



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee

Date: November 18, 2016

From: Tim Wilkinson
Acting Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue

File: 09-5000-01/2016-Vol
01

Re: Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report - October 2016

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled "Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report - October 2016", dated November 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	
(Acting) 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. RFR continues to work towards the City's vision of being the most appealing, livable, and well-managed community in Canada, through the delivery of its programs and services. 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

RFR advances public awareness, education and community bridge building by participating in training events and community activities. During October 2016 the following events took place:

- Public Education and Fire Safety Trailer visits to: Thompson Elementary and Ferris Elementary, Homma Elementary and General Currie Elementary Schools.
- Information sessions for Fire Prevention Week at Costco, Canadian Tire (Ironwood), Home Depot and the Olympic Oval.
- A community joint Emergency Preparedness presentation including RFR, RCMP and Emergency Social Services was held for Get Ready Richmond.
- Charitable community events including the Autism Speaks Canada Regional Walk.

Staff engaged with over 2,552 children and adults in the community providing fire safety and harm reduction information. Safety messaging during October 2016 focussed on this year's Fire Prevention Week message of "Don't Wait - Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years". This represented the final year of a three year targeted campaign on smoke alarm safety. Information booths were set up at local businesses and the public were made aware of key safety points by a news release, Facebook and fire hall sign messaging.

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 October 2016 there were a total 945 incidents, representing a 9 per cent increase in calls (Attachment 1). The average time on scene for RFR crews was 28.20 minutes, an increase of 2.8 per cent from 2015.

In October 2016 there were 57 dispatched fire calls. Of those 41 were actual reportable fires, 169 apparatus' were used and 514 fire personnel attended.

Fire damage and property losses during the month are estimated at \$26,550. This total includes \$24,850 for building/asset loss and \$1,700 for content loss. The total building/asset and content value at risk was estimated to be \$11,488,400 and the total value preserved from damage was \$11,461,850. These numbers translate to 99 per cent of value was protected (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Fire Calls By Type and Loss Estimates – October 2016						
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	6	1,376,000	-	50,000	500	1,425,500
Multi family	4	670,000	-	50,000	1,000	719,900
Commercial / Industrial	4	6,056,800	350	10,000	200	6,066,250
Outdoor	20	-	-	-	-	-
Vehicle	7	3,274,700	24,500	-	-	3,250,200
Totals*	41	11,378,400	24,850	110,000	1,700	11,461,850

*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 fires to their place of origin in notable October 2016 incidents:

- Landfill fire located on York Road (Harvest Power). On arrival crews found a large landfill fire which they proceeded to attack to reduce its spread. This was a large fire and required multiple crews and vehicles to attend. Crews worked throughout the day to continue extinguishing the smoldering fire. A large excavator machine was used to dig up and spread out the smoldering materials so they could be soaked.

Richmond Fire-Rescue Fire Prevention Branch has followed up with Harvest Power by issuing a Notice of Violation and a subsequent Order to comply regarding the storage of combustible materials on site. RFR will monitor the progress and take appropriate steps associated with the progress or lack thereof.

- Natural gas leak on Montego Street. Arriving crews discovered that a contractor had caused a gas line rupture. Fire crews secured the scene until Fortis BC arrived to turn off the supply of gas.
- Dryer fire at Hemlock Drive. Crews arrived on scene and observed white smoke coming out from the open front door of a house. On investigation crews discovered a dryer on fire which was attacked and quickly extinguished. Positive pressure ventilation was provided to clear the smoke.
- Car fire located in a hotel parkade on Minoru Boulevard. Fire crews attacked and extinguished the fire. Crews proceeded to clear any spillages and provided positive pressure ventilation to clear the smoke from the parkade and center stairwell areas. Crews requested a tow truck to attend and remove the vehicle.
- Halloween operations began at 6pm and ended at 11pm. Halloween has been relatively quiet in terms of emergency response. RFR had additional fire staff available and patrolled areas of interest (Schools, Hospitals and Community Centers). All major parks were visited as well by crews, with no activity found. RFR were present at all permitted corporate fireworks displays with additional staff made available.

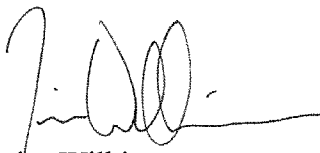
Financial Impact

None

Conclusion

During October 2016, calls for emergency response increased by 9 per cent from October 2015. RFR will continue to monitor these activities to identify trends and ensure potential solutions.

The continued increase in RFR's emergency response has a direct impact on unit availability, response times, availability for non-emergency operations and in-service training. RFR continue to review the available statistics and amend resource allocation, as necessary.



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

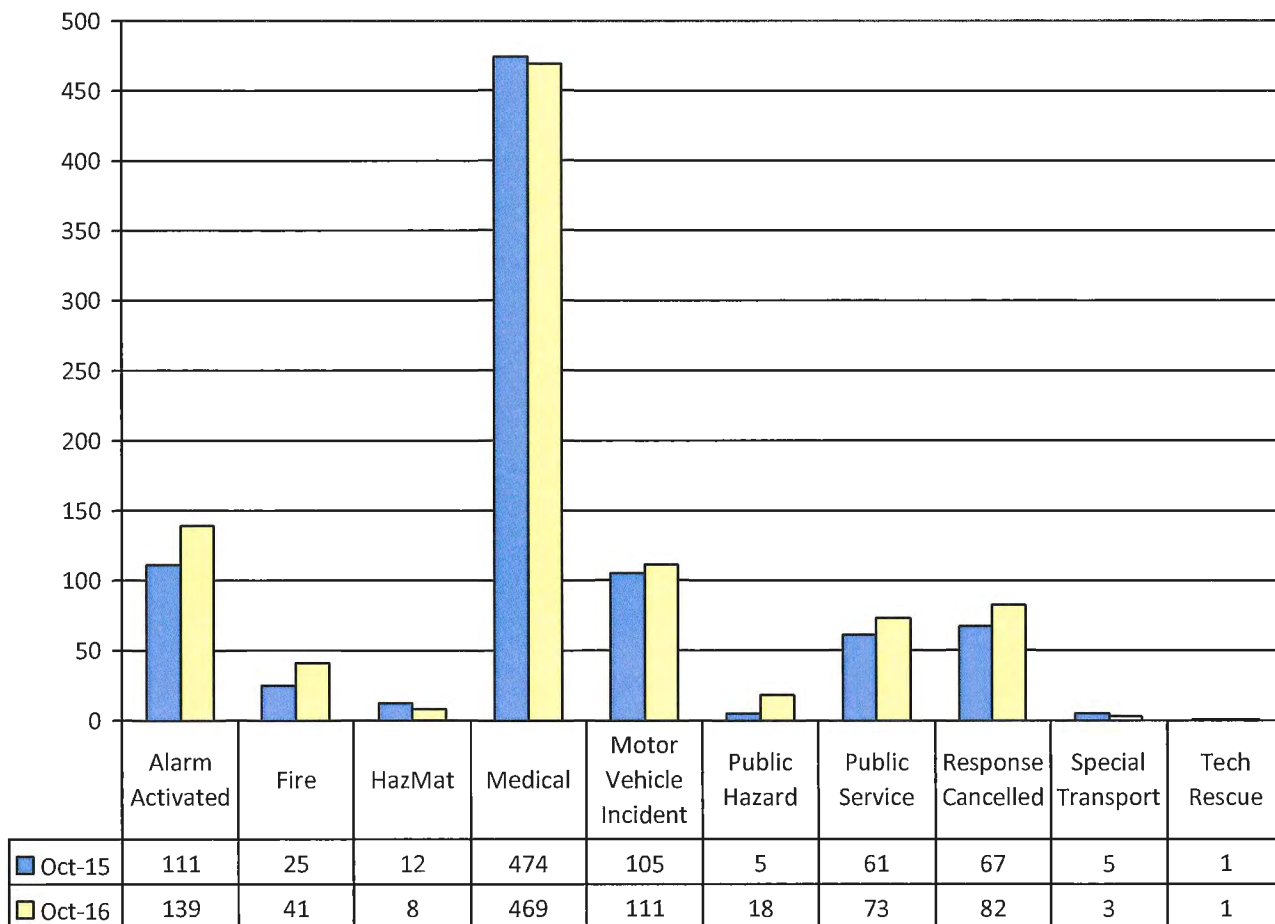
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Att. 1: Suppression Activity
Att. 2: Location of October's Fire, Medical and MVIs

Suppression Activity

The following chart provides a month to month comparison regarding incidents occurring in October 2015 and 2016. In October 2016, there were a total of 945 incidents, compared to 866 in October 2015. This represents an increase of 9 per cent.

Table 1: October 2015 & 2016 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 49 per cent of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of October 2016. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for October 2015 and 2016 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 469 medical incidents in October 2016 compared to 474 in October 2015, a decrease of 1 per cent.

Table 2a: October 2015 & 2016 Medical Calls by Type

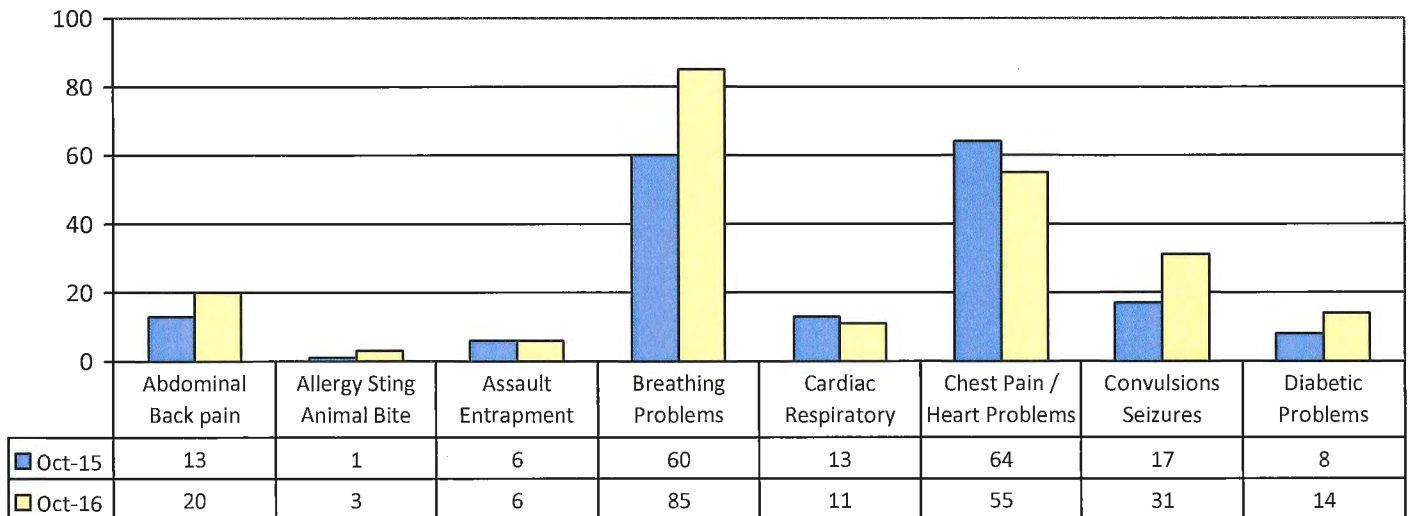
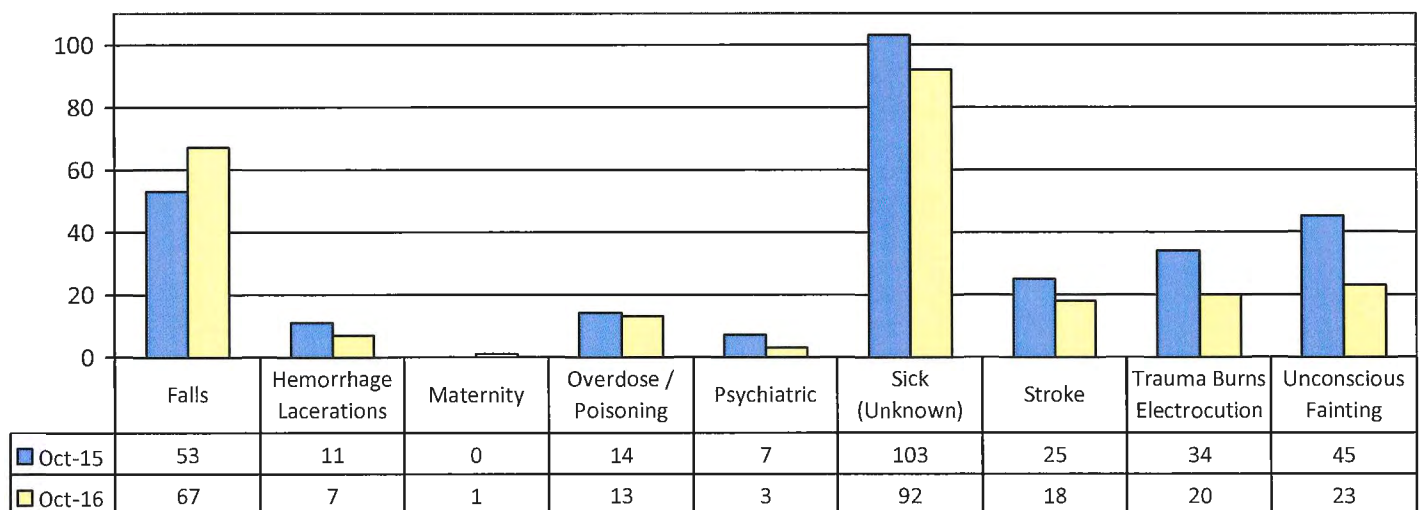


Table 2b: October 2015 & 2016 Medical Calls by Type



Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for October 2016 are listed below:

Table 3: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – October			
	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	-	4	2
Residential - Multi-family	-	4	-
Commercial/Industrial	-	2	2
Outdoor	4	8	8
Vehicle	1	2	4
Totals	5	20	16

RFR investigators report all suspicious fires to the RCMP, while working alongside RCMP staff to address potential risks to the community.

Hazardous Materials

Table 4: HazMat Calls By Type – October	
	Details
Natural Gas / Propane Leaks (small)	5
Unclassified	3
Totals	8

Figure 1: Location of reportable fires attended in October (total 41)

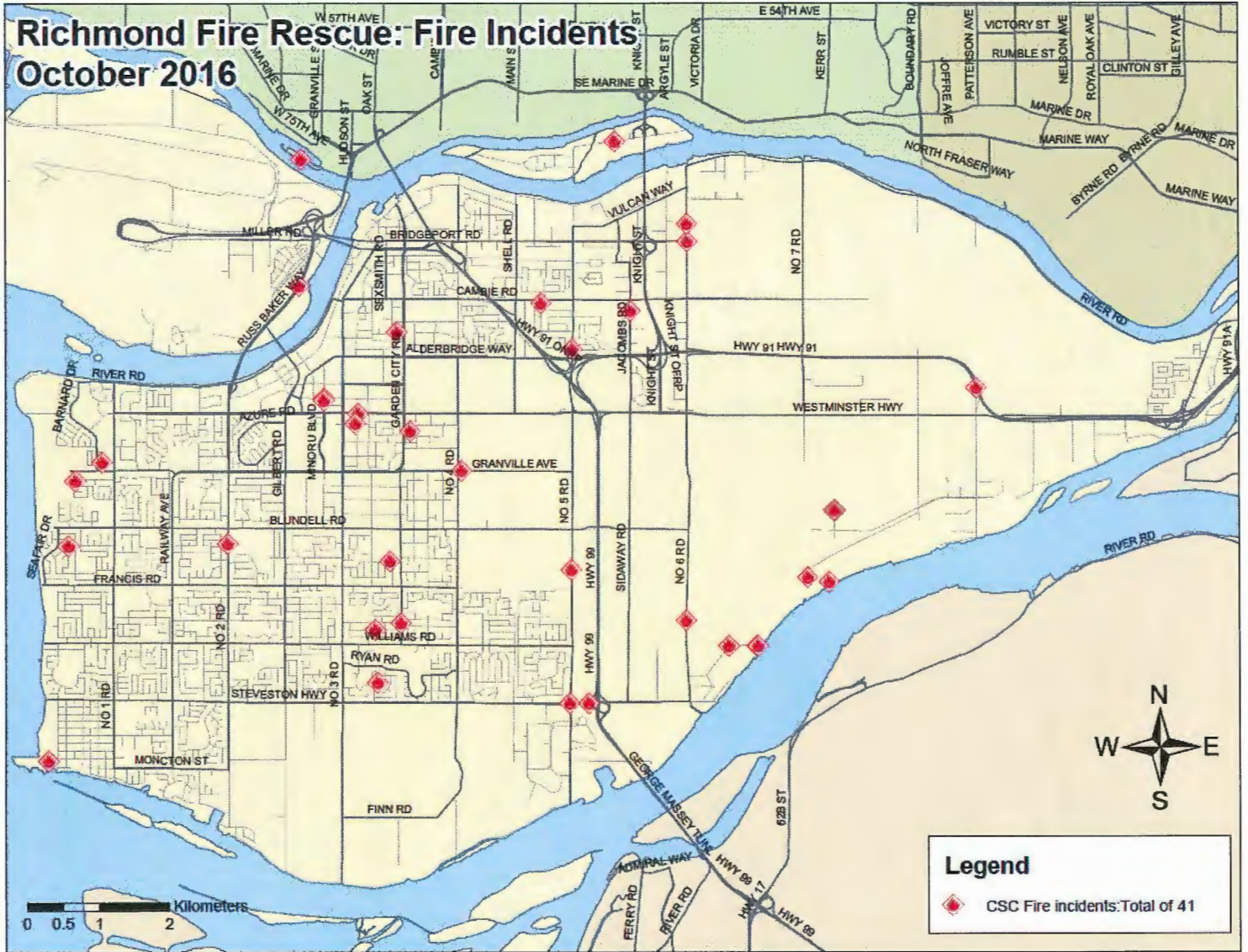


Figure 2: Location of medical calls in October (total 469)

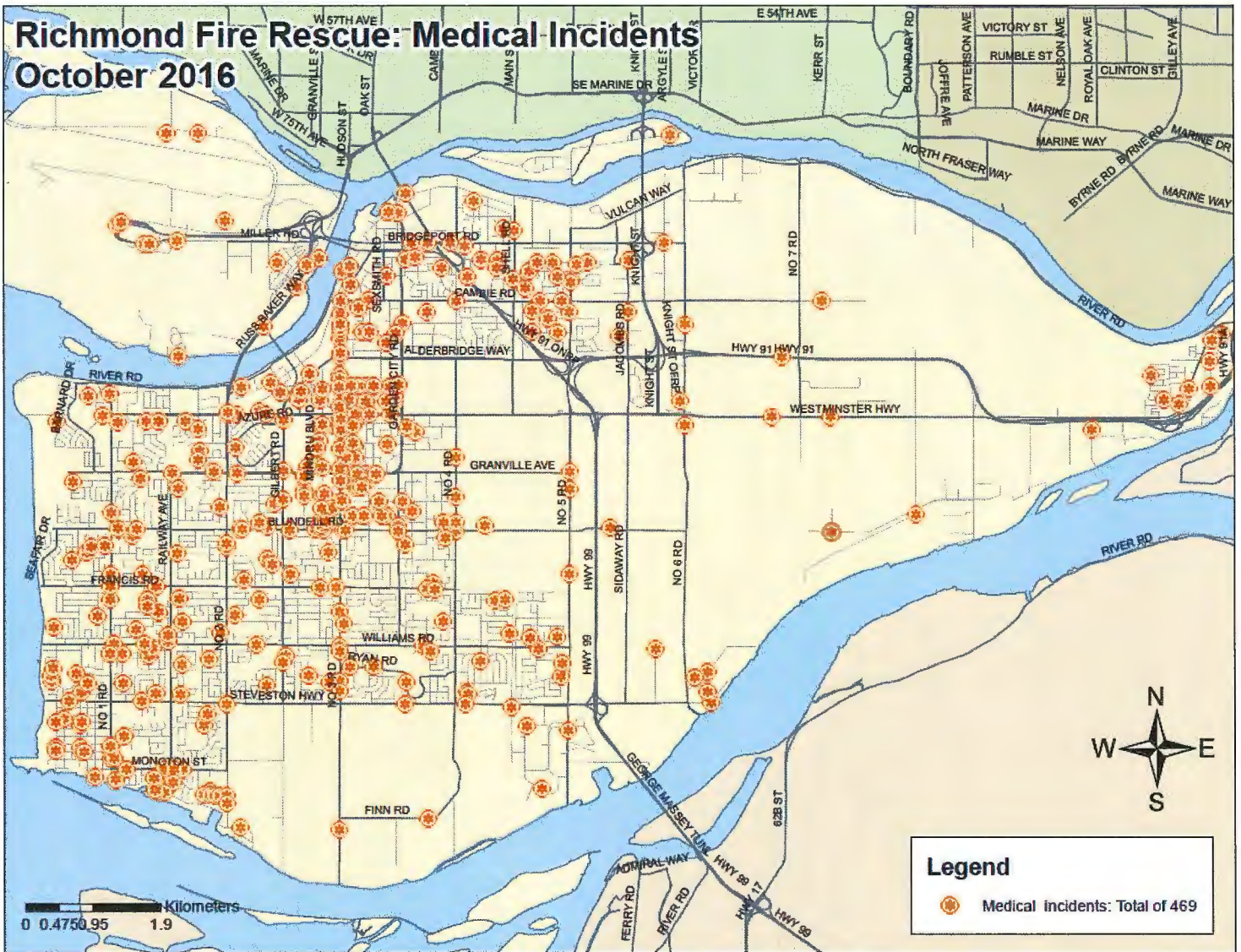


Figure 3: Location of MVI calls in October (total 111)

