

Staff Report

Origin

This report provides Council with updates on Richmond Fire-Rescue 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 Term Goal 1:

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

Training Office Update

RFR staff participated in a joint training initiative with the BC Ambulance service. The two-day Train the Trainer Program for Bariatric Lifting and Transfer was held at Fire Hall No. 1 and attended by 10 suppression staff and up to two BCAS members. Two Prince George Firefighters presented the program. Richmond is the first Lower Mainland Department to participate in this training. As a result of receiving this training, RFR members can provide to the public a complete lift system specifically designed to facilitate safe and dignified transfers of non-ambulatory bariatric residents or patients.

Community Involvement

April's safety messages focused on cycling safety reminding cyclists to wear reflective gear and to use a light at night. Facebook posts and fire hall sign messages were used to remind the cyclists to be seen at night and in low visibility.

RFR participates in events and activities advancing public education and community bridge building. During April 2014 the following took place:

- 22 car seat inspections were conducted to keep children safe while travelling in motor vehicles.
- Pumper visits were made to the *Renaissance Kids Preschool, Our Saviour Lutheran Church Childcare, Cornerstone Christian Academy* and *Diefenbaker Elementary* reaching over 108 children and adults in a non emergency environment. Fire crews provided the children with safety messages on Stop, Drop and Roll and 9-1-1 How to Use the Telephone.

- Hall tours were provided to a *Scouts Group*, *9th Sparks Group* and *2nd Richmond Clubs/Scouts*. The tours provided fire safety information, truck and equipment familiarization to over 49 children and adults.
- Community events were held at two separate fire halls included an Easter celebration at No 5 Hall for *Local 1286* families and an Easter egg hunt and safety presentation at No 1 Hall for the *Richmond Youth Service Agency*. Over 135 children and adults attend these events.
- Educational materials were provided for adults and children at the *Wellness and Home Fair* and *The Nurse Next Door* at the *Information Fair at the South Arm United Church* community event. The event provided an opportunity for the Community Relations Officer to provide first-hand knowledge, education and information to over 260 adults and children in fire safety messages.
- Fire Extinguisher training was provided to *London Air Services* by the Community Relations Officer with 12 adults in attendance.

Emergency Response

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

There were 39 fires in April 2014. Fire losses during the month are estimated at \$1,094,095. This total includes \$933,070 for building loss and \$161,025 for content loss. The total building and content value at risk was estimated to be \$11,181,450, and the total value preserved was \$10,087,355. These numbers translate to 90% of value protected (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Fire Calls By Type and Loss Estimates – April

Incident Type Breakdown	Call Volume	Estimated Building Value (\$)	Estimated Building Loss (\$)	Estimated Content Value (\$)	Estimated Content Loss (\$)	Estimated Total Value Preserved (\$)
Residential: Single family	5	4,622,000	875,200	1,008,600	41,025	4,714,375
Residential: Multi family	4	5,123,000	13,757	324,000	110,000	5,323,425
Commercial/Industrial	3	-	-	-	-	-
Fire – Outdoor	18	9,350	2,570	-	-	6,780
Vehicle	9	84,500	41,725	10,000	10,000	42,775
Totals*	39	9,838,850	933,070	1,342,600	161,025	10,087,355

*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:

- Multiple crews responded to a grease fire at a house on Railway Avenue. On arrival crews found that the fire had been extinguished by sprinklers. Some scorching of the cupboards had occurred on site and there was water damage in some of the units. RFR crews used the water vacuums to remove the excess water for the occupants.

- Response was provided to reports of an explosion and fire in a BC Hydro underground junction box on Bridgeport Road at Viking Way. BC Hydro were requested to attend the scene. On arrival a manhole was found ajar with smoke emitting from the hole. Traffic management was quickly set up and RCMP also attended. Dry chemical were used to extinguish the fire, which was contained to the manhole.
- Crews responded to reports of a suspicious fire in the washrooms of McNair School on No 4 Road. On arrival, crews were told the fire had already been extinguished. Crews used Positive Pressure Ventilation to clear smoke from the washroom and the rest of the school. After the fire system had been reset and residual smoke was removed, students and teachers re-entered the building. The incident is under investigation.
- Crews responded to a large equipment fire of a front end loader at methane recovery plant on York Road in east Richmond. Quick actions by arriving crews confined the fire to the equipment area.
- On No 3 Road, crews responded to black smoke escaping from a vent in the roof of the commercial building. RFR crews entered the kitchen and extinguished the fire which was confined to the oven. The health authority and Fire Prevention were contacted to carry out a follow up investigation of the scene.
- A commercial kitchen fire occurred on No 3 Road. Multiple crews, along with Fire Prevention, RCMP, BC Ambulance Services (BCAS) and Hydro responded to the unit.
- Other fire incidents during April included: a roof fire on General Currie Road, a rubbish fire on Ackroyd Road, two separate pot-on-stove fires on Comstock Road and Danube Road and a port-a-potty fire in Hugh Boyd Park.

During April, RFR crews also responded to a gas line rupture on the North Service Road at YVR. On route crews were informed that the gas line break was a two inch line spewing at high velocity and in close proximity to the Canada Line. Transit were immediately informed to stop train cars from entering the area and Fortis BC were contacted to attend. Command and investigation were set up on site. The gas was quickly shut down and within minutes Fortis declared the area safe, under control and of no danger to the public.

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

- A male who hung himself and died.
- A male who used chemicals to commit suicide on Edwards Drive.
- An assault of a female, with trauma to the face. RFR crew responded and the assailant was taken into custody by RCMP.
- A pedestrian who was struck at No 2 and Blundell Road. The female was put onto a C-Spine and a spinal collar was fitted. RFR crew assisted BCAS with patient care.

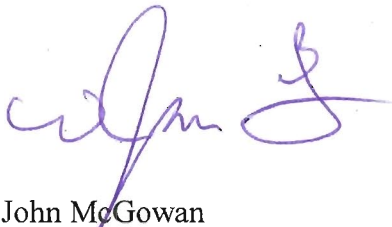
A summary of 9-1-1 emergency response statistics is found in Attachment 1, Tables 1, 2, 3 and 4. The location of April's fire, medical and motor vehicle incident calls are depicted in Attachment 2, Figures 1, 2 and 3.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

Our service delivery model is prevention focussed 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)

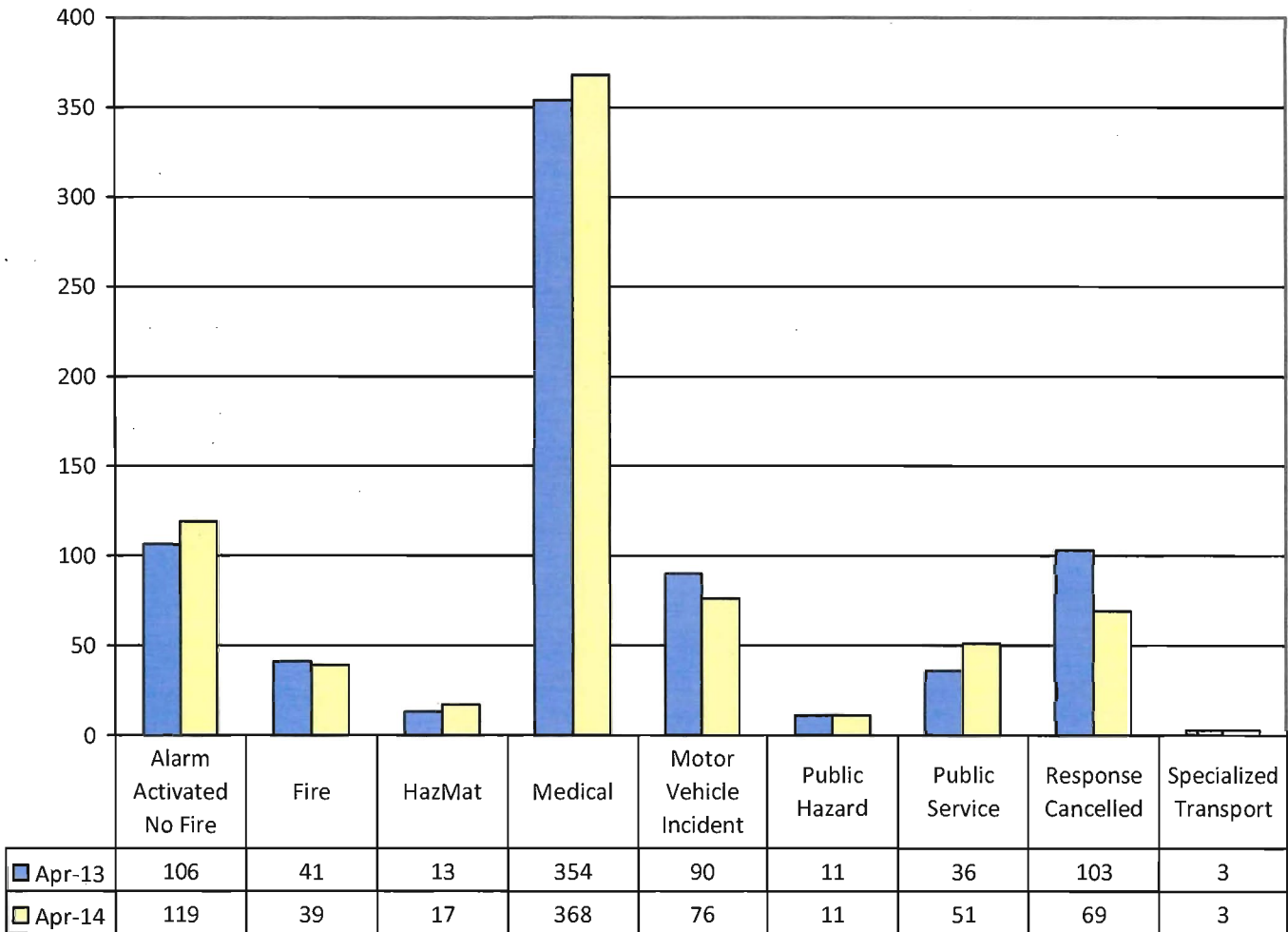
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- Att. 1: Suppression Activity
- Att. 2: Location of April's Fire, Medical and MVI calls

Suppression Activity

The following chart provides a month to month comparison regarding incidents occurring in April 2013 and 2014. In April 2014, there were a total of 753 incidents, compared to 757 in April 2013. This represents a decrease of 0.5%.

Table 1: April 2013 & 2014 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 48% of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of April. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for April 2013 and 2014 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 368 medical incidents in April 2014 compared to 387 in April 2013 an increase of 4%.

Table 2a: April 2013 & 2014 Medical Calls by Type

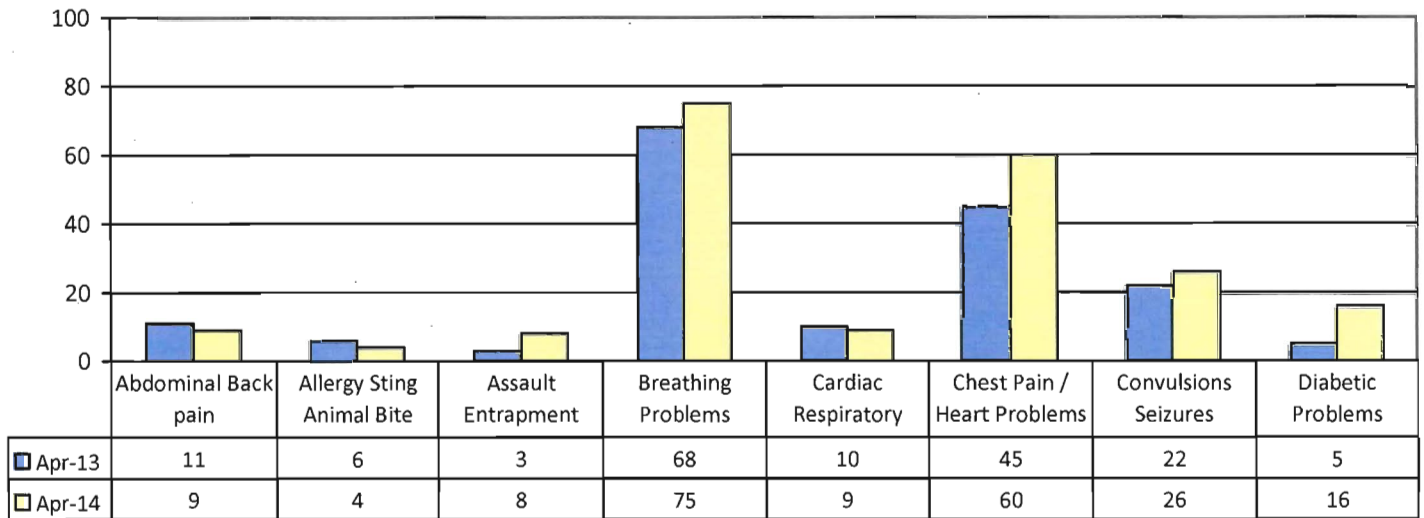
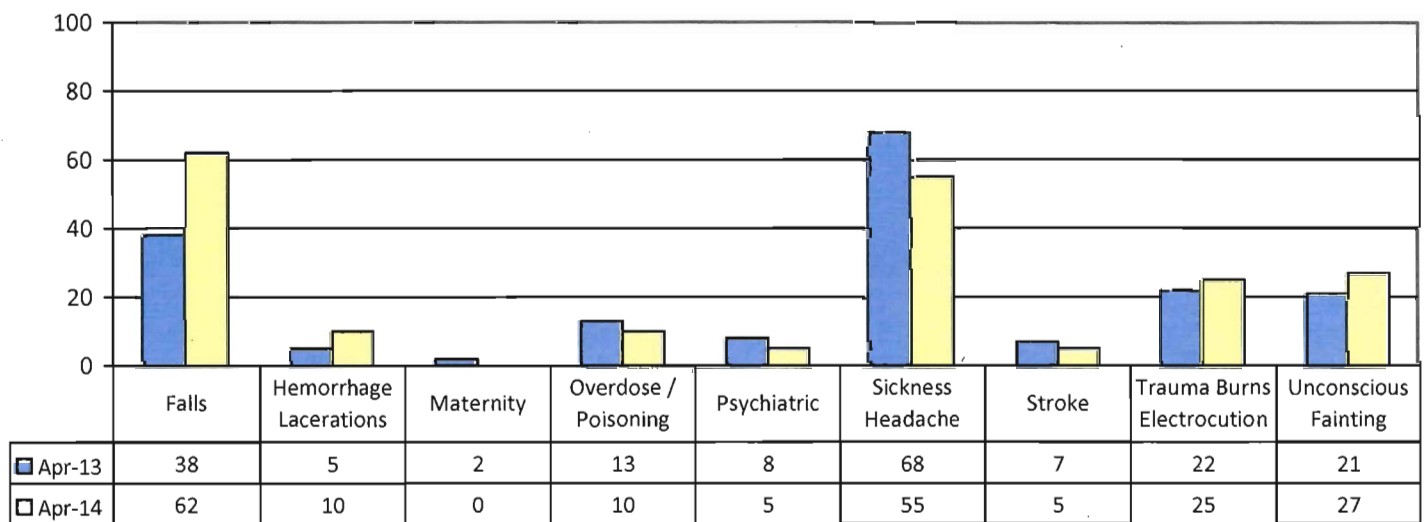


Table 2b: April 2013 & 2014 Medical Calls by Type



Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for April 2014 are listed below:

Table 3: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – April			
	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	1	4	0
Residential - Multi-family	0	3	1
Commercial/Industrial	2	1	0
Fire – Outdoor	8	7	3
Vehicle	0	7	2
Totals	11	22	6

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
Corrosive	1
Flammable / Combustible Liquids	3
Natural Gas / Propane Leaks (small)	12
Misc. (empty containers to unknown powder)	1
Totals	17

Figure 1. Location of April's fires (total 39)

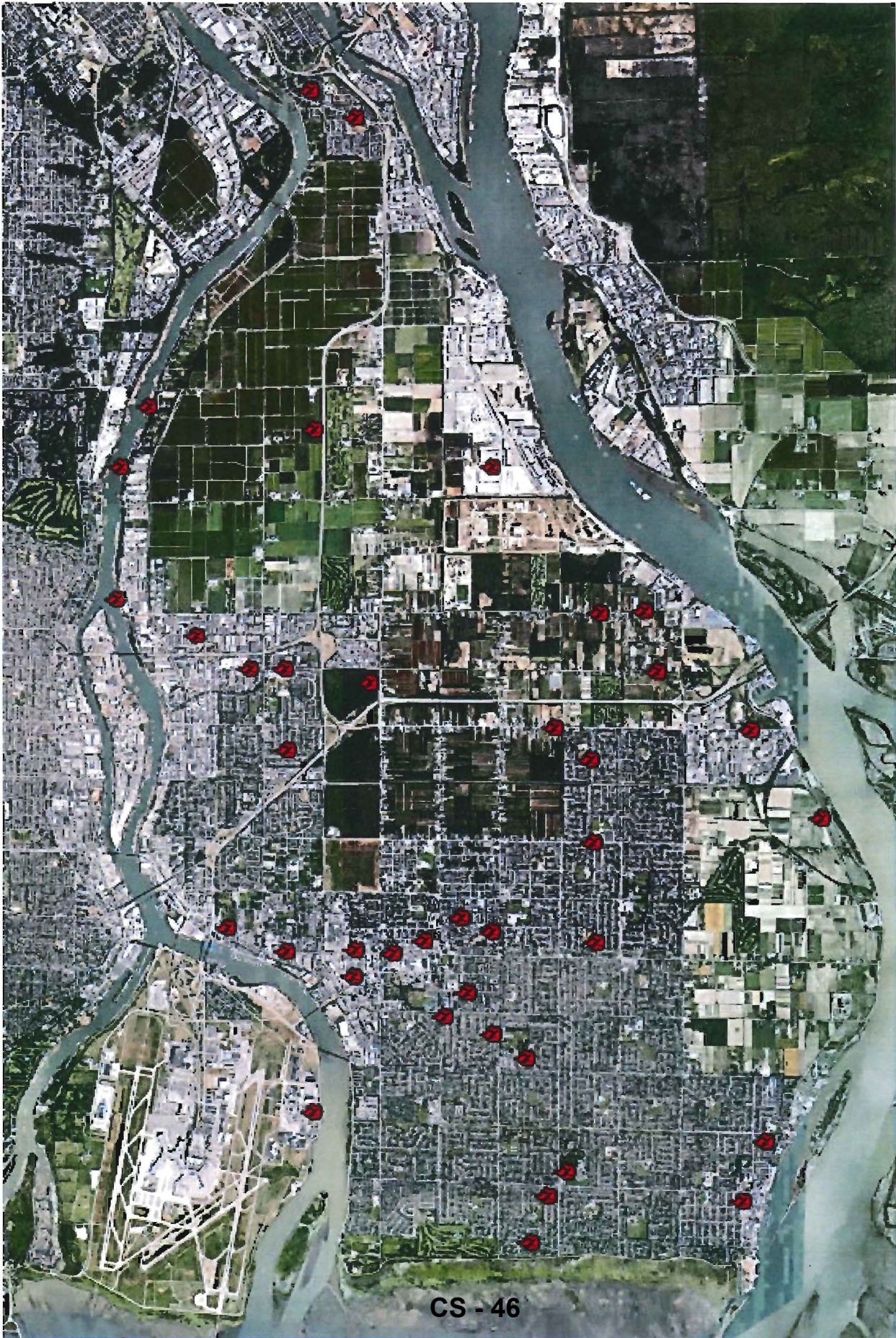


Figure 2. Location of April's medical calls (total 368)

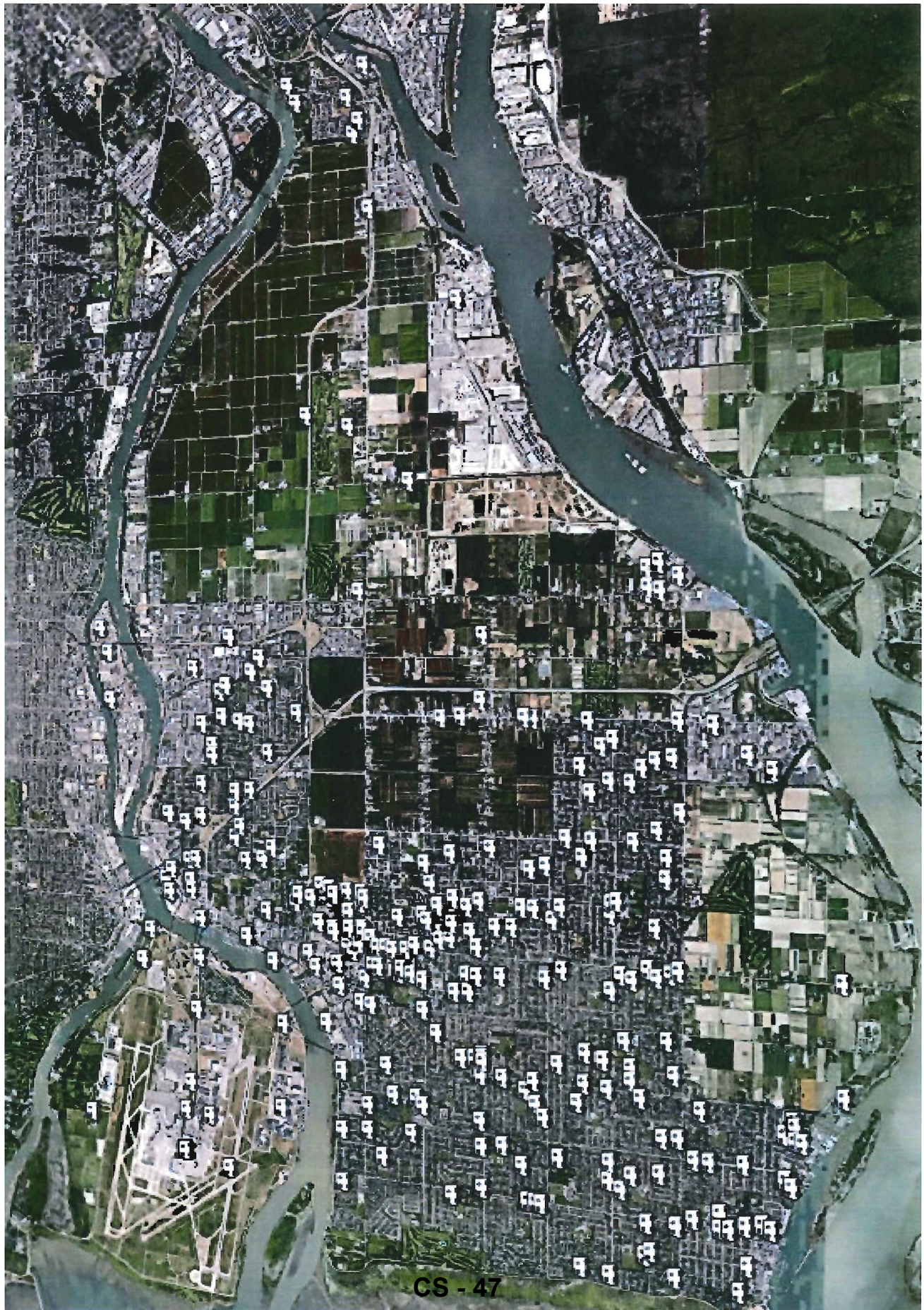


Figure 3: Location of April's MVI calls (total 76)

