



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

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**To:** Community Safety Committee **Date:** June 18, 2014  
**From:** John McGowan **File:** 09-5000-01/2014-Vol  
 Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue 01  
**Re:** **Richmond Fire-Rescue – May 2014 Activity Report**

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### Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue – May 2014 Activity Report” dated June 18, 2014 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 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

As part of Officer Development an Accident/Incident Investigation class was set-up for members of the Safety Committee including Battalion Chiefs and their primary actors. This class was well received by the participants and forms part of the continuous development of the Officer Development program.

The Training Office facilitated a visit by a West Vancouver Fire Prevention Officer (FPO) to observe RFR's car seat inspection program. The West Vancouver FPO observed both the set up and process, and was introduced to the car seat technicians. The West Vancouver FPO had very positive feedback about the program, and obtained valuable information to initialize their program.

#### Community Involvement

May's safety messages focused on safety around the home and spring cleaning safety reminders. These messages included clearing away debris from around the home and being prepared for an emergency situation. Facebook posts and fire hall sign messages were used to remind the public of these key safety points, which included information for Emergency Preparedness workshops provided by the City.

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

- Pumper visits were made to the *Thomas Kidd School – Spring Fair for Elementary School* and *The Fine Arts Montessori Childcare Centre (preschool)* reaching over 244 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 the *11<sup>th</sup> Richmond Scouts*. The tours provided fire safety information, truck and equipment familiarization to over 15 children and adults.

- Community events attended during May included: the *2014 U-ROC Awards Ceremony*, *McDonalds Happy Day*, *Fairmont Vancouver Airport Hotel Wellness Fair*, *Sunset Rotary Sake for Food/Feed-u-cate*, *City of Richmond Seniors, Adults and Children Move for Health*, *City of Richmond Works Yard Open House*, *2014 Walk for ALS*, *CCM of Canada – Chinese Safety and Security Living Fair* and the *28th Annual Ceremony of the 2947 Royal Canadian Army Cadets*. Over 1,500 children and adults attend these events.
- Safety Presentation training was provided to the City's *Child Care Development Advisory Committee* by the Community Relations Officer with 100 adults in attendance.

### Emergency Response

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

There were 46 fires in May 2014. Fire losses during the month are estimated at \$94,405. This total includes \$35,500 for building loss and \$58,905 for content loss. The total building and content value at risk was estimated to be \$61,632,925, and the total value preserved was \$61,538,520. These numbers translate to 99% of value protected (Figure 1).

**Figure 1: Fire Calls By Type and Loss Estimates – May**

<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	2	6000,000	-	110,000	42,700	667,300
Residential: Multi family	6	28,799,900	-	405,000	45	29,204,855
Commercial/Industrial	5	24,840,000	2,300	894,625	-	25,732,325
Fire – Outdoor	25	2,445,900	7,900	487,000	16,160	2,908,840
Vehicle	8	3,050,500	25,300	-	-	3,025,200
<b>Totals*</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>59,736,300</b>	<b>35,500</b>	<b>1,896,625</b>	<b>58,905</b>	<b>61,538,520</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 May incidents:

1. A large fire at a landfill site within a 5000 sq ft area on Williams Road which included some water source challenges for responding crews. The fire was attacked and brought under control by attending crews. Multiple crews and pieces of equipment were used to mitigate the fire accumulating in 20,000 person hours.
2. A fire located on the roof of a building on Jacombs Road. Attending crews opened the roof to extinguish the fire located in the sub-roof.
3. Crews attended a fire located on board a ship on Trites Road. The fire was reportedly caused by sparks or heat igniting foam insulation in the boat and is under investigation.

4. There was a fire in the playground on Woodward's Road. It was suspected the fire had been deliberately set. RFR crews mitigated the fire and reported the incident to the RCMP for investigation.
5. A suspected fire located in the roof top of a unit on Cambie Road. On arrival crews found the building with light smoke emitting from the ceiling air vents. Crews investigated the incident and used fans to extract smoke from the building.
6. RFR crews also attended multiple vehicle fires during May, including: a fully engulfed care fire on Willet Avenue with the RCMP; a vehicle brake drum fire on Garden City Road; a dump truck fire on River Road and a suspicious car fire on No 5 Road.
7. Outdoor fires responses attending during May included: a fence fire located on Hogarth Road, a BBQ fire on Chatham Street, a bark mulch fire on Cambie Road and a garbage bin fire located on Blundell Road. All fires were quickly mitigated.

During May RFR crews also responded to an RCMP request for assistance call to Horseshoe Way to facilitate their access to the roof of a warehouse. It was suspected the warehouse was being robbed.

RFR crews attended to a townhouse complex for a natural gas leak on No 3 Road. Upon arrival it was determined that a vehicle had careened through a thick hedge into the end unit of a townhouse row shearing the gas meters for all 6 units, as well as causing significant structural damage to the building. The vehicle had also struck another set of town homes from a different complex and their gas meters. RFR units quickly began an evacuation of the immediate area and zoned off the potential contaminated zone. Although a call was made to have Fortis attend, in order to avoid a potential fire and explosion, RFR units went to an offensive and shut off the gas before the meters at the building where the service came out of the ground. Gas detection readings were taken of the affected units and significant low explosive levels were observed. Buildings were safely ventilated and with the exception of the structurally damaged unit, all residents were returned home.

RFR crews responded to multiple medical and rescue incident calls, including: a person trapped in a vehicle on Alderbride way, a forklift trapping incident on Riverside Way, a fall of a construction worker on Minoru Boulevard.

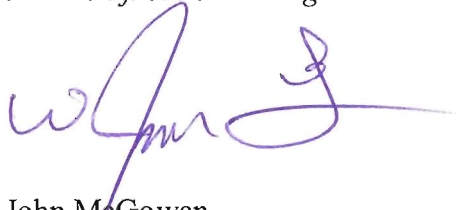
A summary of 9-1-1 emergency response statistics is found in Attachment 1, Tables 1, 2, 3 and 4. The location of May's fire, medical and motor vehicle incident calls are depicted in Attachment 2, Figures 1, 2 and 3.

### **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)

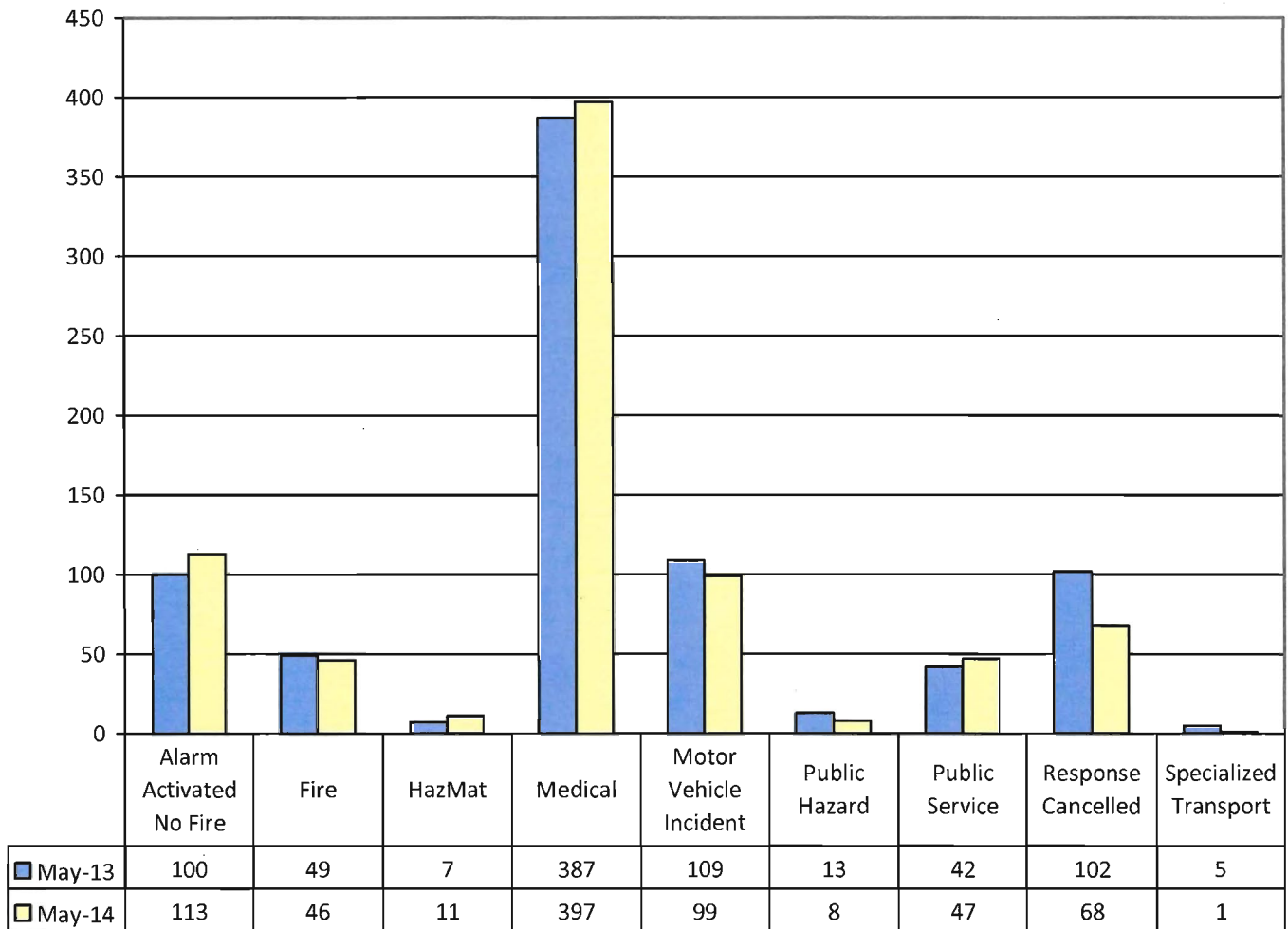
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Att. 1: Suppression Activity  
Att. 2: Location of May's Fire, Medical and MVI calls

**Suppression Activity**

The following chart provides a month to month comparison regarding incidents occurring in May 2013 and 2014. In May 2014, there were a total of 790 incidents, compared to 814 in May 2013. This represents a decrease of 2.9%.

**Table 1: May 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

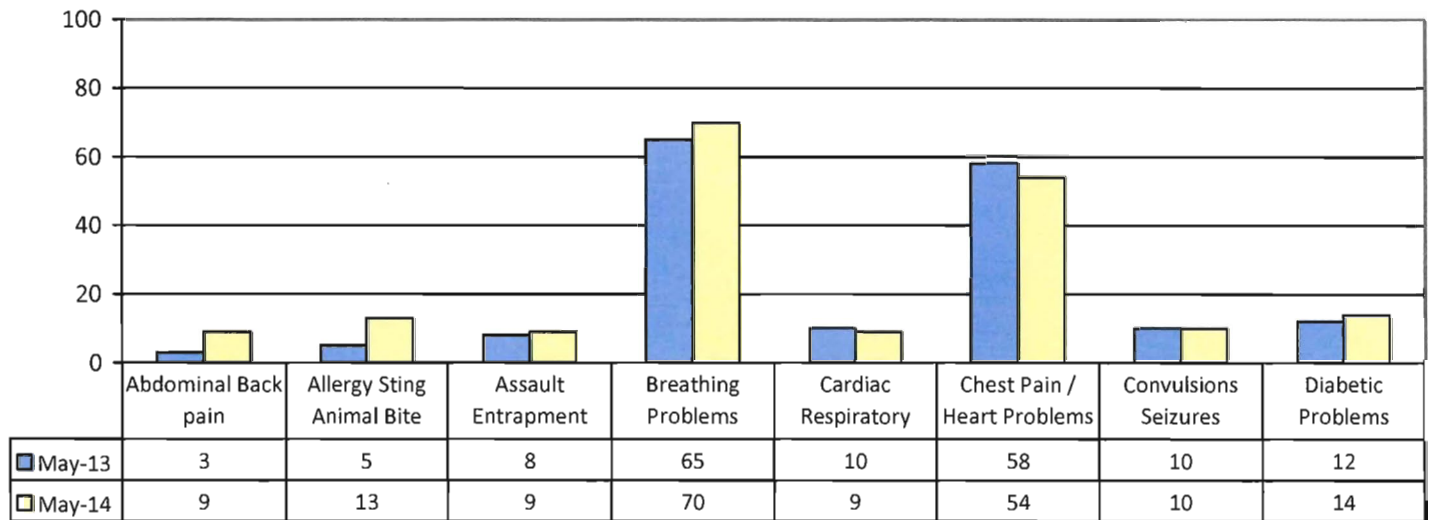
**Public Hazard** includes: aircraft emergency, bomb removal standby, object removal, or power lines down

**Public Service** includes: assisting public, ambulance or police, locked in/out, special events, trapped in elevator, water removal

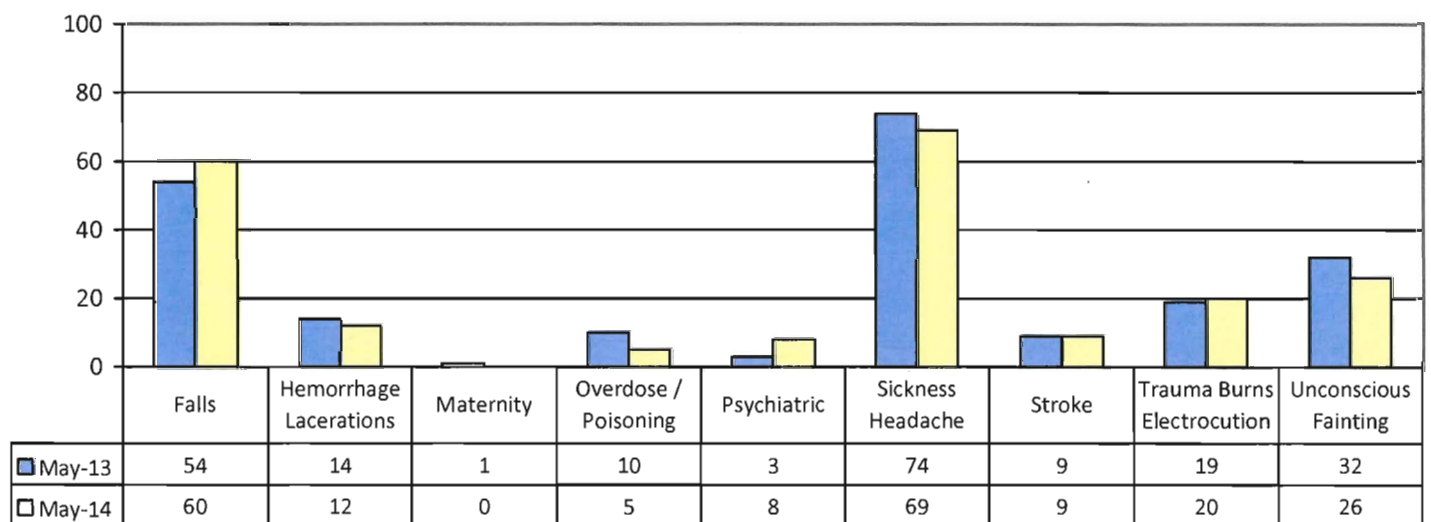
**First Responder Totals**

Medical First Responder incidents comprised 50.3% of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of May. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for May 2013 and 2014 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 397 medical incidents in May 2014 compared to 387 in May 2013 an increase of 2.6%.

**Table 2a: May 2013 & 2014 Medical Calls by Type**



**Table 2b: May 2013 & 2014 Medical Calls by Type**



## Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for May 2014 are listed below:

<b>Table 3: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – May</b>			
	<b>Suspicious</b>	<b>Accidental</b>	<b>Undetermined</b>
Residential - Single-family	0	2	0
Residential - Multi-family	0	5	1
Commercial/Industrial	0	4	1
Fire – Outdoor	4	11	10
Vehicle	1	4	3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>15</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 – May</b>	
	<b>Details</b>
Standby/Support for other Agency	1
Natural Gas / Propane Leaks (small)	9
Misc. (empty containers to unknown powder)	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>11</b>



Figure 1. Location of May's fires (total 46)

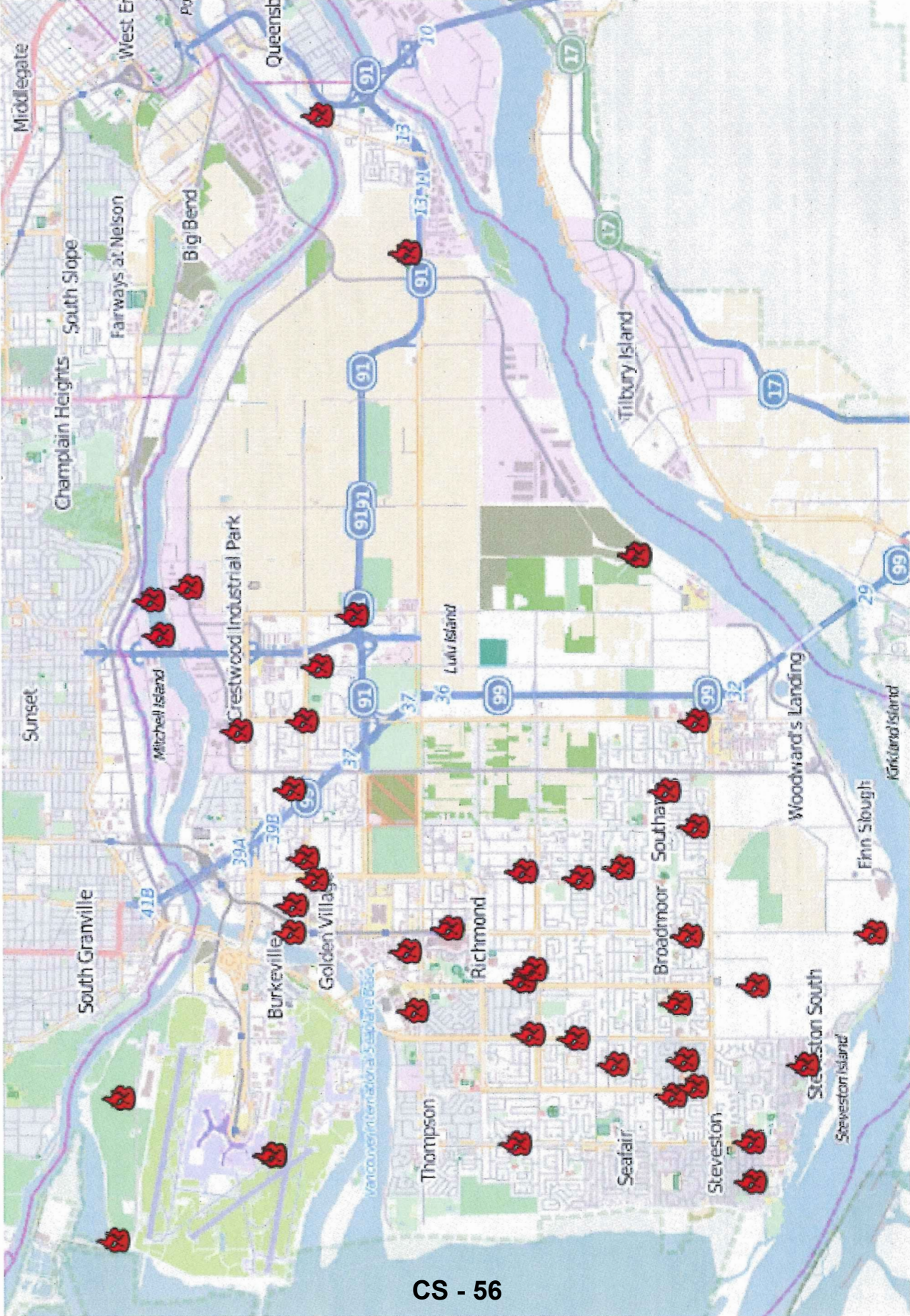


Figure 2. Location of May's medical calls (total 397)

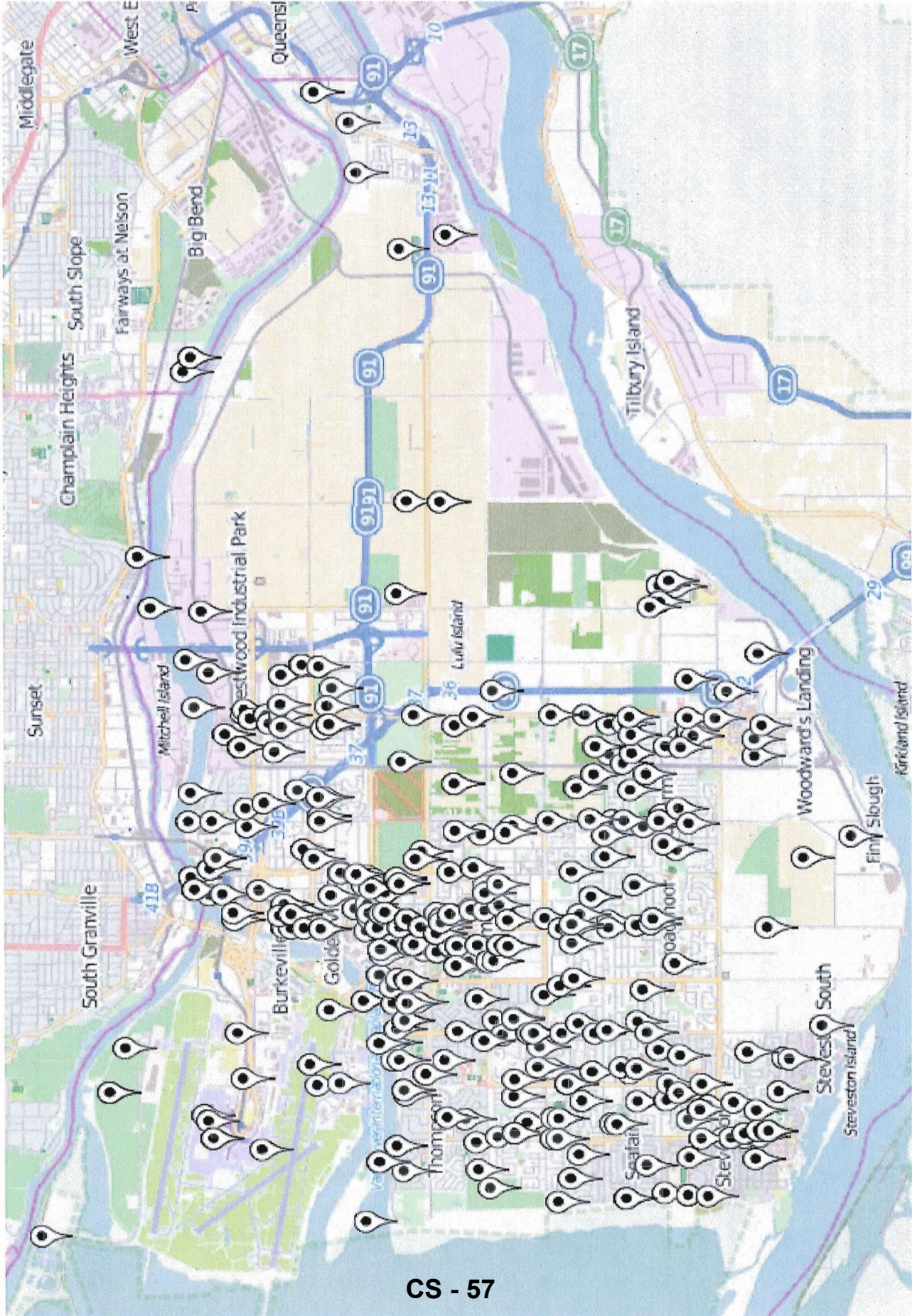


Figure 3: Location of May's MVI calls (total 99)

