



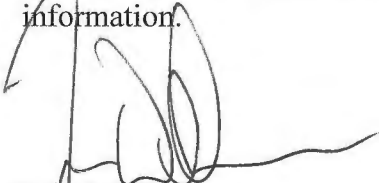
# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

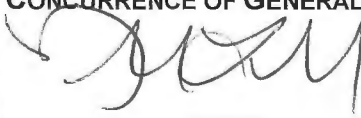
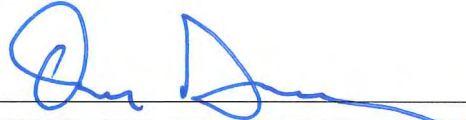
**To:** Community Safety Committee **Date:** November 17, 2015  
**From:** John McGowan **File:** 09-5000-01/2015-Vol  
 Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue 01  
**Re:** **Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report - October 2015**

### Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled "Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report - October 2015," dated November 17, 2015 from the Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue, be received for information.

*For*  
  
 John McGowan  
 Fire Chief  
 (604-303-2734)

Att. 2

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

Safety messaging for October focused on Fire Prevention Week (October 4 to 10) with this year's theme being "Hear the Beep where you Sleep" and the importance of having working smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of a home, including the basement. RFR held Open Houses during the week along with information booths at retail stores within the City.

Residents were also encouraged to participate in The Great Canadian Smoke Alarm test and were directed to download, follow and confirm their completion of a simple four-step checklist supported by the Council of Canadian Fire Marshals and the Fire Commissioner.

Other safety messages included pedestrian safety and Halloween safety tips. Facebook posts and fire hall sign messages were used to share key safety points regarding RFR's focus areas.

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

Community events attended included:

- Minoru Place Activity Centre Annual Safety Fair for Seniors
- Information booths for Fire Prevention Week held at Home Depot and Canadian Tire
- Fire Prevention Week Open Houses, included Fire Halls 2, 4 and 5
- Cook Elementary School Fire Safety Trailer school visit
- Gilmore Elementary School Fire Safety Trailer school visit
- Dreams Take Flight Public Relations Event/Fundraiser with Air Canada at Vancouver Airport
- Community Safety Presentation for Get Ready Richmond Emergency Services

Over 956 children and adults attended these events where staff engaged with the community providing fire safety and harm reduction information.

### Training

Ten new recruits completed their seven week training orientation. The orientation includes technical training, expectations and responsibilities of their role and respectful workplace practices. The recruits are now included as front line fire staff.

Work is continuing on the internal design of the Fire Ground Survival training prop, located at the Lafarge training site. The internal area of this prop will incorporate a small maze, 2 to 4 stairs, a wall breach, attic space simulation and an entanglement area for RFR staff to train on. The first training session, “Rapid Intervention and Survival Skills” was delivered to the recruits using this prop. The session was a success.

### Halloween / Suspicious Fires

The RFR Halloween Operational plan was implemented increasing staffing levels on both October 30 and 31. RFR crews reported that there were very few citizens out on October 30, with increased numbers of citizens out until 21:30pm on October 31.

RFR fire crews performed hourly patrols in neighborhoods until midnight on both October 30 and 31, with a focus on multiple vacant properties neighborhoods in Firehalls 1 (City Centre), 2 (Steveston) and 6 (Shellmont) areas. RFR and RCMP also collaborated with hourly patrols until midnight focusing on suspicious fires in around the Firehall 3 (Bridgeport) area. All fire crews were provided with a map of suspicious fires in the area to allow them to be familiar with the recent events (map attached).

All RFR fire crews were out in the community to “project a presence” in their districts on October 31, driving past the closest schools, parks, shopping centres, etc., up until 10pm. A fire crew was also on standby at the Community Centre Halloween fireworks display.

Following Halloween an update was provided to the media noting that there were no significant events or increase in calls over the last three years.

### Emergency Response

Richmond Fire-Rescue’s goal is to respond to events in an efficient and effective manner where loss of life, reduction of property damage and protection of the environment is mitigated.

There were 25 fires in October 2015. Fire losses during the month are estimated at \$830,300. This total includes \$ 830,100 for building loss and \$200 for content loss. The total building and content value at risk was estimated to be \$102,162,000, and the total value preserved was \$101,331,700. These numbers translate to 99% of value protected (Figure 1).

<b>Figure 1: Fire Calls By Type and Loss Estimates – October</b>						
<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	4	34,000,000	30,000	10,200,000	50	44,169,950
Multi family	4	-	-	-	-	-
Commercial / Industrial	4	1,200,000	-	350,000	-	1,550,000
Fire – Outdoor	9	41,812,000	800,100	12,300,000	100	53,311,800
Vehicle	4	2,000,000	-	300,000	50	2,299,950
<b>Totals*</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>79,012,000</b>	<b>830,100</b>	<b>23,150,000</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>101,331,700</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 October incidents:

- Crews responded to an apartment fire on Bennett Road. A First Alarm assignment was dispatched to this incident. Approximately 30 residents were displaced as a result of the fire and were attended to by Emergency Social Services. The fire is under investigation.
- Crews responded to a structure fire located in a warehouse on Beckwith Road. RFR crews attached the fire and knocked it down quickly. The Fire Investigator also attended the scene.
- Crews attended to reports of a container fire located on Dyke Road. The fire was quickly mitigated using approximately 100 gallons of water.
- A First Alarm assignment responded to a fire at YVR where an aircraft engine compartment was significantly impacted. RFR crews arrived on scene at the North Gate and assisted the onsite Vancouver Airport Emergency Response Service with the fire attack. Once the fire was under control RFR vehicles were released.
- RFR crews attended to reports of a compressed gas leak in a warehouse on Nelson Road. Upon arrival crews found that the warehouse had already been evacuated. Crews worked quickly to isolate the gas flow and shut it down both internally and externally to the building. Fortis Gas was called to attend the scene. All doors to the warehouse were opened to remove any residual gas odour. Crews cleared scene once the odour of gas had diminished.

RFR crews responded to multiple serious incident calls, including:

- Crews responded to a motor vehicle incident on Highway 91 and Westminster Highway. Crews used hydraulic tools to extricate one of the vehicle occupants who was trapped within the vehicle due to significant damage to the vehicle. RFR and BCAS crews worked together to manage patient care.

- Crews responded to a motor vehicle incident on Knight Street. On arrival crews found a car upside down in a ditch. There was water in this ditch, and the lone person in the car was trapped. RFR crews placed a ladder on the bank of the ditch to access the car for removal of the occupant. The driver was conscious during this time, and once removed from the vehicle was able to climb up the bank of the ditch. The patient was handed over to BCAS crews for further treatment.
- RFR crews attended two separate incidents of cardiac arrest issues located at Trimaran Drive and Gormond Road. In both incidents CPR and an Automatic External Defibrillator were used. Unfortunately both patients were unable to be revived.
- Crews responded for a medical emergency on Dolphin Avenue. On arrival crews found a person with an object sticking out of their head. Various RCMP members were already on scene. RFR crews assessed the patient for other injuries and found none. RFR crews provided cervical spine control for the patient. BCAS crews took over patient care upon their arrival and RFR crew assisted with loading and packaging of the patient for transport to Vancouver General Hospital.
- RFR crews and the Fire Chief provided assistance to a person in distress on the corner of Granville and Gilbert Road. Due to the nature of the incident RCMP and BCAS were requested to attend the scene. On arrival RCMP and BCAS arrived and transferred the patient back to hospital.

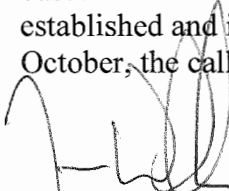
A summary of 9-1-1 emergency response statistics is found in Attachment 1, Tables 1, 2, 3 and 4. The location of fire, medical and motor vehicle incident calls in October are depicted in Attachment 2, Figures 1, 2 and 3.

### **Financial Impact**

None

### **Conclusion**

RFR strives to deliver service excellence through a delivery model that 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. In the month of October, the calls for medical service within the City were constant, wide and varied.

  
For John McGowan  
Fire Chief  
(604-303-2734)

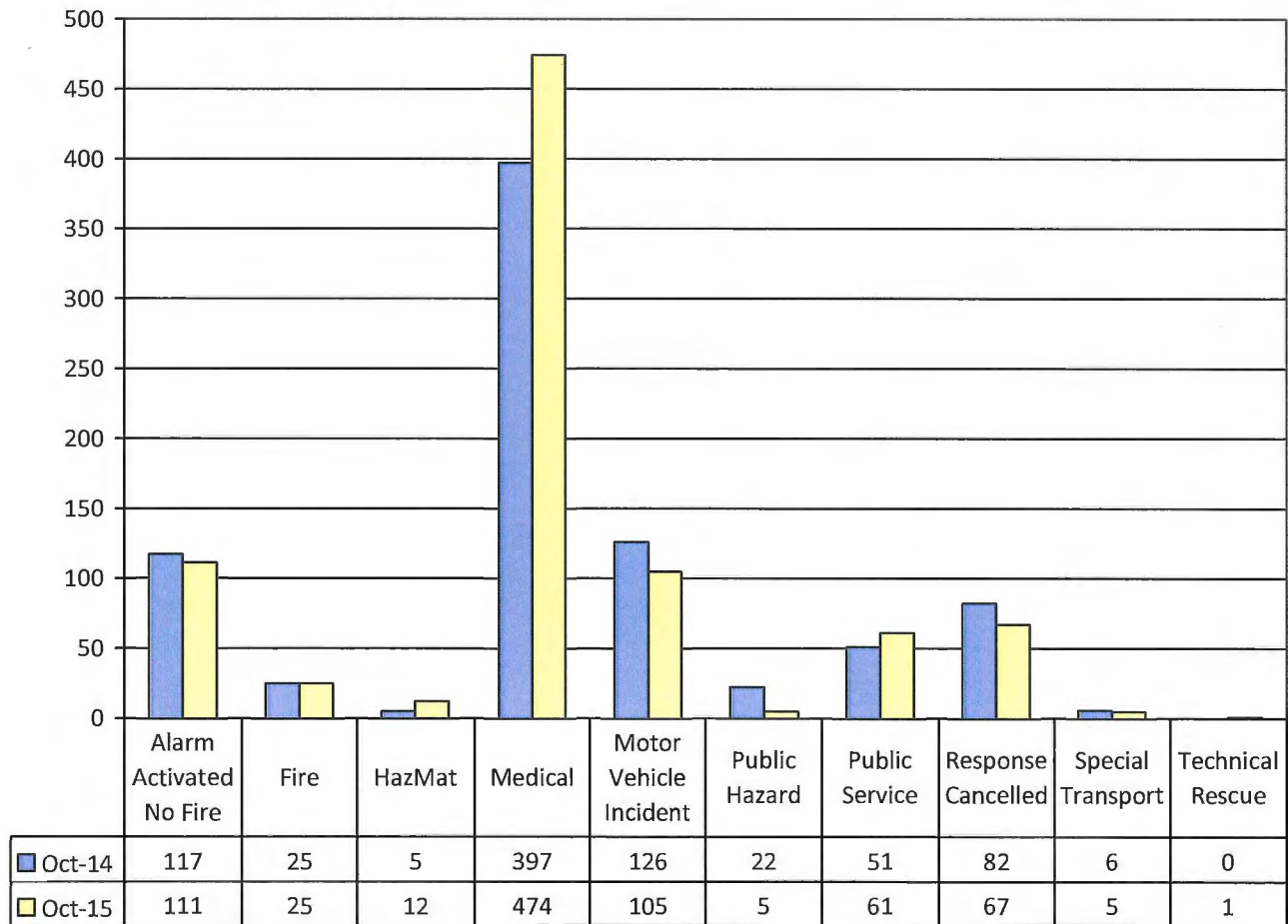
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Att. 1: Suppression Activity  
Att. 2: Location of October's Fire, Medical and MVIs

**Suppression Activity**

The following chart provides a month to month comparison regarding incidents occurring in October 2014 and 2015. In October 2015, there were a total of 866 incidents, compared to 831 in October 2014. This represents an increase of 4.2%. The increase in call volumes was primarily in medical related incident types.

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

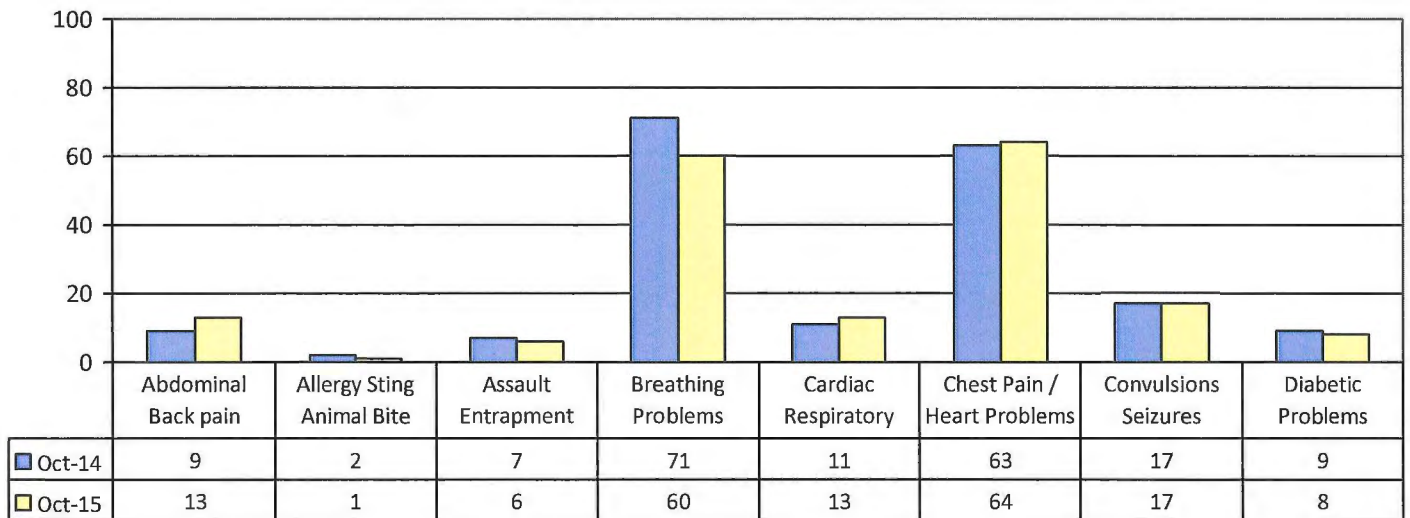


**Call Type Legend:**  
*HazMat* includes: fuel or vapour; spills, leaks, or containment  
*Medical* includes: cardiac arrest, emergency response, home or industrial accidents  
*Public Hazard* includes: aircraft emergency, bomb removal standby, object removal, or power lines down  
*Public Service*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

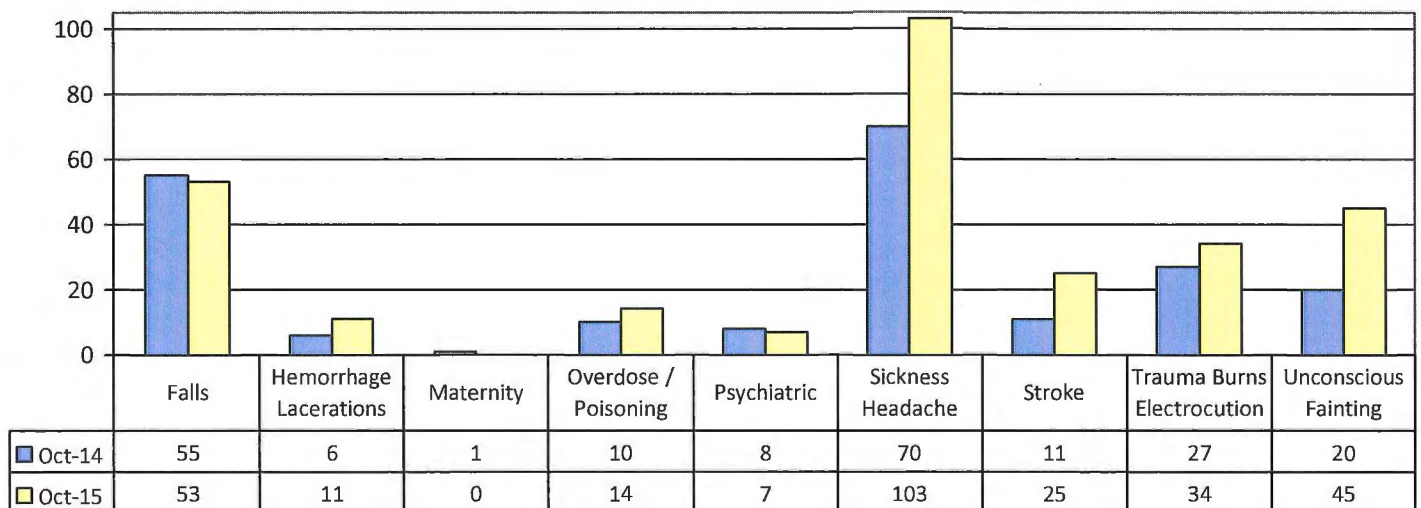
**First Responder Totals**

Medical First Responder incidents comprised 55% of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of October. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for October 2014 and 2015 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 474 medical incidents in October 2015 compared to 397 in October 2014 an increase of 19%.

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



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



## Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for October 2015 are listed below:

<b>Table 3: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – October</b>			
	<b>Suspicious</b>	<b>Accidental</b>	<b>Undetermined</b>
Residential - Single-family	-	2	2
Residential - Multi-family	2	2	-
Commercial/Industrial	-	3	1
Fire – Outdoor	1	4	4
Vehicle	-	-	4
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</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 – October</b>	
	<b>Details</b>
Natural Gas / Propane Leaks (small)	4
Flammable / Combustible Liquids	3
Standby/Support for other Agency	1
Vapour Leak	2
Unclassified	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>12</b>



Figure 1: Location of fires in October (total 25)

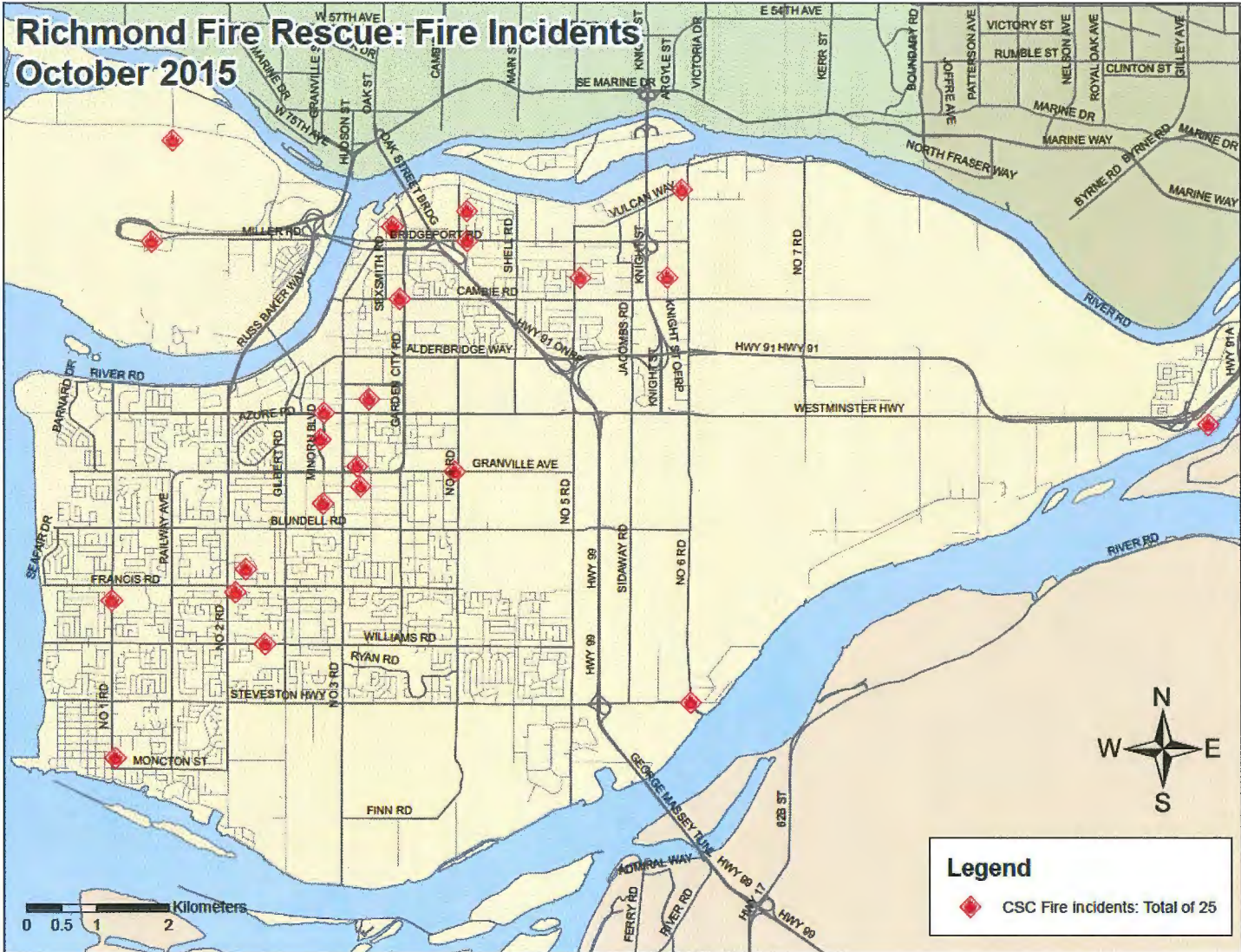


Figure 2: Location of medical calls in October (total 474)

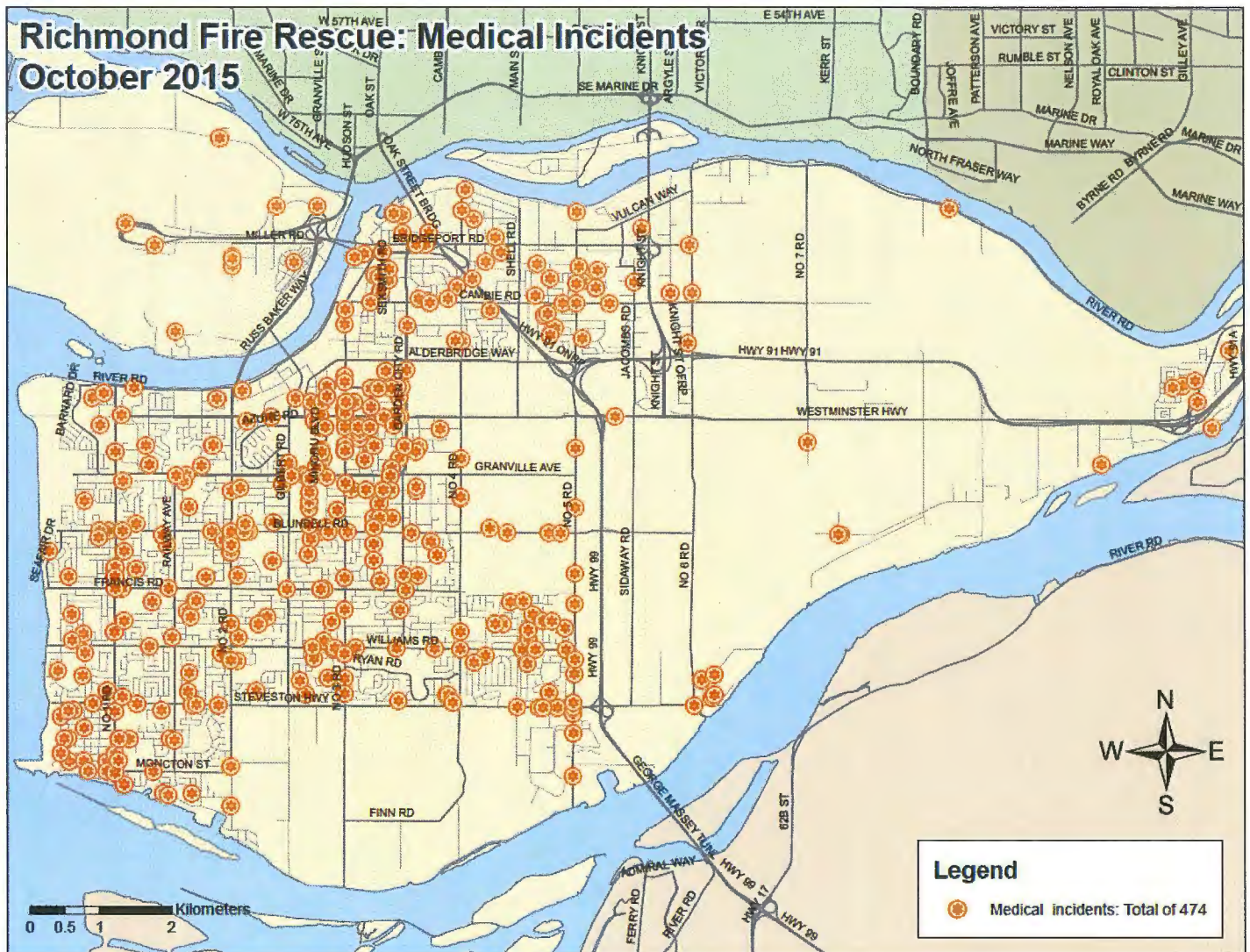


Figure 3: Location of MVI calls in October (total 105)

