



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee

Date: February 14, 2019

From: Tim Wilkinson
Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue

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

Re: **Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – January 2019**

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – January 2019”, dated February 14, 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 FOR	

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 January staff engaged with approximately 219 children and adults, continuing to develop effective interagency relationships and partnerships within the community.

January 2019 events included:

- Safety presentations and hall tour with Richmond Society for Community Living;
- Career Presentation at Richmond Christian Middle School and Hugh Boyd Secondary School; and
- Hall Tours with Richmond Christian Secondary School.

Training

The education and development of firefighters in the Province of British Columbia is regulated through the Office of the Fire Commissioner. The Office of the Fire Commissioner has created minimum training standards which are found within the "Structure Firefighters Competency and Training Playbook". Richmond Fire-Rescue implemented a new program in January 2019 where all firefighters will review, practice and demonstrate the skills identified within the Playbook. Training began in early January and is on schedule to be completed in late 2019.

Richmond Fire-Rescue hired five firefighters in early January to fill existing vacancies (eg. retirements). The initial firefighter training is an eight week program where staff is oriented to the key safety and operational aspects of being a front line firefighter. Once staff have successfully completed the initial training, staff are assigned to an operational shift where their training continues throughout their one year probationary period.

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 January 2019 there were a total 749 incidents, representing a 23 per cent reduction in calls from January 2018 (Attachment 1).

The average time on scene for RFR crews was 26 minutes; this is a decrease over the 27 minutes in 2018. This is due to the nature and severity of each call and the duration on scene.

In January 2019 there were 23 reportable fires to the Office of the Fire Commissioner; representing an eight per cent decrease from January 2018. The average figure for fires reported in January over the last five years, is 23, thus reportable fires in the month of January remains consistent with year-over-year trends.

RFR's emergency fire response goal is to maintain fire to the room of origin. The room of origin standard is especially important in terms of fire loss increases some ten-fold once the fire leaves the room of origin. Fire damage and property losses during January 2019 are estimated at \$780,000. This total includes \$380,800 for building/asset loss and \$400,000 for content loss. The total building/asset and content value at risk was estimated to be \$226,918,000 and the total value preserved from damage was \$226,138,000. These numbers translate to 99 per cent of value protected (Table 1); this is the same as the 99 per cent protected value observed in 2018.

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 Multi family	- 6	- 64,674,000	- 1,000	- -	- -	- 64,673,000
Commercial / Industrial	5	121,227,000	362,000	41,000,000	400,000	161,465,000
Outdoor	10	10,000	10,000	-	-	-
Vehicle/Vessel	2	7,800	7,800	-	-	-
Totals*	23	185,918,800	380,800	41,000,000	400,000	226,138,000

*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 loss and limited fires to the place of origin in these notable January 2019 incidents:

- January 1, 2019 - Electrical fire at a residential property on Ryan Road. Crews responded to a report of a malfunctioning furnace. On arrival crews noticed the smell of burning and smoke in the area. Power and gas were shut off to the unit and Thermal Imaging Camera used to check for any further hot areas. A fire Investigator attended.
- January 3, 2019 - Fire at an educational institution on 4th Avenue. Arriving RFR crews responded to a developing fire at the rear of the school. The fire was quickly extinguished and fire extension was minimal. No injuries were reported. Smoke was inside the building and crews used ventilation to clear it. Due to the suspicious nature of the fire, the RCMP and a Fire Investigator attended.

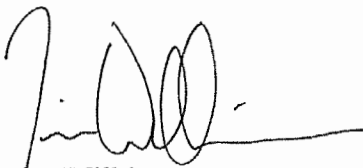
- January 4, 2019 - Vehicle fire on Ackroyd Road. Arriving crews found a single vehicle parked on the side of the road. The vehicle had heavy black smoke and fire coming from the engine compartment. The vehicle had no occupants or immediate exposure concerns. Crews used a single hose line infused with a Class A wetting agent (Cold Fire) to attack the fire. Once the initial fire was reduced, crews used hand tools to gain access to the engine compartment and thoroughly extinguished the fire. Crews used 90 gallons of water and three gallons of Cold Fire to extinguish the fire. A Thermal Imaging Camera was used to ensure the fire was extinguished. No injuries were reported. RCMP was informed of the event and they took over scene control from RFR once the fire was extinguished.
- January 12, 2019 - Fire at a warehouse on Blundell Road. On arrival crews saw heavy black smoke and the remains of a fire which had been extinguished by the overhead sprinkler system. RFR crews aided in ventilating of the building. A Fire Investigator attended.
- January 18, 2019 - Fire in a public washroom at a park on Alberta Road. The fire was reported directly to a Fire Prevention officer by the park's caretaker. The Fire Investigator attended to determine cause and origin.
- January 19, 2019 - Fire at a multi-story high rise on No. 3 Road. Crews responded to reports of flames showing from inside an oven. On arrival the fire had burnt itself out but smoke was still in the kitchen area. Crews used fans to ventilate the smoke from the premises. A Fire Investigator attended.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

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



Tim Wilkinson
Fire Chief
(604-303-2701)

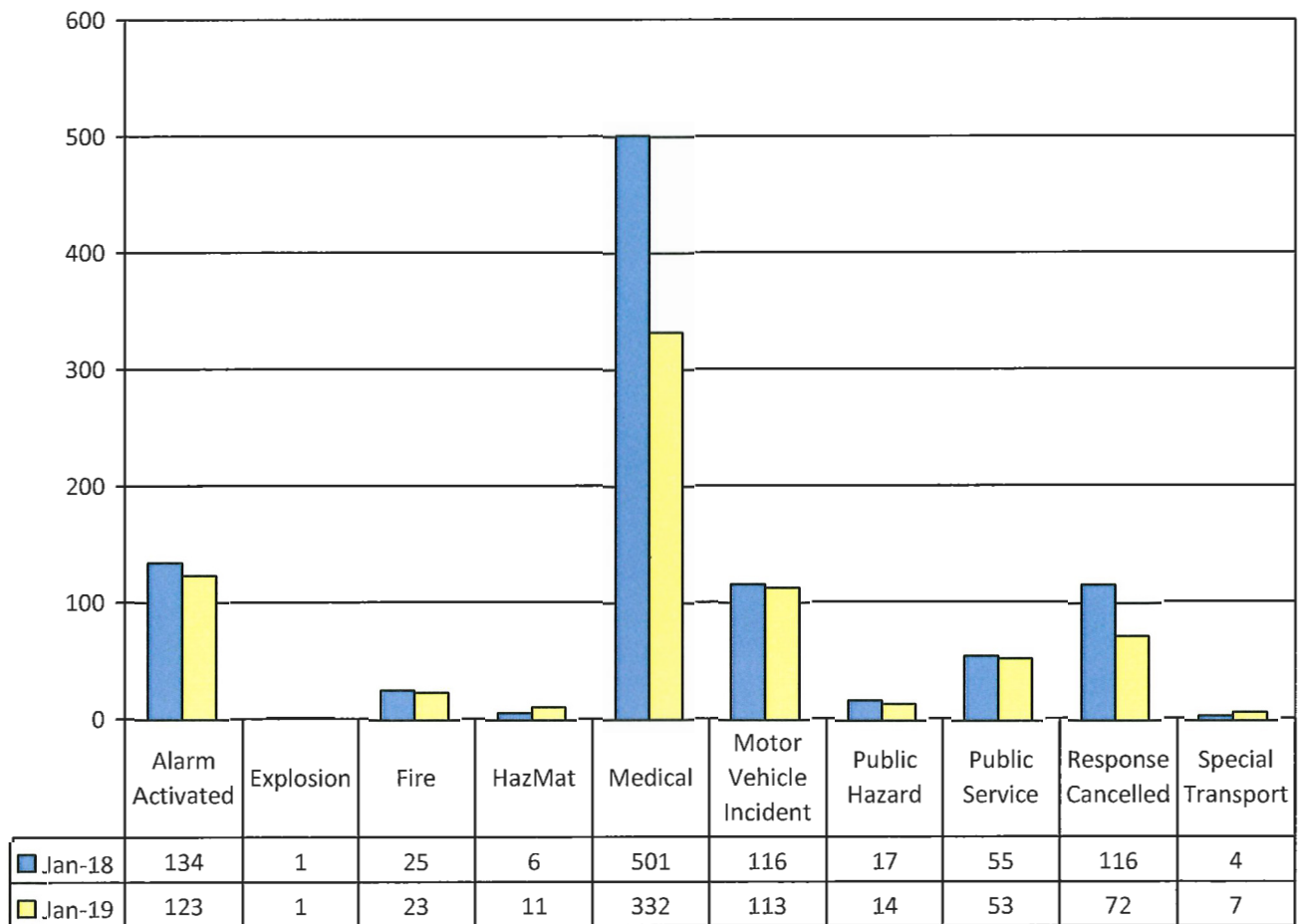
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- Att. 1: Suppression Activity
2: Location of January's Fire, Medical and MVIs

Calls for Service Volumes

The following chart provides a month to month comparison regarding incidents occurring in January 2018 and 2019. In January 2019, there were a total of 749 incidents, compared to 975 in January 2018. This represents a decrease of 23 per cent.

Table 3: January 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 44 per cent of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of January 2019. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for January 2018 and 2019 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 332 medical incidents in January 2019 compared to 501 in January 2018, a decrease of 33 per cent.

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

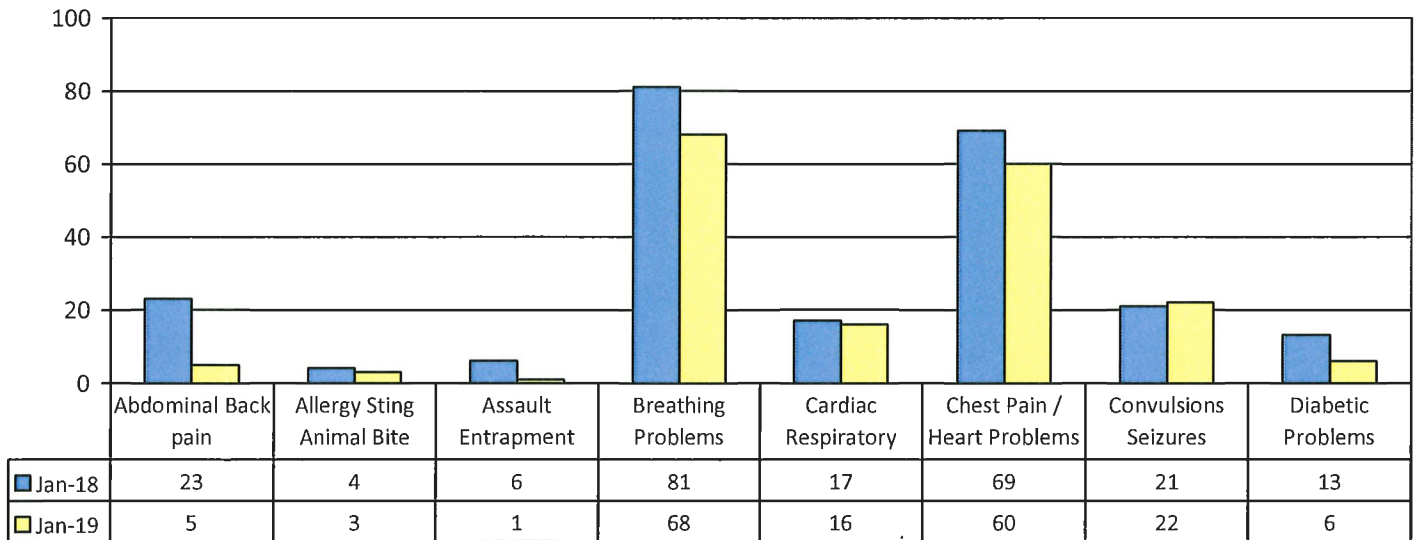
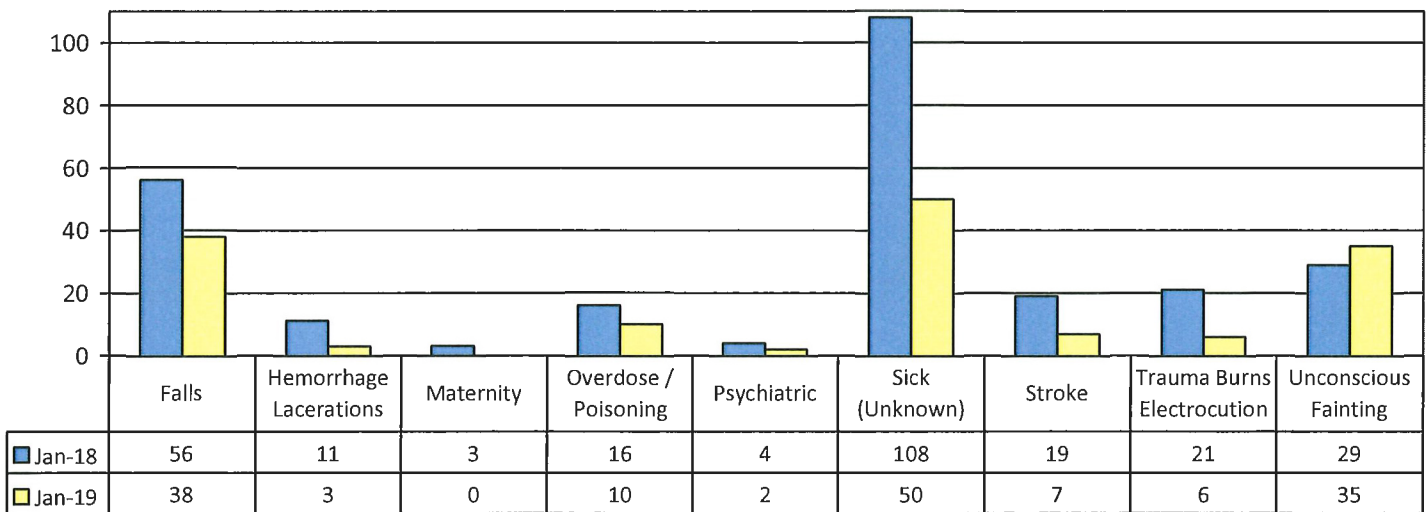


Table 4b: January 2018 & 2019 Medical Calls by Type



Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for January 2019 are listed below:

Table 5: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – January 2019			
	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	-	-	-
Residential - Multi-family	-	6	-
Commercial/Industrial	2	3	-
Outdoor	4	5	1
Vehicle	-	1	1
Totals	6	15	2

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 – January 2019	
	Details
Flammable / Combustible Liquids	1
Natural Gas / Propane Leaks (small)	10
Unclassified	0
Totals	11

Figure 1: Location of reportable fires attended in January 2019 (total 23)

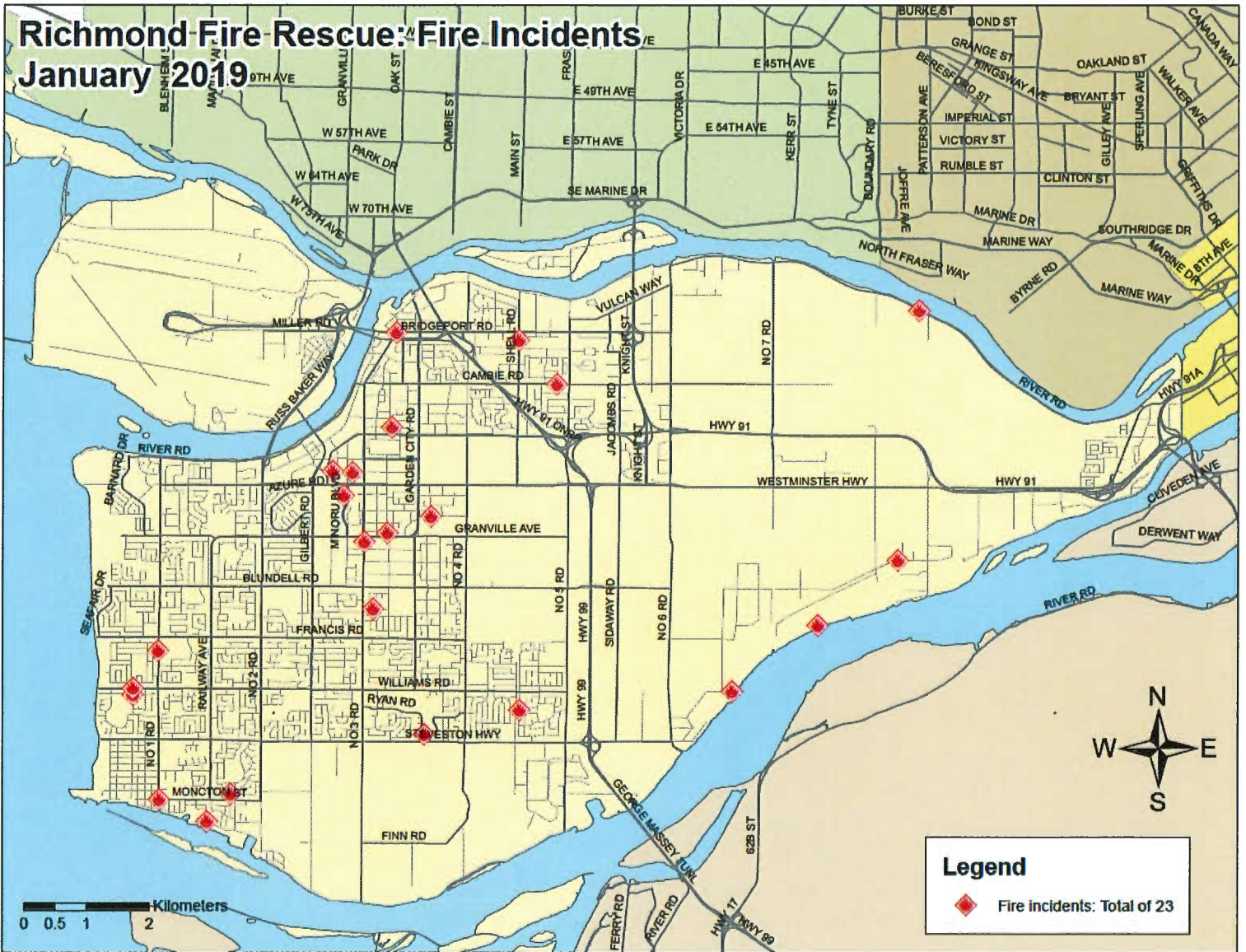


Figure 2: Location of medical calls in January 2019 (total 332)

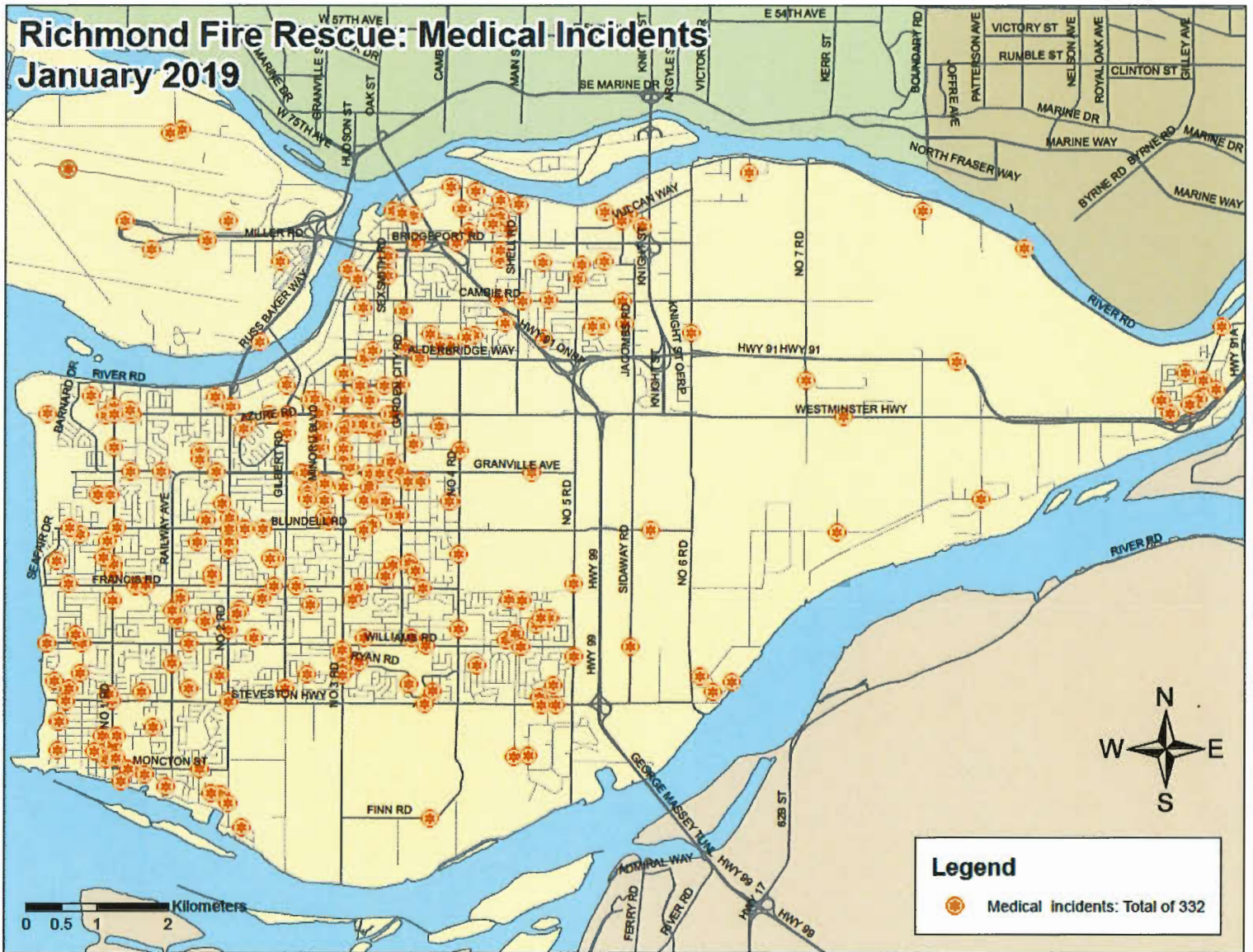


Figure 3: Location of MVI calls in January 2019 (total 113)

