



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** June 19, 2015
From: John McGowan **File:** 09-5000-01/2015-Vol
Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue 01
Re: **Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report - May 2015**

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled "Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report - May 2015," dated June 19, 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 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 messages for May included a focus on the City's *Doors Open Richmond* including Fire Hall #2, as part of the event and safety messaging around BBQ safety and Emergency Preparedness. Facebook posts and fire hall 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 May 2015 the following took place:

- Safety presentations were provided to *Talmey Elementary School, Koinonia Evangelical Church* and *Hamilton Community Centre*. There were a total of 802 participants in attendance.
- Hall tour was provided to the *McKinney Elementary* and *Westwind Elementary*. There were a total of 45 participants in attendance.
- Community events attended during May included the *Chinese Christian Mission of Canada's Safe and Security Living fair, the City of Richmond's Shake Quake Move for Health, Lafarge Cement Safety Day, Safety Fair at McMath School, Hometown Heroes, Fairmont Vancouver Hotel Health & Wellness Fair, Cops for Cancer, Emergency Programs Presentation, McDonalds McHappy Days, Shelter Island Marina Safety Day, Public Works Yard Open House Safety Day, Homma Elementary PAC Carnival Community Event* and *SOS Childrens Village Walk/Run*. Over 20,092 children and adults attended these events where crews engaged with the community groups, provided fire safety and public relations information.

Training

The following training activities occurring during May:

- Training office reviewed the firefighter recruit program contents in preparation for the September arrival of 8 new hires.
- All 12 participants successfully completed the Hazmat Technician training class at the JIBC which ran from May 24 to May 28.
- Live Fire training was completed by RFR crews. Crews received 245 hours of classroom training followed by live fire training sessions.
- Multiple shifts completed their site orientation for Confined Space training in May and will now proceed with their scheduled training dates. Other shifts have now completed their first day of training at the Metro Vancouver Training Centre.

Emergency Response

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

There were 71 fires in May 2015. Fire losses during the month are estimated at \$14,600. This total includes \$14,600 for building loss and \$0 for content loss. The total building and content value at risk was estimated to be \$20,934,600, and the total value preserved was \$20,920,000. These numbers translate to 99.9% of value protected (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Fire Calls By Type and Loss Estimates – May						
Incident Type Breakdown	Call Volume	Estimated Building Value (\$)	Estimated Building Loss (\$)	Estimated Content Value (\$)	Estimated Content Loss (\$)	Estimated Total Value Preserved (\$)
Residential:						
Single family	3	-	-	-	-	-
Multi family	9	20,900,000	10,000	30,000	-	20,920,000
Commercial / Industrial	4	-	-	-	-	-
Fire – Outdoor	53	100	100	-	-	-
Vehicle	2	4,500	4,500	-	-	-
Totals*	71	20,904,600	14,500	30,000	-	20,920,000

*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:

RFR crews responded to a large structure fire at residential properties on No 5 Road, the fire had traveled in three directions through inside walls and other enclosed spaces. Arriving RFR crews attacked the fire for several hours to reduce spread to other properties. Two residential units experience severe damage to the properties. This call was a multiple emergency response operation. After the fire was extinguished the scene was left with the RCMP and Fire Investigator.

Crews responded to a fire located at No 8 Road in which approximately 25 railway ties were on fire approximately ½ mile from roadway along railway tracks. On arrival crews found difficulties in accessing the fire but managed to extinguish the fire with two tanks of water (600 gallons). A boom truck and operator was brought in to lift the ties off assisting in the extinguishment of the fire.

Crews responded to a fire at a residential property on Broadway Street. The fire had started in a planter outside the home. Crews extinguished the fire which had destroyed a hot tub and scorched the exterior of two nearby homes.

RFR HazMat response was dispatched to a possible spill of an unknown toxic substance at an aircraft located at Vancouver Airport. On arrival crews opened the rear aircraft door carries out initial air monitoring at which nothing unusual was found. A visual recon of the inside of the aircraft was carried out and it was determined as an all clear.

Crews responded to a commercial Saw Mill on Mitchell Road. The fire had been spotted by citizen from across river. The fire was difficult to access and had spread to multiple floors. The fire was extinguished quickly with multiple crews in attendance. The scene was handed over to the RCMP and Fire Investigation.

RFR crews attended multiple small grass, bark mulch or beach fires in May. All fires were confined to area of origin using water, sand and shovels to extinguish.

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

Crews responded to Aztec Street for a male who had fallen approximately 12 feet to the ground when a platform he was working on collapsed. The male was taken hospital by BCAS for further treatment and Work Safe was notified.

Crews responded to Tomiki Avenue for a child birth. Crews provided medical assistance and tied the umbilical cord while father cut it.

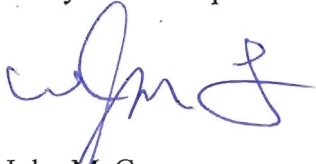
A summary of 9-1-1 emergency response statistics is found in Attachment 1, Tables 1, 2, 3 and 4. The location of fire, medical and motor vehicle incident calls in May are depicted in Attachment 2, Figures 1, 2 and 3.

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)

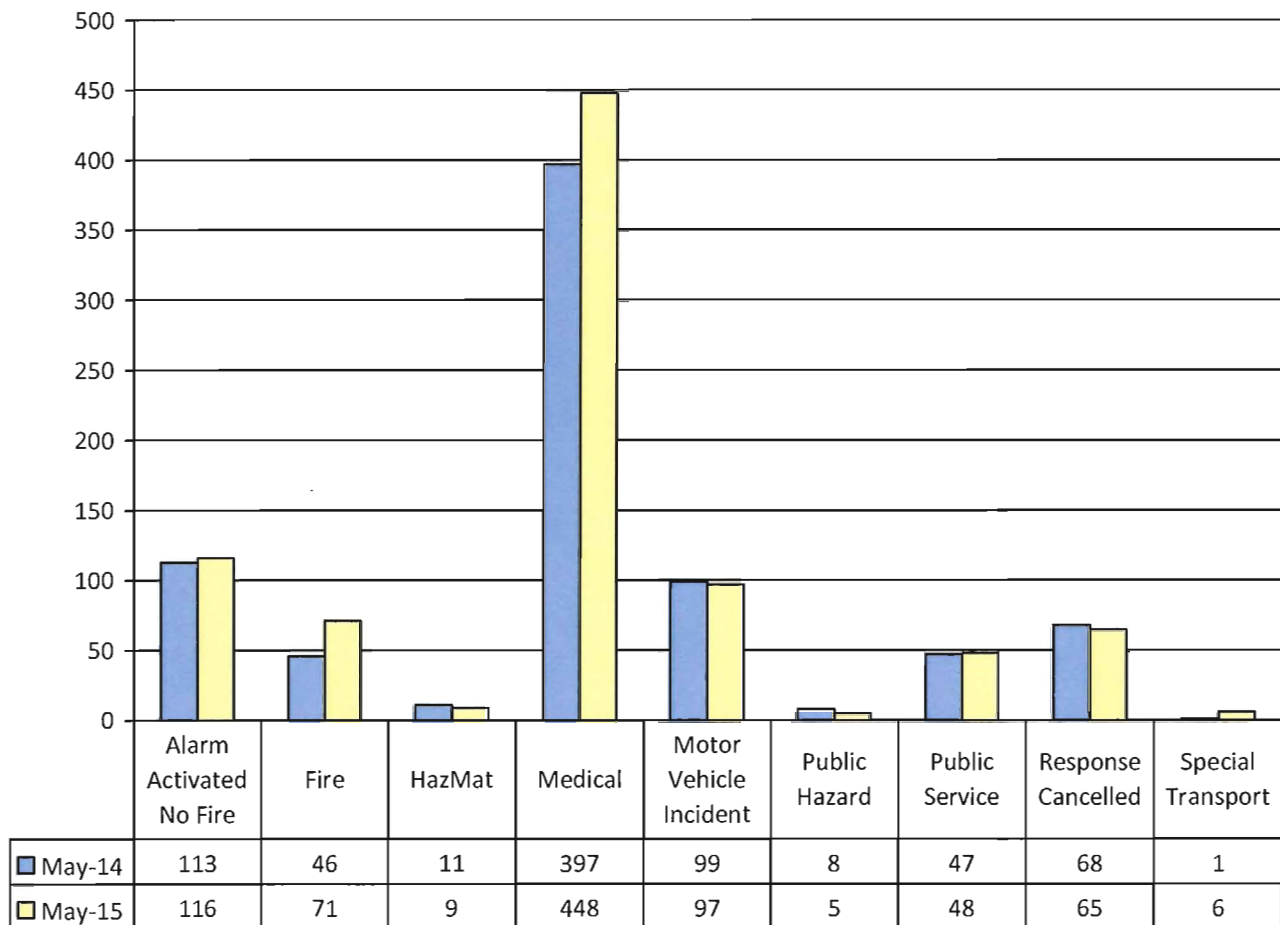
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Att. 1: Suppression Activity
Att. 2: Location of May’s Fire, Medical and MVI calls

Suppression Activity

The following chart provides a month to month comparison regarding incidents occurring in May 2014 and 2015. In May 2015, there were a total of 865 incidents, compared to 790 in May 2014. This represents an increase of 9.5%. Call volumes fluctuate from year to year and can be driven by many different variables. The increase in call volumes was primarily in the outdoor fire and medial related incident types. Analysis of these incidents did not provide any specific reason for these increases. However, increases in outdoor activities and very dry weather conditions may have attributed to the incident number rise during May.

Table 1: May 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 52% of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of May. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for May 2014 and 2015 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 448 medical incidents in May 2015 compared to 397 in May 2014 an increase of 12.8%.

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

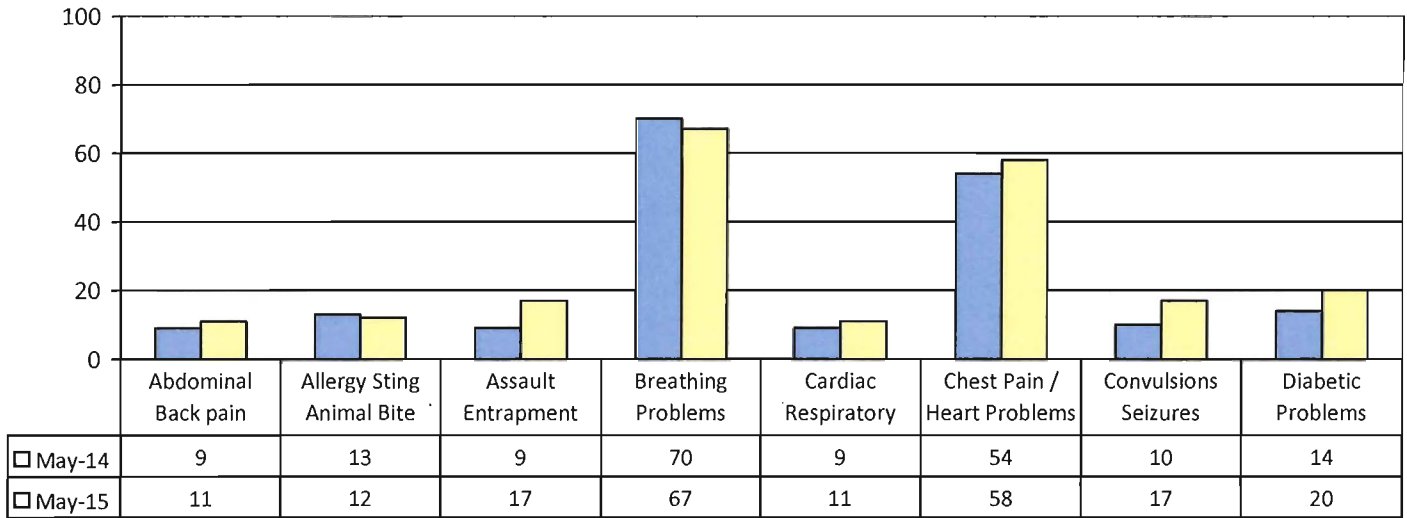
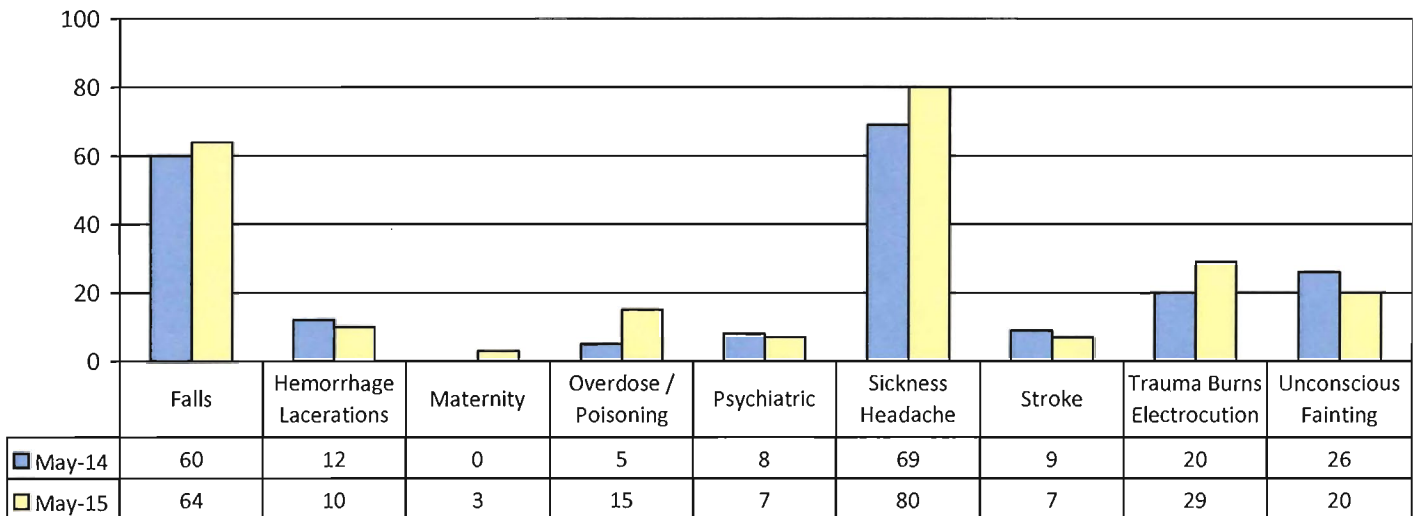


Table 2b: May 2014 & 2015 Medical Calls by Type



Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for May 2015 are listed below:

Table 3: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – May			
	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	-	3	-
Residential - Multi-family	1	5	3
Commercial/Industrial	1	2	1
Fire – Outdoor	8	29	16
Vehicle	-	1	1
Totals	10	40	21

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 – May	
	Details
Natural Gas / Propane Leaks (small)	3
Flammable / Combustible Liquids	1
Vapour Leak / Natural Gas	1
Unclassified	4
Totals	9

Figure 1: Location of fires in May (total 71)

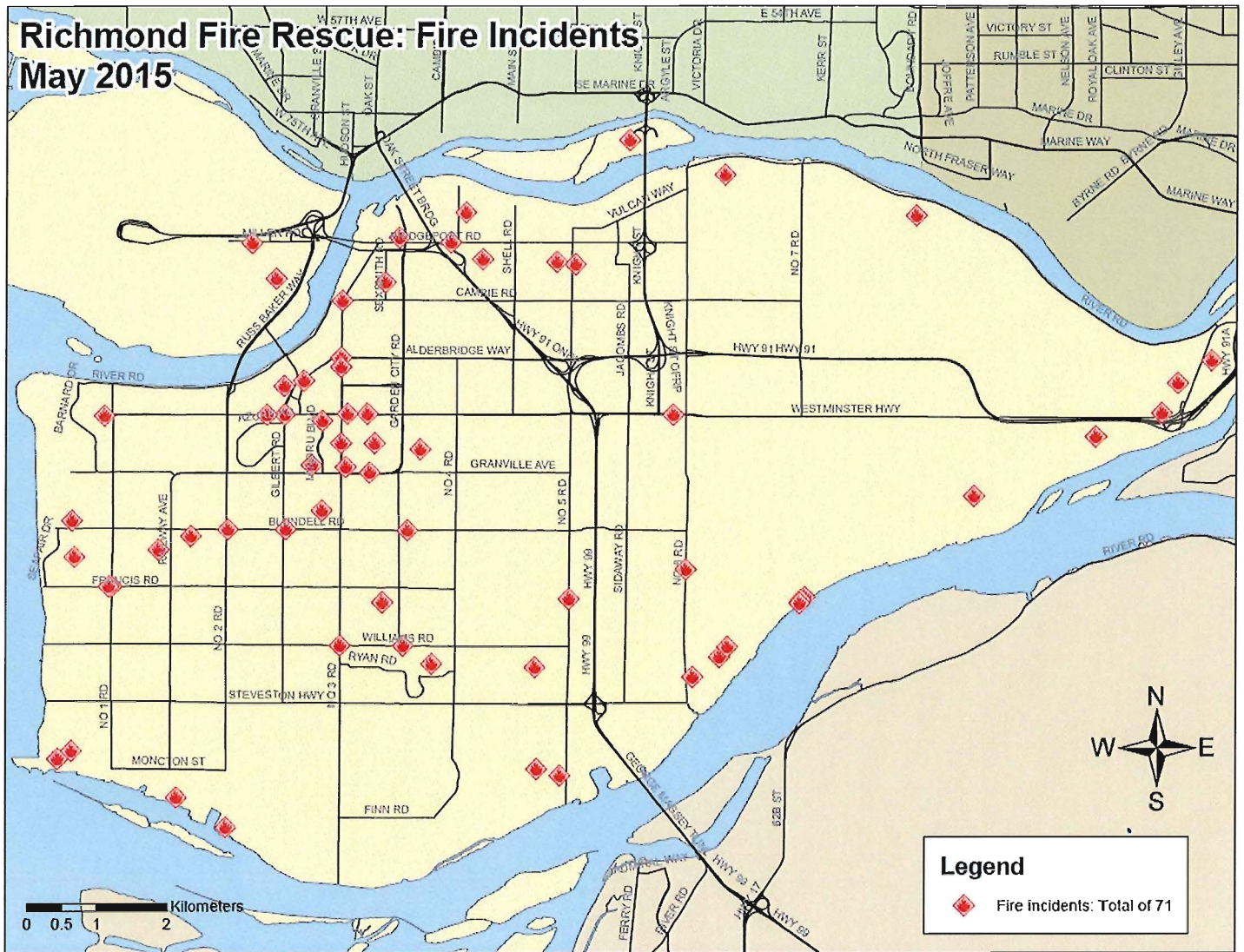


Figure 2: Location of medical calls in May (total 448)

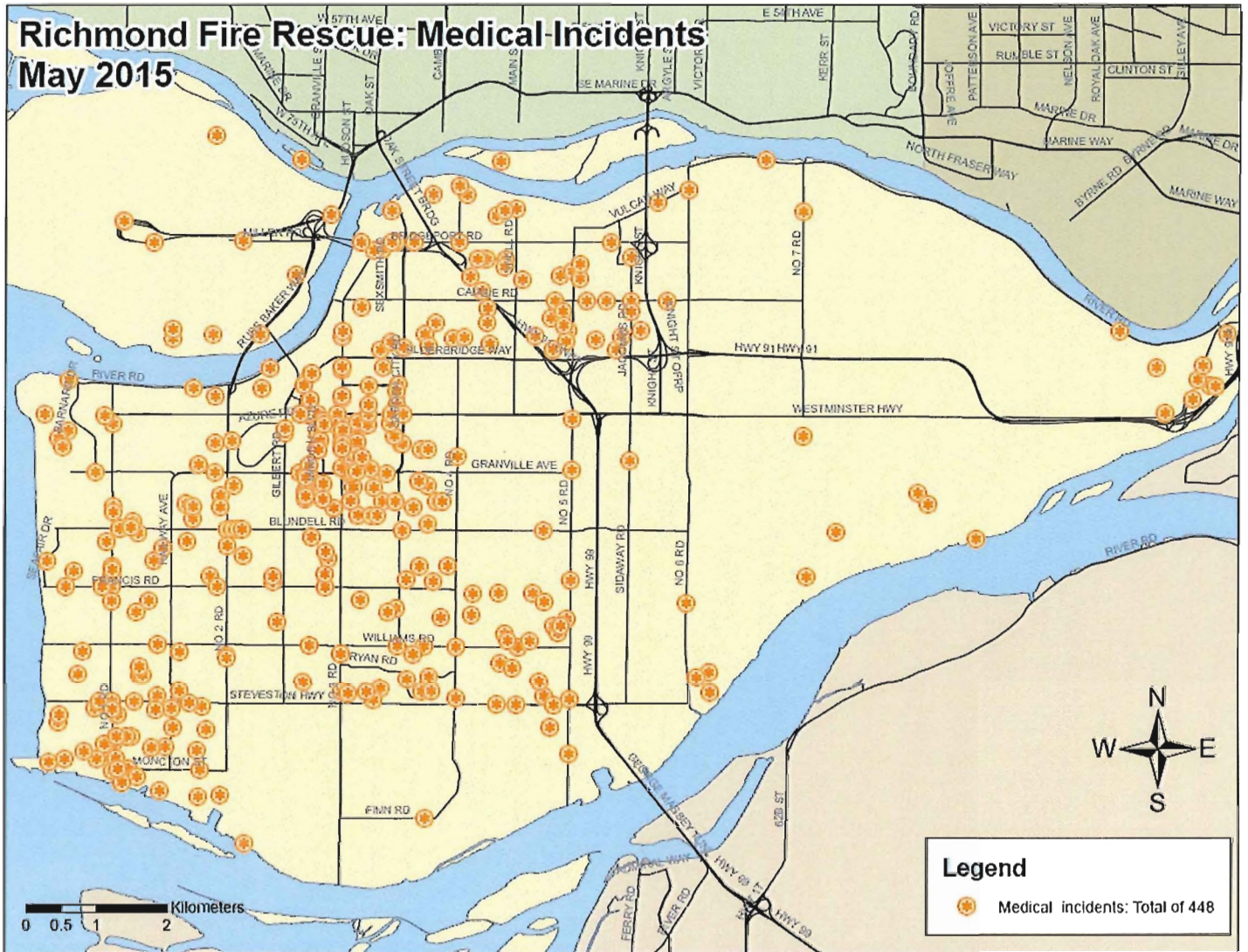


Figure 3: Location of MVI calls in May (total 97)

