



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** October 20, 2014
From: John McGowan **File:** 09-5000-01/2014-Vol
Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue 01
Re: **Richmond Fire-Rescue – September 2014 Activity Report**

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled, “Richmond Fire-Rescue – September 2014 Activity Report”, dated October 20, 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 September focused on Fire Prevention Week including information on the Open Houses and Information Booth activities and the theme of "Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives". Other safety messages for September included driving safely and not being a distracted driver. Media Releases, Facebook posts and firehall sign messages were used to remind the public of these key safety points.

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

- Pumper visits were made to the *911 Memorial Ride at River Rock, Hamilton Neighbourhood Gathering, Blundell Centre Re-Opening, South Arm 55th Community Fair* and the *Richmond Family Place 'Safety First In Canada'* events reaching over 2,660 children and adults in a non-emergency environment. Fire crews provided the children with safety messages on Stop, Drop and Roll and 9-1-1 How to Use the Telephone.
- An educational hall tour was provided to a children's group with 8 participants.
- Safety presentations were provided to *Cedarwood Senior Centre* and *Rancho Management/Cambridge Park Residence*. There were a total of 60 participants in attendance.
- Community events attended during September included: the *Old Navy Safety & Outreach Education* and the *Terra Nova Adventure Park* opening. Over 250 children and adults attended these events where crews engaged with the community groups, provided fire safety and public relations information.

- 8 car seat inspections were conducted to keep children safe while travelling in motor vehicles. This is a reduction from 28 car seat inspections carried out in September 2013.

Training

WorkSafe BC Elevator Operations training commenced and will conclude in the following month with each shift having three dates to complete. Training occurred at WorkSafe BC.

Emergency Response

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

There were 53 fires in September 2014. Fire losses during the month are estimated at \$218,700. This total includes \$164,700 for building loss and \$54,000 for content loss. The total building and content value at risk was estimated to be \$53,180,200, and the total value preserved was \$52,961,500. These numbers translate to 99.6% of value protected (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Fire Calls By Type and Loss Estimates – September						
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	700,000	50,000	15,000	3,500	661,500
Multi family	2	1,500,000	70,000	10,000	500	1,439,500
Commercial / Industrial	6	44,939,000	33,100	180,000	20,000	45,065,900
Fire – Outdoor	7	303,000	8,000	0	0	295,000
Vehicle	35	5,503,200	3,600	30,000	30,000	5,499,600
Totals*	53	52,945,200	164,700	235,000	54,000	52,961,500

*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 September incidents:

1. A kitchen fire on No 1 Road involving a stove top and cabinets. RFR crews extinguished with CO². One patient with burns to face and arms and smoke inhalation was taken to hospital for treatment by BCAS.
2. An electrical room fire at a golf course on No 6 Road. RFR crews requested BC Hydro cut power to the complex from the road and contacted dispatch to request a Fire Prevention Officer attend scene.

3. A hot water tank/spray insulating foam ignition fire on Calder Road. The fire was confined to object and already extinguished on arrival. RFR Crews assisted with clean-up.
4. A plastic container fire which had spread to a tree and fence on No 1 Road. Neighbours of the property had almost extinguished the fire using their garden hoses. On arrival of RFR Crews additional water and foam was used to fully extinguish the fire.
5. An electric frying pan fire on Railway Avenue. On arrival the fire was extinguish and crews proceeded to evacuate the smoke with Positive Pressure Ventilation.
6. An electrical wiring fire in a truck on McCartney Way. The driver has suffered burns to his left arm and side of his face. RFR crews gained access to the truck and which showed signs of smouldering but had eventually starved itself of oxygen and had burnt out. Crews opened the doors and ventilated the vehicle and carried out a search for additional hazards. Crews provided patient care before handing patient over to BCAS. RCMP attended scene.
7. Outdoor fire responses attended during September included a peat bog fire on Granville Avenue, a brush fire on No 3 Road and a back yard fire confined to a metal container on Garden city Boulevard.
8. Haz-mat calls during September included an attempted arson with the heavy smell of gasoline from a building on No 3 Road and a compressed gas leak on Lassam Road in which the natural gas line and been punctured by a work crew.

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

1. A new born baby arrival on Martyniuk Place. RFR crew assisted by tying off the newborn's umbilical cord and providing patient care to the mother.
2. Response was provided for motor vehicle incident and medical assistance for a vehicle upside down in the river at River Road. On arrival RFR Crews found a single vehicle had gone off the road into the river, flipping over onto its roof and was partially submerged. Prior to RFR arrival a citizen had pulled one occupant from the car and placed him on the top of the vehicle. This patient was unconscious but breathing. On arrival, RFR Crews opened a rear passenger door and discovered a second occupant. The patient was found to be in cardiac arrest. The patient was removed from the vehicle and carried up to the road where resuscitation efforts begun. Crews began ventilations and compressions before using an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). No pulse was restored. BCAS arrived at this point and began their protocols with RFR Crews assisting. The patient was transported to Royal Columbia Hospital. The occupant that had first been removed was strapped to a back board and raised to the roadway by sliding him up a 24 ft ladder. BCAS took over patient care at this point. A tow truck was used to flip vehicle right side up and a complete search was done to ensure there were no other occupants. The vehicle did not leak any gas, oil or other fluids into the river. RFR Crews stood-by to supply scene lighting for the RCMP investigation. Once the RCMP investigation was complete and the vehicle had been removed from the river and RFR Crews cleared the scene.

3. An MVI on Highway 99 due to a high impact with one fatality. RFR crews secured the scene and worked with BCAS and RCMP services.
4. An motor vehicle incident on Westminster Highway, in which a family van had driven through a parking lot, up 6 stairs, through a metal fence and into a decorative pond. There were no injuries. RFR Crews also provide clean-up to the scene due to a gas tank rupture caused by the tow truck attempting to pull the van out of the pond, causing the vehicle to spill gasoline into the 8000 litres of water. A clean-up company was called to extract the contaminated water/fuel mixture.
5. There were several medical incidents including a patient in a squash court on No 5 Road who had a pulse and laboured breathing. BCAS arrived and advised to start CPR until patient was loaded into ambulance. Medical assistance was provided to a patient in cardiac arrest on River Road, the patient did not recover.

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 September are depicted in Attachment 2, Figures 1, 2 and 3.

Financial Impact

None

Conclusion

Our service delivery model is prevention focussed 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)

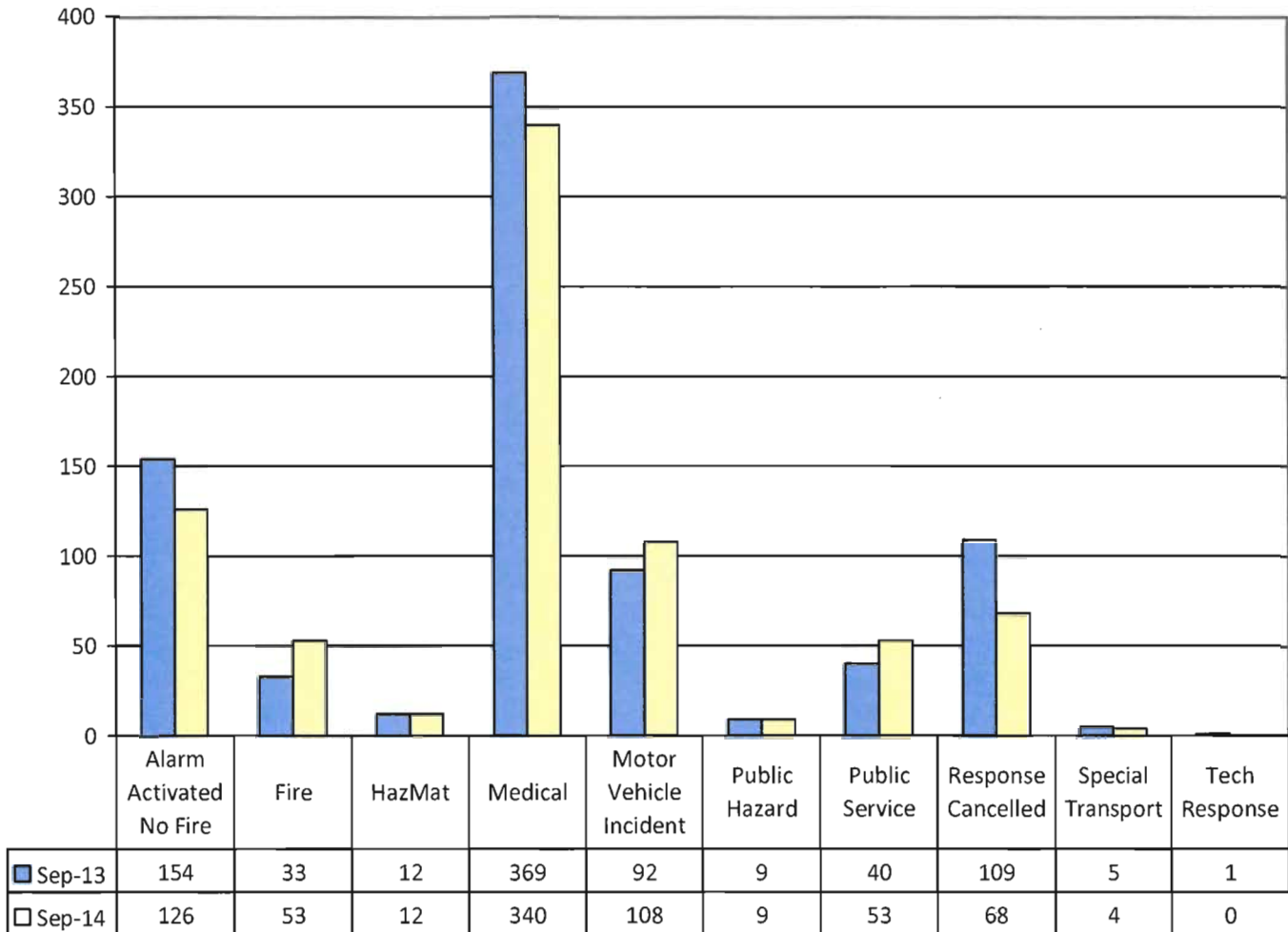
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- Att. 1: Suppression Activity
- Att. 2: Location of September’s Fire, Medical and MVI calls

Suppression Activity

The following chart provides a month to month comparison regarding incidents occurring in September 2013 and 2014. In September 2014, there were a total of 773 incidents, compared to 824 in September 2013. This represents a decrease of 6.2%.

Table 1: September 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 44% of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of September. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for September 2013 and 2014 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 340 medical incidents in September 2014 compared to 369 in September 2013 a decrease of 7.9%.

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

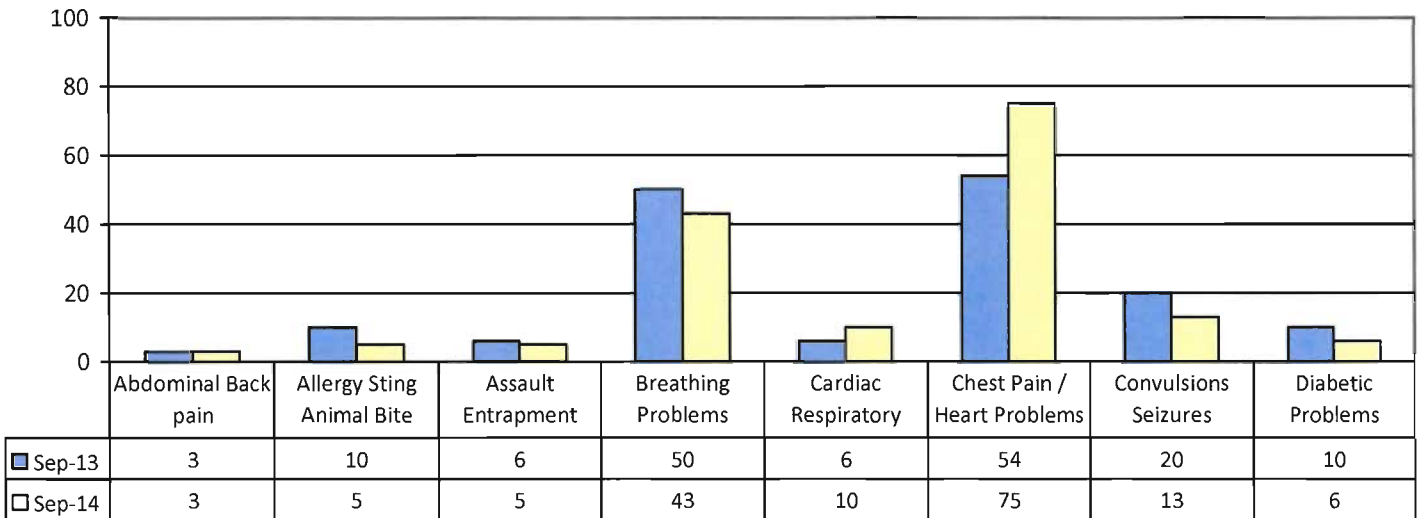
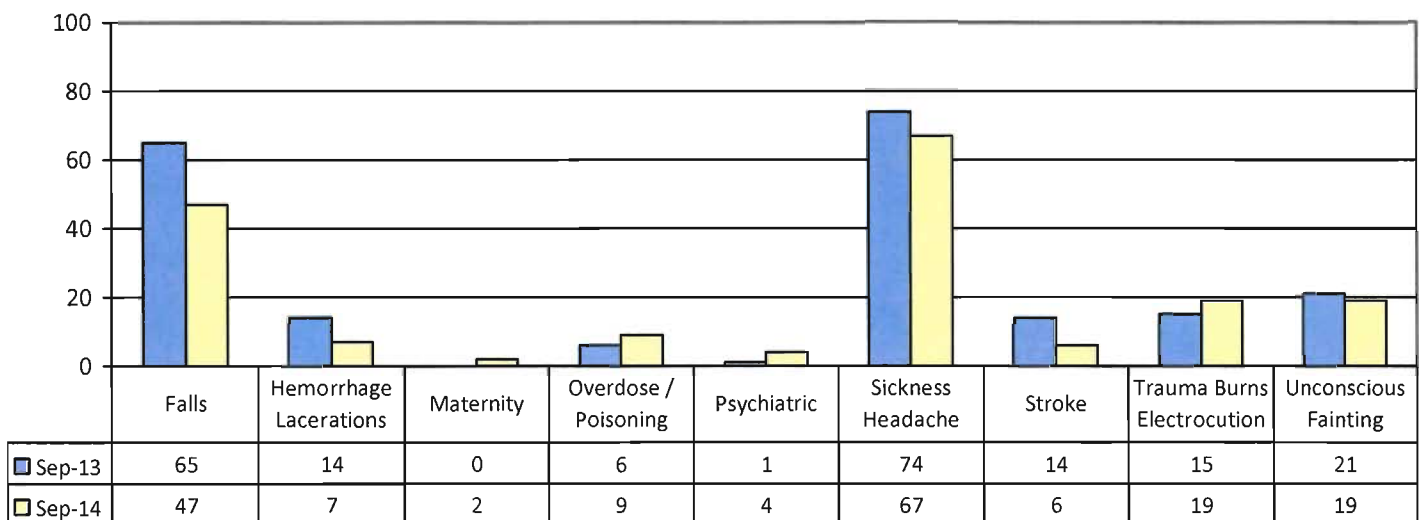


Table 2b: September 2013 & 2014 Medical Calls by Type



Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for September 2014 are listed below:

Table 3: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – September			
	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	0	2	1
Residential - Multi-family	0	2	0
Commercial/Industrial	2	4	0
Fire – Outdoor	9	11	15
Vehicle	0	5	2
Totals	11	24	18

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 – September	
	Details
Flammable / combustible Liquids	3
Natural Gas / Propane Leaks (small)	9
Misc. (empty containers to unknown powder)	0
Totals	12

Figure 1. Location of fires in September (total 53)

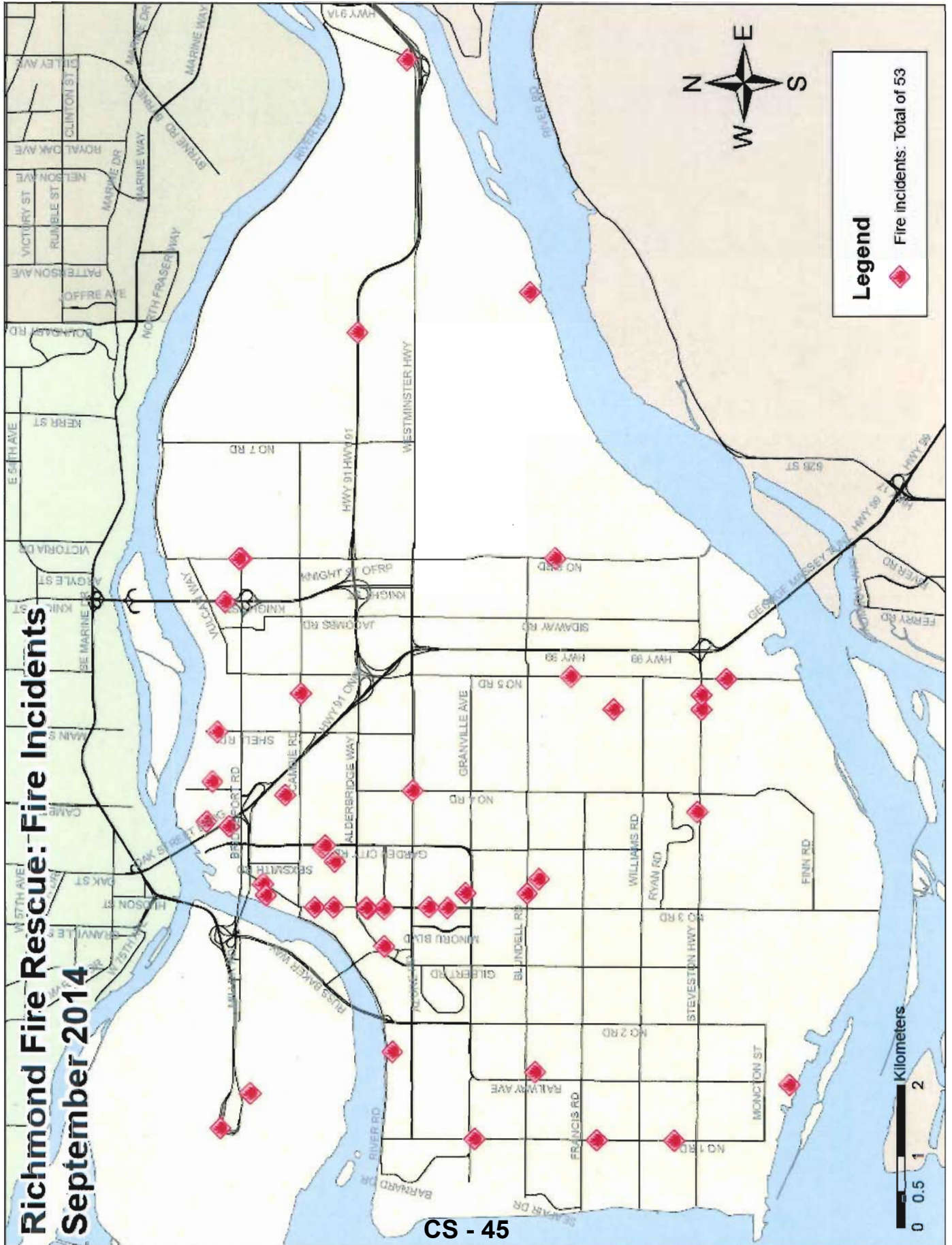


Figure 2. Location of medical calls in September (total 340)

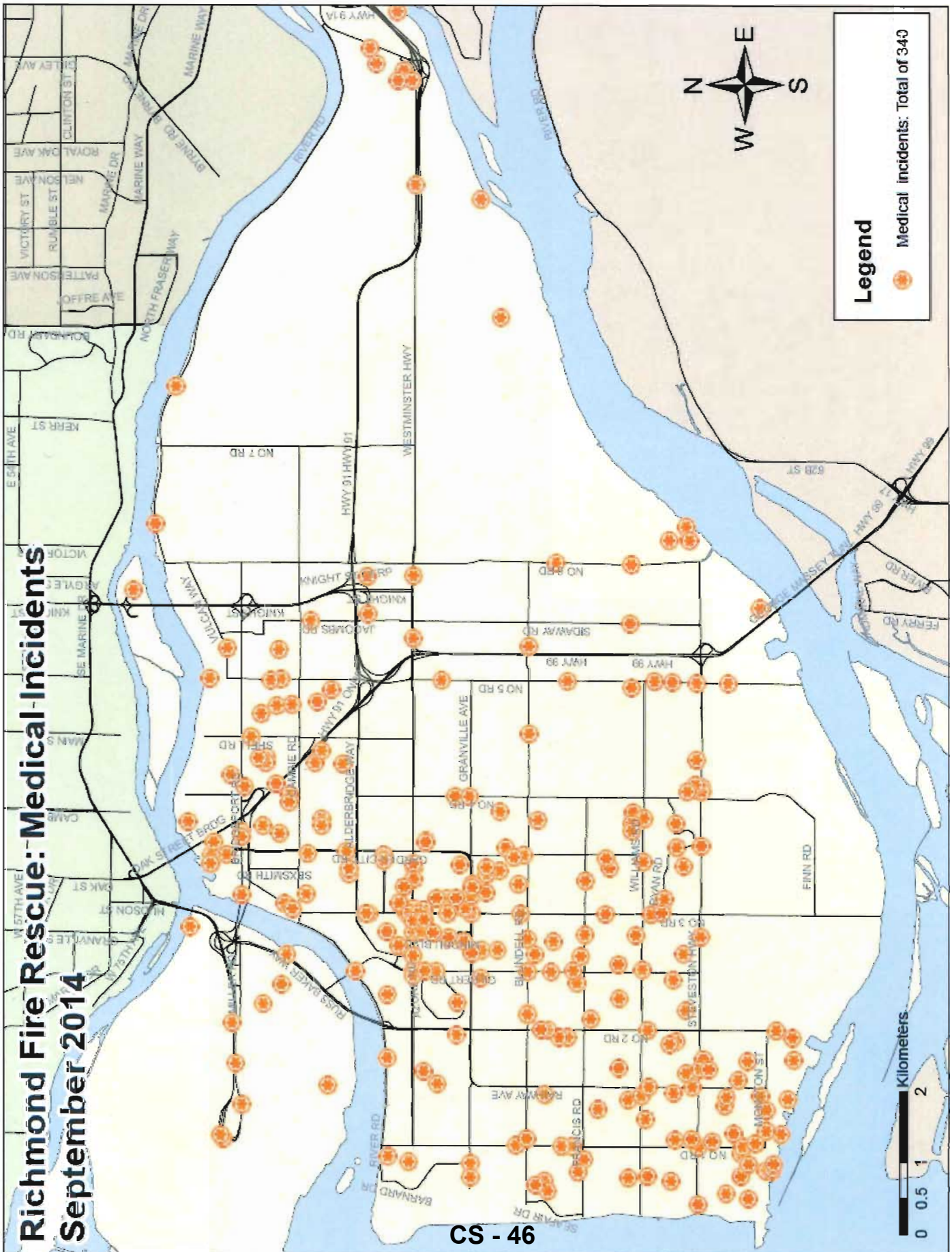


Figure 3: Location of MVI calls in September (total 108)

