



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee

Date: May 15, 2019

From: Tim Wilkinson
Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue

File: 09-5000-01/2019-Vol 01

Re: Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – April 2019

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – April 2019”, dated May 15, 2019, 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:
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:

We act as an effective team to proactively protect and enhance the City's livability by serving and educating our community, preventing harm and responding to emergencies.

Analysis

Community Involvement

RFR advances public safety awareness, education and community connections by providing valuable training activities, participation in community events and social media updates.

During April staff engaged with approximately 162 children and adults, while continuing to develop effective interagency relationships and partnerships within the community.

April 2019 events included:

- Safety presentations and hall tours with the following groups: Richmond Multicultural Community Services, Richmond Family Place, St Stephen's 150th Scout Group and Settlement Workers (SD38).
- Richmond Fire-Rescue hosted a supervised open burning of Chametz, part of the Jewish Passover celebrations at Fire Hall No. 1. Public Education staff were onsite to provide safety educational materials.

Prevention

RFR staff continued to work with local businesses on the Mobile Outdoor Food Service Unit (MOFSU) Inspection Program. The MOFSU program offers a pre-scheduled inspection day for Food Trucks in Richmond. Before applying for a business license in the City of Richmond, a mobile food truck is required to have a successful fire and life safety inspection. To assist the food truck owners and operators and the event coordinators, RFR offers one day per year where all interested food trucks may come and have their first inspection free.

The program has had over a 98% pass/approval rate since inception. During April there were 62 food trucks inspected. This event has proven to be so successful it has become the model for the BC Fire Chief's Food Truck inspection program.

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 April 2019 there were a total 732 incidents, representing a six per cent reduction in calls from April 2018 (Attachment 1).

The average time on scene for RFR crews was 28 minutes; this is an increase over the 26 minutes in 2018. This is due to the nature and severity of each call.

In April 2019 there were 31 reportable fires to the Office of the Fire Commissioner; representing a 19 per cent increase from April 2018. The average figure for fires reported in April over the last five years, is 31. RFR continues to monitor fire activities to identify and create programs to respond to emerging trends.

RFR’s emergency fire response goal is to maintain the fire to the room of origin. The room of origin standard is especially important in terms of fire loss, which increases some ten-fold once the fire leaves the room of origin. Fire damage and property losses during April 2019 are estimated at \$403,010. This total includes \$403,010 for building/asset loss and \$0 for content loss. The total building/asset and content value at risk was estimated to be \$11,810,067 and the total value preserved from damage was \$11,407,057. These numbers translate to 97 per cent of value protected (Table 1); this is lower than the 99 per cent protected value observed in 2018.

Table 1: Fire Calls By Type and Loss Estimates – April 2019

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	4	701,815	400,000	561,452	-	863,267
Multi family	4	10,407,800	10	20,000	-	10,427,790
Commercial / Industrial	3	100,000	-	-	-	100,000
Outdoor	18	1,000	-	-	-	1,000
Vehicle/Vessel	2	18,000	3,000	-	-	15,000
Totals*	31	11,228,615	403,010	581,452	-	11,407,057

*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 harm and limited fires to the place of origin in these notable April 2019 incidents:

- April 9, 2019 – Residential fire on Bayview Street. RFR crews arrived to find a small smouldering fire on a unit porch of a multi residential structure. The tenant had attempted to extinguish a pile of newspapers that had been ignited by a carelessly disposed of smokers material. Crews extinguished the fire and recognised that the quick actions of two passing people had minimized the damage, as they had alerted the residents and had assisted with water application. A Fire Investigator determined the fire was caused by carelessly discarded smoking materials. RFR had a Fire Prevention Officer provide home fire safety information with the tenants. There were no injuries to residents or RFR crew members.

- April 9, 2019 – Trailer fire on Seabay Road. On arrival crews found several propane tanks mounted to the front of a trailer on fire. The trailer was stored on a property and in close proximity to a residence. RFR crews quickly contained and extinguished the fire before any spread occurred. Additional crews reported that they observed someone leaving the area and RCMP were immediately notified and given a description of the individual. The area was been secured and vapours from the propane tank were controlled. A Fire Investigator attended and there were no reported injuries to the public or RFR firefighters.
- April 13, 2019 – Suspicious fire on Boundary Road. Crews attended to the rear of a property to find a person burning copper wire with gasoline on a concrete patio area. The fire was extinguished and RFR crews advised the person of the City of Richmond's burning laws. Arriving RCMP were provided with a description of the person who had left the scene. RFR crews replaced the plywood board that had been removed to enter the premises.
- April 17, 2019 – Building fire on Ferguson Road. Upon arrival, crews assessed the situation to find the building contained a significant number of hazardous materials including dynamite and herbicides. There was a fire involving a portion of the building and some of the stored hazardous products. RFR's Haz-Mat personnel attended and provided support by accessing information on the hazardous materials through the Canadian Transport Emergency Centre. Crews were able to extinguish the fire using a DSPA Fire Suppression aerosol generating technology and CO2 extinguishers. The City's Engineering department was contacted to provide support to firefighting efforts with portable berms and diking to contain water runoff. Through risk management and planning RFR crews avoided any potential runoff. RFR collaborated with onsite property management to have a remediation contractor remove the affected products and make the site safe. RFR fire investigation concluded that the cause of the fire was improper storage of lithium batteries. There were no injuries reported.
- April 19, 2019 – Residential fire on Francis Road. RFR crews attended a structure of a residential attached garage. Crews extinguished the fire quickly containing it to the room of origin. A ventilation plan was initiated while crews carried out primary search confirming no occupants required rescue. The resident was assessed by BC Emergency Health Services staff for smoke inhalation which did not require hospitalization. The fire was contained to the garage, but the rest of the house was exposed to heavy smoke. Fire Investigation staff determined that the fire was caused by carelessly discarded smoking materials. Emergency Programs was called to provide Emergency Social Services assistance. There are no reported injuries to RFR staff at this time.
- April 29, 2019 – Industrial Fire on Mitchell Road. RFR crews responded to signs of flames and smoke showing at commercial mill. First arriving crews confirmed that two sawdust hoppers were on fire. A scene assessment was carried out and RFR crews extinguished both fires quickly. The fire investigator determined the fire was caused by a seized conveyor belt roller bearing creating enough heat to ignite sawdust. Fire Prevention staff are working with the mill to reduce sawdust build up which will assist in mitigating further fires at this location. There were no injuries to members or the public or RFR personnel.

May 15, 2019

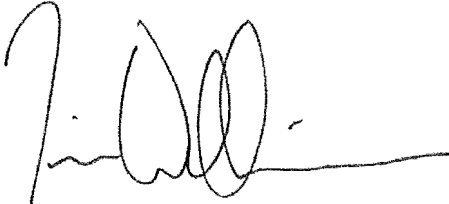
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Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

RFR monitor activities to identify and create programs to respond to emerging trends.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Wilkinson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Tim Wilkinson
Fire Chief
(604-303-2701)

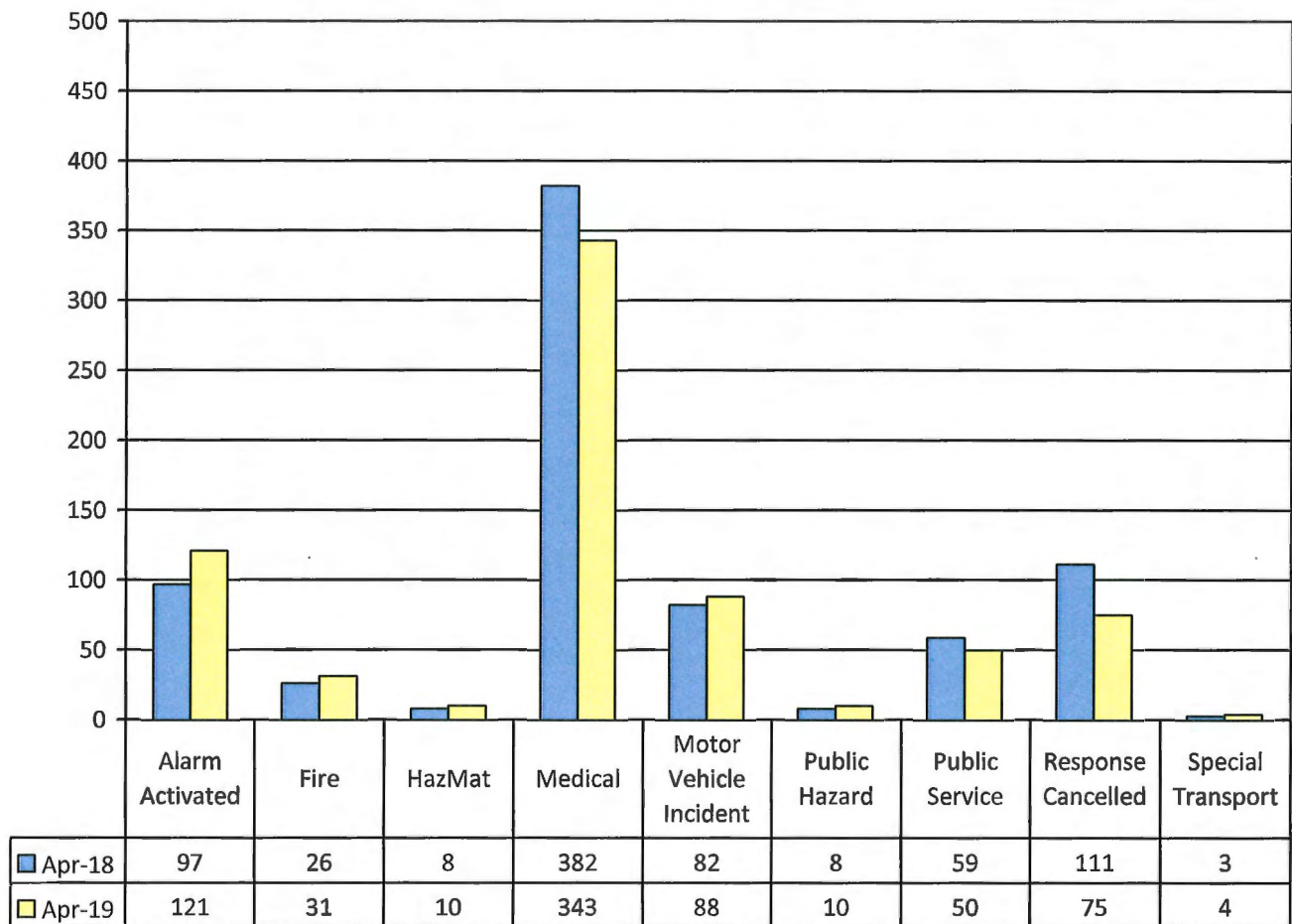
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- Att. 1: Suppression Activity
2: Location of April's Fire, Medical and MVIs

Calls for Service Volumes

The following chart provides a month to month comparison regarding incidents occurring in April 2018 and 2019. In April 2019, there were a total of 732 incidents, compared to 776 in April 2018. This represents a decrease of six per cent.

Table 3: April 2018 & 2019 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 47 per cent of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of April 2019. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for April 2018 and 2019 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 343 medical incidents in April 2019 compared to 382 in April 2018, a decrease of 10 per cent.

Table 4a: April 2018 & 2019 Medical Calls by Type

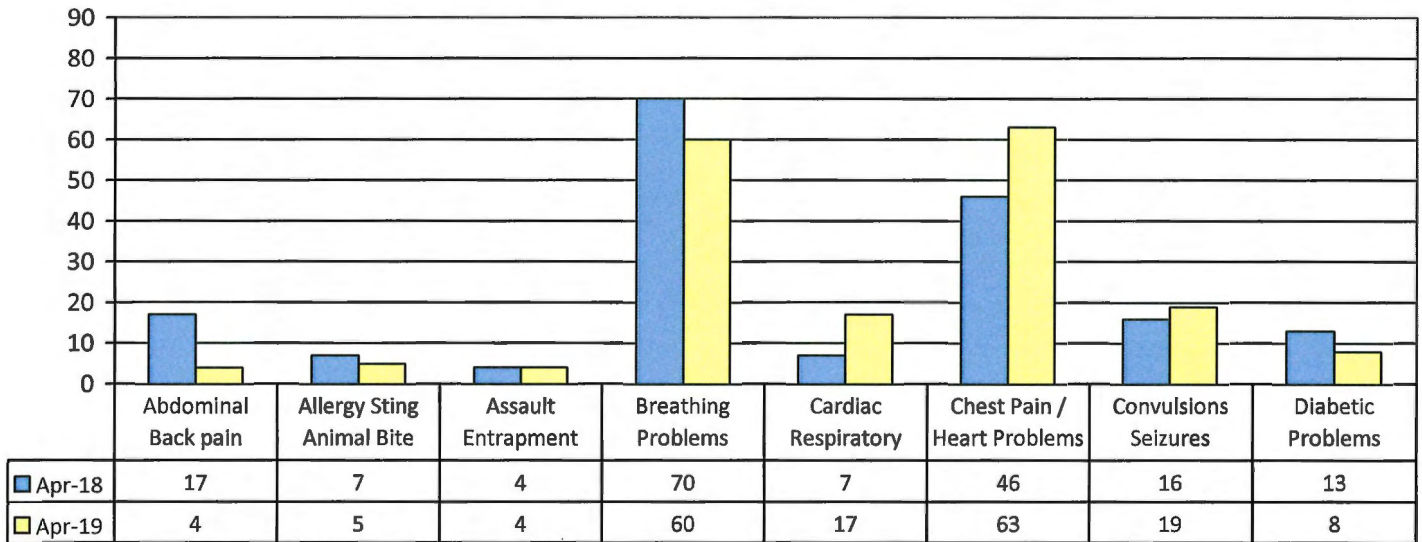
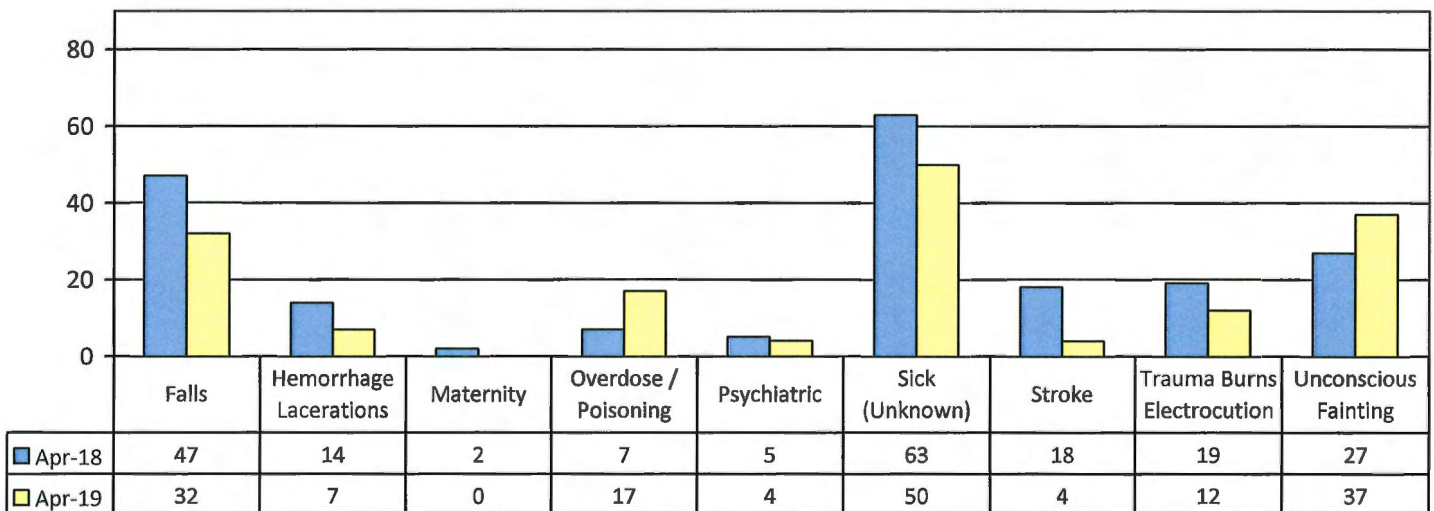


Table 4b: April 2018 & 2019 Medical Calls by Type



Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for April 2019 are listed below:

Table 5: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – April 2019			
	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	-	4	-
Residential - Multi-family	-	4	-
Commercial/Industrial	-	2	1
Outdoor	1	12	5
Vehicle	-	-	2
Totals	1	22	8

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 – April 2019	
	Details
Natural Gas / Propane Leaks (small)	8
Flammable / Combustible Liquids	1
Toxic / Infectious Substances	1
Totals	10

Figure 1: Location of reportable fires attended in April 2019 (total 31)

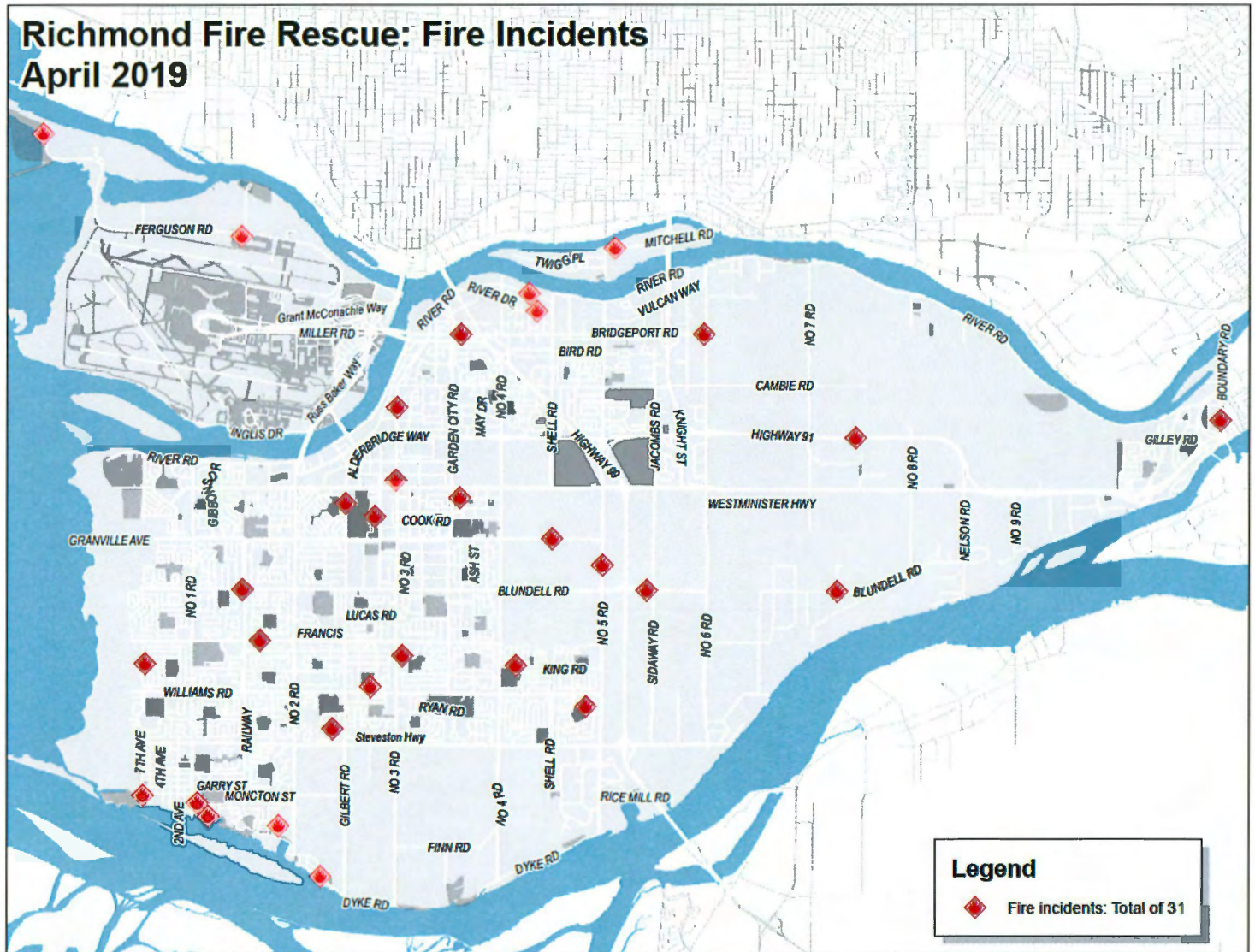


Figure 2: Location of medical calls in April 2019 (total 343)

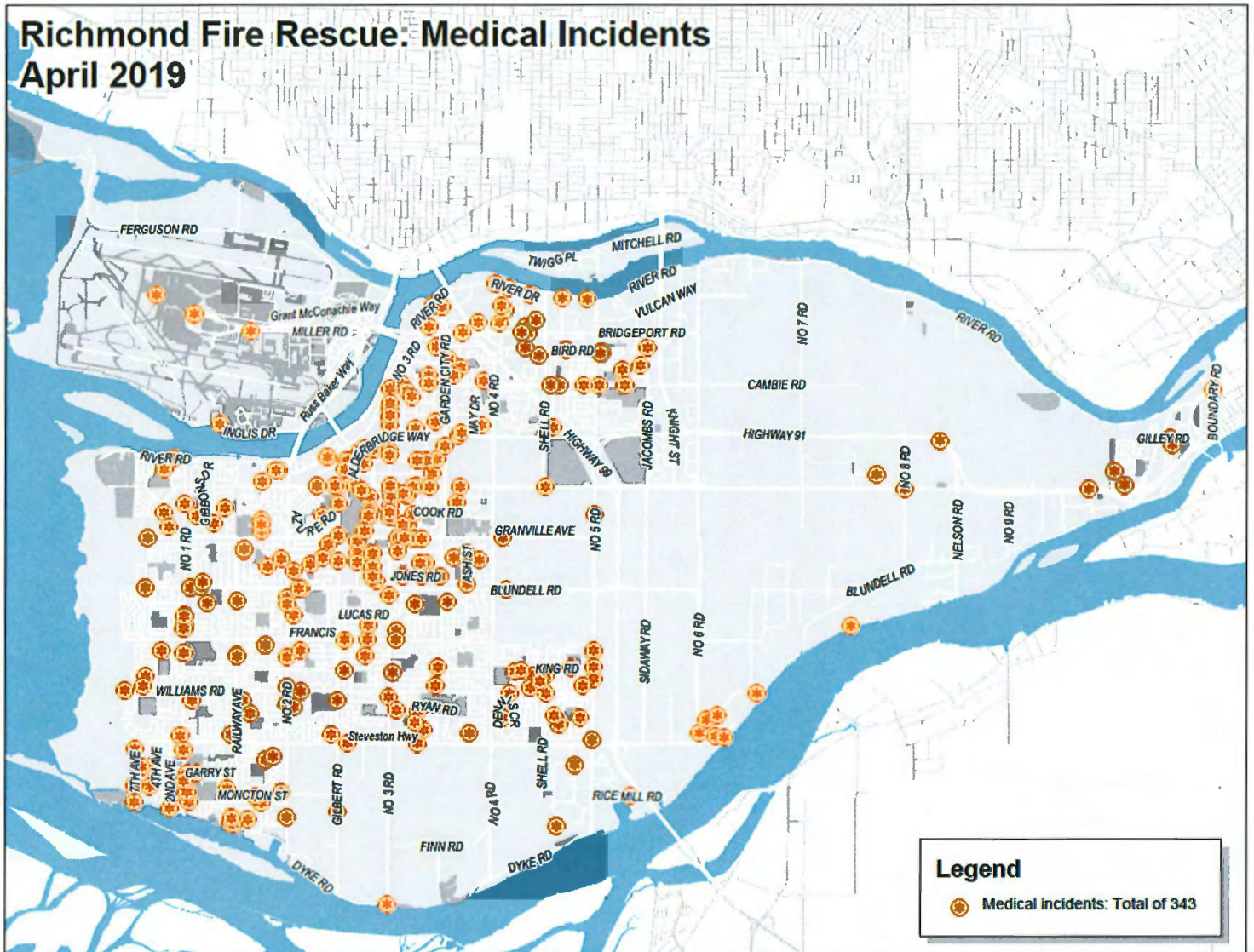


Figure 3: Location of MVI calls in April 2019 (total 88)

