



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

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**To:** Community Safety Committee **Date:** July 18, 2018  
**From:** Tim Wilkinson **File:** 09-5000-01/2018-Vol 01  
Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue  
**Re:** **Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – June 2018**

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### Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – June 2018”, dated July 18, 2018 from the Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue, be received for information.

Tim Wilkinson  
Fire Chief  
(604-303-2701)

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. 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, community activities and social media.

During June staff engaged with approximately 2,384 children and adults, continuing to develop effective interagency relationships and partnerships within the community including the City's Doors Open Richmond at Cambie Fire Hall and Ambulance Station, the Tim Horton's Children's Foundation Camp Day and the Sea Island Community Association Burkeville Daze.

RFR continues to move forward with a number of initiatives which were identified in the Community Outreach and Public Education Plan (COPEP). A few examples are:

1. Develop a fire cadet program for youth to gain insight into and engage with the fire service.

This year RFR has partnered with two organizations in order to action this Strategic Direction:

- In March, RFR partnered with First Nations' Emergency Services Society of BC (FNESS) to host a firefighting introductory skills workshop, as part of the Gathering Our Voices Indigenous Youth Training event which was held in Richmond and attended by indigenous youth from across Canada. RFR staff worked with FNESS staff and volunteers to provide youth an opportunity to participate in some practical skills.
- This summer, RFR will be sponsoring a candidate to Camp Ignite, which runs from August 9-12. Camp Ignite is a mentorship camp for girls ages 16-18, which, in addition to providing a hands-on learning experience in firefighting as a career, provides leadership and teamwork skills. RFR will provide an update to committee after the camp.

2. Conduct relevant fire safety awareness campaigns and review RFR's response data quarterly to identify emerging risk profiles and develop public safety messaging focused on emerging risk.
  - On June 21st, RFR re-launched the "The World is not your Ashtray" campaign which focuses on increasing public awareness regarding the importance of discarding smoking materials safely. RFR has added to the 2017 sticker campaign, by using social media to spread the message, including videos which feature Blaze as the campaign's champion. RFR is also posting signs in locations where fires caused by carelessly discarded smoking materials have occurred.

### Emergency Response

RFR's goal is to respond to events in a manner where loss of life, reduction of property damage and protection of the environment is mitigated. In June 2018 there were a total 739 incidents, representing a 22.3 per cent reduction in calls from June 2017 (Attachment 1). The average time on scene for RFR crews was 28 minutes, the same in 2017. This can be impacted by the nature and severity of each call and the duration on scene.

The reduction in overall calls is due to the reclassification of medical calls by BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) for their triaging and deploying resources of BC Ambulance Services. Their Clinical Response Model is a new way for BCEHS dispatch centres to review, prioritize and assign calls. First Responders will continue to be requested as they are now, either through an automatic notification or a phone call.

The Fire Chief's Association of BC Executive (FCABC) were formally notified of this change and provided an implementation date of May 31, 2018. BCEHS assured FCABC that while there are some changes around BCAS dispatch using color-codes to better align with other services and best practices, those changes will not impact fire services at this time.

In June 2018 there were 55 reportable fires to the Office of the Fire Commissioner; representing a 10 per cent increase from June 2017. The average figure for fires reported in June, over the last five years, is 63.8, thus reportable fires in the month of June remains consistent with year over year trends. In June 2018, 153 apparatus were used and 516 fire personnel attended fire related incidents.

Fire damage and property losses during June 2018 are estimated at \$951,400. This total includes \$21,000 for building/asset loss and \$930,400 for content loss. The total building/asset and content value at risk was estimated to be \$115,729,100 and the total value preserved from damage was \$114,777,700. These numbers translate to 99 per cent of value protected (Table 1), this is the same per cent protected value observed in 2017.

<b>Incident Type Breakdown</b>	<b>Call Volume</b>	<b>Estimated Building / Asset Value (\$)</b>	<b>Estimated Building / Asset Loss (\$)</b>	<b>Estimated Content Value (\$)</b>	<b>Estimated Content Loss (\$)</b>	<b>Estimated Total Value Preserved (\$)</b>
Residential: Single family	3	1,531,700	3,000	-	-	1,528,700
Multi family	6	7,200,000	1,500	400	400	7,198,500
Commercial / Industrial	8	97,172,000	5,000	9,050,000	900,000	105,317,000
Outdoor	32	723,000	500	-	-	722,500
Vehicle/Vessel	6	22,000	11,000	30,000	30,000	11,000
<b>Totals*</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>106,648,7000</b>	<b>21,000</b>	<b>9,080,400</b>	<b>930,400</b>	<b>114,777,700</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).

### Incident Response Times

The following table shows the total emergency response time per fire hall for incidents during June 2017 and 2018.

RFR tracks and reports average emergency response time. Response time is impacted by a number of factors including the time to put on personal protective equipment (PPE), when PPE is required. The industry standard allows for an additional 20 seconds for the donning of PPE.

There is significant work that needs to be undertaken to do further analysis (e.g. validate statistics) and reduce turnout time to don PPE to incrementally reduce the emergency response time.

	<b>June 2017</b>		<b>June 2018</b>	
	<b>PPE</b>	<b>Non PPE</b>	<b>PPE</b>	<b>Non PPE</b>
Hall 1 - City Centre	4:39	4:46	6:07	5:04
Hall 2 - Steveston	6:17	5:48	5:10	5:16
Hall 3 - Cambie	6:38	6:28	6:17	5:21
Hall 4 - Sea Island	6:42	6:17	6:40	5:37
Hall 5 - Hamilton	5:55	7:37	8:26	5:29
Hall 6 - Shellmont	6:45	5:38	5:31	6:08
Hall 7 - Crestwood	6:53	6:30	7:50	7:44

\* Times shown are for events where Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) was used. PPE figures equal fire incidents while Non PPE shows medical or other types of incident response times. Impacts to response times June include: distance to scene, weather, and the time of day.

### Significant Events

Fire crews minimized loss and limited fires to the place of origin in these notable June 2018 incidents:

- Fire at a residential property on Wellington Crescent. Fire crews arrived to a well developed fire spreading on the exterior covered deck. The fire had penetrated the roof line and was moving towards the attic space. The residents had been evacuated to safety and the other side of the duplex was unoccupied. Crews extinguished the fire and continued to extinguish any hot spots. There were no reports of injury to the public or RFR members. A Fire Investigator attended the scene.
- Fire at a commercial property located at Garden City Road. Crews arrived on scene and were directed by onsite staff to a smoking corrugated sheet maker. Crews extinguished the fire with a hose and continued to extinguish hot spots. Once the machine had cooled, RFR crew members remained on scene to confirm the fire remained extinguished.
- Fire at a residential property on No. 2 Road. Crews responded to a structure fire and on arrival set up to the south of the fire on No. 2 Road. The smoke was drifting across No. 2 Road to the north of the fire location and RFR crews closed down the street to traffic and pedestrians as there was heavy traffic in the hot zone. BC Ambulance Services attended the scene and Fortis BC and BC Hydro shut down the gas and power to units. The fire was quickly contained and was limited to the exterior of the building and interior of three second floor units. There were no injuries reported. Three adults and seven children were displaced by the fire and social services were called to support the residents in coordination with a Fire Prevention Officer and a representative from BC Housing Services.
- Motor vehicle incident on Highway 99. Crews responded to a multiple motor vehicle incident with a semi-tractor and car. Crews arrived to find that the car occupant was pinned under the semi-tractor. RFR crews extricated the patient using airbags and hydraulic extraction equipment to lift the vehicle. Once the patient was extracted BC Ambulance crews took over patient care but the patient was declared deceased at the scene. Due to the nature of the call RFR crews were provided with a Critical Incident Stress Management debriefing.
- Compressed gas leak at Westminster Highway. Arriving crews responded and secured the area and traffic was diverted both east and west on Westminster Highway. RCMP attended the scene and provided traffic control. Fortis BC arrived on scene to mitigate the gas leak. A transit bus was requested to provide occupants in nearby residences comfort while they were displaced. Crews remained on scene providing fire protection. There were no injuries reported.
- Fire in a garden plot on Blundell Road. Arriving crews saw thick black smoke and had to remove a section of fencing before they could begin to attack the fire. RFR crews salvaged, overhauled and eventually extinguished the fire using 6,162 gallons of water and 52 gallons of foam. There were no reports of injury to the public or RFR staff. The scene was then secured and handed over to the care of the RCMP. A Fire Investigator attended the scene.

July 18, 2018

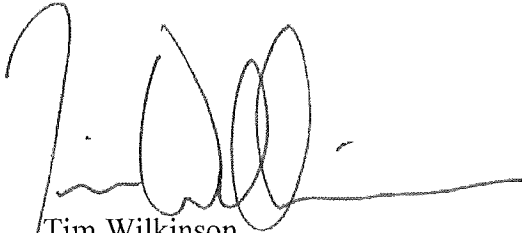
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**Financial Impact**

None.

**Conclusion**

During June 2018, calls for service decreased by 22.3 per cent from June 2017. RFR will continue to monitor these activities to identify trends and ensure potential solutions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Wilkinson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Tim Wilkinson  
Fire Chief  
(604-303-2701)

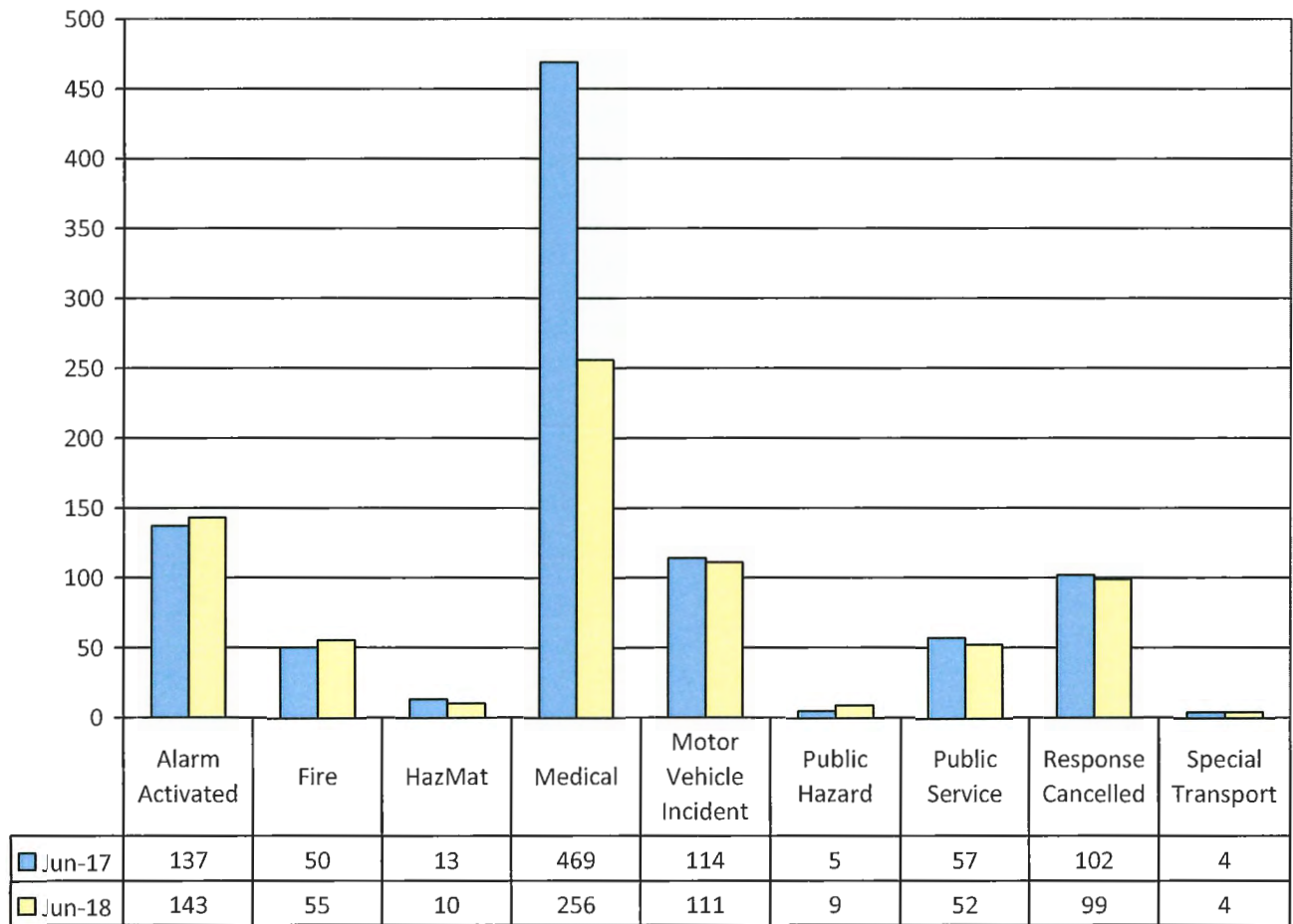
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- Att. 1: Suppression Activity  
2: Location of June's Fire, Medical and MVIs

**Calls for Service Volumes**

The following chart provides a month to month comparison regarding incidents occurring in June 2017 and 2018. In June 2018, there were a total of 739 incidents, compared to 951. This represents a decrease of 22.3 per cent.

**Table 3: June 2017 & 2018 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

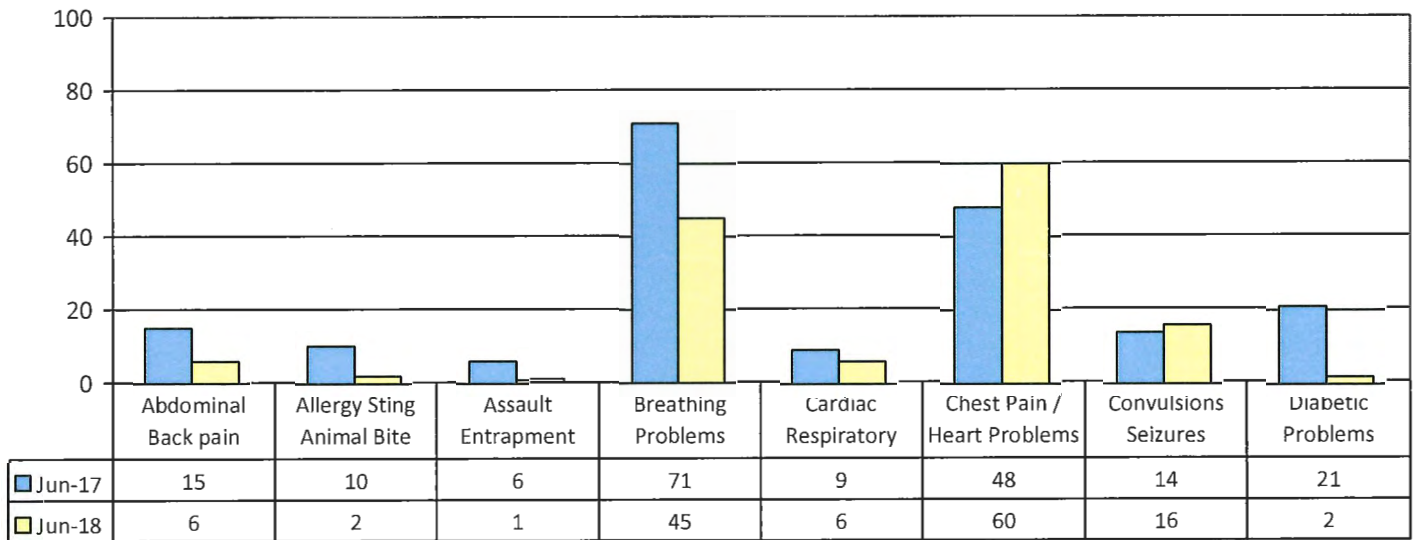
*Public Hazard* includes: aircraft emergency, bomb removal standby, object removal, or power lines down

*Public Service* includes: assisting public, ambulance or police, locked in/out, special events, trapped in elevator, water removal

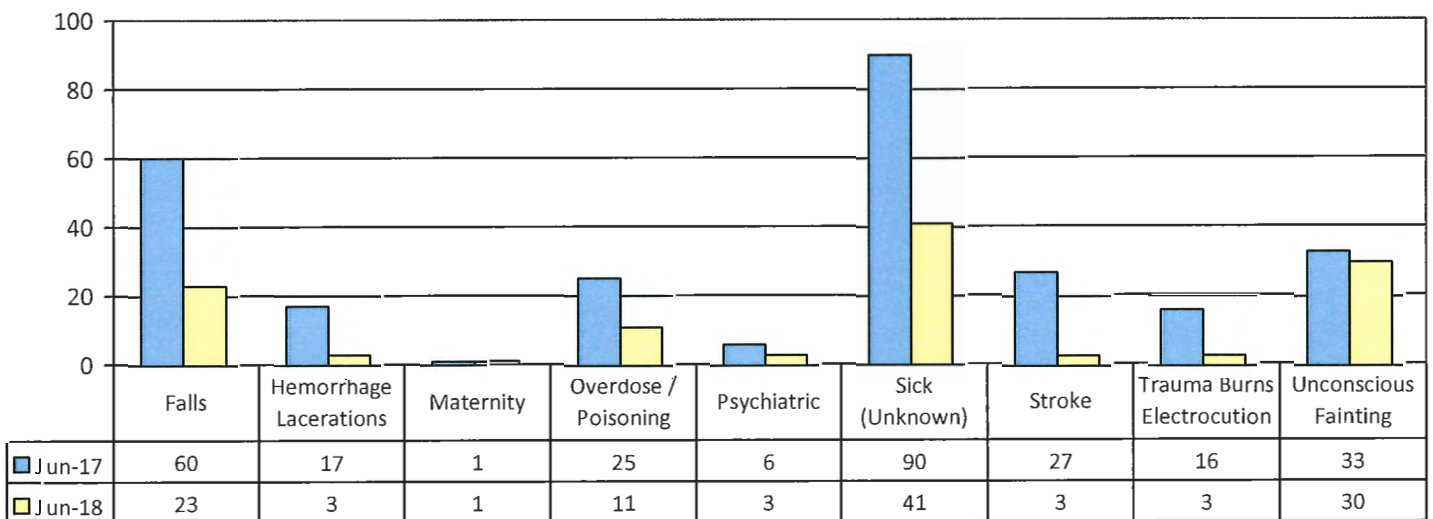
**First Responder Totals**

Medical first responder incidents comprised 34.6 per cent of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of June 2018. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for June 2018 and 2017 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 256 medical incidents in June 2018 compared to 469 in June 2017, a decrease of 45.4 per cent.

**Table 4a: June 2017 & 2018 Medical Calls by Type**



**Table 4b: June 2017 & 2018 Medical Calls by Type**





## Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for June 2018 are listed below:

	<b>Suspicious</b>	<b>Accidental</b>	<b>Undetermined</b>
Residential - Single-family	-	3	-
Residential - Multi-family	-	3	3
Commercial/Industrial	-	7	1
Outdoor	3	18	11
Vehicle	-	1	5
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>2</b>

RFR investigators report all suspicious fires to the RCMP, while working alongside RCMP staff to address potential risks to the community.

## Hazardous Materials

	<b>Details</b>
Natural Gas / Propane Leaks (small)	6
Flammable / Combustible Liquids	1
Unclassified	3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>10</b>

Figure 1: Location of reportable fires attended in June (total 55)

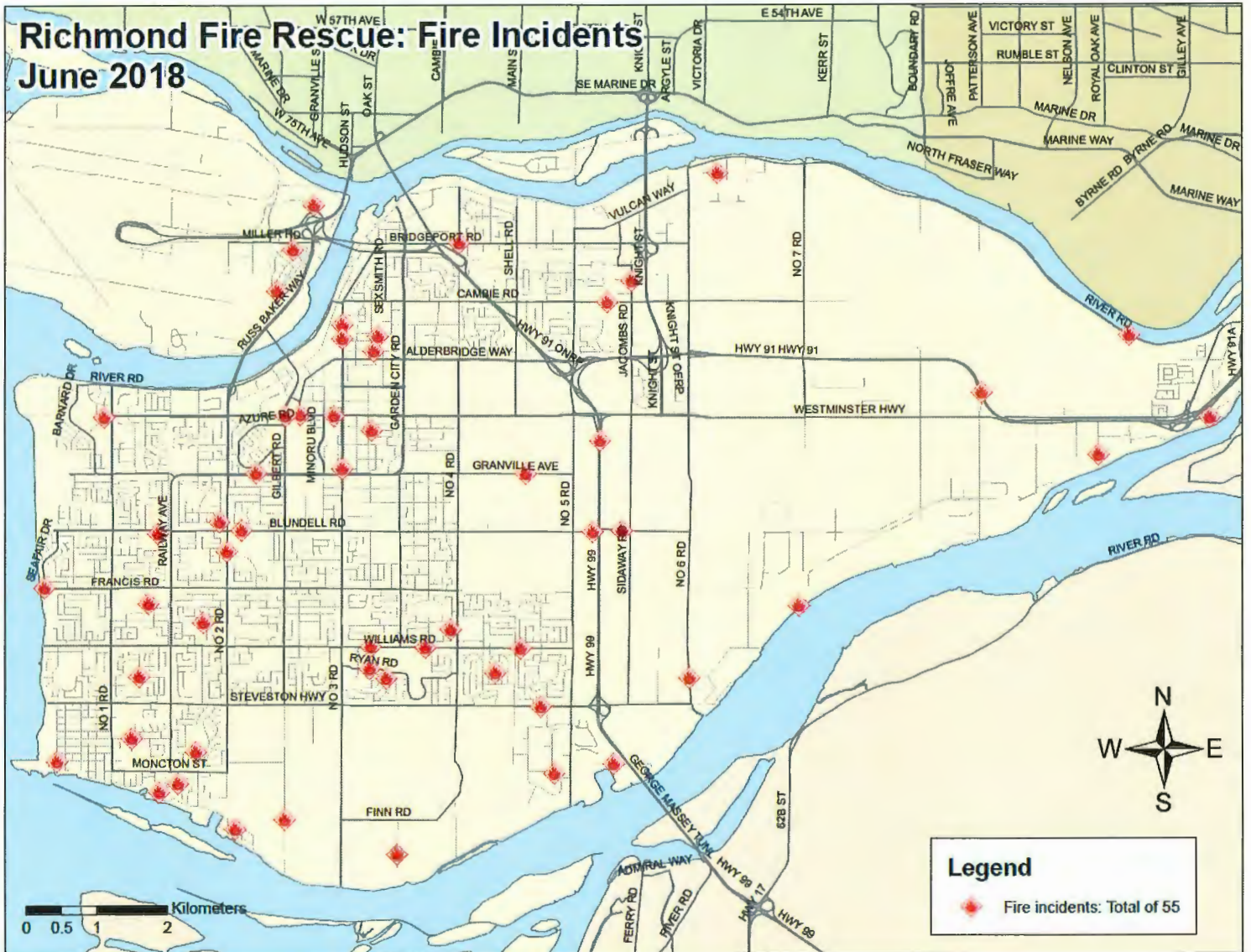


Figure 2: Location of medical calls in June (total 256)

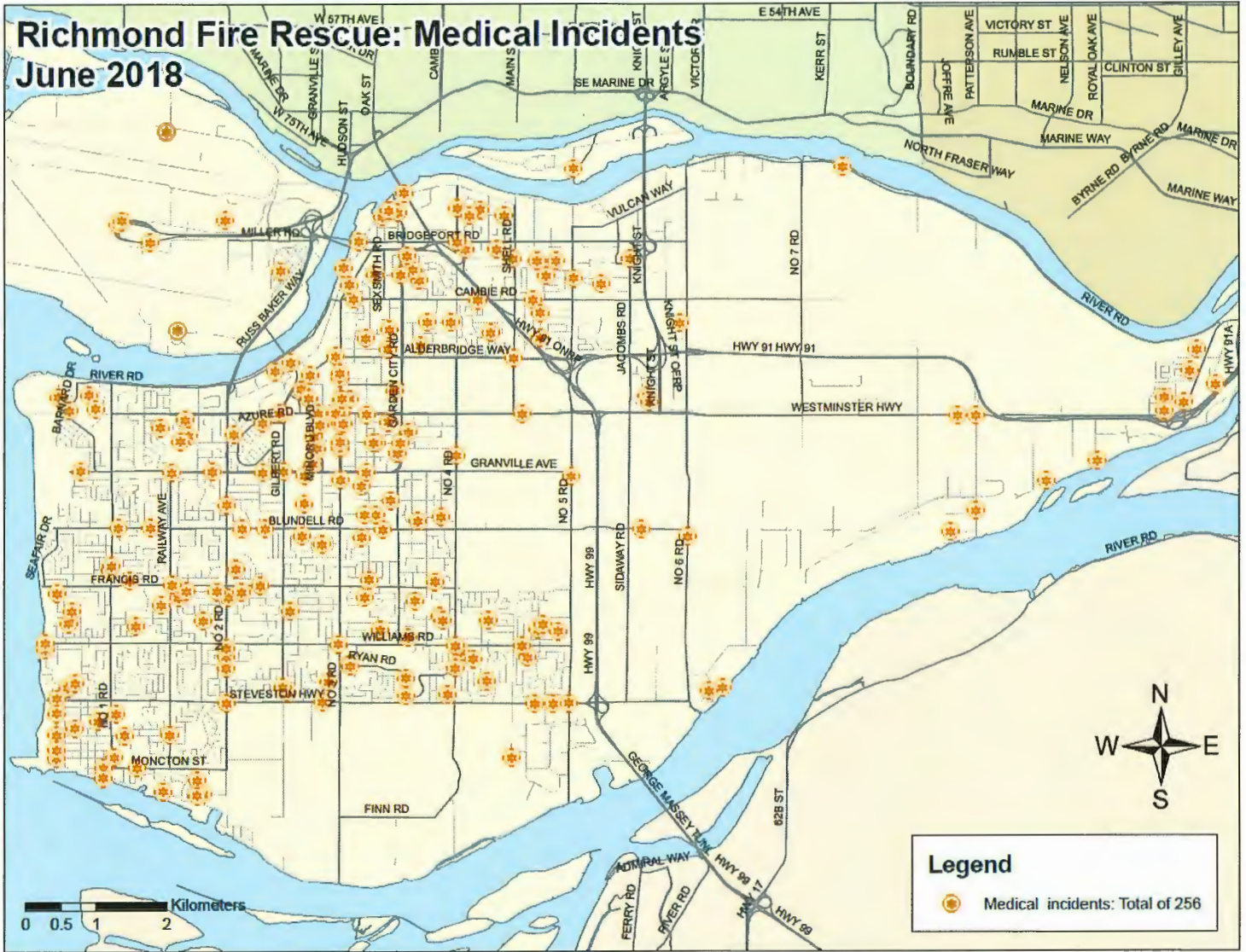


Figure 3: Location of MVI calls in June (total 111)

