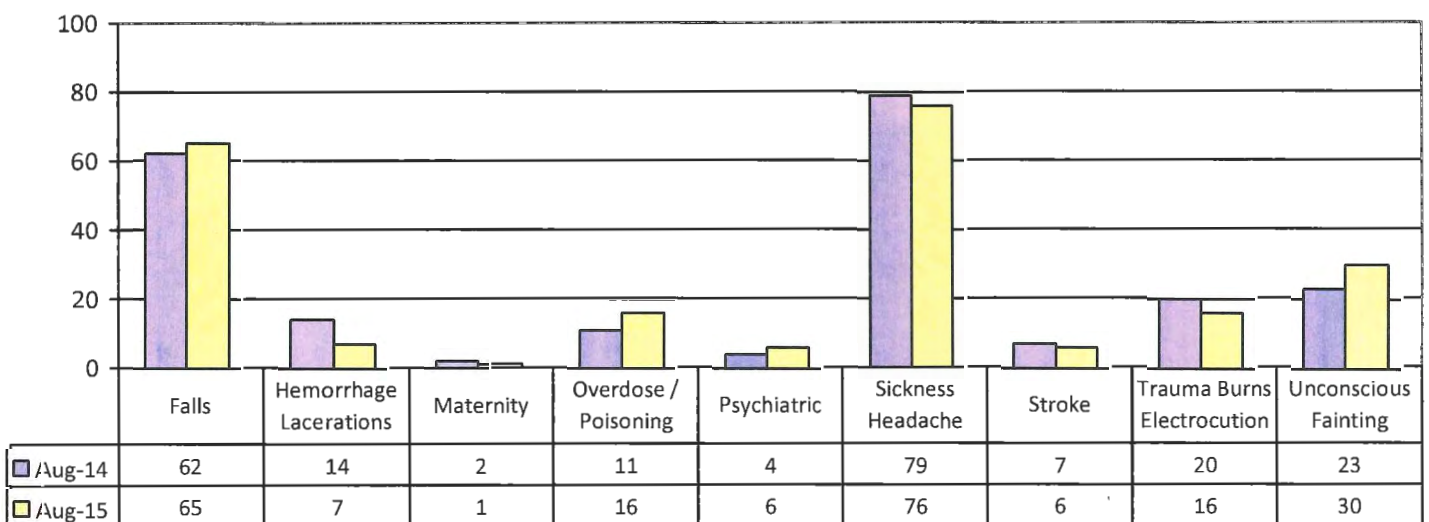


Table 2b: August 2014 & 2015 Medical Calls by Type



Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for August 2015 are listed below:

Table 3: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – August			
	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	-	2	-
Residential - Multi-family	-	4	1
Commercial/Industrial	-	1	2
Fire – Outdoor	6	46	8
Vehicle	-	-	2
Totals	6	53	13

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 – August	
	Details
Natural Gas / Propane Leaks (small)	7
Flammable / Combustible Liquids	1
Standby/Support for other agency	2
Unclassified	1
Totals	11

Figure 1: Location of fires in August (total 72)

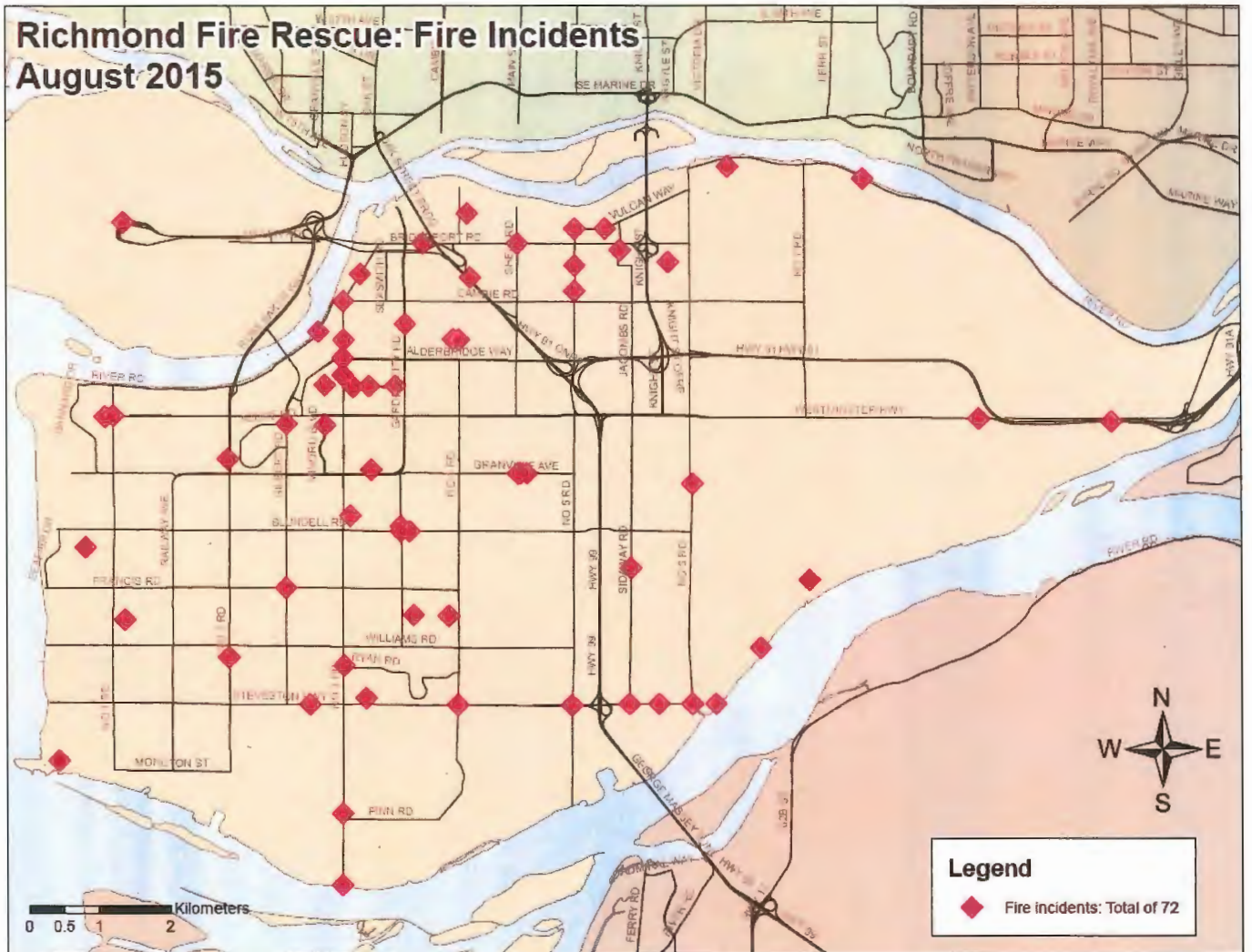


Figure 2: Location of medical calls in August (total 424)

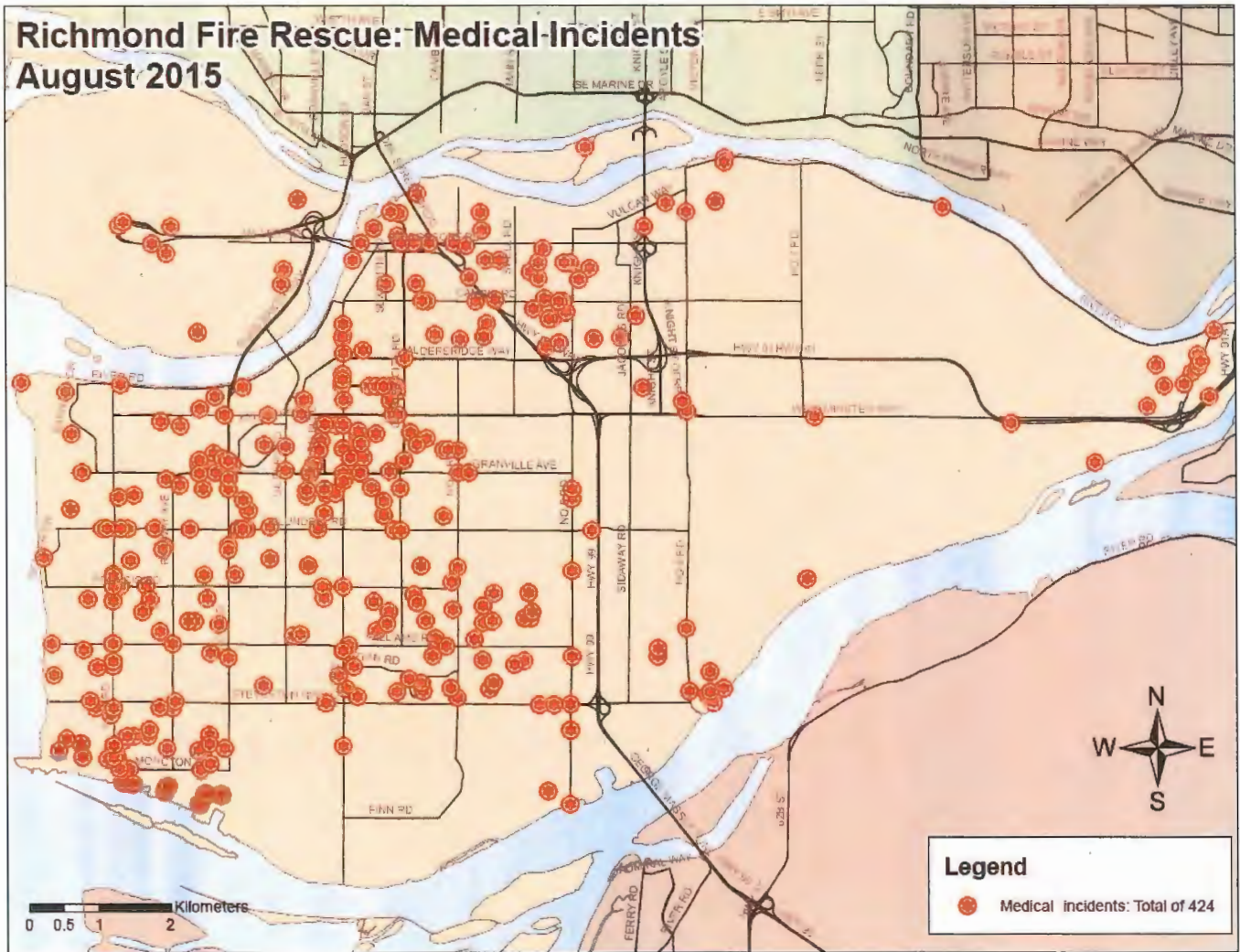


Figure 3: Location of MVI calls in August (total 111)

