



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** Community Safety Committee **Date:** August 20, 2018  
**From:** Tim Wilkinson  
Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue **File:** 09-5000-01/2018-Vol 01  
**Re:** **Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – July 2018**

### Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – July 2018”, dated August 20, 2018 from the Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue, be received for information.

Tim Wilkinson  
Fire Chief  
(604-303-2701)

Att. 2

<b>REPORT CONCURRENCE</b>	
<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b>	
<b>REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE</b>	<b>INITIALS:</b>  CS
<b>APPROVED BY CAO</b>	

## 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

RFR staff successfully moved into the new Brighthouse Fire Hall No. 1. The new facility is post-disaster rated to ensure it remains operable in an emergency. Completion of the new Fire Hall No. 1 means that all of Richmond's major public safety buildings are now rebuilt or renovated to meet modern building standards and existing and future community needs. An opening event is scheduled for Saturday, September 15, 2018 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

### Community Involvement

RFR advances public awareness, education and community bridge building by participating in training events, community activities and social media.

During July staff engaged with approximately 514 children and adults, continuing to develop effective interagency relationships and partnerships within the community including the Kiwanis Seniors' Housing Society Seniors' Meet & Greet, Public Works - Works on Wheels Bus Tour and Canada Day event.

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. RFR and the City of Richmond sponsored a 16 year old to attend Camp Ignite, which ran from August 9-12. The student reported that she found the camp inspiring and is now seriously considering the fire service as a career. The Richmond News reported on the success of the camp in a news article dated August 13, 2018.
2. "The World is not your Ashtray" campaign is well underway and crews continue to post signs in locations where fires, caused by carelessly discarded smoking materials, have occurred. RFR have been distributing car magnets, designed to increase awareness. Social media is being used to promote the campaign. The public are encouraged to approach RFR staff and light duty vehicles, when safe to do so, in order to obtain their own magnets. The campaign runs until the end of summer.

- RFR have delivered the “9-1-1 When to Make the Call” brochures to relative community service agencies, cultural and religious groups within Richmond. Developed with KPU Wilson School of Design & the Community Collaborative Table (CCT), the information brochures use graphics to clearly outline when to call 9-1-1. RFR staff have used the delivery of the brochures as an opportunity to interact with representatives from those agencies and groups to make or strengthen connections and conduct research on ceremonial or cultural burning practices.

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 July 2018 there were a total 809 incidents, representing a 21.6 per cent reduction in calls from July 2017 (Attachment 1). The average time on scene for RFR crews was 34 minutes, an increase over 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.

In July 2018 there were 86 reportable fires to the Office of the Fire Commissioner; representing a 21 per cent decrease from July 2017. The average figure for fires reported in July, over the last five years, is 86.2, thus reportable fires in the month of July remains consistent with year over year trends.

Fire damage and property losses during July 2018 are estimated at \$10,918. This total includes \$9,800 for building/asset loss and \$1,118 for content loss. The total building/asset and content value at risk was estimated to be \$56,027,036 and the total value preserved from damage was \$56,016,118. These numbers translate to 99 per cent of value protected (Table 1); this is higher than the 92 per cent protected value observed in 2017.

<b>Table 1: Fire Calls By Type and Loss Estimates – July 2018</b>						
<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	4	-	-	-	-	-
Multi family	7	53,265,000	-	21,736	618	53,286,118
Commercial / Industrial	5	2,726,300	1,000	500	500	2,725,300
Outdoor	64	6,000	1,300	-	-	4,700
Vehicle/Vessel	6	7,500	7,500	-	-	-
<b>Totals*</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>56,004,800</b>	<b>9,800</b>	<b>22,236</b>	<b>1,118</b>	<b>56,016,118</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 July 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>Table 2: Average Incident Response Times (in minutes) Per Hall – July 2018</b>				
	<b>July 2017</b>		<b>July 2018</b>	
	<b>PPE</b>	<b>Non PPE</b>	<b>PPE</b>	<b>Non PPE</b>
Hall 1 - City Centre	04:48	05:10	06:08	07:11
Hall 2 - Steveston	05:49	05:16	06:19	05:25
Hall 3 - Cambie	05:14	05:17	04:59	04:52
Hall 4 - Sea Island	06:42	06:57	06:28	06:44
Hall 5 - Hamilton	06:23	05:56	08:05	07:21
Hall 6 - Shellmont	05:58	05:04	06:34	06:02
Hall 7 - Crestwood	06:07	05:42	06:58	06:18

\* 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 July 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 July 2018 incidents:

- Wildland fire at Shell Road. Arriving crews began an aggressive attack of a large fire in a wooded area of approximately six hectares of active burning. Multiple RFR crews were assigned to the site and an incident command was set up onsite. Other City Departments were in attendance, as well as excavators and bulldozer equipment.

Due to the nature of this call air operations and BC Wildfire Services were requested to attend and sent support staff. Assistance was also provided by other fire departments including; Delta Fire, Port Moody Fire, District of North Vancouver and Vancouver Fire.

All fire crews continued to attack the fire and a fire perimeter was set up with a sprinkler system. Road closures were set up to draw traffic away from the area. The fire was contained to the wooded area and did not spread to the nearby nature park.

This was a large bog fire with all operations requiring back up and co-ordination with multiple agencies. The 39th Service Battalion (Department of National Defence), Salvation Army, BC Ambulance Service and RCMP also attended the scene to provide assistance. Due to the nature of the bog fire, crews were onsite for several days, continuing to attack spot fires and maintain a perimeter of sprinklers. There were minimal injuries reported.

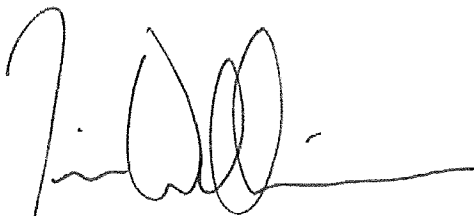
- Fire at a residential property on Arcadia Road. Fire crews arrived and started to apply water to an apartment on the third floor that was vented and fully involved with fire. After crews managed to reduce the fire they advanced to the third floor balcony to continue to attack and extinguish the fire. Services were call to ensure all power, water and natural gas has been shut off to the property. Emergency Social Services were engaged as residents from multiple properties were displaced due to the fire. There were no injuries reported and a Fire Investigator attended the scene.
- Fire at a residential property on Granville Avenue. First arriving crews found the back of a shed and hedge on fire behind a residential house. Crews attacked the fire and quickly brought it under control; stopping further losses. The fire was extinguished, all residents and crews were accounted for and there are no reported injuries. A Fire Investigator attended the scene.

### **Financial Impact**

None.

### **Conclusion**

During July 2018, calls for service decreased by 21.6 per cent from July 2017. RFR will continue to monitor these activities to identify trends and ensure potential solutions.



Tim Wilkinson  
Fire Chief  
(604-303-2701)

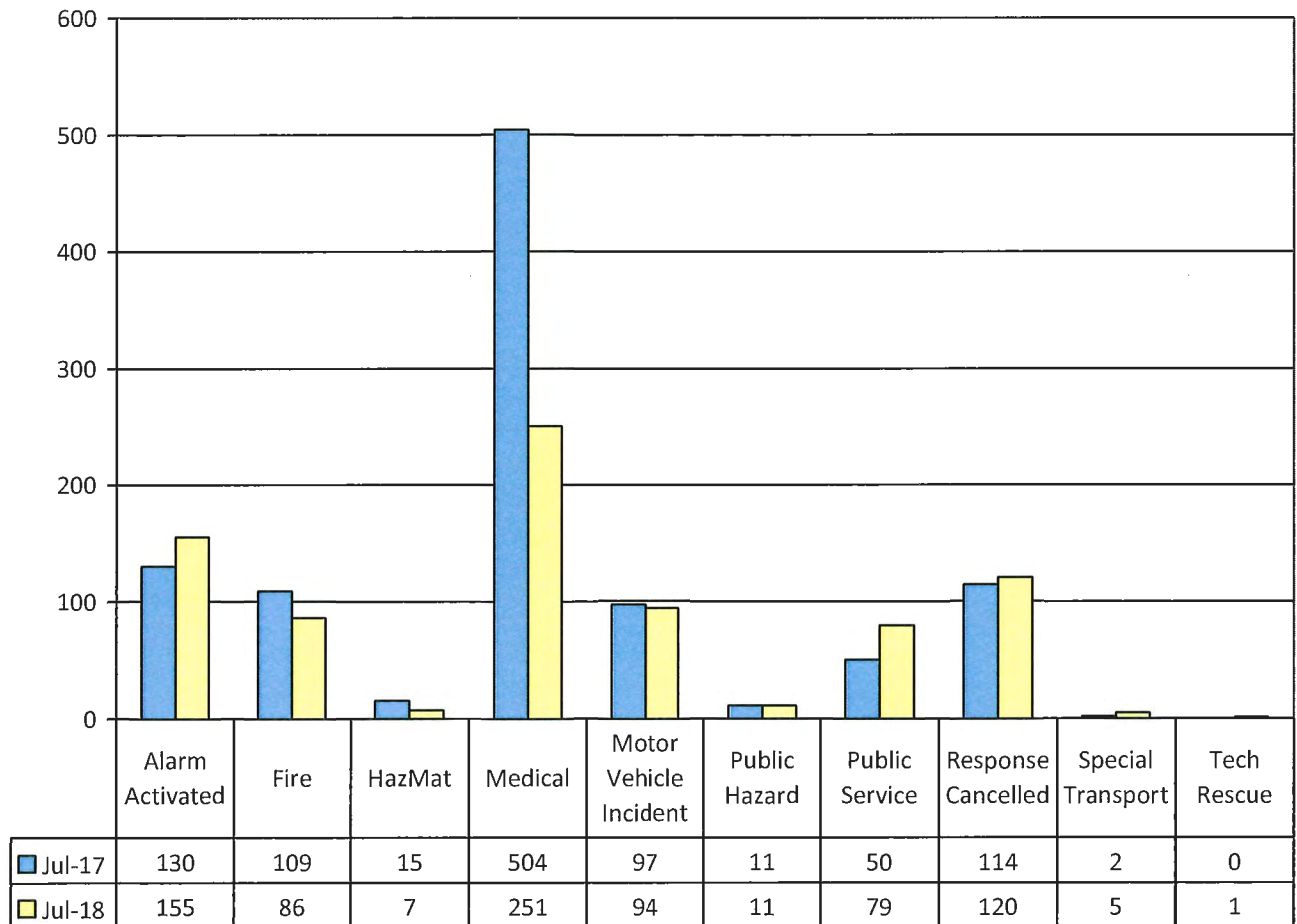
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Att. 1: Suppression Activity  
2: Location of July's Fire, Medical and MVIs

**Calls for Service Volumes**

The following chart provides a month to month comparison regarding incidents occurring in July 2017 and 2018. In July 2018, there were a total of 809 incidents, compared to 1,032 in July 2017. This represents a decrease of 21.6 per cent.

**Table 3: July 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

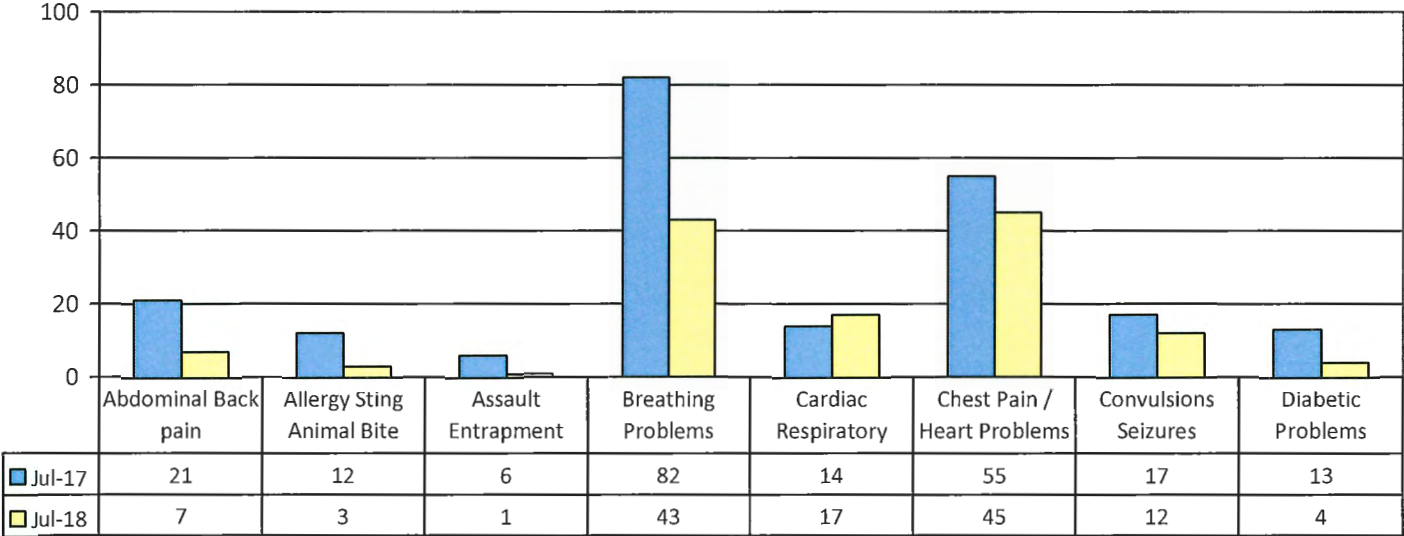
*Public Hazard*: includes: aircraft emergency, bomb removal standby, object removal, or power lines down

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

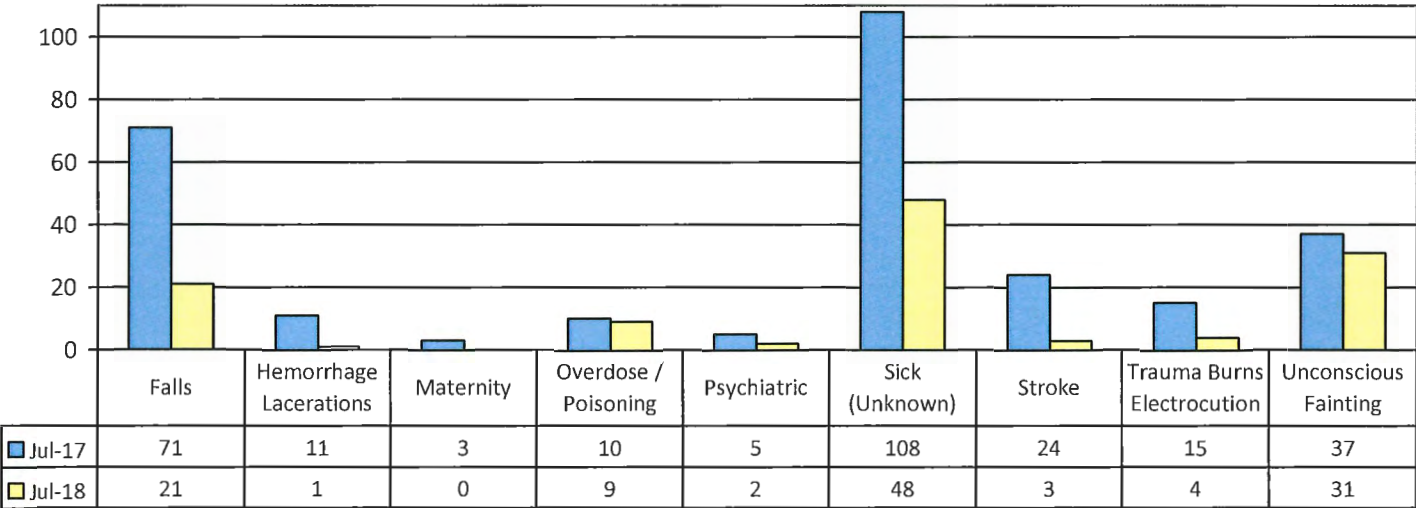
**First Responder Totals**

Medical first responder incidents comprised 31 per cent of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of July 2018. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for July 2018 and 2017 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 251 medical incidents in July 2018 compared to 504 in July 2017, a decrease of 50.2 per cent.

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



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



## Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for July 2018 are listed below:

<b>Table 5: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – July</b>			
	<b>Suspicious</b>	<b>Accidental</b>	<b>Undetermined</b>
Residential - Single-family	-	2	2
Residential - Multi-family	-	5	2
Commercial/Industrial	-	2	3
Outdoor	7	39	18
Vehicle	-	-	6
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>31</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>Table 6: HazMat Calls By Type – July</b>	
	<b>Details</b>
Natural Gas / Propane Leaks (small)	7
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7</b>



Figure 1: Location of reportable fires attended in July (total 86)

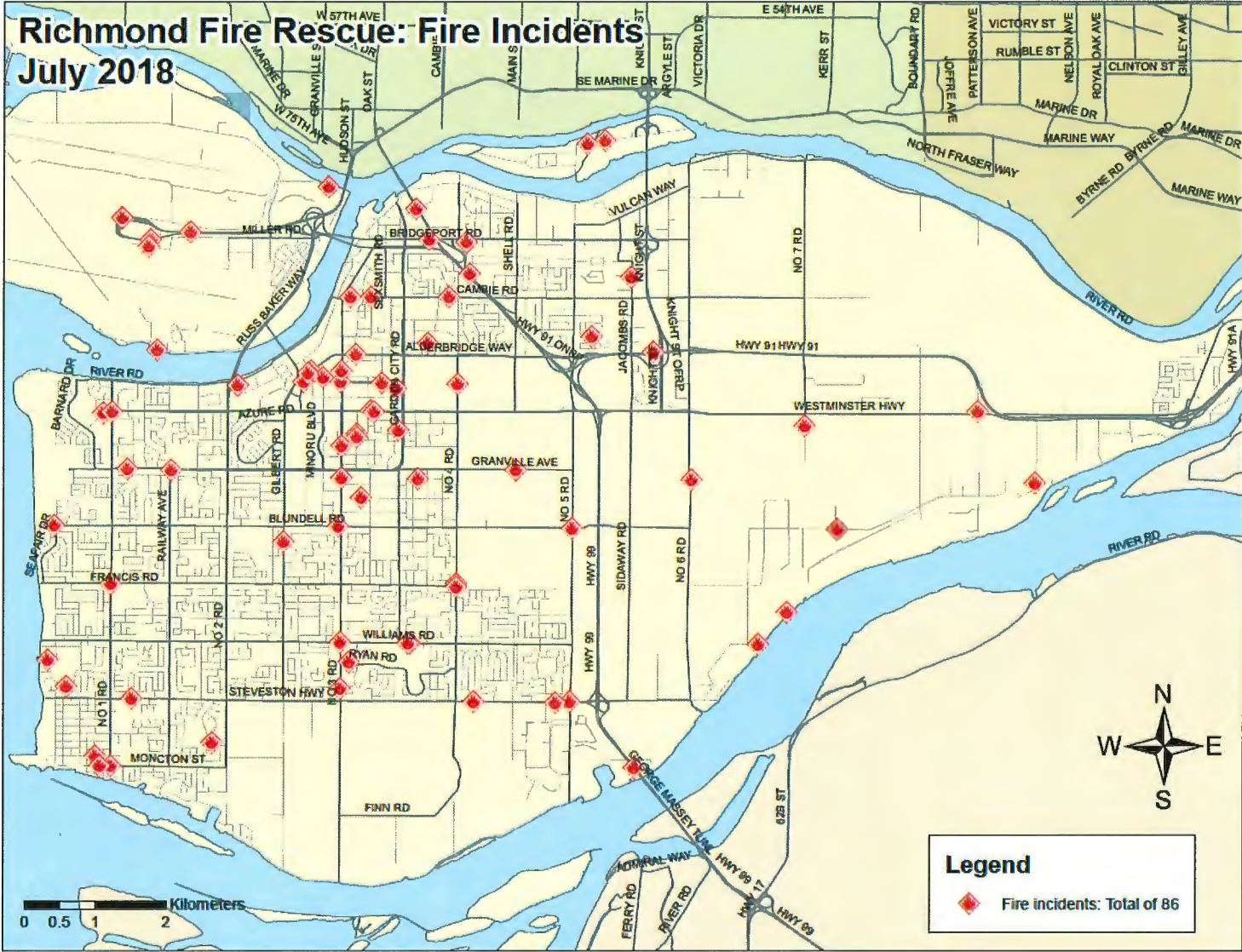


Figure 2: Location of medical calls in July (total 251)

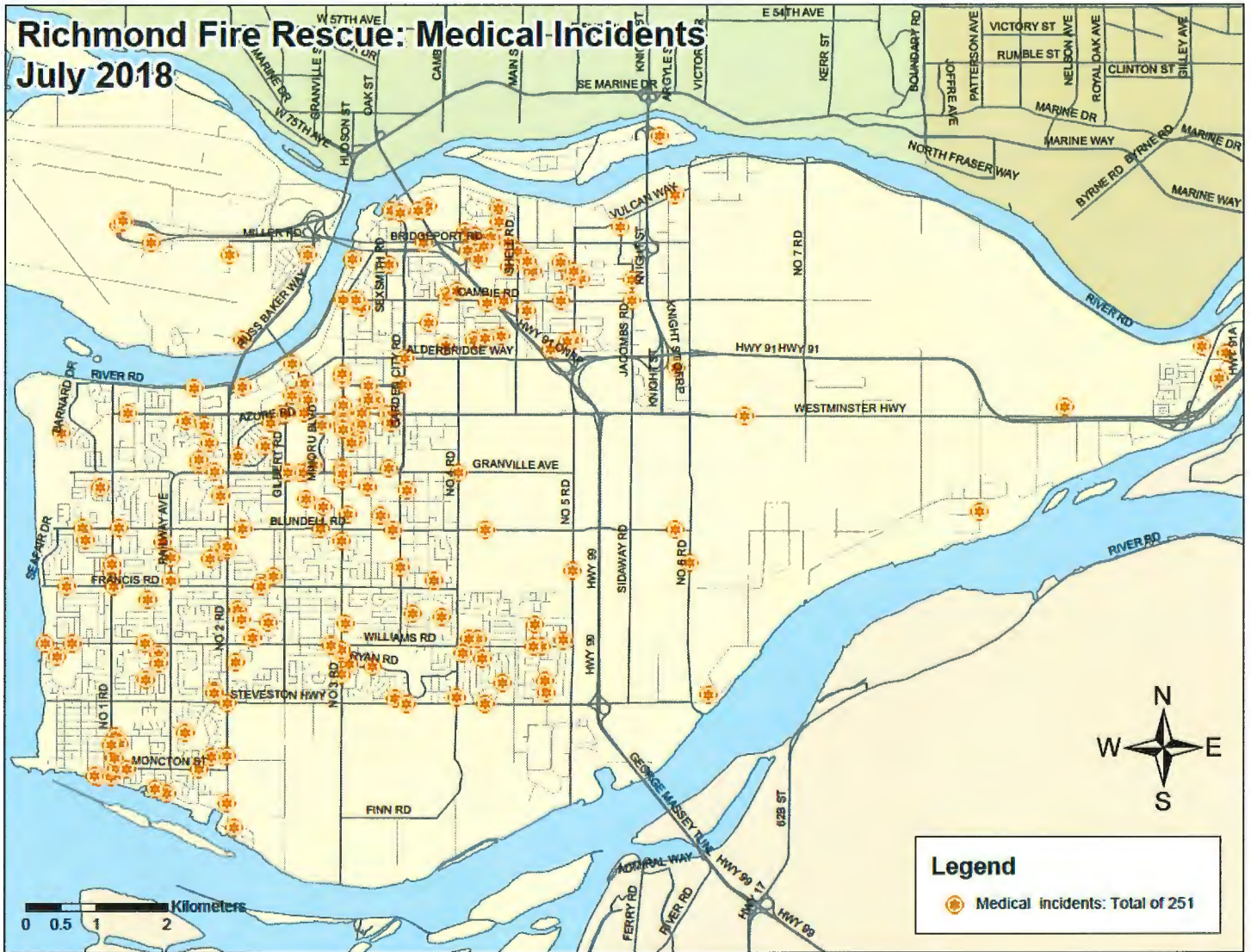


Figure 3: Location of MVI calls in July (total 94)

