



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** January 18, 2016
From: Tim Wilkinson **File:** 09-5000-01/2016-Vol
Acting Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue 01
Re: **Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report - December 2015**

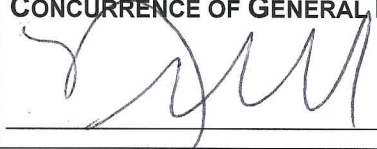
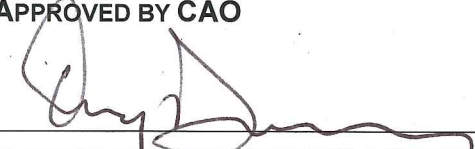
Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled "Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report - December 2015," dated January 18, 2016 from the Acting Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue, be received for information.



Tim Wilkinson
Acting Fire Chief
(604-303-2701)

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. 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

During December 2015, RFR participated in a 'Prevent, Prepare and Act' to reduce personal injury and Property Loss event along with the RCMP and City of Richmond Emergency Programs. There were presentations and information booths at South Arm Community Centre for the public to attend.

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

- General Currie Elementary School Fire Safety Trailer School Visit
- RCMP Youth Squad Presentation
- Firefighters Local 1286 Children's Christmas Party
- RFR & Hamilton Community Association Lighting of No. 5 Fire Hall
- Steveston Merchants' Association Christmas in Steveston Village
- Debeck Elementary School Fire Safety Trailer School Visit
- Walter Lee Elementary School Fire Safety Trailer School Visit
- Richmond Firefighters' Association, Local 1286 Steveston Christmas Eve Santa Parade
- Sea Island Community Association Burkeville Christmas Parade
- Cambie Community Centre Winter Day Camp for Children

Over 1,139 children and adults attended these events where staff engaged with the community providing fire safety and harm reduction information.

Safety messaging for December focused on safe winter driving, winter safety and pedestrian safety. 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 26 fires in December 2015. Fire losses during the month are estimated at \$47,500. This total includes \$37,500 for building loss and \$10,000 for content loss. The total building and content value at risk was estimated to be \$5,168,761, and the total value preserved was \$5,121,261. These numbers translate to 99% of value protected (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Fire Calls By Type and Loss Estimates – December 2015						
Incident Type Breakdown	Call Volume	Estimated Building Value (\$)	Estimated Building Loss (\$)	Estimated Content Value (\$)	Estimated Content Loss (\$)	Estimated Total Value Preserved (\$)
Residential:						
Single family	4	2,366,761	25,000	471,000	10,000	2,802,761
Multi family	3	89,000	500	75,000	-	163,500
Commercial / Industrial	4	2,000,000	-	150,000	-	2,150,000
Fire – Outdoor	10	-	-	-	-	-
Vehicle	5	17,000	12,000	-	-	5,000
Totals*	26	4,472,761	37,500	696,000	10,000	5,121,261

*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 December 2015 incidents:

- Car on No 3 Road. On arrival crews found no fire but that an emergency flare had been ignited inside the vehicle. After securing the safety of the vehicle, the incident was handed over to the RCMP for further investigation.
- Car on Cooney Road. The fire was showing through the roof of a convertible car. RFR crews extinguished the fire and secured the safety of the scene.
- Industrial fire on No 4 Road. On arrival crews found a fire at a substation. Once BC Hydro had shut down the power to the site, RFR crews worked quickly to mitigate the fire using both water and "Cold Fire" a soya based fire suppressant.
- Recreational vehicle on No 5 Road. On arrival, crews found a recreational vehicle on fire parked in the back yard of a home. Crews quickly worked and extinguished the fire.
- Residential fire on No 2 road. On arrival crews found that a fire had started in a thermostat on the wall, but that the occupant had extinguished it with a bucket of water. RFR crews checked for any spread of the fire prior to clearing the scene.

- Bonfire at a residential property on Steveston Highway. The bonfire was located in the backyard of the property. The fire was put out by RFR crews and the resident was informed of burning bylaw.

RFR crews responded to multiple serious incident calls, including:

- Provided assistance to the RCMP for an incident at Garden City Park. RFR crews assisted the RCMP in searching for a male that had possibly drowned in the pond. RFR used a team in water rescue gear and an inflatable boat to break up the ice on the pond so divers could carry out the search. The body of a male was located and removed from the pond.
- A gas line rupture on General Currie Road. On arrival crews assisted with evacuation of the complex, set safety perimeter and protected in place until Fortis deemed the line safe.
- A medical call/technical rescue from a barge on River Drive. A person was rescued from the barge using a rescue stretcher and a ladder spanning 20 feet across the water. Patient care was provided by on site BC Ambulance Services (BCAS).
- RFR crews attended cardiac arrest incidents on River Road and Bath Road. Crews provided CPR protocols along with BCAS but the patients did not survive.

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 December 2015 are depicted in Attachment 2, in Figures 1, 2 and 3.

Financial Impact

None

Conclusion

RFR strives to deliver service excellence through prevention awareness 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 December, the calls for medical service within the City were constant, wide and varied.



Tim Wilkinson
Acting Fire Chief
(604-303-2734)

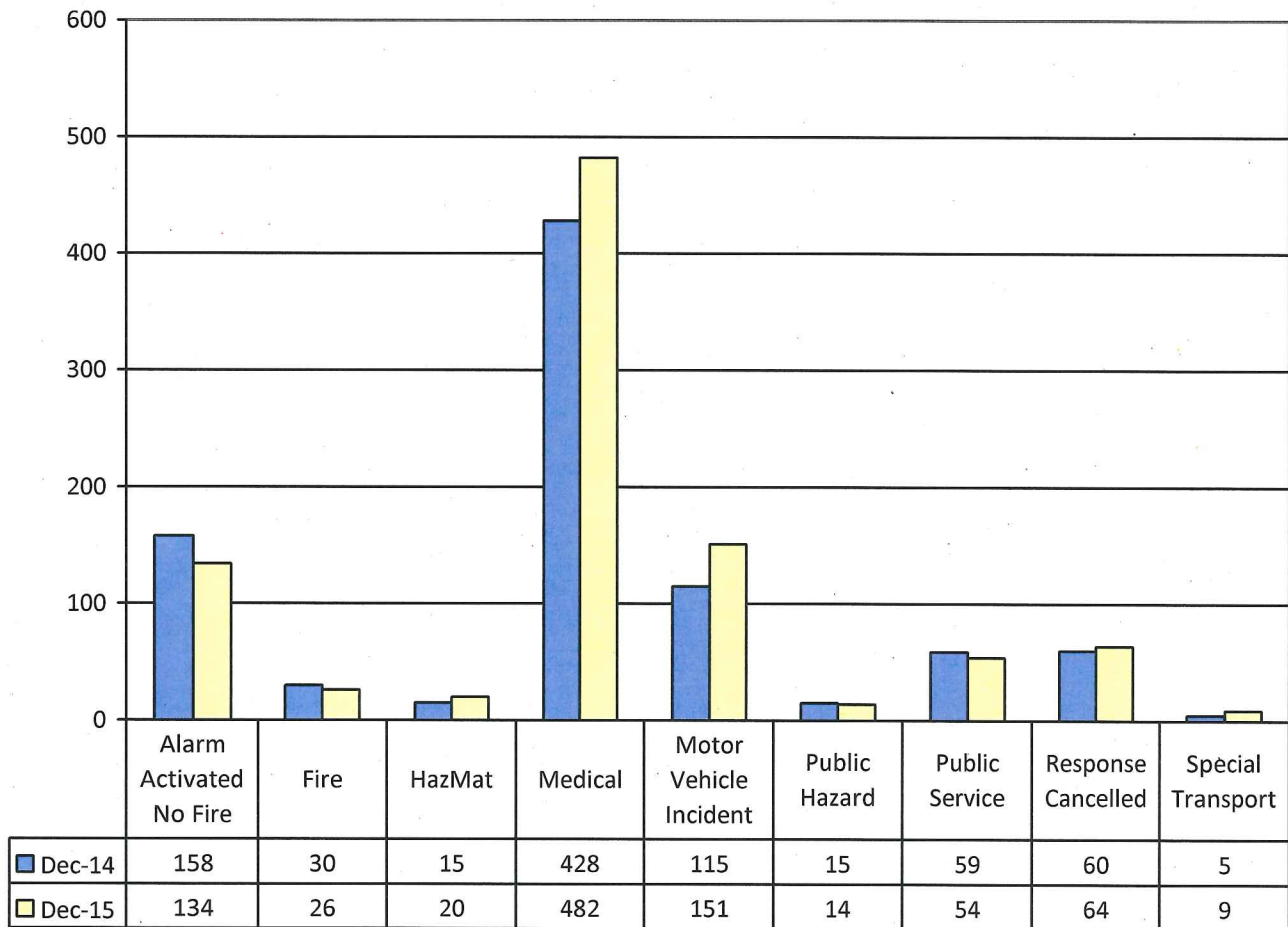
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Att. 1: Suppression Activity
Att. 2: Location of December's Fire, Medical and MVIs

Suppression Activity

The following chart provides a month to month comparison regarding incidents occurring in December 2014 and 2015. In December 2015, there were a total of 954 incidents, compared to 885 in December 2014. This represents an increase of 7.8%. The increase in call volumes was primarily in medical and motor vehicle incident related incident types.

Table 1: December 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 50% of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of December. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for December 2014 and 2015 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 482 medical incidents in December 2015 compared to 428 in December 2014, an increase of 12%.

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

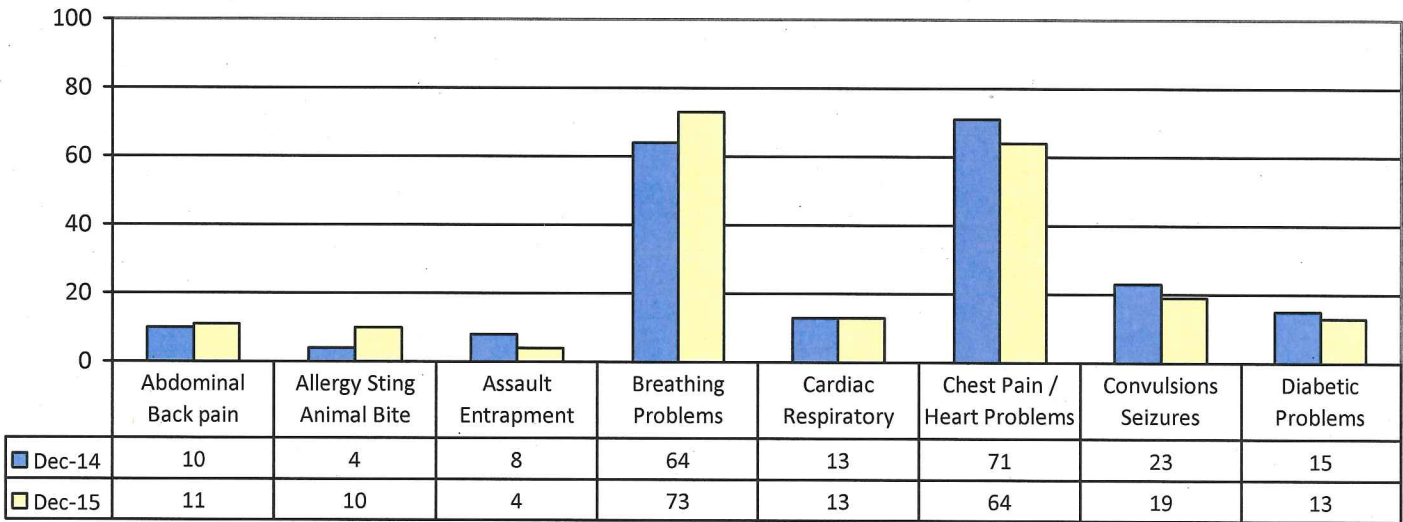
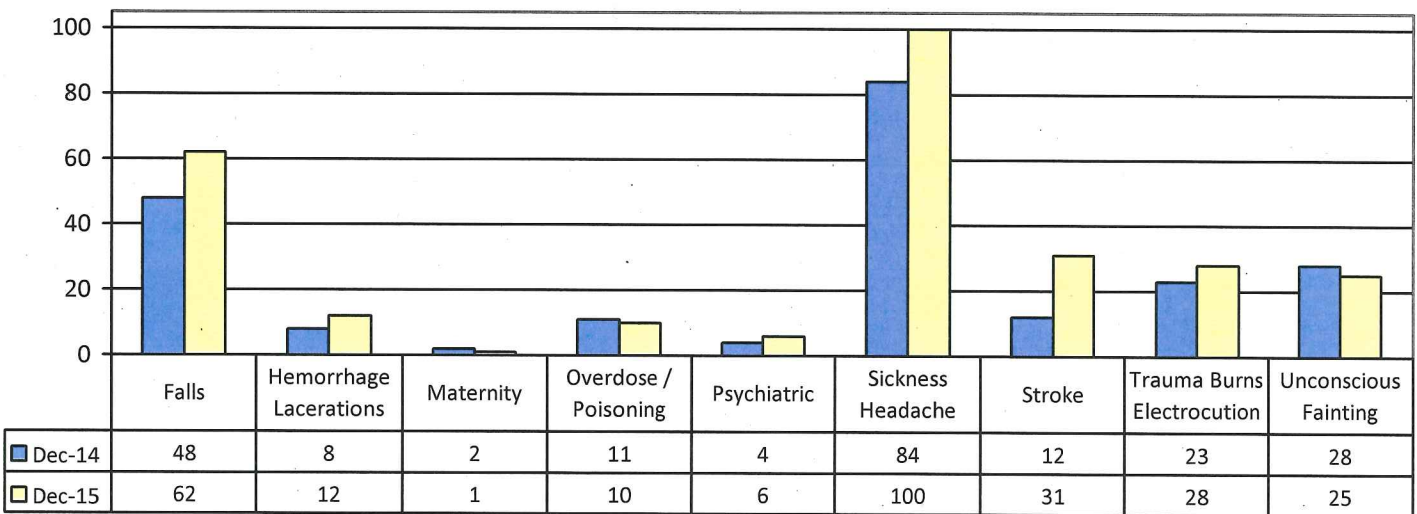


Table 2b: December 2014 & 2015 Medical Calls by Type



Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for December 2015 are listed below:

Table 3: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – December			
	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	-	3	1
Residential - Multi-family	-	3	-
Commercial/Industrial	-	4	-
Fire – Outdoor	-	3	4
Vehicle	3	3	2
Totals	3	16	7

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.

Hazardous Materials

Table 4: HazMat Calls By Type – December	
	Details
Natural Gas / Propane Leaks (small)	12
Flammable / Combustible Liquids	4
Unclassified	4
Totals	20

Figure 1: Location of fires in December (total 26)

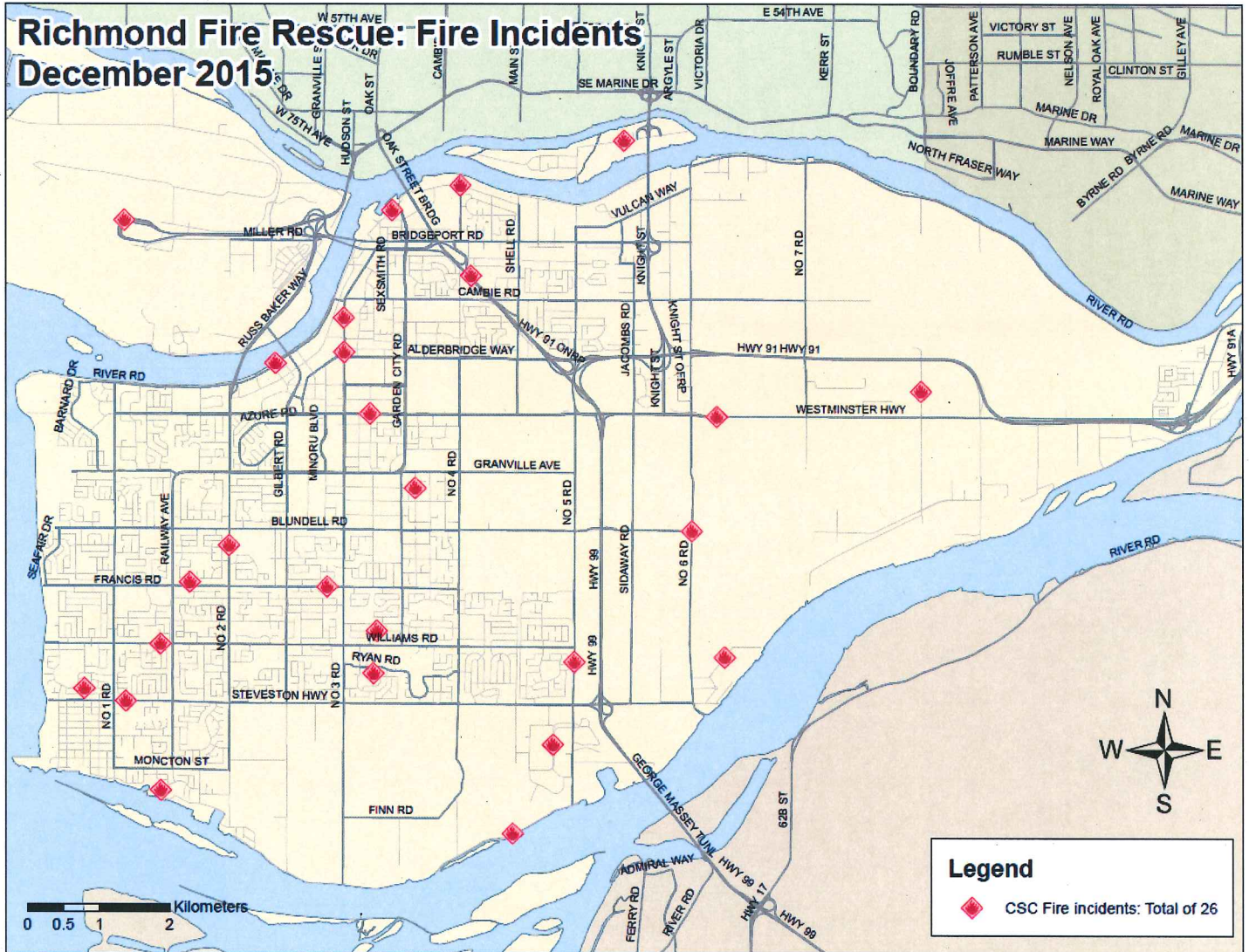


Figure 2: Location of medical calls in December (total 482)

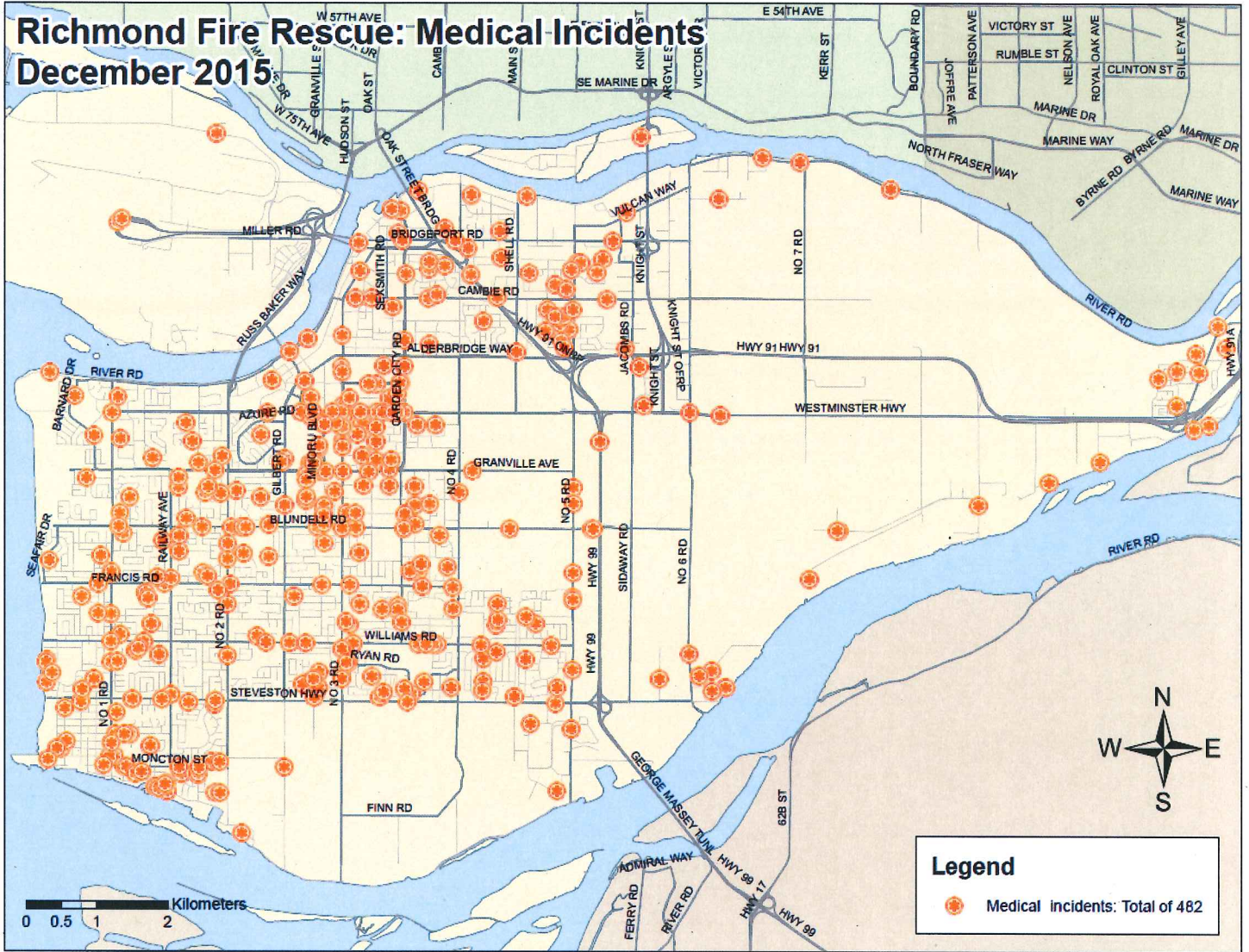


Figure 3: Location of MVI calls in December (total 151)

