



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** November 19, 2014
From: John McGowan **File:** 09-5000-01/2014-Vol
Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue 01
Re: **Richmond Fire-Rescue – October 2014 Activity Report**

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled, “Richmond Fire-Rescue – October 2014 Activity Report”, dated November 19, 2014, 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 Term Goal #1 Community Safety:

To ensure Richmond remains a safe and desirable community to live, work and play in, through the delivery of effective public safety services that are targeted to the City's specific needs and priorities.

Analysis

Community Involvement

Safety messages for October focused on Fire Prevention Week including information on the Open Houses, information booth activities and the theme of "Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives".

Other safety messages for October included driving safety for fall, directed specifically towards driving in poor conditions. Media releases, Facebook posts and firehall sign messages were used to remind the public of these key safety points.

RFR participates in events and activities advancing public education and community bridge building. During October 2014 the following took place:

- Pumper visits were made to the Minoru Park Halloween Fireworks display, Burkeville Park Halloween Fireworks display, South Arm Community Centre Halloween Fireworks display, West Richmond Hugh Boyd Halloween Fireworks display and Hamilton Halloween Fireworks display events reaching over 9,950 children and adults in a non-emergency environment. Fire crews provided the children and adults with safety messages.
- Educational hall tours of #1 Fire Hall was provided to the 10th Richmond Sea Scouts and Beavers with 25 participants in attendance.
- Safety presentations were provided to Home Depot Fire Safety Day and Fraserview Seniors Care Facility. There were a total of 660 participants in attendance.
- Community events attended during October included: the Dreams Take Flight (Air Canada), Richmond Place Activity Centre-Seniors Home Safety Fair, Muscular Dystrophy Boot Drive with the Firefighters Union L1286, Fire Prevention Week Open Houses and

Information Booths (COSTCO, Home Depot and Canadian Tire). Over 585 children and adults attended these events where crews engaged with the community groups, provided fire safety and public relations information.

Training

Recently, Steveston Harbour Authority purchased a fire boat, which they have trained several operators with, and are now offering as a resource to Richmond Fire-Rescue upon request from an Incident Commander. To be able to safely, effectively and efficiently use the Steveston Harbour Authority Fire Boat, RFR was invited to attend familiarization training which started in October and will run to early November. This training is for the crews stationed at Steveston Fire Hall No. 2.

To reduce blood and body fluid exposure to first responders, RFR training branch developed a new Cardiac Pelican case which eliminates the porous fabric on the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) cases and Oxygen bags. All surfaces are now non porous and easily decontaminated.

Eight crew members attended a Road Trailer Hazmat Identification through CN Rail TransCAER (Transportation Community Awareness and Emergency Response) at Abbotsford Fire Training Centre. TransCAER is a voluntary national outreach effort that focuses on assisting communities to prepare for and to respond to possible hazardous materials transportation incidents.

Warehouse tours of Versa Cold were provided for Hazmat team members on each shift. This tour encompassed Versa Cold's building and the new ammonia system.

Elevator training concluded at the WorkSafe BC building. RFR would like to acknowledge WorkSafe BC for their strategic partnership which allows access to elevators within the WorkSafe BC Building

Emergency Response

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

There were 25 fires in October 2014. Fire losses during the month are estimated at \$235,750. This total includes \$215,500 for building loss and \$20,250 for content loss. The total building and content value at risk was estimated to be \$110,369,300, and the total value preserved was \$110,133,550. These numbers translate to 99.8% of value protected (Figure 1).

Incident Type Breakdown	Call Volume	Estimated Building Value (\$)	Estimated Building Loss (\$)	Estimated Content Value (\$)	Estimated Content Loss (\$)	Estimated Total Value Preserved (\$)
Residential: Single family	5	4,584,000	188,000	1,044,200	14,150	5,426,050
Multi family	4	34,337,000	-	10,204,100	6,100	44,535,000
Commercial / Industrial	4	47,050,000	2,000	13,005,000	-	60,053,000
Fire – Outdoor	7	-	-	-	-	-
Vehicle	5	145,000	25,500	-	-	119,500
Totals*	25	86,116,000	215,500	24,253,300	20,250	110,133,550

*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 October incidents:

1. Fire crews responded to an alarms call to a residential high rise on Cook Road. On arrival crews found a pull station activated on the 9th floor and a water flow on the 18th. RFR crews made their way to the 18th floor and found water flowing out from a closed apartment door. The door was not locked and upon entry found 5 inches of water throughout the suite being fed from a sprinkler that had activated from a stove top fire. The water was shut down to the floor and RCMP was called to secure and investigate the scene. RFR crews continued with water salvage operations and worked hard over the course of several hours to get occupants back into their suites. One family was accommodated through Emergency Social Services.
2. A commercial building fire located at Viking Way. RFR attended with a 1st alarm to the report of a fire in the 180,000 square foot corrugated cardboard manufacturing facility. Arriving crews discovered that there was a fire in the 'waxer' and although sprinklers had activated the fire was not under control. Initial actions knocked down the visible fire burning in the heavy timber ceiling structure. Several workers were treated at the scene for smoke inhalation by RFR and BC Ambulance Services (BCAS). The building was ventilated, made safe and released to RFR investigators and company owners.
3. Crews responded to a house fire on Bowen Drive. RFR crews arrived on scene to find the home engulfed in flames. There was extensive fire damage to kitchen and roof of the house.
4. Crews responded to an alarm call to a fire on Gibbons Drive. On arrival crews determined that there was a kitchen fire, which was subsequently extinguished with no further extension of damage.

5. Crews responded to a house fire on Granville Avenue which they were able to confine to the porch area through aggressive fire attack procedures.
6. A stove fire on General Currie Road was attended to by RFR crews. On arrival, crews found burnt wires and the smell of smoke. RFR crews mitigated the smoke and returned the building to a safe state.
7. A boat fire located at Bay View Street. On arrival, crews found the fishing boat partially extinguished by a concerned boater. RFR extinguished the remaining fire.
8. A fire at a suspected meth lab on Bathgate Way. On arrival, crews found that the sprinkler system had assisted with the extinguishment. Hazmat crew responded to provide decontamination for the RCMP entry teams. RCMP were left in charge of the scene.
9. Crews responded to a car fire on Saunders Road in which a bottle of an accelerant was found nearby. This incident is now under investigation.

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

1. A patient with burns on No 4 Road. The individual had been canning salmon in a pressure cooker when the cooker exploded. Both the living room and kitchen windows were blown out with tremendous force. The blast effect in the kitchen was violent and there was a large hole in the ceiling above the stove and the stove was severely damaged. The patient had been in the kitchen at the time of the explosion, the patient sustained substantial burns to his body. RFR's fire investigator attended.
2. An fatal overdose of a young female at Ledway Road. Crews attending were provided Critical Incident Stress Services by a Critical Incident Stress Management member.
3. Pedestrians struck at Minoru Boulevard and Blundell Road.
4. A medical call for a gunshot wound on Kilby Drive. The patient did not survive his injuries.
5. Medical calls for patients suffering from heart issues on both Ash Street and Calder Road. At both incidents CPR and an AED were used. Neither of the patients recovered.
6. RFR attended to a two car motor vehicle incident involving an RCMP cruiser. The driver of the civilian vehicle was extricated using the jaws of life. The RCMP member had minor injuries and remained on scene.

A summary of 9-1-1 emergency response statistics is found in Attachment 1, Tables 1, 2, 3 and

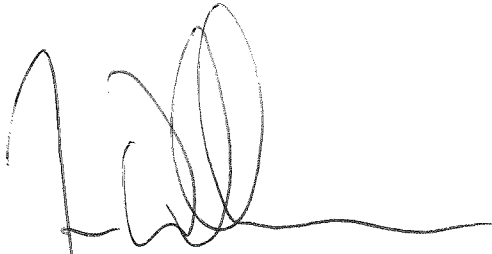
4. The location of fire, medical and motor vehicle incident calls in October are depicted in Attachment 2, Figures 1, 2 and 3.

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”.

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

John McGowan
Fire Chief
(604-303-2734)

JM:js

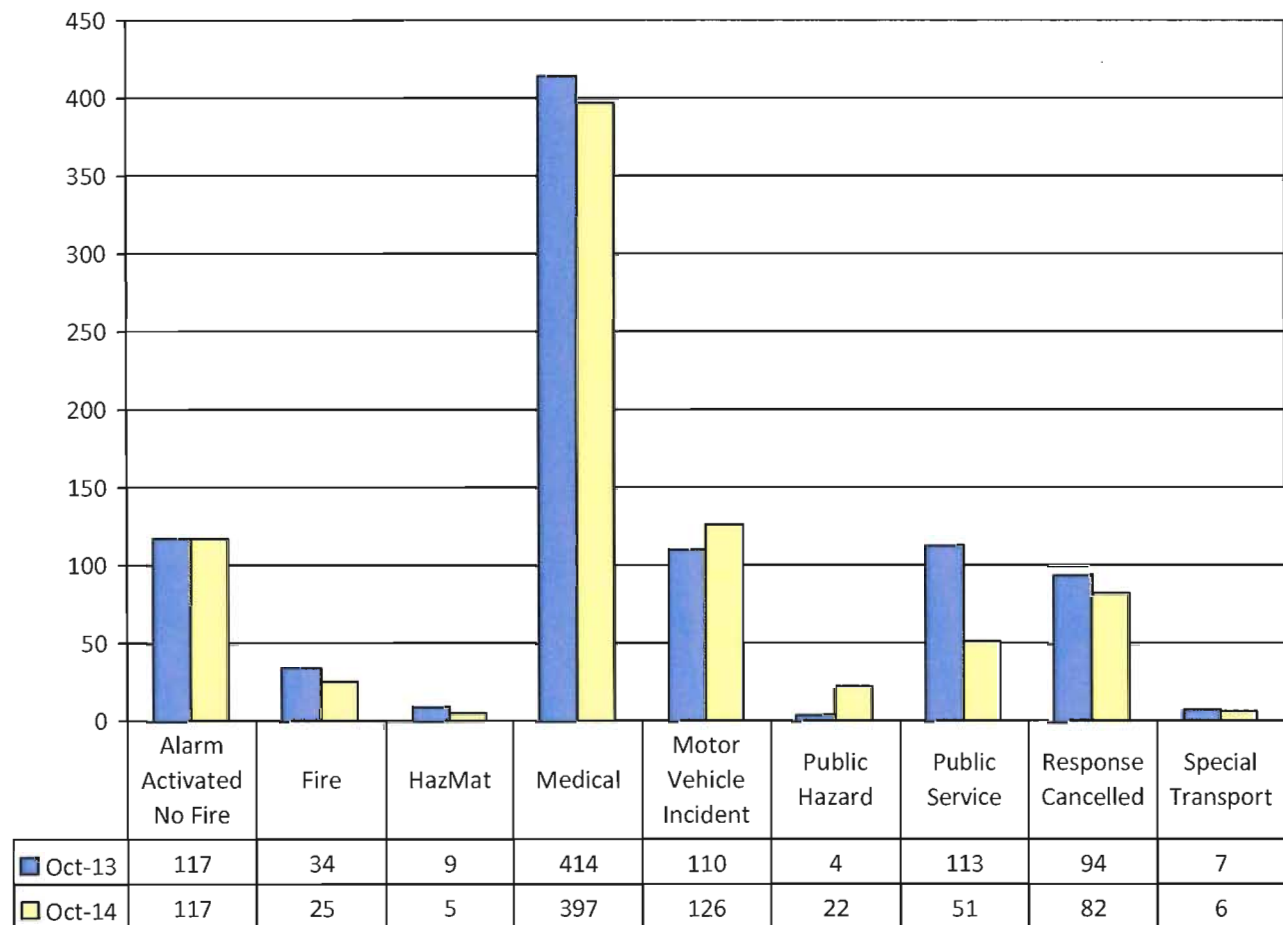
Att. 1: Suppression Activity

Att. 2: Location of October’s Fire, Medical and MVI calls

Suppression Activity

The following chart provides a month to month comparison regarding incidents occurring in October 2013 and 2014. In October 2014, there were a total of 831 incidents, compared to 902 in October 2013. This represents a decrease of 7.9% which includes a reduction in fire and public service calls. RFR has determined, through evidence based data analysis, that a number of responses to Vancouver International Airport were previously not appropriately forwarded to RFR; specifically crews were either cancelled on route or as they arrived on site. As a result of data analysis RFR has identified a new deployment plan which has reduced the number of event types that require response.

Table 1: October 2013 & 2014 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 47.8% of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of October. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for October 2013 and 2014 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 397 medical incidents in October 2014 compared to 414 in October 2013 a decrease of 4.1%.

Table 2a: October 2013 & 2014 Medical Calls by Type

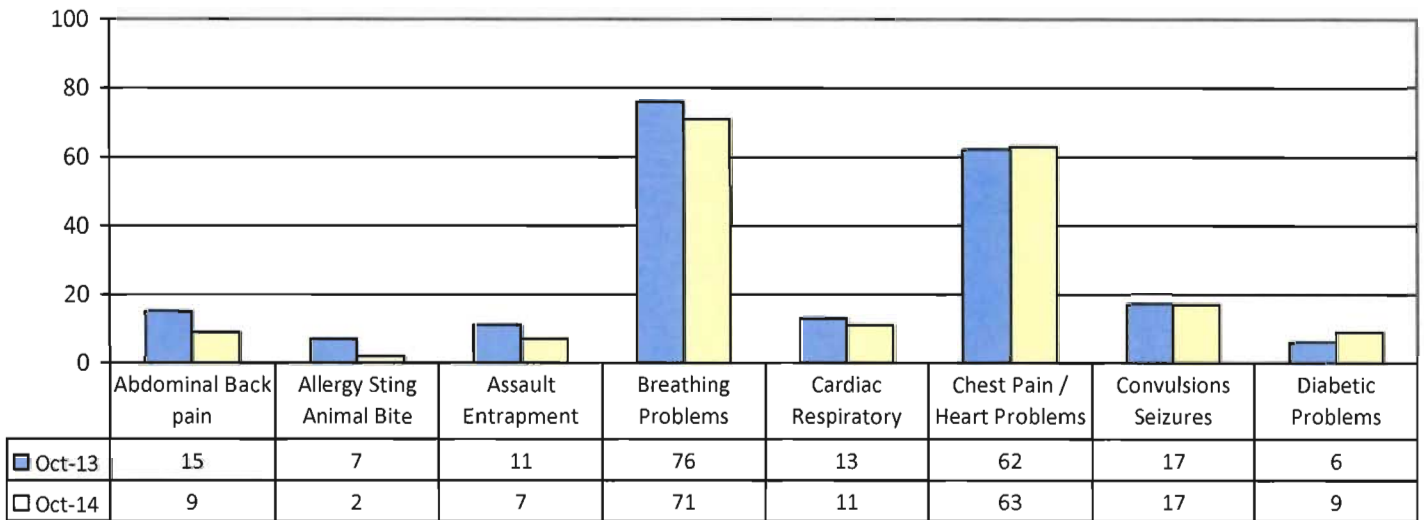
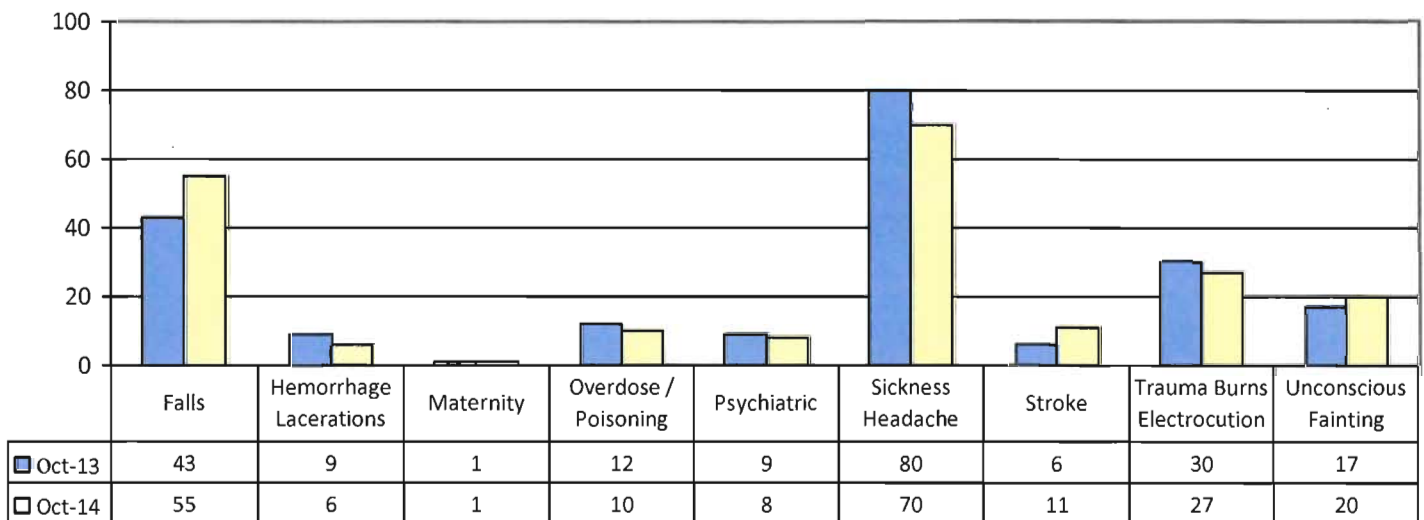


Table 2b: October 2013 & 2014 Medical Calls by Type



Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for October 2014 are listed below:

Table 3: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – October			
	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	-	5	-
Residential - Multi-family	-	2	2
Commercial/Industrial	1	2	1
Fire – Outdoor	-	1	6
Vehicle	1	3	1
Totals	2	13	10

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 – October	
	Details
Flammable / combustible Liquids	1
Natural Gas / Propane Leaks (small)	3
Standby / Support for other agency	1
Totals	5

Figure 2. Location of medical calls in October (total 397)

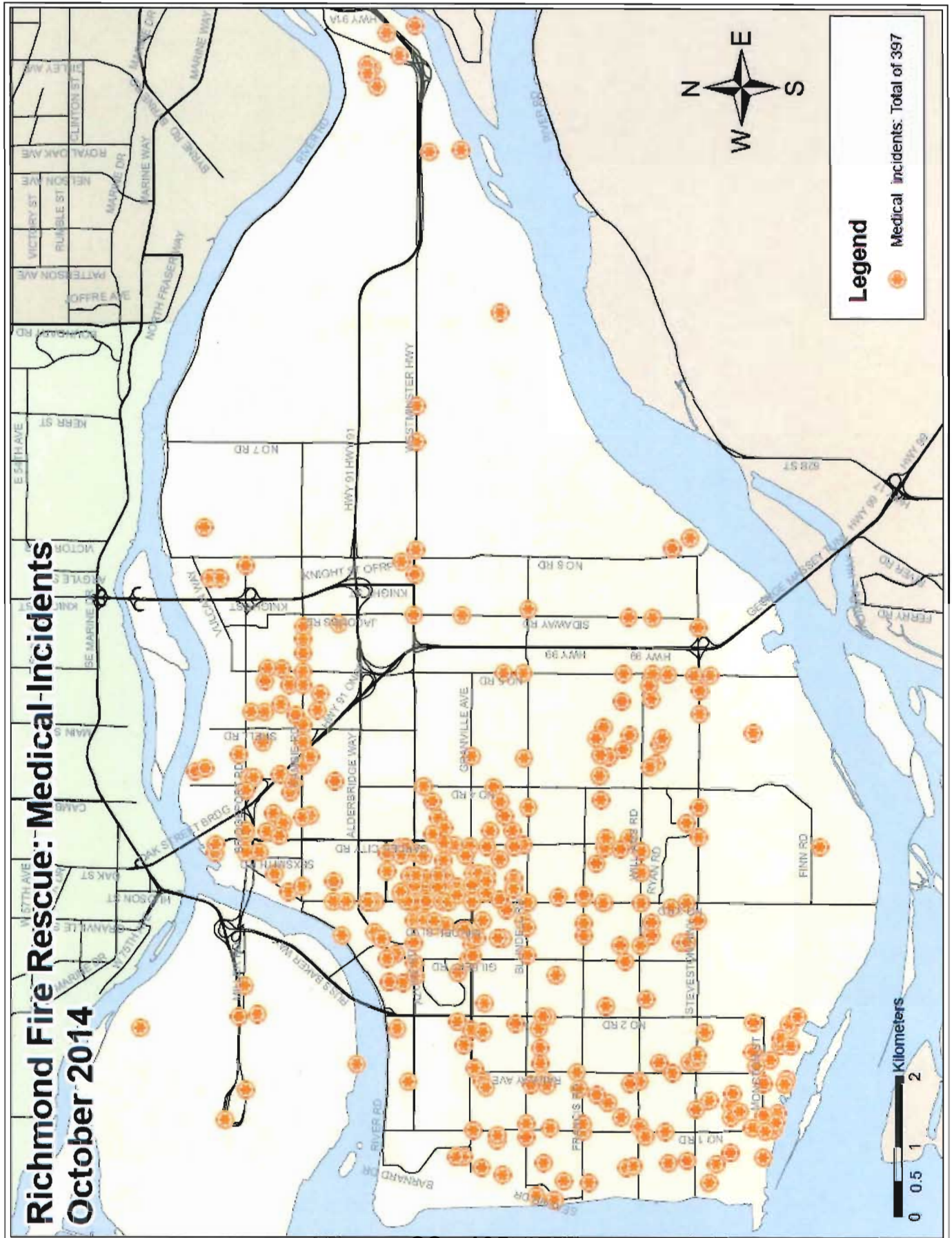


Figure 3: Location of MVI calls in October (total 126)

