



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** May 14, 2015
From: John McGowan **File:** 09-5000-01/2015-Vol
 Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue 01
Re: **Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report - April 2015**

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report - April 2015,” dated May 14, 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 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 April included a focus on personal earthquake preparedness plans and being prepared in an emergency. Facebook posts and firehall sign messages were used to remind the public of key safety points.

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

- Safety presentations were provided to *Tiffany Manor Strata, Cornerstone Academy Tomsett Elementary K Classes* and the *Salvation Army*. There were a total of 190 participants in attendance.
- Hall tour was provided to the *Richmond Scouts* and *Richmond Cubs*. There were a total of 80 participants in attendance.
- Community events attended during April included the *Nurse Next Door – Wellness and Home Fair, Daniel Woodward Elementary Spring Fair, Local 1286 Firefighters Easter Egg Hunt* and *Gilmore Elementary Reading to Classes Day*. Over 1,000 children and adults attended these events where crews engaged with the community groups, provided fire safety and public relations information.

Training

Live Fire classroom sessions were completed mid-April. These sessions reinforced existing training techniques and provided updates on new procedures. These sessions were very well received by RFR crew members. These classroom sessions led into the Live Fire exercises held in Langley starting April 21.

RFR Training office staff attended a staged crash exercise at YVR Airport. This crash scenario was held on April 29. The exercise went well with Inter-agency communications, RFR support of Emergency Response Services initial actions and unified command were monitored. The exercise was a joint operation attended by other Emergency Response partners.

Emergency Response

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

There were 44 fires in April 2015. Fire losses during the month are estimated at \$122,900. This total includes \$122,900 for building loss and \$0 for content loss. The total building and content value at risk was estimated to be \$133,212,500, and the total value preserved was \$133,089,600. These numbers translate to 99.9% of value protected (Figure 1).

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	1,250,000	30,000	-	-	1,220,000
Multi family	6	600,000	-	180,000	-	780,000
Commercial / Industrial	7	100,000,000	-	30,000,000	-	130,000,000
Fire – Outdoor	22	850,000	400	240,000	-	1,089,600
Vehicle	5	92,500	92,500	-	-	-
Totals*	44	102,792,500	122,900	30,420,000	-	133,089,600

*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 April incidents:

1. Crews responded to a house fire on Corner Brook Crescent. On arrival crews were informed that two people were unaccounted for. Crews began searching and found a young boy suffering from smoke inhalation and a woman who had succumbed to the fire. The boy was taken to hospital by BCAS crews. Crews attacked the fire to bring under control and to stop further spreading. Incident under ongoing investigation by RCMP.

2. Crews responded to a fire call at a recycling depot on Mitchel Island. RFR arrived to a fully involved vehicle fire inside a building which had resulted in nearby recycling materials catching fire. The building was completely evacuated including buildings to the East and West. The bulk of the fire was extinguished with two hose lines and Cold Fire. The Incident Command System was used to maintain control of the crews on site and the Rapid Intervention Team was deployed. There were no injuries at this fire which resulted in significant damage to the machinery and the building.
3. Crews responded to a fire located in an elevator at the Richmond Oval. On arrival crews extinguished the fire and ensured the power was shut off and the elevator and mechanical room were secured. The property representative was called to assign a repair person to the elevator.
4. Crews attended to a fire in a hotel suite located on St. Edwards Drive. The fire was quickly mitigated by crews but resulted in water cleanup from floors 14th to 6th floors.
5. Crews responded to a car fire on the second level of a parkade on Westminster Highway. On arrival crews quickly mitigated the fire and contained any leakages from the vehicle.
6. During April crews attended multiple outdoor related fires including: a wild land fire on River Road, separate brush fires on Bates Road and Bridgeport Road, a rubbish fire on River Road, construction waste fire on Twigg Place and bonfires on Triangle Road. All fires were quickly mitigated and at locations where smoke was present, crews provided ventilation to the areas.

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

1. A hazmat call for a gas line to a house on Sunnybank Avenue. The gas line to the house had been cut by a landscape contractor. This action was very dangerous as a static electric charge may have ignited the gas. The contractor was educated about line off safety by fire crew and attending Fortis BC staff.
2. Attendance to an unresponsive male found deceased under the Knight Street Bridge. Event under ongoing investigation by RCMP.
3. A motor vehicle incident involving a motorcycle and a car on No. 6 Road. On arrival crews quickly secured the scene and began to respond to both parties involved. The car driver and motorcycle rider both suffered injuries and patient care was provided.
4. Two separate incidents of cardiac arrest where CPR and an Automated External Defibrillator were used including: a male on Bird Road and a male on Lansdowne Road. Unfortunately both patients were unable to be revived.

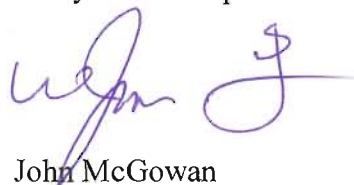
A summary of 9-1-1 emergency response statistics is found in Attachment 1, Tables 1, 2, 3 and 4. The location of fire, medical and motor vehicle incident calls in April are depicted in Attachment 2, Figures 1, 2 and 3.

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)

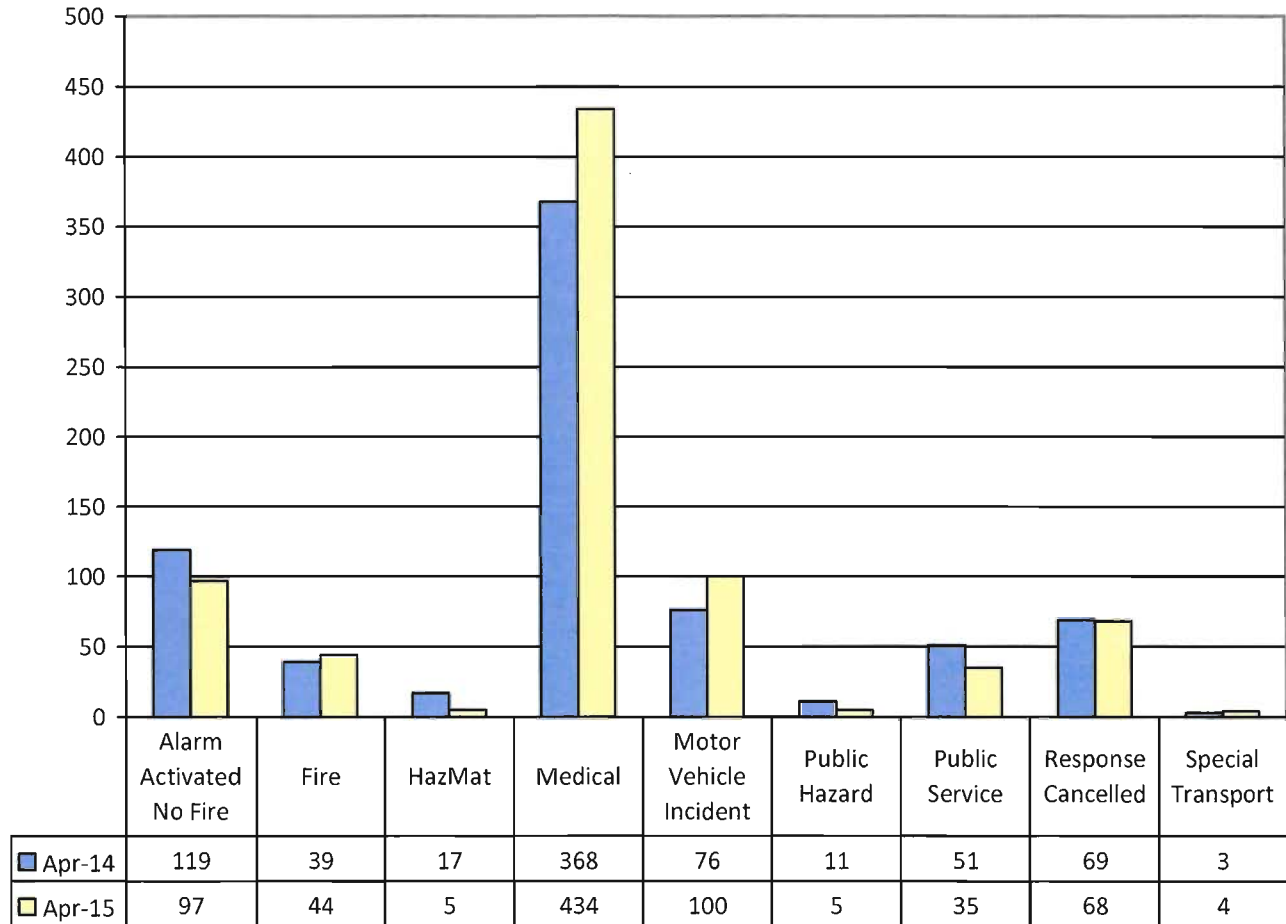
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Att. 1: Suppression Activity
Att. 2: Location of April’s Fire, Medical and MVI calls

Suppression Activity

The following chart provides a month to month comparison regarding incidents occurring in April 2014 and 2015. In April 2015, there were a total of 792 incidents, compared to 753 in April 2014. This represents an increase of 5.2%.

Table 1: April 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 54% of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of April. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for April 2014 and 2015 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 434 medical incidents in April 2015 compared to 368 in April 2014 an increase of 17.9%.

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

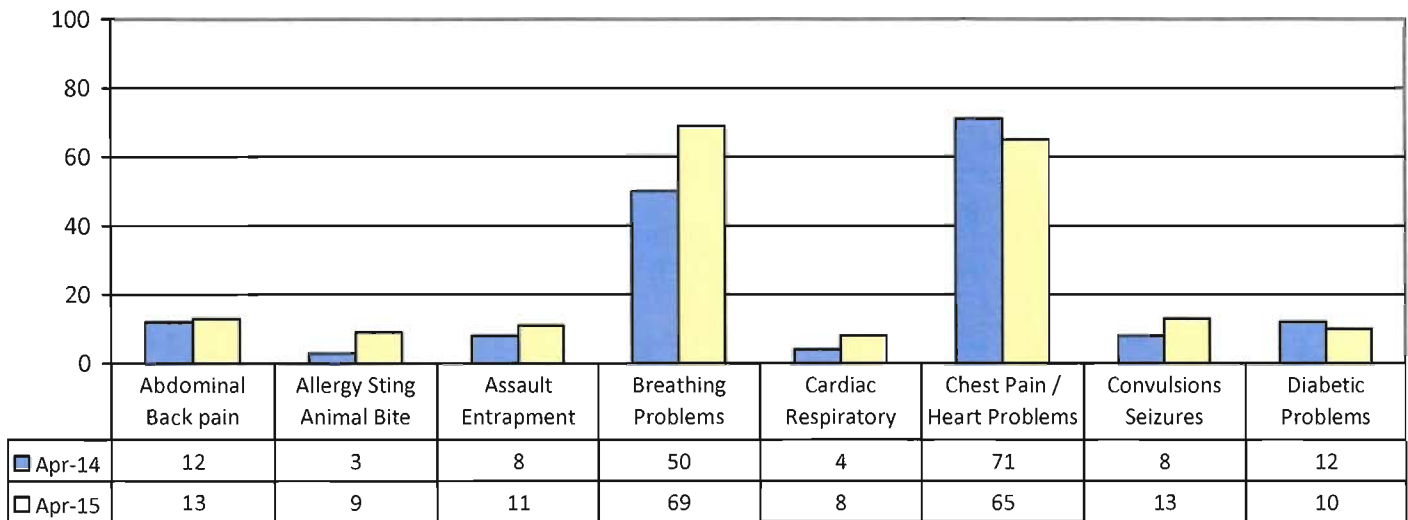
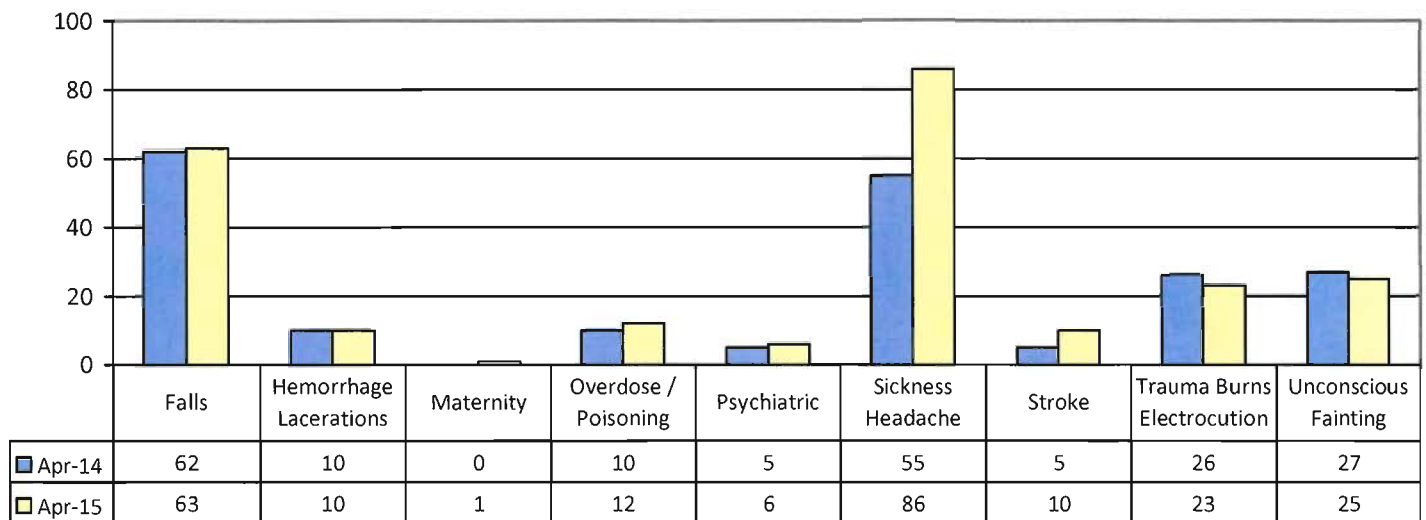


Table 2b: April 2014 & 2015 Medical Calls by Type



Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for April 2015 are listed below:

Table 3: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – April			
	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	-	-	4
Residential - Multi-family	-	6	-
Commercial/Industrial	-	7	-
Fire – Outdoor	7	9	6
Vehicle	-	2	3
Totals	7	24	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 – April	
	Details
Natural Gas / Propane Leaks (small)	4
Unclassified	1
Totals	5

Figure 1: Location of fires in April (total 44)

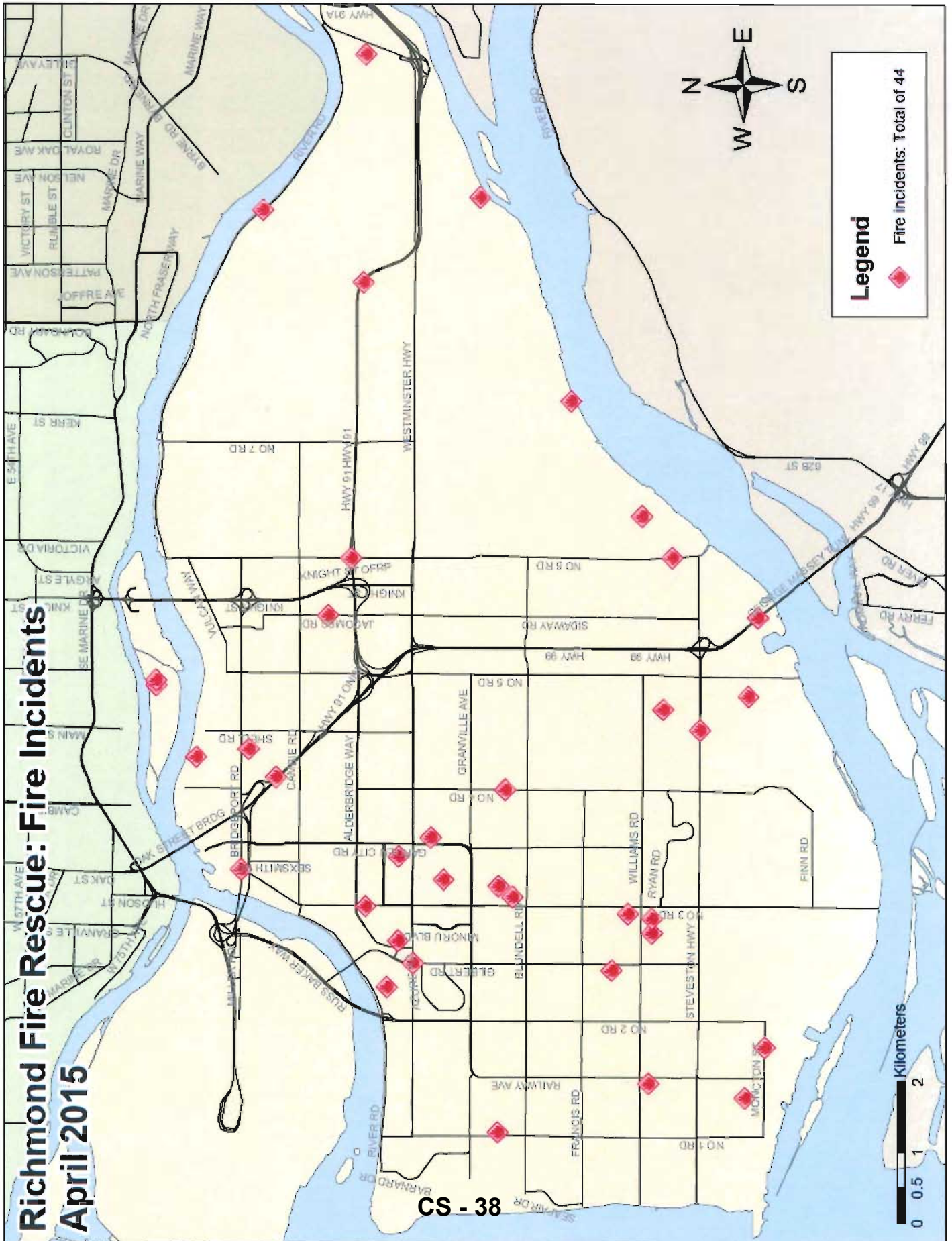


Figure 2: Location of medical calls in April (total 434)

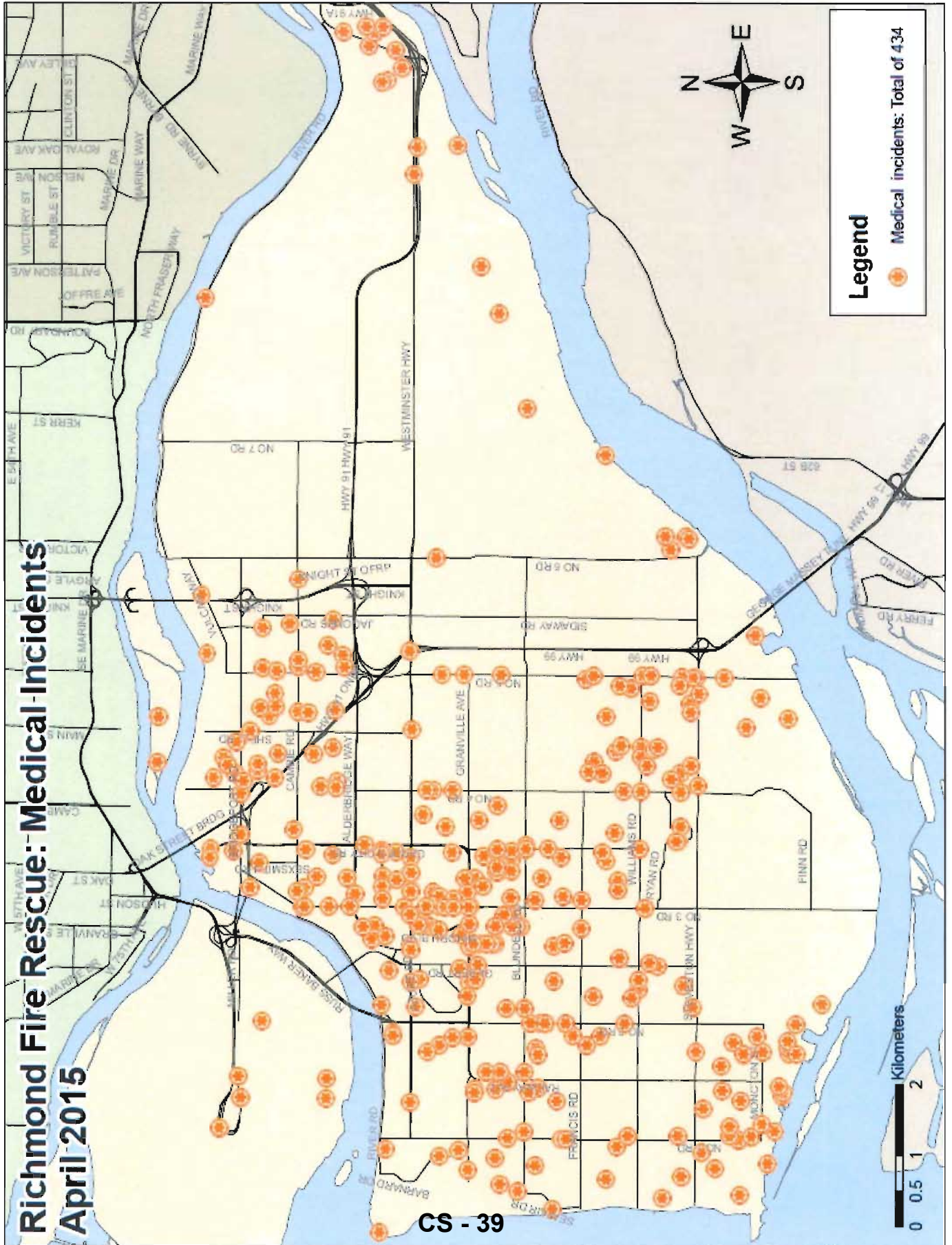


Figure 3: Location of MVI calls in April (total 100)

