



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

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

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### Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled "Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report - September 2015," dated October 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 messaging for September focused on 'Back to School' and safety tips for drivers, children and parents also including fire safety advice for students away from home. Facebook posts and fire hall sign messages were used to share key safety points regarding RFR's focus areas.

RFR participates in events and activities to advance public education and community bridge building. During September 2015 the following took place:

- Safety presentations were provided to the *BC Fire Prevention Officers' Association* with a display of RFR's Public Education Trailer.

Community events attended included:

- *Richmond Life Skills Community Outreach Fair*
- *City of Richmond - Public Works Open House Bus Tour*
- *Annual 9-11 Memorial Ride Military Motorcade Procession*

Over 345 children and adults attended these events where staff engaged with the community providing fire safety and harm reduction information.

#### Training

During September RFR welcomed its ten newest probationary firefighters. The ten new recruits commenced their orientation with the training department and will follow a seven week training orientation. The orientation includes technical training as well as understanding expectations of their role and responsibilities and respectful workplace practices.

After the seven week training period the recruits will commence a twelve month probationary period. At the end of the probationary period the recruits through shift participation and training packages will attain the knowledge, skill and abilities of a firefighter.

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 36 in September 2015. Fire losses during the month are estimated at \$15,800. This total includes \$15,000 for building loss and \$800 for content loss. The total building and content value at risk was estimated to be \$201,198,700, and the total value preserved was \$201,182,900. These numbers translate to 99.9% of value protected (Figure 1).

<b>Figure 1: Fire Calls By Type and Loss Estimates – September</b>						
<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	6	5,634,000	-	1,300,000	300	6,933,700
Multi family	6	3,950,000	10,000	940,000	500	4,879,500
Commercial / Industrial	3	145,669,000	-	43,700,700	-	189,369,700
Fire – Outdoor	18	-	-	-	-	-
Vehicle	3	5,000	5,000	-	-	-
<b>Totals*</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>155,258,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>45,940,700</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>201,182,900</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 September incidents:

Multiple crews responded to a structure fire on Cambie Road. On arrival crews found the fire was located in an end unit of a commercial property in a strip mall. RFR crews set up a hose line along with confirming a second means of entrance via a side door. Other attending crews evacuated the tenants from the surrounding units. The fire was brought under control and once out a fan was set up for smoke removal in the premises.

Crews responded to a vehicle fire on Shell Road. On arrival crews found a five ton truck with a fully involved cab fire located in the rear of the farm area. Crews used 300 gallons of water and three gallons of Cold Fire foam to extinguish the flames. The Fire Investigator was called to attend the scene for further investigation.

During September crews attended multiple outdoor related fires including: a garbage fire on Shell Road, a beach trash fire on Portside Drive and a small camping size propane bottle fire on Bakerview Drive. All fires were quickly mitigated.

RFR crews responded to multiple serious incident calls, including:

Crews responded to a report of a smell of gas at a school on Kilgour Place. On arrival crews found there to be an odour of gasoline and found remnants of two bottles that were set up like Molotov cocktails. One bottle had a wick type fitting in the neck. No fire was evident but crews found evidence of soot and scorch pattern of about two meters on the tarmac. This scene was left in the care of RCMP and Fire Investigator.

Crews provided assistance to a water leak on General Currie Road. A pipe had burst in an exterior wall of a building causing extensive water damage to the residence. RFR crews assisted with clean-up on site.

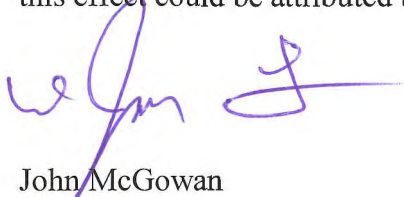
A summary of 9-1-1 emergency response statistics is found in Attachment 1, Tables 1, 2, 3 and 4. The location of fire, medical and motor vehicle incident calls in September are depicted in Attachment 2, Figures 1, 2 and 3.

**Financial Impact**

None

**Conclusion**

RFR strives to deliver service excellence through a delivery model that 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. In the month of September, the calls for medical service within the City were constant, wide and varied. Richmond Fire-Rescue's activity in this month would be considered to be busy than normal. The drivers of this effect could be attributed to the change in weather and temperature.



John McGowan  
Fire Chief  
(604-303-2734)

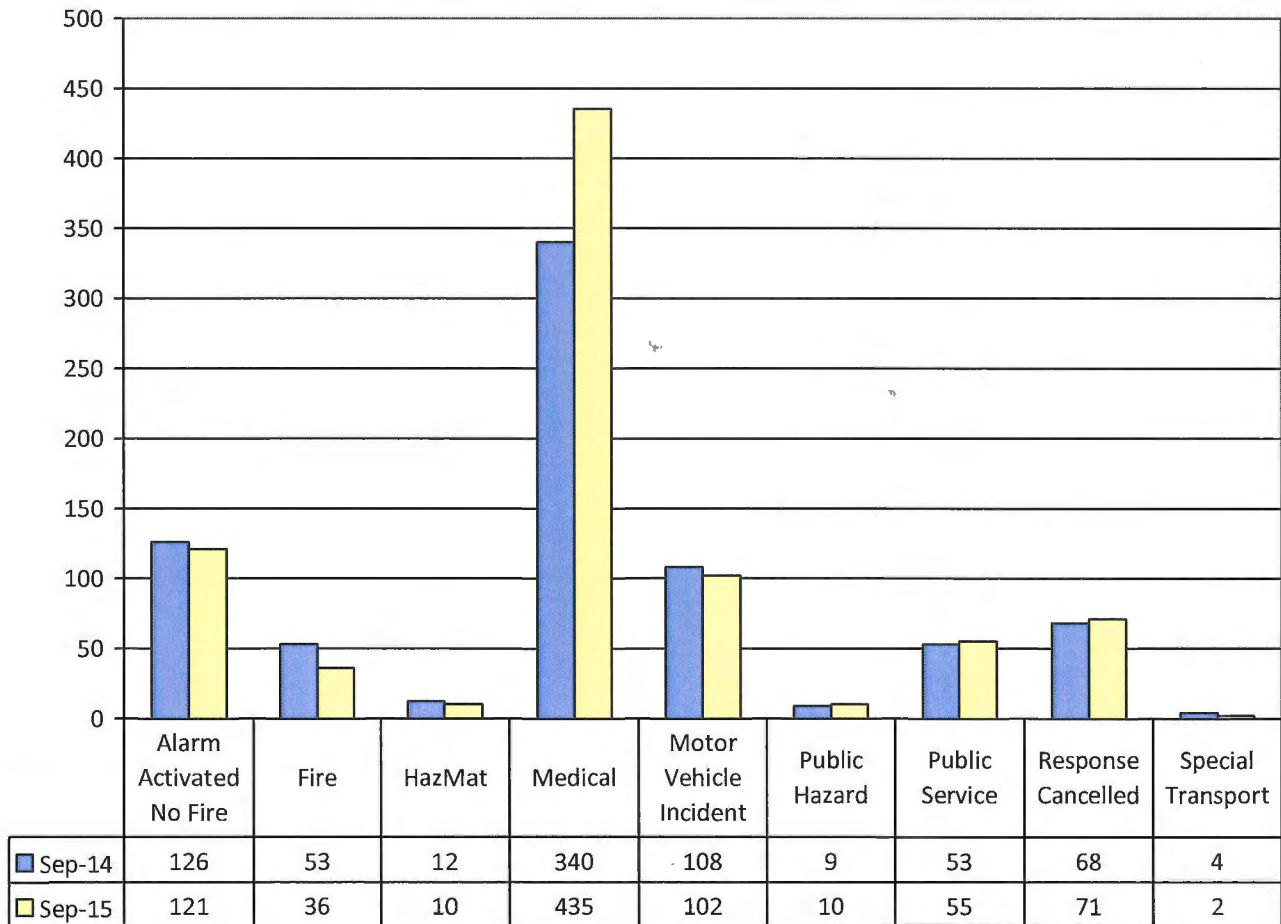
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Att. 1: Suppression Activity  
Att. 2: Location of September's Fire, Medical and MVI calls

**Suppression Activity**

The following chart provides a month to month comparison regarding incidents occurring in September 2014 and 2015. In September 2015, there were a total of 842 incidents, compared to 773 in September 2014. This represents an increase of 8.9%. The increase in call volumes was primarily in medical related incident types. Changes in weather conditions in September may have contributed to the incident number rise.

**Table 1: September 2014 & 2015 Calls for Service Volumes**

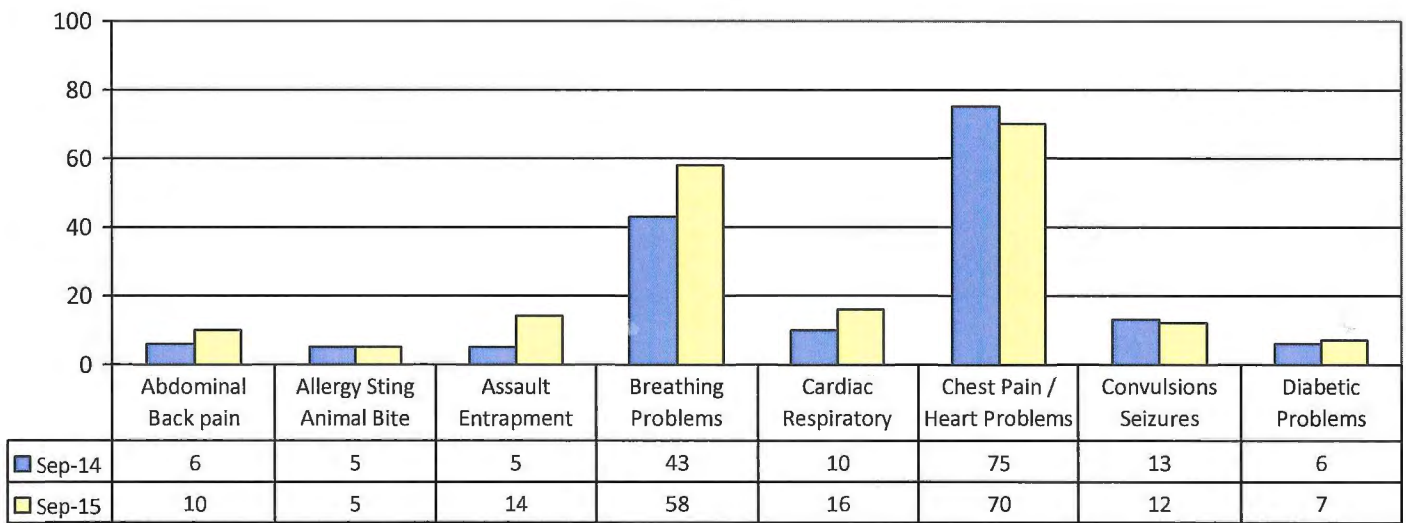


**Call Type Legend:**  
*HazMat*: includes fuel or vapour, spills, leaks, or containment  
*Medical* includes: cardiac arrest, emergency response, home or industrial accidents  
*Public Hazard* includes: aircraft emergency, bomb removal standby, object removal, or power lines down  
*Public Service* includes: assisting public, ambulance or police, locked in/out, special events, trapped in elevator, water removal

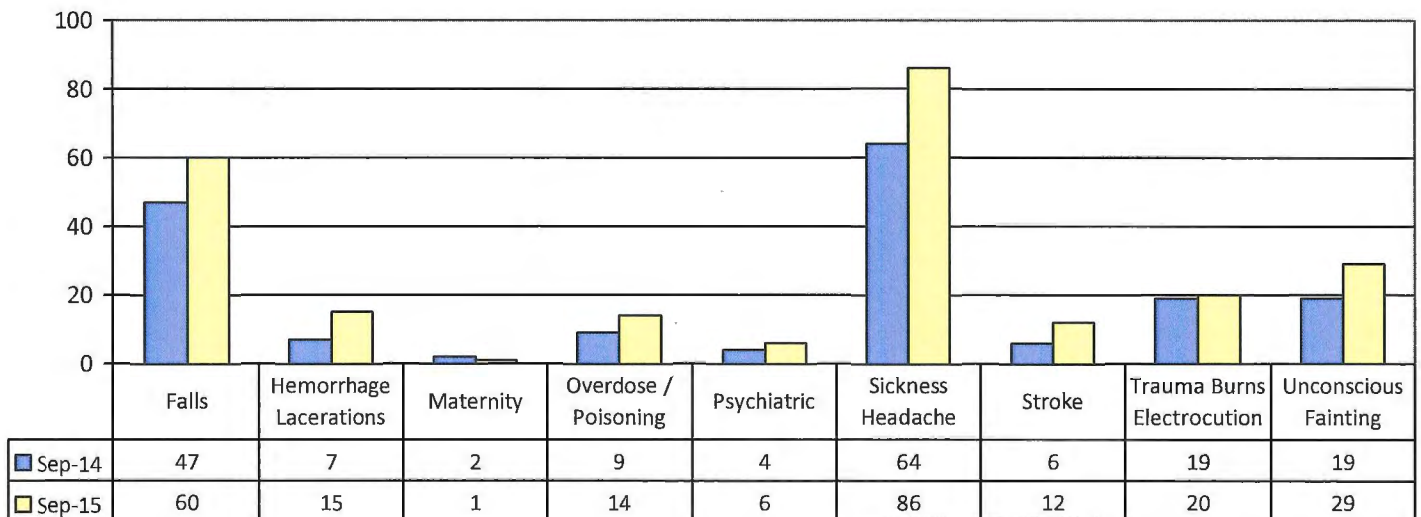
**First Responder Totals**

Medical First Responder incidents comprised 51% of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of September. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for September 2014 and 2015 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 435 medical incidents in September 2015 compared to 340 in September 2014 an increase of 27%. The rise in the Breathing Problems, Sickness and Falls could be attributed to the cooler and wetter weather experienced during September.

**Table 2a: September 2014 & 2015 Medical Calls by Type**



**Table 2b: September 2014 & 2015 Medical Calls by Type**



## Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for September 2015 are listed below:

<b>Table 3: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – September</b>			
	<b>Suspicious</b>	<b>Accidental</b>	<b>Undetermined</b>
Residential - Single-family	-	3	3
Residential - Multi-family	1	5	-
Commercial/Industrial	-	1	2
Fire – Outdoor	5	6	7
Vehicle	1	1	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</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 – September</b>	
	<b>Details</b>
Natural Gas / Propane Leaks (small)	7
Unclassified	3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>10</b>

Figure 1: Location of fires in September (total 36)

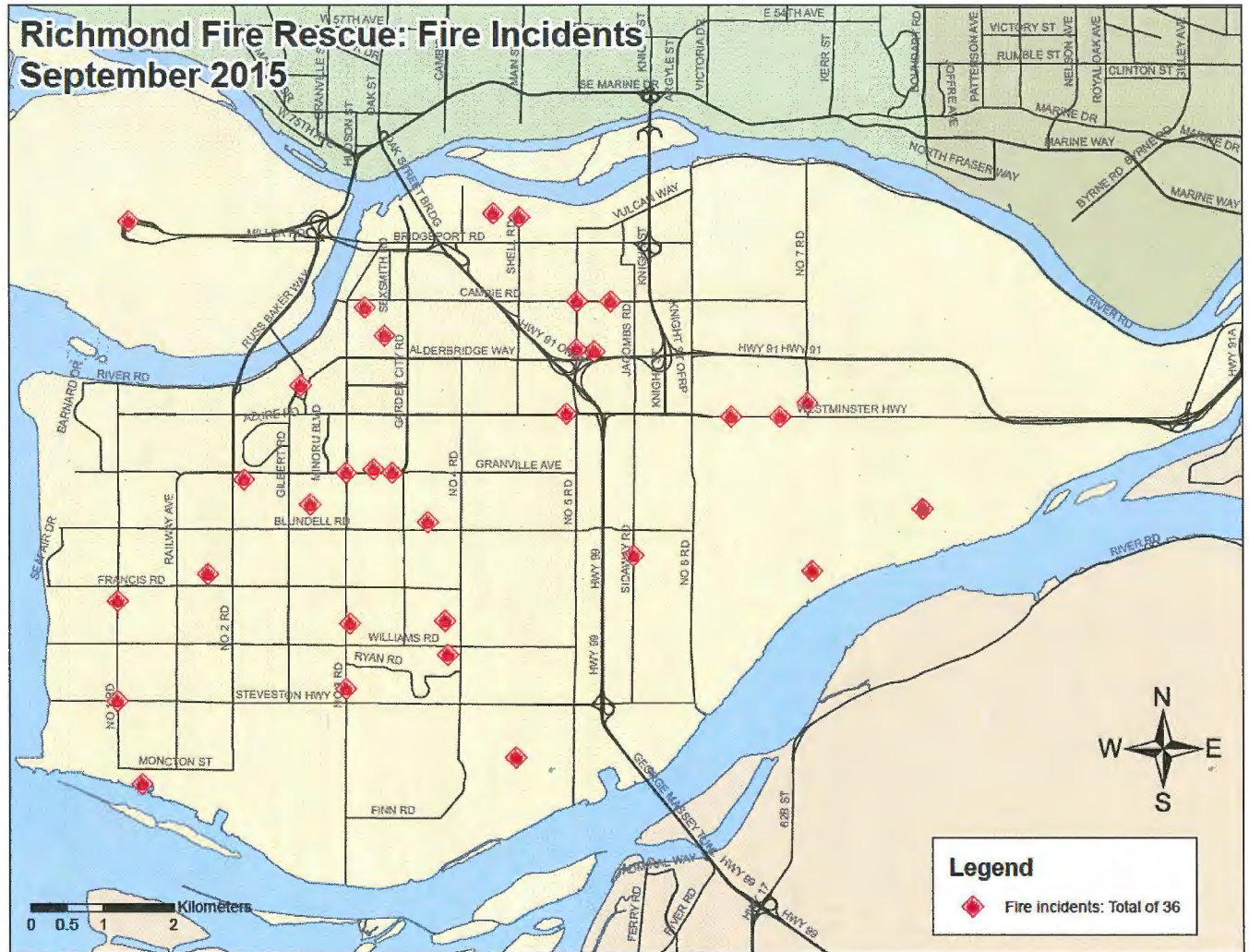




Figure 2: Location of medical calls in September (total 435)

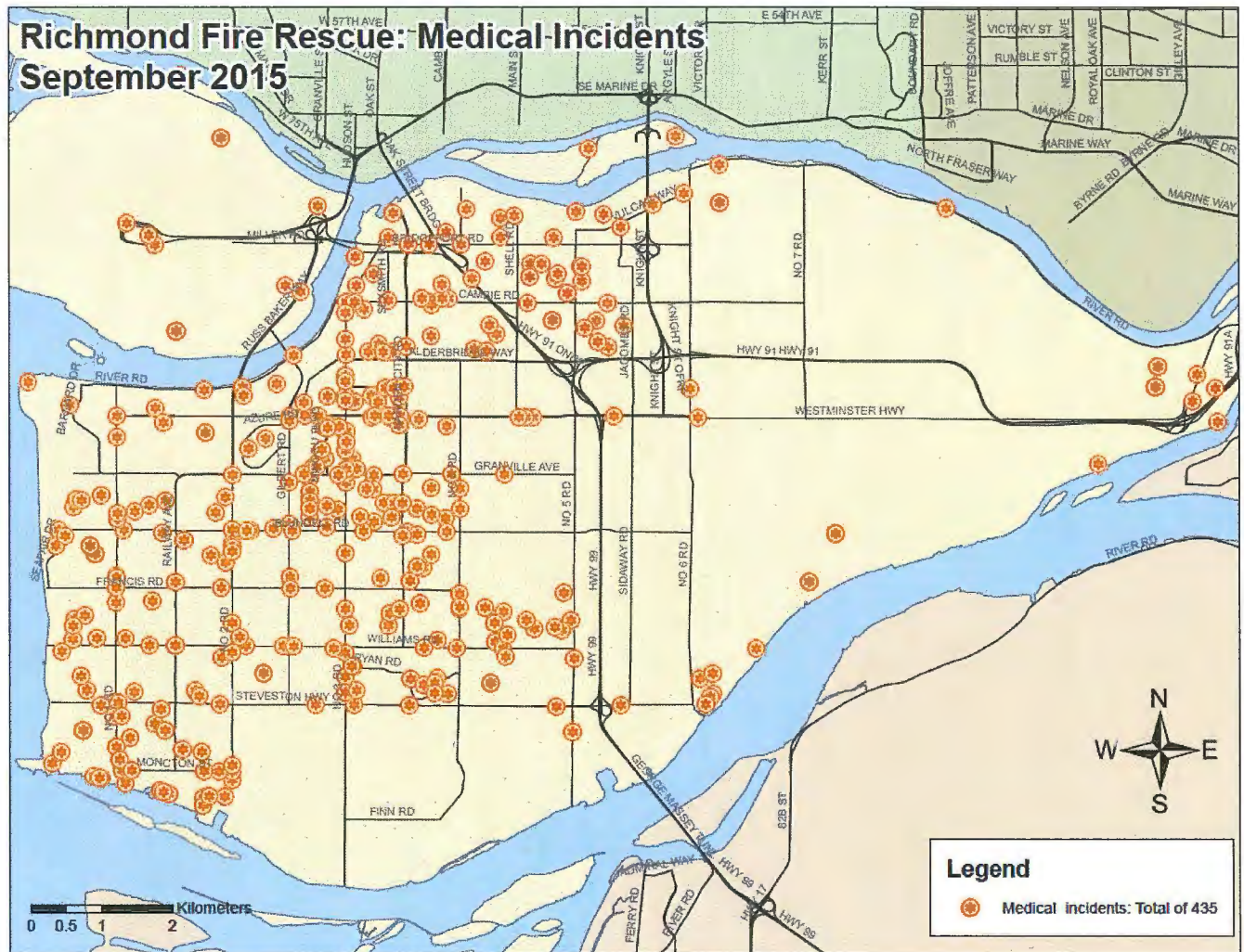


Figure 3: Location of MVI calls in September (total 102)

