



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** December 8, 2014
From: John McGowan **File:** 09-5000-01/2014-Vol
Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue 01
Re: **Richmond Fire-Rescue – November 2014 Activity Report**

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled, “Richmond Fire-Rescue – November 2014 Activity Report”, dated December 8, 2014, 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 Term Goal #1 Community Safety:

To ensure Richmond remains a safe and desirable community to live, work and play in, through the delivery of effective public safety services that are targeted to the City's specific needs and priorities.

Analysis

Community Involvement

Safety messages for November focused on smoke alarms and smoke alarm safety including the importance of regular checks for smoke alarm cleaning and battery changes. Media releases, Facebook posts and firehall sign messages were used to remind the public of this key safety points.

RFR participates in events and activities advancing public education and community bridge building. During November 2014 the following took place:

- Pumper visits were made to the *Richmond Navy League Cadets* reaching over 60 children and adults in a non-emergency environment. Fire crews provided the children and adults with safety messages.
- Safety presentations were provided to *Canadian Apartment Properties Real Estate Investment Trust (CAPREIT)* and *Cedarwood Seniors Centre*. There were a total of 30 participants in attendance.
- Community events attended during November included the *Volunteer Richmond 4th Annual Richmond Christmas Fund Drive-Thru*. Over 300 children and adults attended these events where crews engaged with the community groups, provided fire safety and public relations information.

Training

Two Training Division representatives attended an active shooter tabletop scenario exercise held at Vancouver International Airport with RCMP members. The exercise was beneficial in determining protocols for approaching a scene once it has been secured by the RCMP and allowed attendees to understand patient removal impacts and evidence preservations.

The Training Division delivered a Blood/Body Fluid Exposure Control and Ebola Response Training to First Responder Instructors. A completed Ebola response kit was used as the prototype for this training. The remaining Ebola kits will be ready for placement on the apparatus the second week in December.

During November First Responder Instructors also received a demonstration of a SmartMan doll. The doll is a CPR tool that has a computer program onboard which is able to track all CPR activity and enables training to increase efficiency in CPR techniques.

A Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) training workshop was held at the RCMP detachment. This was to allow the team members to have an opportunity to look at the new assistance program and share experiences and knowledge about issues.

Emergency Response

Our goal is to respond to all calls quickly and minimize loss of life and property.

There were 25 fires in November 2014. Fire losses during the month are estimated at \$747,900. This total includes \$597,400 for building loss and \$150,500 for content loss. The total building and content value at risk was estimated to be \$95,350,500, and the total value preserved was \$94,602,600. These numbers translate to 99.2% of value protected (Figure 1).

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

Incident Type Breakdown	Call Volume	Estimated Building Value (\$)	Estimated Building Loss (\$)	Estimated Content Value (\$)	Estimated Content Loss (\$)	Estimated Total Value Preserved (\$)
Residential:						
Single family	3	3,450,000	253,100	1,015,000	75,000	4,136,900
Multi family	4	29,750,000	100	6,950,000	-	36,699,900
Commercial / Industrial	3	5,500,000	5,500	955,500	-	6,450,000
Fire – Outdoor	9	-	-	-	-	-
Vehicle	6	38,809,000	338,700	8,921,000	75,500	47,315,800
Totals*	25	77,509,000	597,400	17,841,500	150,500	94,602,600

*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 November incidents:

1. Multiple crews responded to an alarm call located on River Road. On arrival crews found multiple vehicles on fire. Crews effectively extinguish the fires using 530 gallons of water and 40 gallons of Cold Fire foam. Once the fire was contained and extinguished the scene was handed over to RCMP and Fire Prevention for assessment.

Crews responded to an alarm for a small hedge fire which had quickly escalated into a structure fire involving a home on No. 5 Road. A commercial passenger bus had backed into a 20" high cedar hedge. The hot exhaust from the bus and had started a fire which began to consume the hedge, the rear of the bus and the adjacent neighbouring home. Arriving crews began to knock down the flames and kept damage limited to the exterior siding of the home. No occupants were displaced and no members of the public were injured.

2. Crews responded to an alarm for a suspicious fire of a front door which had been ignited on No 3 Road. Crews quickly extinguished the fire. Smoke which had been collecting inside structure was removed by crews using ventilation fans. Crews handed the scene over to RCMP and Fire Prevention.
3. Crews responded to a house fire on Lassam Road. The fire was confined to the first floor of the home but had extensive smoke damage throughout. One RFR member of staff suffered an injury and was taken to Richmond General Hospital.
4. Fire Crews responded to a small fire call that occurred at the rear of a massage parlour with possible criminal intent. Quick actions by arriving crews in mitigating the fire prevented further damage to the premise. The scene was turned over to the RCMP for further investigation.
5. RFR crews responded to a car fire on Highway 99. Crews attacked the fire and used 10 gallons of Cold Fire foam and 300 gals H2O to mitigate the fire.
6. Crews attended multiple "pot on stove" fires during November including, one on Hemlock Drive and one on Minoru Boulevard. Both fires were contained to a pot and crews mitigated fires and assisted with ventilation of the areas.
7. Crews responded to a hazmat call located on Knight Street. On arrival crews found a semi-truck with a fuel tank rupture. Crews contained the spill and organized traffic management at the scene. The environmental services HAZCO and the highway asset management group Mainroad were called to attend the scene.

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

1. An overturned car with trapped driver in a ditch on Highway 99. An off duty paramedic held the patients head above the water until RFR crews arrived. Once on scene RFR crews moved quickly to remove the patient from the vehicle and provide medical assistance.
2. A motor vehicle incident (MVI) on No 3 Road involving a pedestrian struck. The patient was provided medical care and transported by BCAS to Vancouver General Hospital (VGH). One crew member was also sent to VGH due to significant exposure of bodily fluids from the incident.
3. A stabbing incident located on Caithcart Road. Patient had suffered a minor wound to the torso. Crews provided patient care before transitioning the patient to BCAS.

4. An incident of a full cardiac arrest at the Richmond Ice Centre. RFR crew used CPR and an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and managed to restore the patient's pulse. Patient was transferred over to BCAS for further patient care and transport to Vancouver General Hospital.
5. A trauma incident located at YVR of a person whose toes had been crushed by a cargo trailer. RFR crew provided medical care before handing the patient over to arriving BCAS crew.
6. An MVI of a single vehicle involving a power pole on Granville Avenue. The vehicle was on fire when crews arrived and the driver had vacated the vehicle. Quick actions of the arriving crews on extinguishment of the fire prevented further hazard from the damaged pole and threatening power lines.
7. A collapsed female on transit bus on No 3 Road. On arrival crews found that the person had suffered a cardiac arrest and provided CPR and used an AED. Patient was handed over to BCAS for continued resuscitation.
8. Crews provided rescue for an MVI on No. 6 Road. A vehicle was in a ditch with two occupants in the vehicle. The two occupants were assisted out of the vehicle with minor injuries.

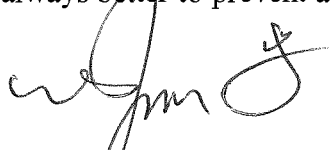
A summary of 9-1-1 emergency response statistics is found in Attachment 1, Tables 1, 2, 3 and 4. The location of fire, medical and motor vehicle incident calls in November are depicted in Attachment 2, Figures 1, 2 and 3.

Financial Impact

None

Conclusion

Our service delivery model 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. We believe "safety is everyone's responsibility and it is always better to prevent a situation from occurring".



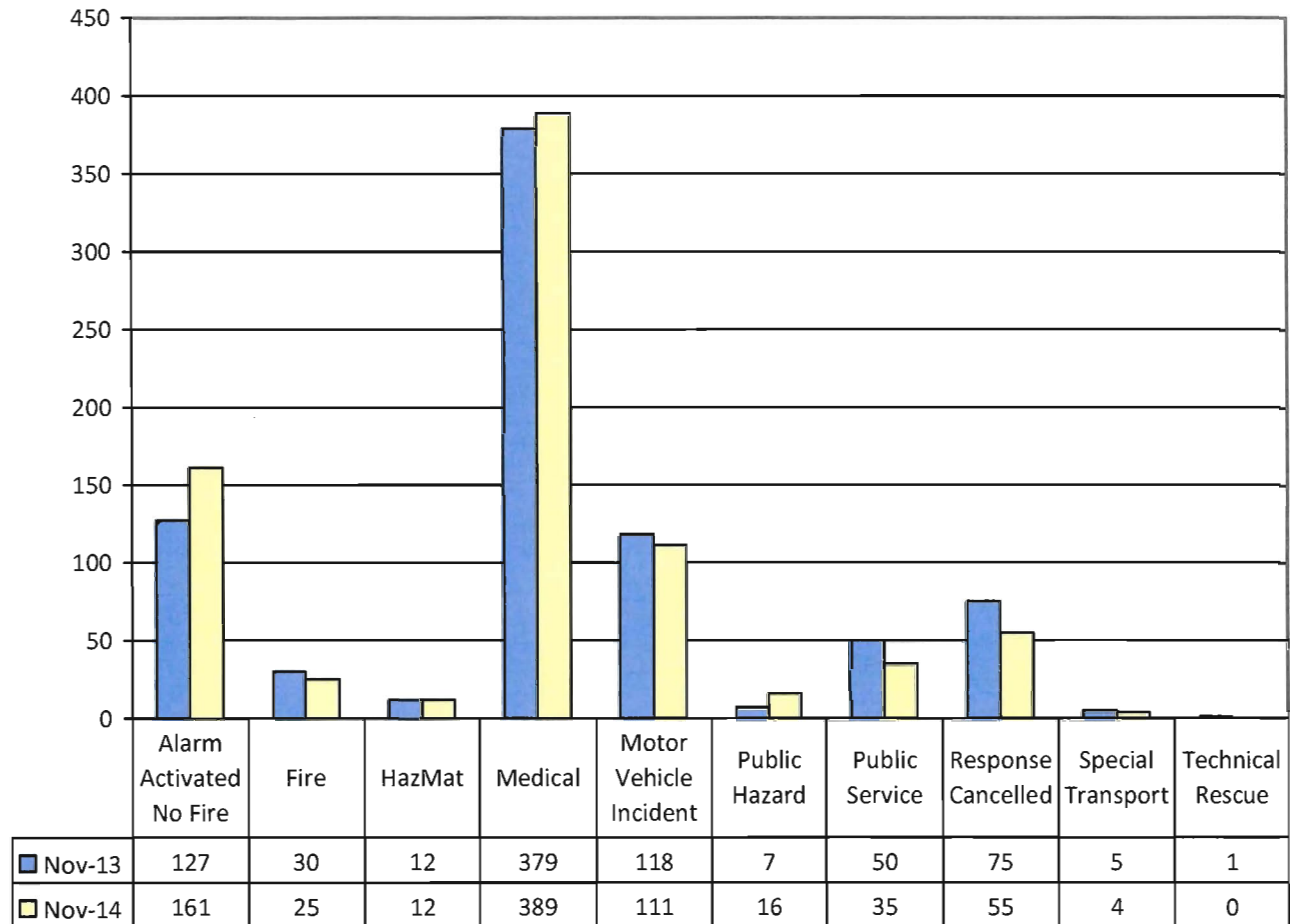
John McGowan
Fire Chief
(604-303-2734)

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

Suppression Activity

The following chart provides a month to month comparison regarding incidents occurring in November 2013 and 2014. In November 2014, there were a total of 808 incidents, compared to 804 in November 2013. This represents an increase of 0.5%.

Table 1: November 2013 & 2014 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 48% of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of November. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for November 2013 and 2014 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 389 medical incidents in November 2014 compared to 379 in November 2013 an increase of 2.6%.

Table 2a: November 2013 & 2014 Medical Calls by Type

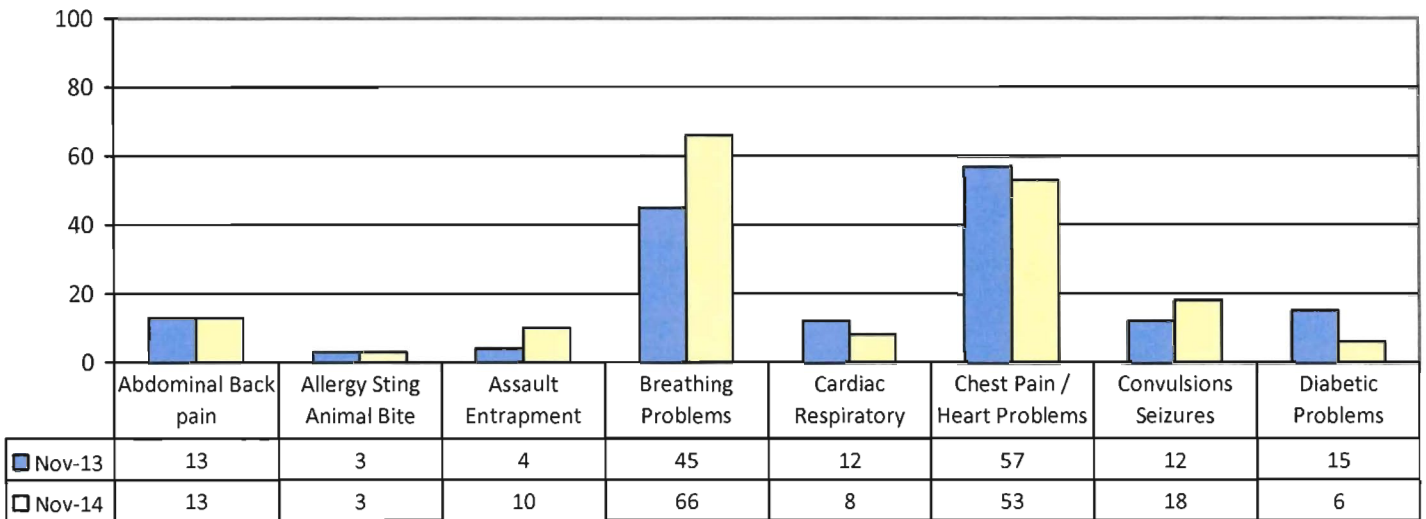
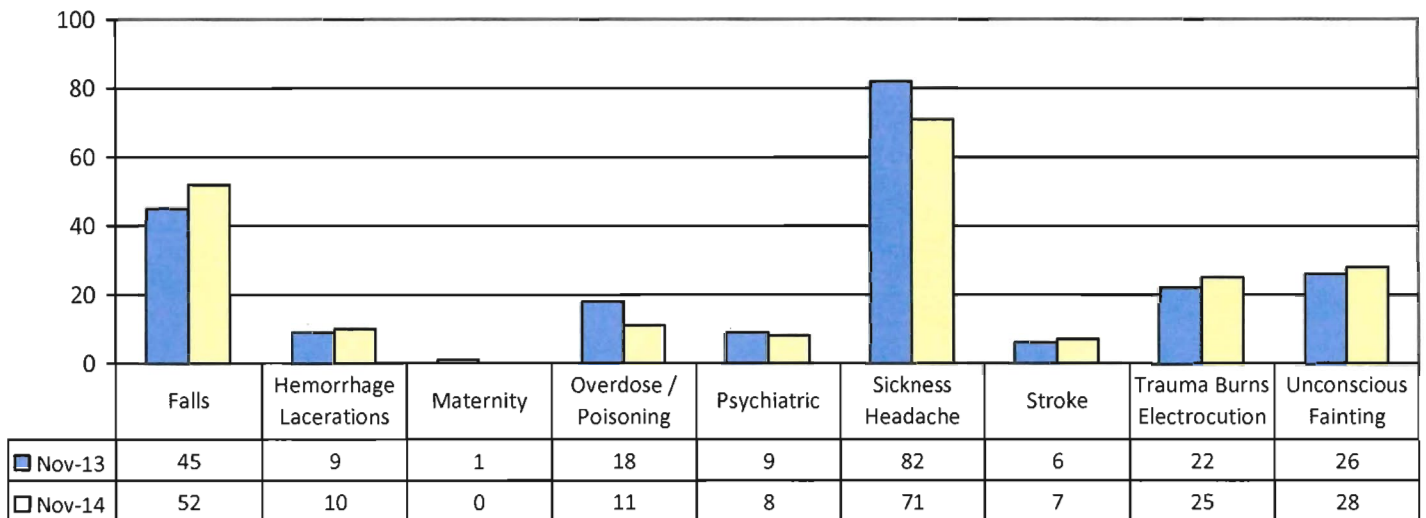


Table 2b: November 2013 & 2014 Medical Calls by Type



Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for November 2014 are listed below:

Table 3: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – November			
	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	-	3	-
Residential - Multi-family	-	4	-
Commercial/Industrial	2	1	-
Fire – Outdoor	3	2	4
Vehicle	-	4	2
Totals	5	14	6

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 – November	
	Details
Flammable / combustible Liquids	1
Natural Gas / Propane Leaks (small)	8
Standby / Support for other agency	2
Unclassified	1
Totals	12

Figure 1: Location of fires in November (total 25)

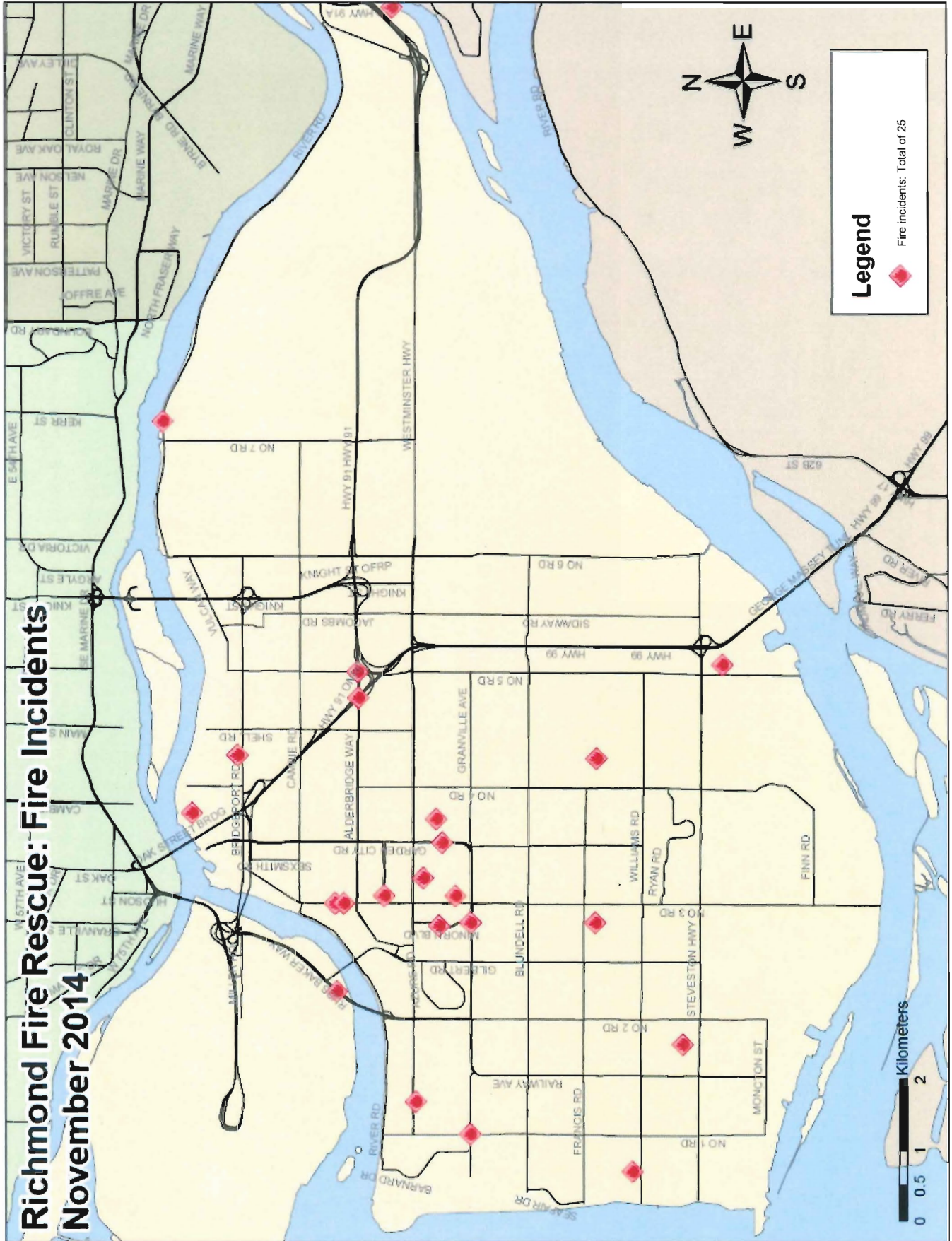


Figure 2: Location of medical calls in November (total 389)

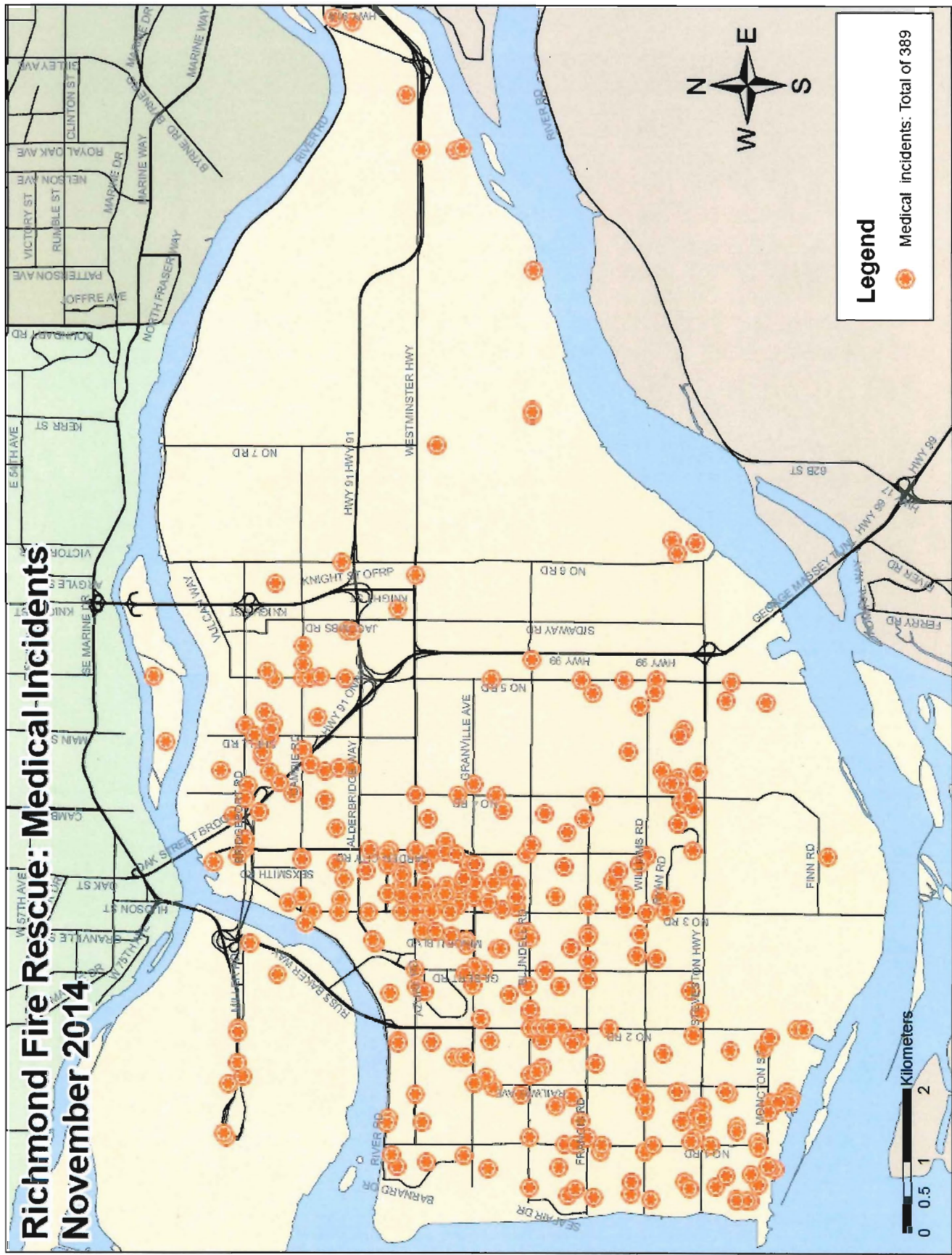


Figure 3: Location of MVI calls in November (total 111)

