



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** March 15, 2016
From: John McGowan **File:** 09-5000-01/2016-Vol
Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue 01
Re: Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report - February 2016

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled "Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report - February 2016," dated March 15, 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. 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

RFR participates in training events and community activities to advance public education and community bridge building. During February 2016 the following took place:

- Public Education Fire Safety Trailer visits to: Blair Elementary School, Mitchell Elementary School, BC Muslim School, Richmond Caring Place, McNeely Elementary School and Cook Elementary School.
- Community events included the Touchstone Family Association Family Pancake Breakfast and the BC Muslim School Family Fun Day.
- Fire Safety Presentations provided to the Richmond Youth Service Agency (Pathways) Aboriginal Youth Drop-in Event.
- Fire Hall Tours provided to South Arm Community College Out of School Care and McKay Elementary School.

Over 778 children and adults attended these events where staff engaged with the community providing fire safety and harm reduction information.

Safety messaging for February focused on Burn Awareness Week (January 31 to February 6) including messaging around prevention of hot water scalds and burn injuries. Other community messages for February included information on emergency preparedness kits and RFR's support for wearing Pink for anti-bullying day. A news release, Facebook posts and fire hall sign messages were used to share key safety points regarding RFR's focus areas.

Emergency Response

Richmond Fire-Rescue’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 32 fires in February 2016. Fire losses during the month are estimated at \$320,000. This total includes \$40,000 for building/asset loss and \$280,000 for content loss. The total building/asset and content value at risk was estimated to be \$14,901,700, and the total value preserved was \$14,581,700. These numbers translate to 98% of value protected (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Fire Calls By Type and Loss Estimates – February 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	5	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
Multi family	6	720,000	-	500	-	720,500
Commercial / Industrial	3	13,228,200	-	250,000	250,000	13,228,200
Fire – Outdoor	12	-	-	-	-	-
Vehicle	6	663,000	40,000	30,000	30,000	623,000
Totals*	32	14,621,200	40,000	280,500	280,000	14,581,700

*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 2016 incidents:

- Structure fire at Westminster Highway. Arriving crews observed fire from one corner of the building. The fire was knocked down quickly once crews made access. The Fire Prevention Officer was dispatched to attend the scene.
- Structure fire at Cook Road. Arriving crews found the fire confined to part of the outside of house and room of origin. The fire was quickly extinguished by RFR crews.
- Dryer fire on Cambie Road. On arrival an open flame was observed at the back of a dryer by crews. RFR crews used a Co2 extinguisher to put out the fire and disconnected the dryer from the electrical outlet and secured it.
- House fire at Acheson Road. RFR crews responded to a house fire call but on arrival found no smoke or flames. Crews did find damage to a first floor family room and smoke damage to the rest of the home. The Fire Investigator attended call to carry out an investigation.

- Vehicle fire on Blundell Road. On arrival crews found 70% involved fire of a motorhome. Crews quickly extinguished the flames using Cold Fire foam.
- Vehicle fire on Truno Road. On arrival crews found a car on fire in a carport. Crews extinguished the flames.
- Vehicle fire on River Road. Crews found a semi-tractor fully involved in a fire on arrival, which had started to extend to another nearby semi-tractor. Crews extinguished the flames.

RFR crews responded to multiple serious incident calls, including:

- Cardiac arrest of a male on Grant McConachie Way. BC Ambulance Services (BCAS) were on the scene prior to RFR arrival. CPR and an Automated External Defibrillator were used and a pulse was found. The patient was taken to Richmond General Hospital for further care. An RFR firefighter accompanied BCAS to the hospital providing CPR support on route.
- Cardiac arrest of a male on St Albans Road. RFR crew responded to a person with cardiac and respiratory arrest. RFR crews along with BCAS crews worked on the patient for approximately 10 minutes and managed to get a pulse. The patient was then transported to hospital for further care.
- Cardiac arrest of a male on Dennis Crescent. RFR crews provided CPR and an Automated External Defibrillator were used. The patient was stabilized and transported to hospital for further care.
- Two separate instances of full cardiac arrest occurred in February where crews were unable to revive the patient. One was a male located on Greenland Drive and the other was a female located on Garden City Road.
- Motor Vehicle Incident on Westminster Highway. On arrival crews found that a vehicle had crashed into a store. There were no injuries.
- Patient assist was provided on Blundell Road. RFR had received multiple calls for a lift assist for a patient. RCMP and Coastal Health have been notified and are dealing with the situation.
- Bomb threat in a vehicle located on Greenfield Drive. Arriving RFR crews stood by at a safe distance for approximately two hours until cleared by attending RCMP. No evidence of a bomb was found.
- Hazardous Materials call for a suspicious white powder at a commercial business on Ferguson Road. Arriving RFR crews provided an assessment of the situation and as the powder was contained, bagged and secured it was referred to the care of the attending RCMP.
- Aircraft assistance provided by RFR crews at Vancouver airport. RFR crews assisted YVR Emergency Response Services with passenger disembarkment for an aircraft whose tires were damaged during takeoff.

- RFR staff provided stand by assistance to a large movie shoot located on Triangle Road.

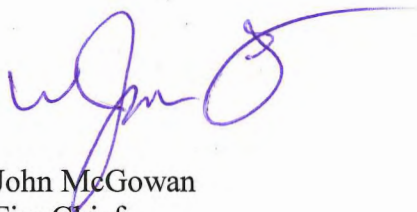
A summary of 9-1-1 emergency response statistics is found in Attachment 1, in Tables 1, 2, 3 and 4. The location of fire, medical and motor vehicle incident calls in February 2016 are depicted in Attachment 2, in Figures 1, 2 and 3.

Financial Impact

None

Conclusion

RFR strives to deliver service excellence through prevention awareness 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. In the month of February, the calls for medical service within the City were constant, wide and varied.



John McGowan
Fire Chief
(604-303-2734)

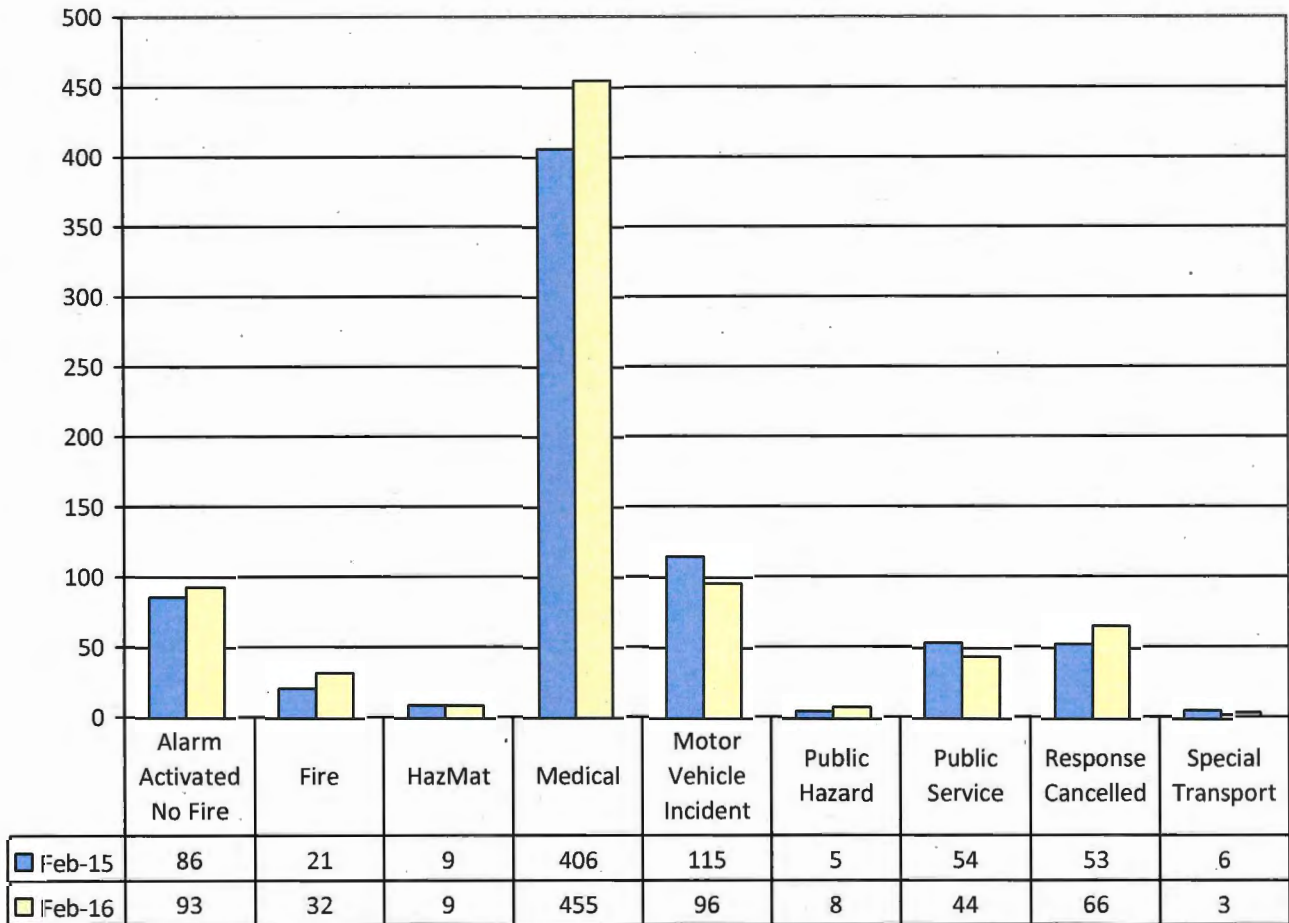
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Att. 1: Suppression Activity
Att. 2: Location of February's Fire, Medical and MVIs

Suppression Activity

The following chart provides a month to month comparison regarding incidents occurring in February 2015 and 2016. In February 2016, there were a total of 806 incidents, compared to 755 in February 2015. This represents an increase of 6.8%. The increase in call volumes was primarily in medical related incident types.

Table 1: February 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 56% of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of February. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for February 2015 and 2016 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 455 medical incidents in February 2016 compared to 406 in February 2015, an increase of 12%.

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

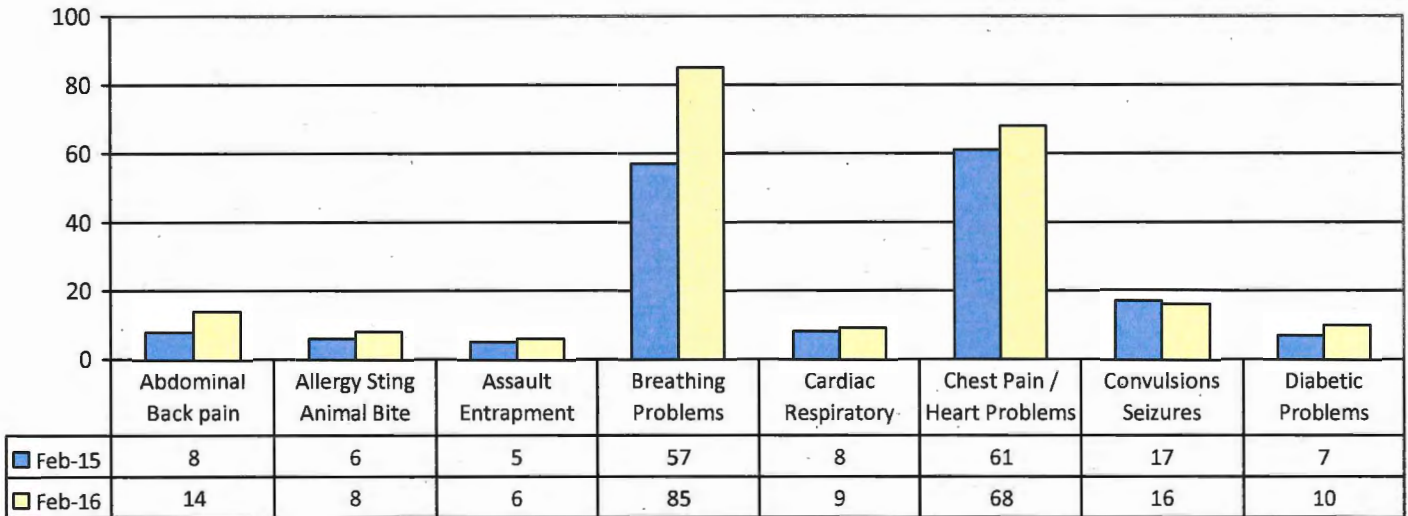
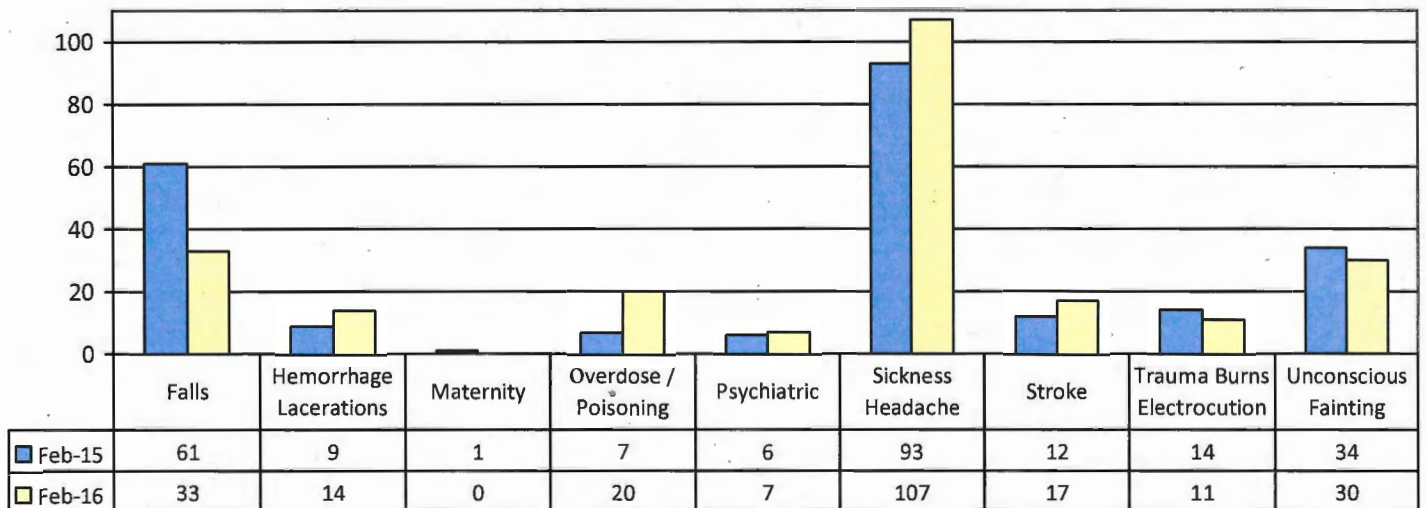


Table 2b: February 2015 & 2016 Medical Calls by Type



Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for February 2016 are listed below:

Table 3: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – February			
	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	-	5	-
Residential - Multi-family	-	6	-
Commercial/Industrial	1	2	-
Fire – Outdoor	2	5	5
Vehicle	1	3	2
Totals	4	21	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.

Hazardous Materials

Table 4: HazMat Calls By Type – February	
	Details
Natural Gas / Propane Leaks (small)	5
Unclassified (powder / liquids)	4
Totals	9

Figure 1: Location of fires in February (total 32)

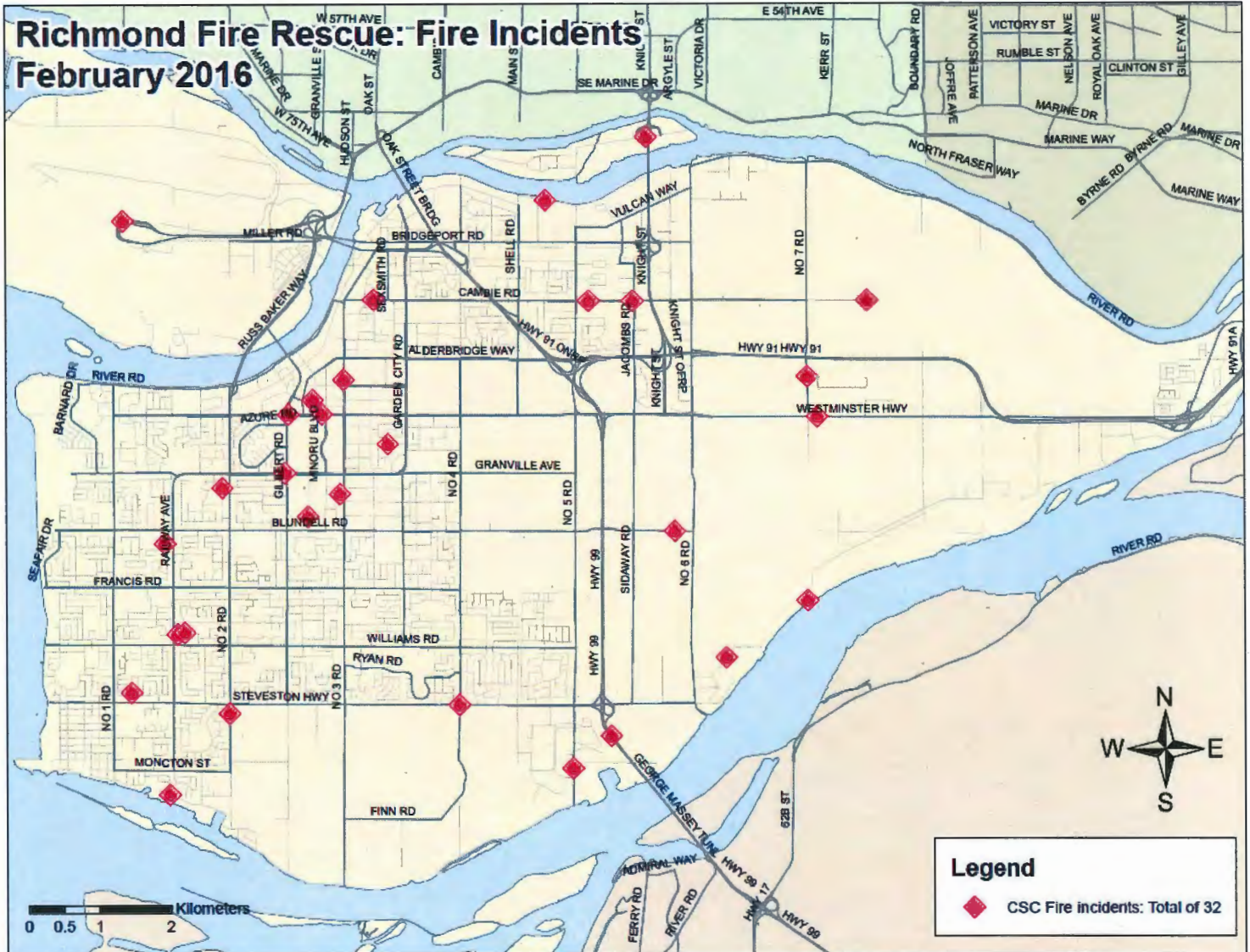


Figure 2: Location of medical calls in February (total 455)

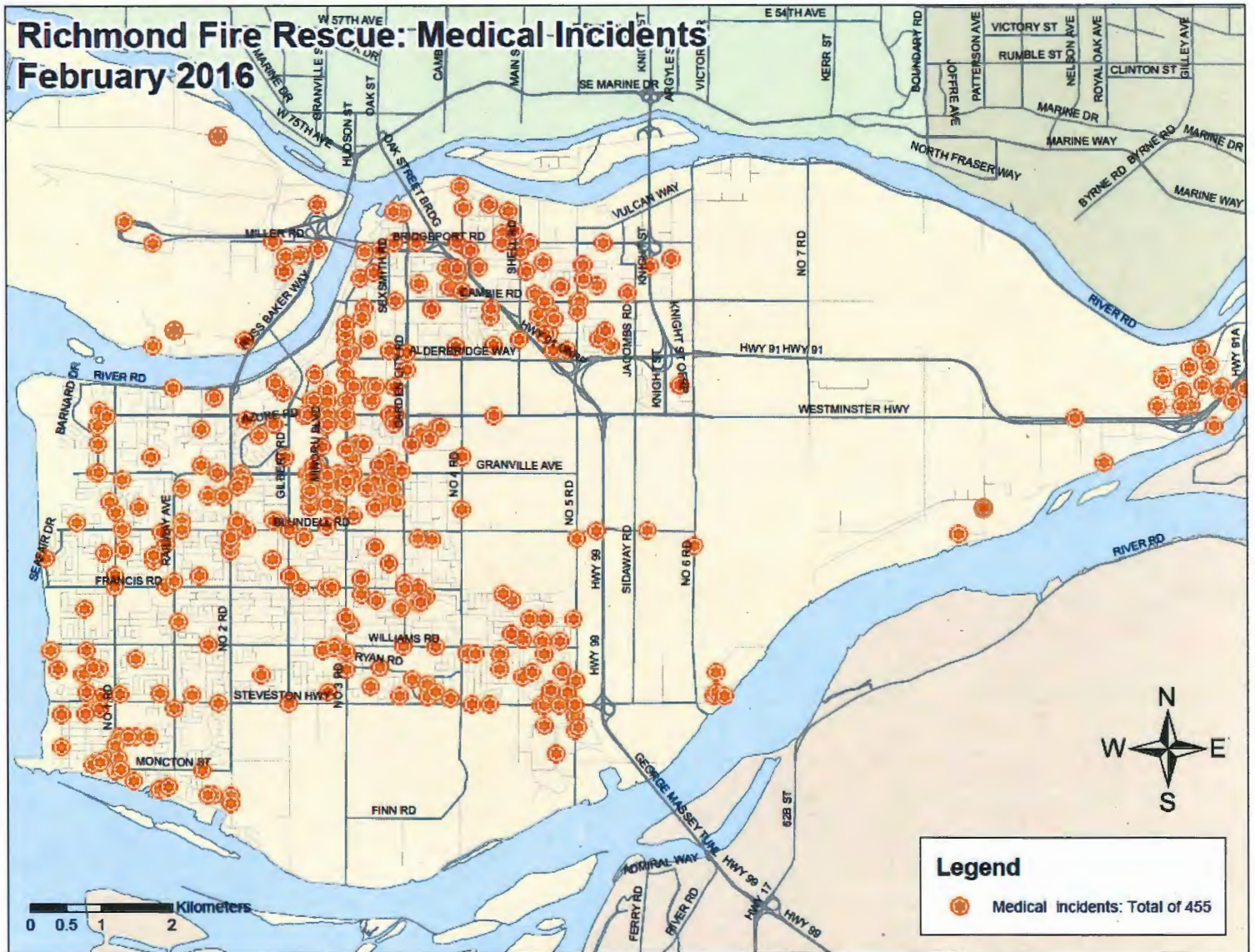


Figure 3: Location of MVI calls in February (total 96)

