



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee

Date: May 13, 2016

From: John McGowan
Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue

File: 09-5000-01/2016-Vol
01

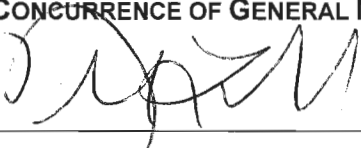

Re: Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report - April 2016

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled "Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report - April 2016", dated May 13, 2016 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: DW |
| APPROVED BY CAO  | |

Staff Report

Origin

This report provides Council with an update on Richmond Fire-Rescue (RFR) activities. RFR continues to work towards the City's vision of being the most appealing, livable, and well-managed community in Canada, through the delivery of its programs and services. 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

RFR advances public awareness, education and community bridge building by participating in training events and community activities. During April 2016 the following took place:

- Public Education and Fire Safety Trailer visits to: Bridge Elementary School, Maple Lane Elementary School, McKinney Elementary School, Maple Lane Elementary School, Manoaah Steves Elementary School and Cornerstone Academy School.
- Fire Hall Tours provided to the Richmond Ravens Pathfinders.

Staff engaged with over 300 children and adults in the community providing fire safety and harm reduction information. The safety message focus during April 2016 was the City's Emergency Preparedness Programs. Facebook posts and fire hall sign messages were used to share key safety points regarding RFR's focus areas.

Emergency Response

RFR'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 38 fires in April 2016. Fire damage and property losses during the month are estimated at \$289,450. This total includes \$229,000 for building/asset loss and \$60,450 for content loss. The total building/asset and content value at risk was estimated to be \$19,704,600 and the total value preserved was \$19,415,150. These numbers translate to 98% of value protected (Figure 1).

| Figure 1: Fire Calls By Type and Loss Estimates – April 2016 | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Incident Type Breakdown | Call Volume | Estimated Building / Asset Value (\$) | Estimated Building / Asset Loss (\$) | Estimated Content Value (\$) | Estimated Content Loss (\$) | Estimated Total Value Preserved (\$) |
| Residential: | | | | | | |
| Single family | 3 | 1,190,000 | 225,000 | 308,000 | 60,000 | 1,213,000 |
| Multi family | 8 | 14,000,000 | - | 4,200,000 | 50 | 18,199,950 |
| Commercial / Industrial | 4 | 1,000 | - | 300 | - | 1,300 |
| Fire – Outdoor | 21 | - | - | 1,300 | 400 | 900 |
| Vehicle | 2 | 4,000 | 4,000 | - | - | - |
| Totals* | 38 | 15,195,000 | 229,000 | 4,509,600 | 60,450 | 19,415,150 |

*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 fires to their place of origin in notable April 2016 incidents:

- A structure (two story house) fire at Seahurst Road. On arrival crews found smoke and flame were showing. Once on scene, crews made entry through the first floor and proceeded to attack the fire. Emergency Social Services were called to attend for the possible displacement of the home owner and Richmond Animal Protection Society were called to attend to two deceased animals.
- Alarm call received for No 3 Road. Arriving firefighters found a smoke bomb had been discharged on the 6th floor. Crews engaged full high rise protocols for the incident including providing ventilation with a positive pressure fan.
- An alarm call for smoke detector activation at Francis Road. Crews arrived and found that a smoke detector had been activated due to oil in a pan catching fire. The fire was extinguished prior to RFR's arrival; however, the tenant had suffered burns to the legs and smoke inhalation. Kitchen fires continue to be a primary cause of fire attended to by RFR. Education of the public on the hazards of unattended cooking is expected to have a positive outcome on preventing these event types.
- During April 2016 there were multiple incidents of outdoor fires including; a rubbish fire on Cook Road, a bark mulch fire on No 3 Road, and a garbage fire on Westminster Highway. All fires were quickly extinguished using either water or cold fire. These types of preventable fires present significant risk to public safety and life and tie up fire-rescue resources. RFR will continue to promote safety messaging including the safe disposal of smoking materials.

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

- Crews responded to an incident of an impaired driver on Gray Bar Road. RFR crews assisted BC Ambulance Services and RCMP with the incident which also included a small child.
- Two separate instances of full cardiac arrest occurred in April 2016 where crews were unable to revive the patient. One was a male located on Southdale Road and the other was a male located at Ackroyd Road.

A summary of 9-1-1 emergency response statistics is found in Attachment 1, in Tables 1, 2, 3 and 4. The location of fire, medical and motor vehicle incident calls in April 2016 are depicted in Attachment 2, in Figures 1, 2 and 3.

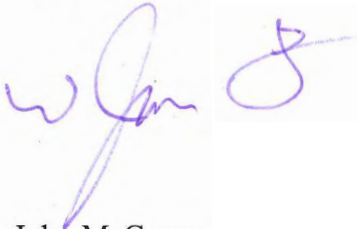
Financial Impact

None

Conclusion

During April 2016, calls for emergency response increased by 9% over April 2015. The largest component of change was in the category of an alarm being activated but no fire located. RFR has a false alarm program that engages the property owner to address fire alarm problems or issues. To date there have been 11 false alarm fines issued amounting to \$2,500 in total. RFR will continue to monitor these event types to identify on going trends and potential solutions.

The continued increase in RFR's emergency response has a direct impact on unit availability, response times, availability for non-emergency operations and in-service training. RFR will review the available statistics and amend resource allocation as necessary.



John McGowan
Fire Chief
(604-303-2734)

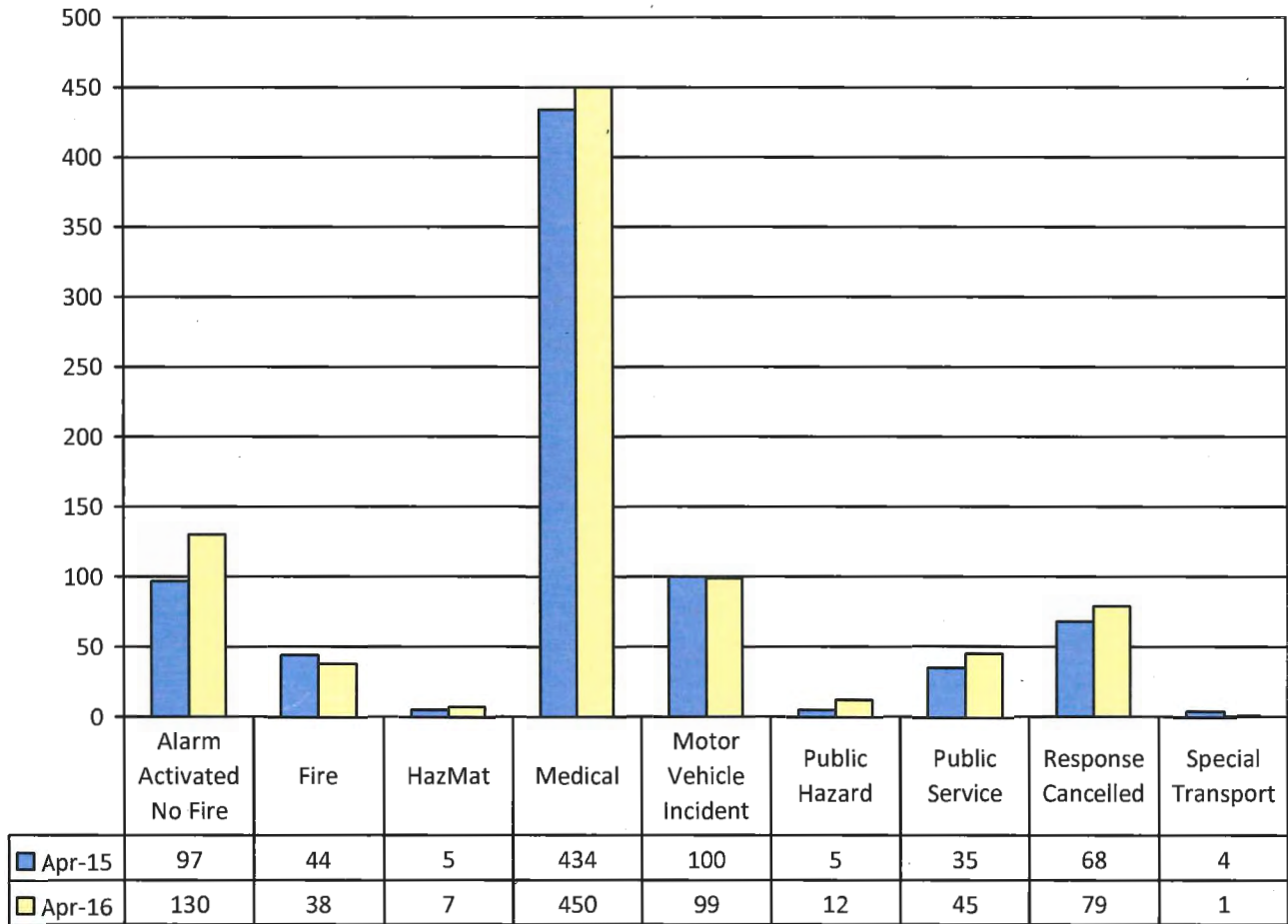
TW:js

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

Suppression Activity

The following chart provides a month to month comparison regarding incidents occurring in April 2015 and 2016. In April 2016, there were a total of 861 incidents, compared to 792 in April 2015. This represents an increase of 9%. The increase in call volumes was primarily in alarm activate no fire and medical related incident types.

Table 1: April 2015 & 2016 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 April 2016. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for April 2015 and 2016 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 450 medical incidents in April 2016 compared to 434 in April 2015, an increase of 4%. The increase in medical call volumes was primarily in general sickness incidents.

Table 2a: April 2015 & 2016 Medical Calls by Type

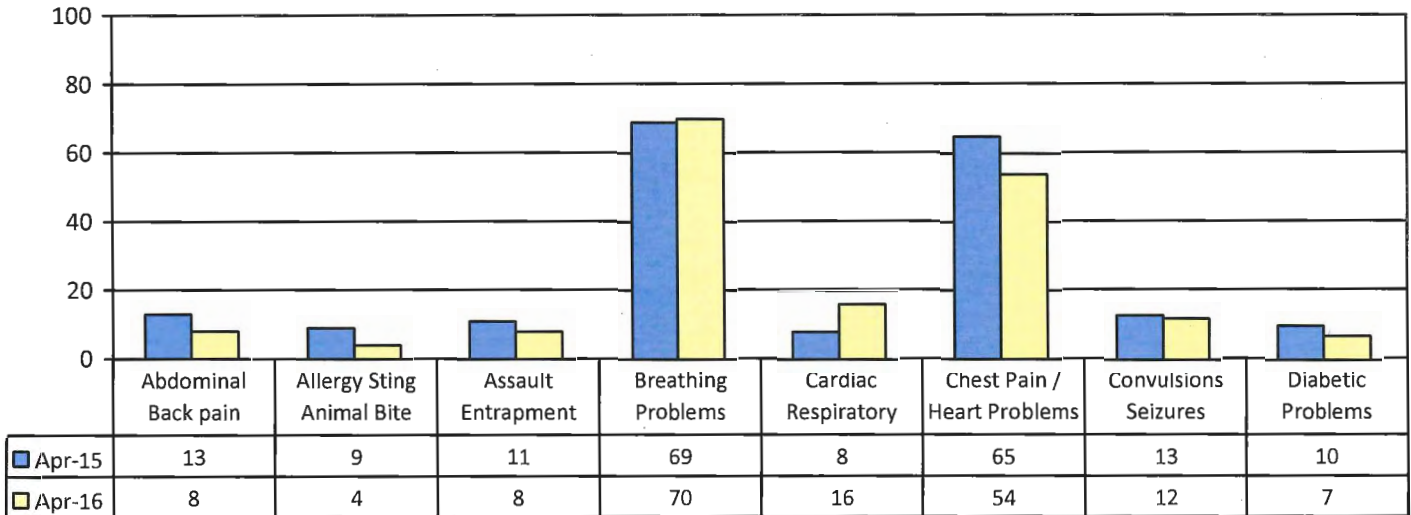
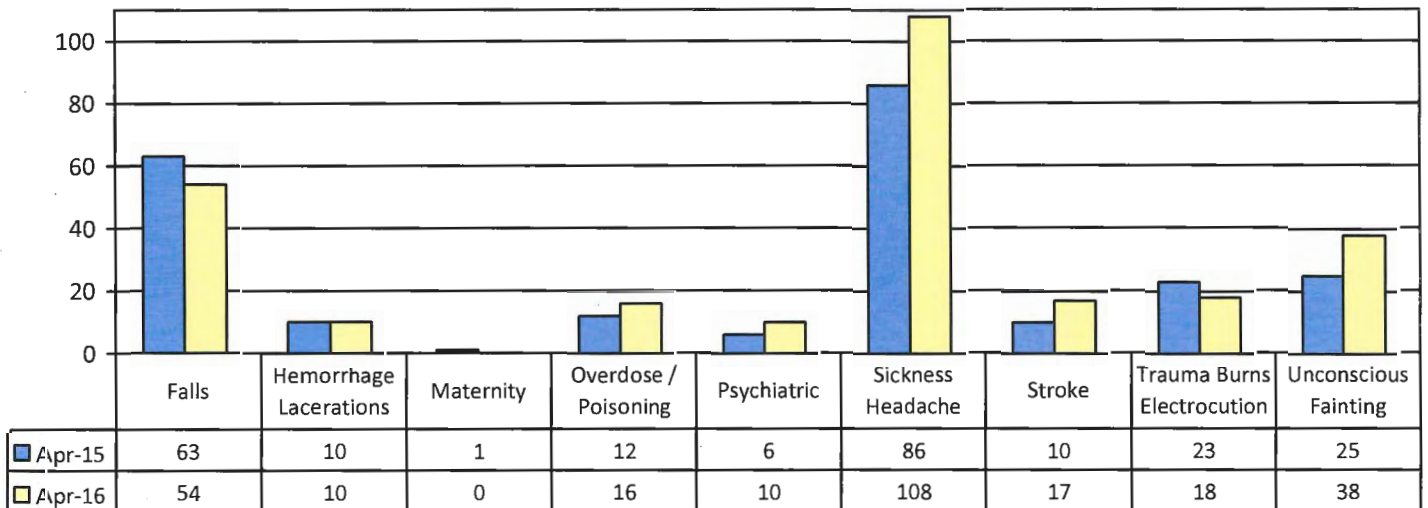


Table 2b: April 2015 & 2016 Medical Calls by Type



Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for April 2016 are listed below:

| Table 3: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – April | | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | Suspicious | Accidental | Undetermined |
| Residential - Single-family | - | 2 | 1 |
| Residential - Multi-family | 2 | 5 | 1 |
| Commercial/Industrial | - | 2 | 2 |
| Fire – Outdoor | 6 | 10 | 5 |
| Vehicle | - | 2 | - |
| Totals | 8 | 21 | 9 |

RFR investigators report all suspicious fires to the RCMP, while working in conjunction with staff at the RCMP to address any risks to the community.

Hazardous Materials

| Table 4: HazMat Calls By Type – April | |
|--|----------------|
| | Details |
| Natural Gas / Propane Leaks (small) | 4 |
| Vapour Leak (misc) | 1 |
| Unclassified (powder / liquids) | 2 |
| Totals | 7 |

Figure 1: Location of fires in April (total 38)

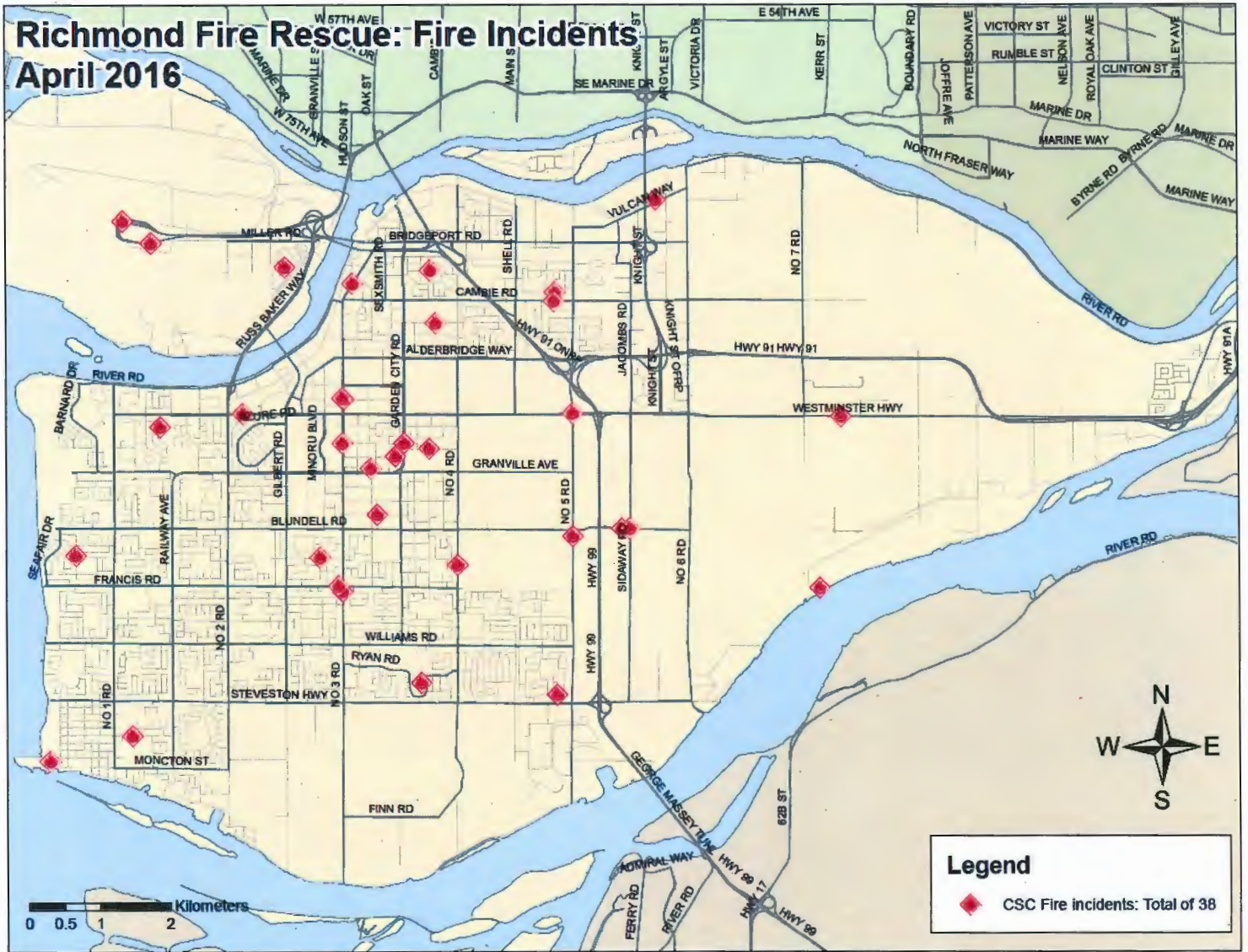


Figure 2: Location of medical calls in April (total 450)

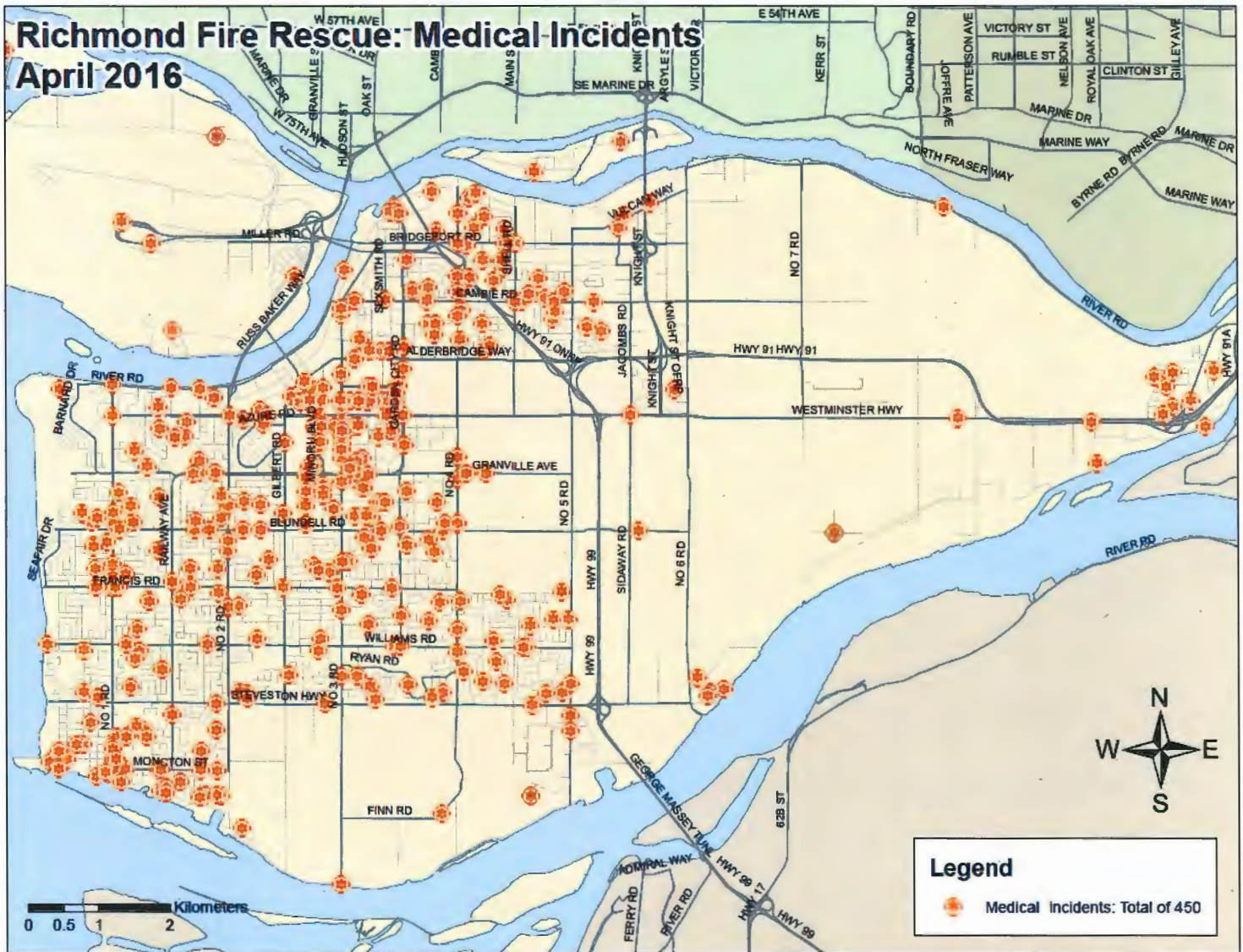


Figure 3: Location of MVI calls in April (total 99)

