



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** March 16, 2015
From: John McGowan **File:** 09-5000-01/2015-Vol
Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue 01
Re: **Richmond Fire-Rescue – February 2015 Activity Report**

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled, “Richmond Fire-Rescue – February 2015 Activity Report”, dated March 16, 2015, from the Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue be received for information.

John McGowan
Fire Chief
(604-303-2734)

Att. 2

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

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 February included a focus on *Heart Health Month, Burn Prevention Week, Spring Cleaning and Smoke Alarm Battery Change reminder* and *Pink Shirt/Anti Bullying Day*. 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 February 2015 the following took place:

- Safety presentations were provided to *Walter Lee Elementary School* and *Grauer Elementary School*. There were a total of 72 participants in attendance.
- Hall tour was provided to the *10th Richmond Sea Scouts, 12th Richmond Scouts Group* and *24th Brownies/Guides*. There were a total of 63 participants in attendance.
- Community events attended during February included the *Touchstone Eating Together Program Family Pancake Breakfast* and the *Pink T-Shirt Day – Anti Bullying Day* school visits and community event. Over 1,350 children and adults attended these events where crews engaged with the community groups, provided fire safety and public relations information.

Training

The BC Municipal Safety Association provided a presentation on *Incident Investigation Program for Officers* to RFR Training. This program has a total of five delivery dates and finishes in early April.

The Hazmat Awareness and Operations training course was provided to RFR crew members during early February. All members completed the program successfully.

The Critical Incident Stress Management team (CISM) members have been rolling out the CISM training component. This training has been well received by all RFR crews.

Emergency Response

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

There were 21 fires in February 2015. Fire losses during the month are estimated at \$66,450. This total includes \$41,450 for building loss and \$25,000 for content loss. The total building and content value at risk was estimated to be \$151,185,000, and the total value preserved was \$151,118,550. These numbers translate to 99.9% of value protected (Figure 1).

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

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	32,000,000	35,000	350,000	25,000	3,490,000
Multi family	3	81,275,000	1,000	24,350,000	-	105,624,000
Commercial / Industrial	4	32,000,000	300	9,000,000	-	40,999,700
Fire – Outdoor	4	1,000,000	150	-	-	999,850
Vehicle	5	10,000	5,000	-	-	5,000
Totals*	21	117,485,000	41,450	33,700,000	25,000	151,118,550

*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 February incidents:

1. Crews responded to a transit bus incident on Steveston Highway. Initial reports indicated that the bus driver had suffered a medical issue and had lost control of the bus. The bus then collided with a power pole causing lines to be downed. A 14,000 volt power line had come down from the hydro pole and was arcing violently on the roadway. RFR crews blocked the north and south ends of No. 3 Road and BC Hydro was called to attend the scene. RFR crews and BC Hydro secured the power line and proceeded to remove the bus driver from the bus who was then taken to hospital by BCAS for treatment. RFR crews ensured that buildings near the scene were evacuated. After the power lines were grounded and RFR given the all clear from BC Hydro, RFR crews checked the bus for any issues and RFR crews removed debris from the road surface. BC Hydro remained on-scene along with City Works Yard staff. Transit staff were contacted to attend to remove the bus and the RCMP were onsite to assist with the incident. RFR crews left the scene in control of BC Hydro and the traffic controllers. The intersection in the area was closed-off for the most of the day, resulting in loss of power to the surrounding areas. There were no other injuries.

2. Crews responded to an attached garage fire on Seacastle Drive. When RFR arrived there was a significant amount of smoke coming from the double garage and the home owner was spraying water into the garage with a garden hose. RFR crew entered and found heavy smoke but no flame. The fire was coming from a homemade recumbent tricycle which had battery chargers attached to it. The garage contained the smoke and fire from the rest of the home. The smoke was cleared and an air quality check was performed. A Fire Prevention Officer was left on scene.
3. Crews responded to a possible explosion and subsequent fire in a new home under construction at Flury Drive. An RFR crew arrived and found fire coming out of a second storey window. The fire was controlled by crews who entered the home to carry out a search. Ventilation was started and overhaul was carried out by the onsite crew. There were many different accelerants found inside and outside of the home and RCMP were requested and to attend. RCMP took over the scene after RFR crew ensured safety of the house. There were no injuries at this scene but extensive damage to the house. The fire is suspicious and under investigation.
4. Crews responded to a report of a townhouse fire at McNeely Drive. The incident was the result of a frying pan with oil which had caught fire. The fire was extinguished by the home owners with a piece of clothing thrown over the pan. There were no injuries at this call. RFR crew examined the kitchen for any possible extension of fire and none was found. The townhouse was ventilated for an hour and half. The townhouse was clear of any products of combustion and the residents were then let back into their home. A Fire Prevention Officer was left on scene.
5. Crews responded to a report of a structure fire on Williams Road. The structure was an abandoned house ready for demolition. It is noted that there had been a call for a previous fire at this location.
6. Crews responded to a parked rollover of a cement pumper truck on Knox Way. Mechanics working on the cement pumper raised it without putting down outriggers, resulting in the truck flipping over and crushing two cars. RFR crews on scene contained the fuel leak and reported no injuries occurred.
7. During February crews attended multiple outdoor related fires including a dumpster fire on No 3 Road and a brush fire on No 8 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 cardiac patient, located at Jones Road was provided CPR and an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) was used to resuscitate the patient. BCAS arrived on scene and took over patient care. The patient was non-responsive.

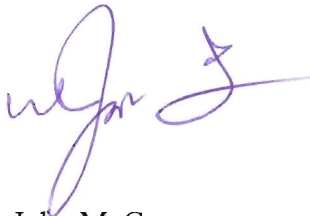
A summary of 9-1-1 emergency response statistics is found in Attachment 1, Tables 1, 2, 3 and 4. The location of fire, medical and motor vehicle incident calls in February are depicted in Attachment 2, Figures 1, 2 and 3.

Financial Impact

None

Conclusion

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)

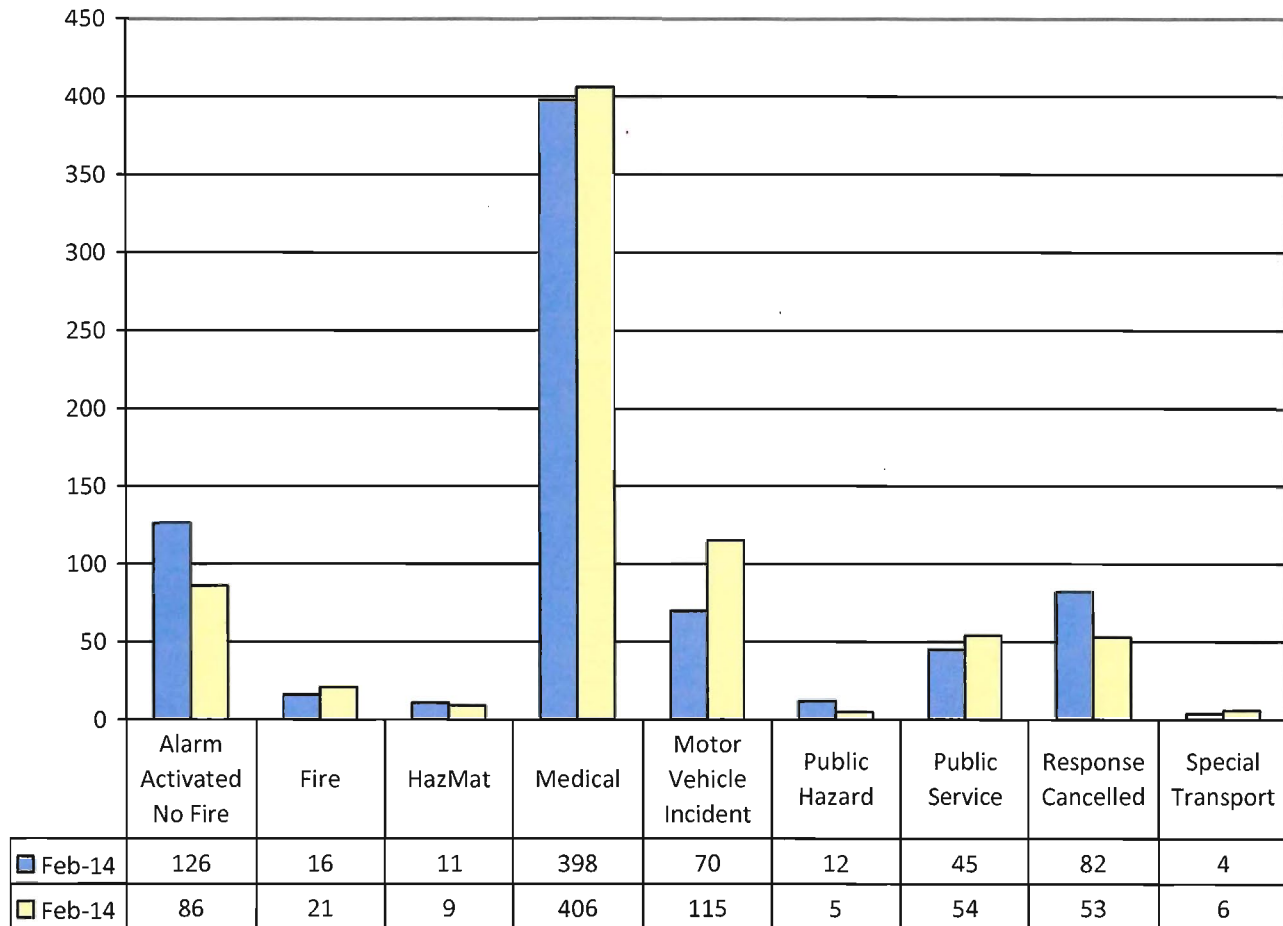
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Att. 1: Suppression Activity
Att. 2: Location of February’s Fire, Medical and MVI calls

Suppression Activity

The following chart provides a month to month comparison regarding incidents occurring in February 2014 and 2015. In February 2015, there were a total of 755 incidents, compared to 764 in February 2014. This represents a decrease of 1.2%.

Table 1: February 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 February. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for February 2014 and 2015 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 406 medical incidents in February 2015 compared to 398 in February 2014 an increase of 2%.

Table 2a: February 2014 & 2015 Medical Calls by Type

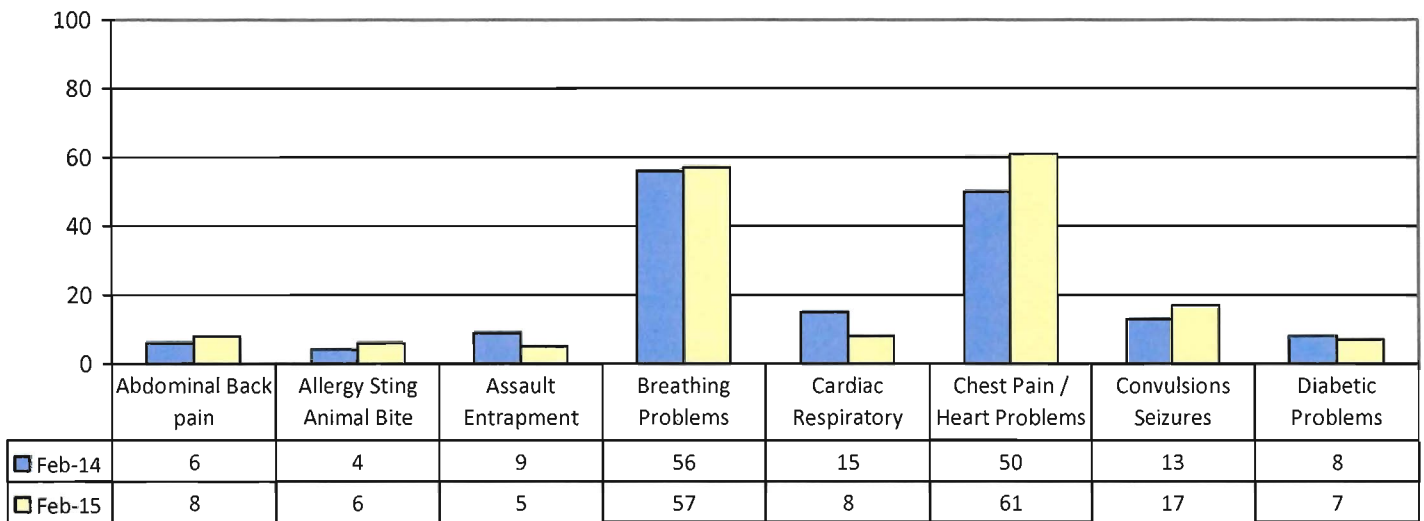
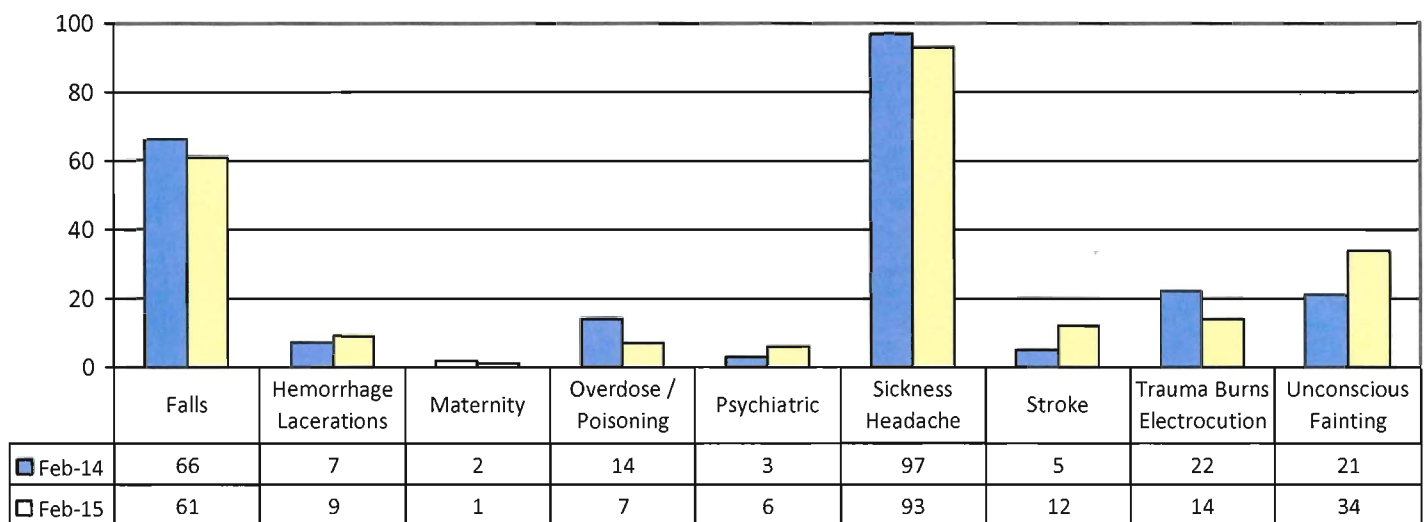


Table 2b: February 2014 & 2015 Medical Calls by Type



Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for February 2015 are listed below:

Table 3: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – February			
	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	2	2	1
Residential - Multi-family	-	2	1
Commercial/Industrial	-	3	1
Fire – Outdoor	-	2	2
Vehicle	1	2	2
Totals	3	11	7

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 – February	
	Details
Flammable / combustible Liquids	3
Natural Gas / Propane Leaks (small)	5
Unclassified	1
Totals	9

Figure 1: Location of fires in February (total 21)

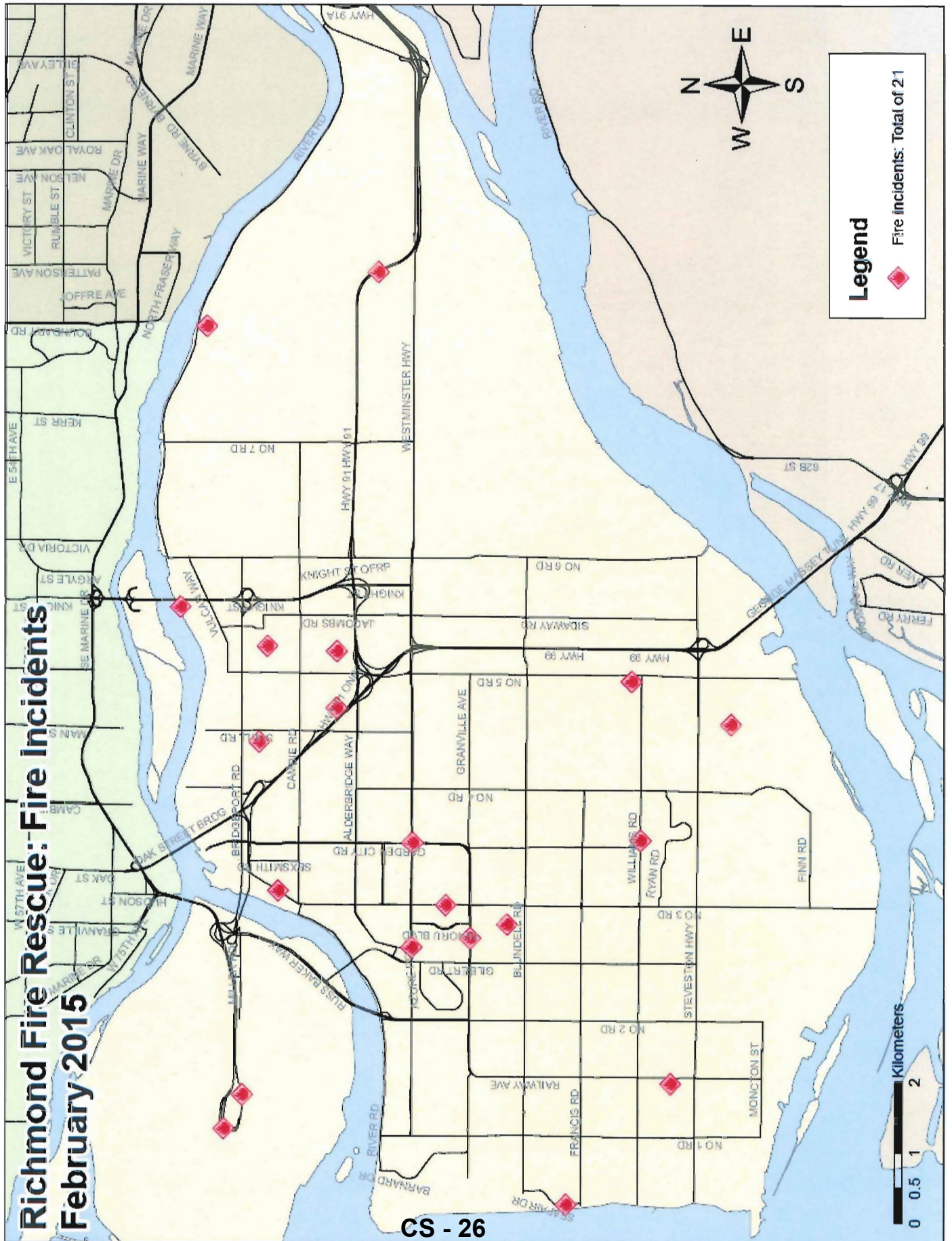


Figure 2: Location of medical calls in February (total 406)

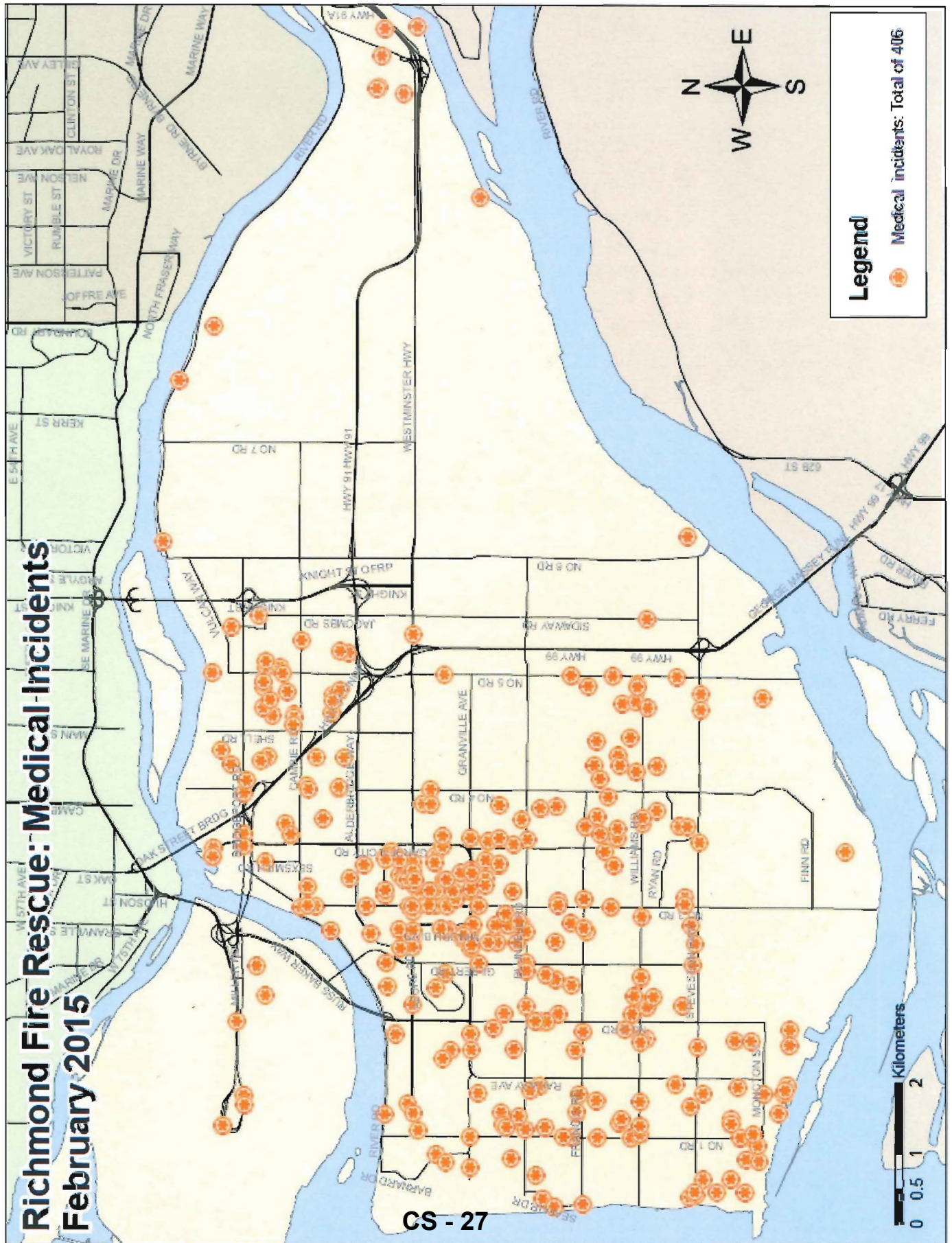


Figure 3: Location of MVI calls in February (total 115)

