



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

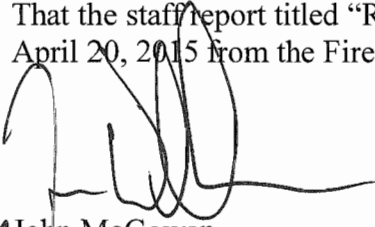
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**To:** Community Safety Committee **Date:** April 20, 2015  
**From:** John McGowan **File:** 09-5000-01/2015-Vol  
 Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue 01  
**Re:** **Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report - March 2015**

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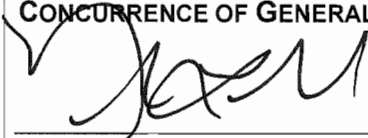

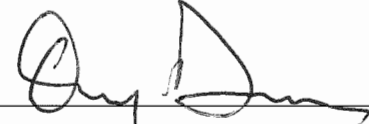
### Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled "Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report - March 2015," dated April 20, 2015 from the Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue, be received for information.



John McGowan  
 Fire Chief  
 (604-303-2734)

Att. 2

<b>REPORT CONCURRENCE</b>	
<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b> 	
<b>REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE</b>	<b>INITIALS:</b> 
<b>APPROVED BY CAO</b> 	

## 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 March included a focus on spring cleaning and removing debris from around homes, and smoke alarm battery change reminders. 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 March 2015 the following took place:

- Safety presentations were provided to *Manoah Stevenson Elementary School* and *Samuel Brighthouse Elementary school*. There were a total of 88 participants in attendance.
- Hall tour was provided to the *Richmond Scouts*. There were a total of 30 participants in attendance.
- Community events attended during March included the *Activate Health and Wellness Fair* and the *William Bridge Elementary School Career Fair*. Over 1,561 children and adults attended these events where crews engaged with the community groups, provided fire safety and public relations information.

#### Training

RFR Training office staff attended an Active Shooter Scenario Exercise in March held at Vancouver Airport (YVR). The exercise was a joint operation held by RCMP with BC Ambulance Services and E-Comm in attendance to look at co-ordination of activities. RFR Training office staff produced an internal overview report of the outcomes of the exercise.

Live Fire and firefighter yard drill classroom sessions were run for RFR staff during March and will continue into early April. These sessions will lead into a Live Fire exercise event scheduled at the end of April and mid-May in Langley.

The BC Municipal Safety Association continues to present an Incident Investigation program to RFR Officers. This program has a remaining delivery date in early April.

### Emergency Response

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

There were 33 fires in March 2015. Fire losses during the month are estimated at \$107,815. This total includes \$35,300 for building loss and \$72,515 for content loss. The total building and content value at risk was estimated to be \$124,585,125, and the total value preserved was \$124,477,310. These numbers translate to 99.9% of value protected (Figure 1).

<b>Incident Type Breakdown</b>	<b>Call Volume</b>	<b>Estimated Building Value (\$)</b>	<b>Estimated Building Loss (\$)</b>	<b>Estimated Content Value (\$)</b>	<b>Estimated Content Loss (\$)</b>	<b>Estimated Total Value Preserved (\$)</b>
Residential:						
Single family	7	72,557,900	500	3,083,000	90	75,640,310
Multi family	3	1,800,000	-	300,000	25	2,099,975
Commercial / Industrial	7	36,040,000	25,600	10,770,000	72,400	46,712,000
Fire – Outdoor	4	34,000	9,000	-	-	25,000
Vehicle	12	225	200	-	-	25
<b>Totals*</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>110,432,125</b>	<b>35,300</b>	<b>14,153,000</b>	<b>72,515</b>	<b>124,477,310</b>

\*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 March incidents:

1. Crews responded to multiple fires in a six storey wooden structure on Alderbridge Way. A fire was quickly extinguished on the first floor using water. Other fires discovered by a search of the entire building by RFR crew found multiple sources of ignition. RFR crew had to bring in water and hose lines into the building as there were no hydrants within 2000 feet of property.
2. Crews responded to reports of an abandoned property on fire located on Cooney Road. On arrival crews proceeded to attack the fire. Heavy smoke and flames were coming from underneath the back deck. RFR crews knocked the fire down quickly. RFR Chief Fire Prevention Officer and RCMP conducted a coordinated fire investigation.

3. Crews were called to a suspicious fire on Calder Road. On arrival crews found that the fire was located outdoors in cardboard boxes at the front door of a residence.
4. Crews responded to a smoker fire at a restaurant located on Sexsmith Road. The fire was quickly mitigated and confined to the smoker in the restaurant.
5. RFR crews provided assistance to RCMP for a report of a pipe bomb located on No 1 Road.
6. Crews attended to a car fire on Granville Avenue. The fire was quickly extinguished by RFR crews and a Fire Prevention Officer investigated the fire.
7. Crews responded to a garage fire on Blundell Road. The fire was extinguished with 400 gallons of water and 3 gallons of Cold Fire.
8. Crews responded to a small fire on top of a picnic table on Elsmore Road. RFR crews used portable extinguisher with "Cold Fire" to extinguish the fire.
9. During March crews attended multiple pot-on-stove related fires including a small fire on Westminster Highway and a stove fire on No 1, 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 Haz-Mat call on Maycrest Way. On arrival crews found acid on a car. A nearby person had inhaled fumes from the off-gassing of the product. On site BC Ambulance Service staff checked patient and released. RFR Crew performed a PH test and neutralized the substance. The scene was handed over to RCMP for further investigation.
2. Assistance for a medical emergency involving a child on Colonial Drive. The child suffered from fatal injuries and was unresponsive.
3. A cardiac patient, located at Brighthouse Way was found unresponsive on arrival. The patient was provided CPR and an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) was used to resuscitate the patient. BCAS arrived on scene and took over patient care. A pulse was recovered after 30 minutes.
4. A cardiac patient, located at Westminster Highway was provided CPR and an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) was used to resuscitate the patient. BCAS arrived on scene and took over patient care.
5. Crews attended to reports of a stabbing on Cheviot Place. The victim had multiple stab wounds to the chest, abdomen, buttocks and right leg and was complaining of being pepper sprayed in his eyes. Crews provided medical assistance to the patient before handing over to BC Ambulance Services crews. Incident under RCMP investigation.

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

**Financial Impact**

None

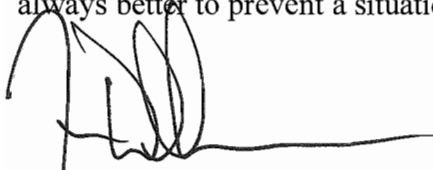
**Conclusion**

During March, there were many facility moves for Fire Staff, including:

- The headquarters for Richmond Fire-Rescue was relocated to City Hall West, directly across the street from No 1 hall. This site now includes Administration, Training, Public Education, Fire Prevention and a portion of Suppression.
- The emergency vehicle mechanic shop and staff were relocated to No 6 Fire Hall. The site is very constricted; however the move was very beneficial in streamlining the operations.
- No 4 hall was renovated to accommodate one additional suppression truck and staff that were relocated from No 1 Fire Hall.

First response and emergency services were not impacted or disrupted during these moves.

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)

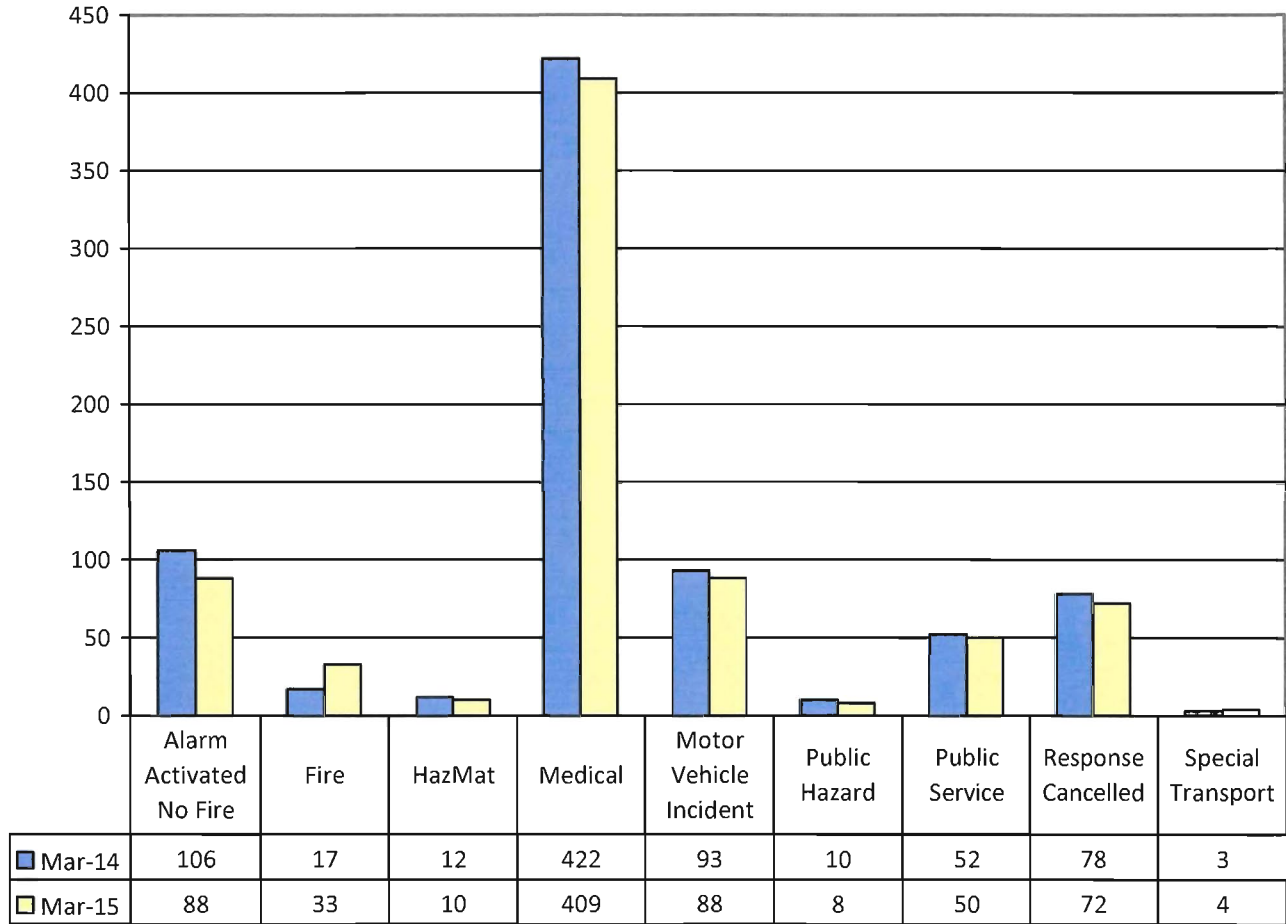
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Att. 1: Suppression Activity  
Att. 2: Location of March’s Fire, Medical and MVI calls

**Suppression Activity**

The following chart provides a month to month comparison regarding incidents occurring in March 2014 and 2015. In March 2015, there were a total of 762 incidents, compared to 791 in March 2014. This represents a decrease of 3.7%.

**Table 1: March 2014 & 2015 Calls for Service Volumes**

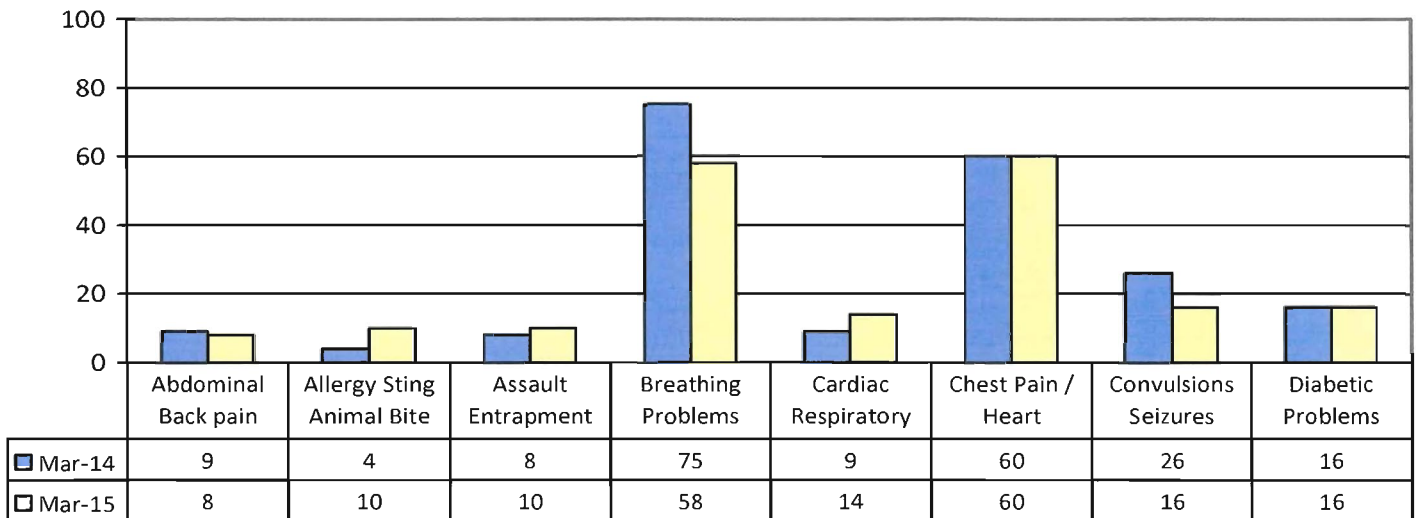


**Call Type Legend:**  
*HazMat*: includes fuel or vapour; spills, leaks, or containment  
*Medical*: includes: cardiac arrest, emergency response, home or industrial accidents  
*Public Hazard*: includes: aircraft emergency, bomb removal standby, object removal, or power lines down  
*Public Service*: includes: assisting public, ambulance or police, locked in/out, special events, trapped in elevator, water removal

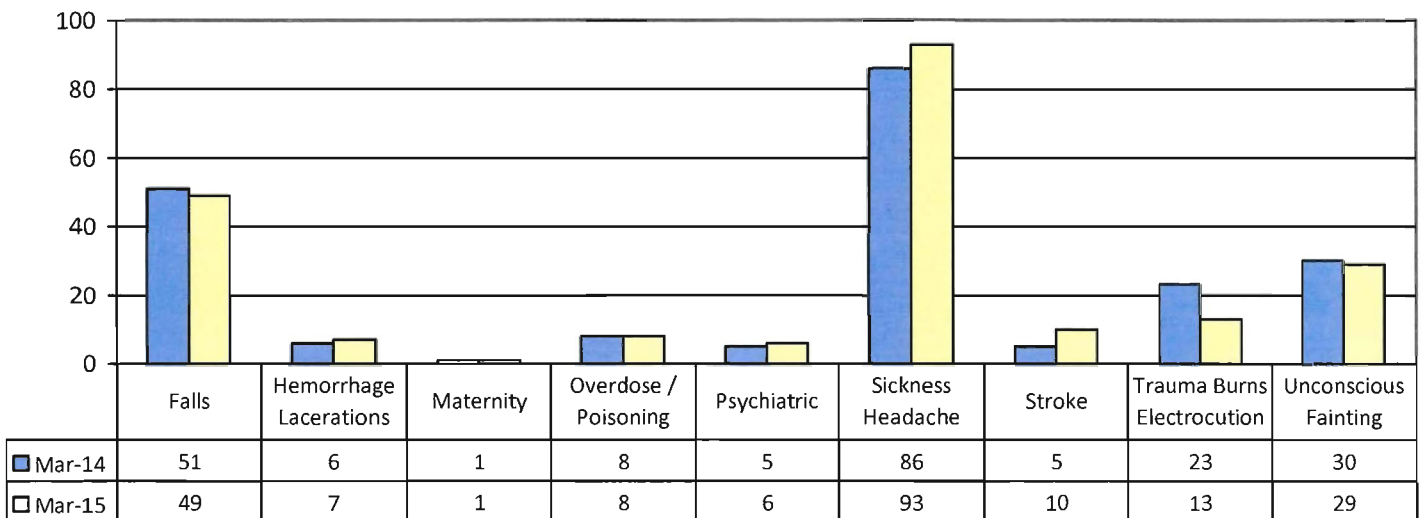
**First Responder Totals**

Medical First Responder incidents comprised 54% of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of March. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for March 2014 and 2015 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 409 medical incidents in March 2015 compared to 422 in March 2014 a decrease of 3.1%.

**Table 2a: March 2014 & 2015 Medical Calls by Type**



**Table 2b: March 2014 & 2015 Medical Calls by Type**



## Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for March 2015 are listed below:

<b>Table 3: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – March</b>			
	<b>Suspicious</b>	<b>Accidental</b>	<b>Undetermined</b>
Residential - Single-family	2	4	1
Residential - Multi-family	0	1	2
Commercial/Industrial	0	4	3
Fire – Outdoor	7	3	2
Vehicle	0	4	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>8</b>

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

<b>Table 4: HazMat Calls By Type – March</b>	
	<b>Details</b>
Flammable / combustible Liquids	3
Natural Gas / Propane Leaks (small)	6
Unclassified	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>10</b>



Figure 1: Location of fires in March (total 33)

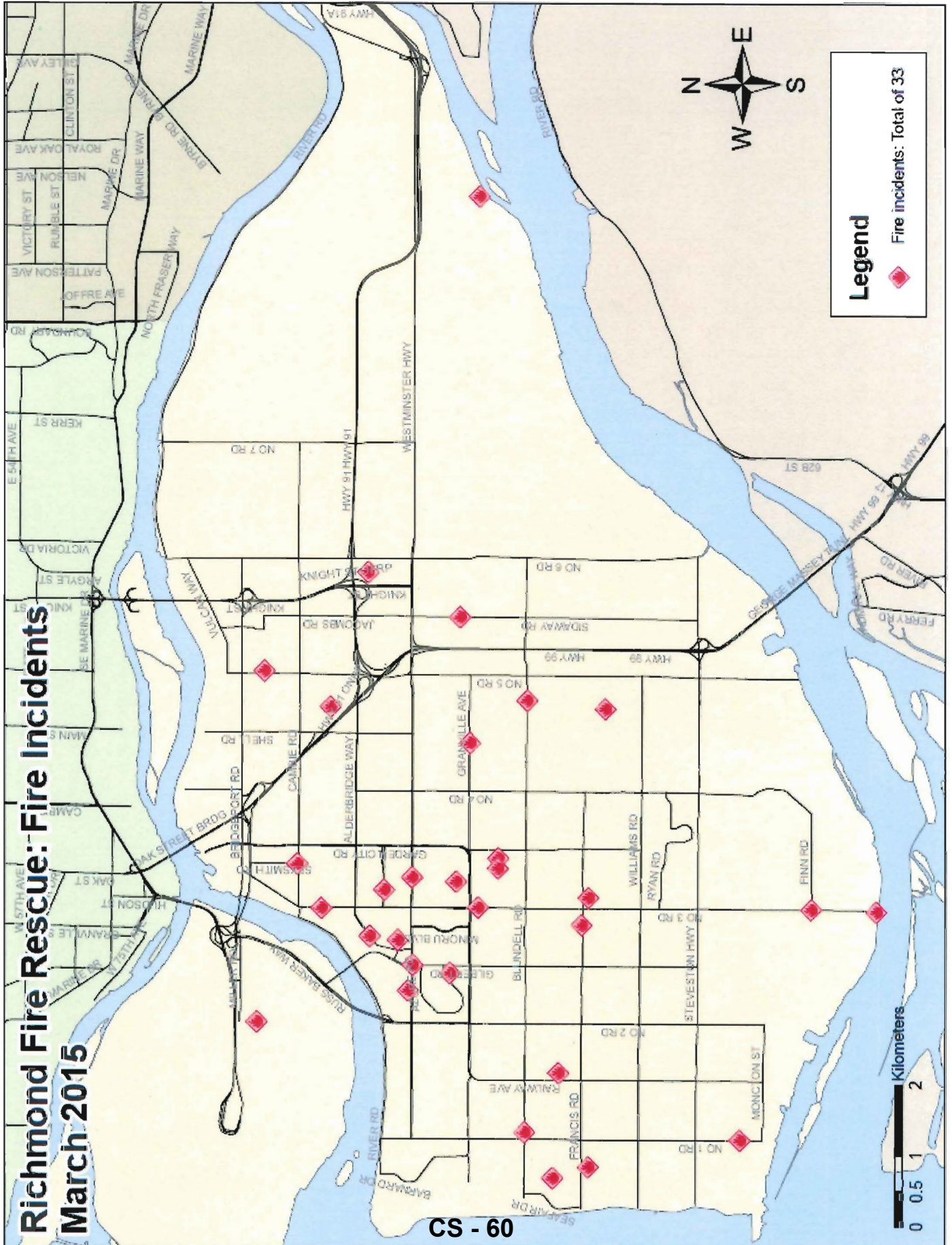


Figure 2: Location of medical calls in March (total 409)

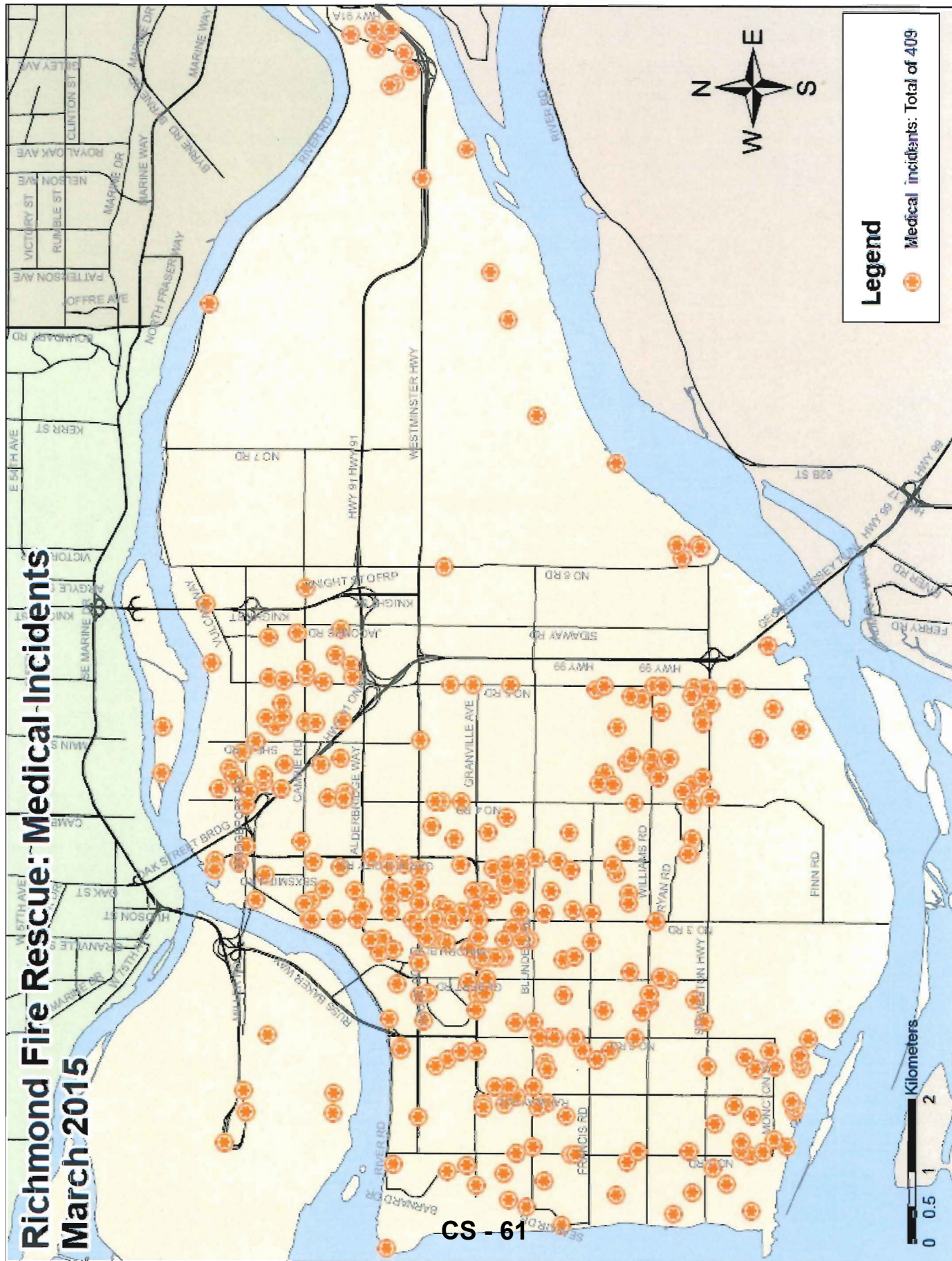


Figure 3: Location of MVI calls in March (total 88)

