



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee

Date: April 8, 2019

From: Tim Wilkinson
Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue

File: 09-5000-01/2019-Vol 01

Re: Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – March 2019

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – March 2019”, dated April 8, 2019, 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:

We act as an effective team to proactively protect and enhance the City's livability by serving and educating our community, preventing harm and responding to emergencies.

Analysis

Community Involvement

RFR advances public safety awareness, education and community connections by providing valuable training activities, participation in community events and social media updates.

During March staff engaged with approximately 824 children and adults, while continuing to develop effective interagency relationships and partnerships within the community.

March 2019 events included:

- Safety presentations and hall tours with the following groups: SUCCESS, Cedarwood Place Senior's Residence, Hugh Boyd Secondary School, Richmond Beaver/Cub Scout Group, 9th Richmond Scout Troop and Cub Pack, Royal Canadian Air Cadets 692, BCIT Aerospace Squadron, CHIMO, Multicultural Helping Home, and Metro Vancouver Housing.
- Recruits Family Day event including a presentation of the newly passed probation recruits with their friends and families.
- Staff attended the British Columbia Professional Fire Fighters Association (BCPFFA) Fallen Firefighters memorial was held at the British Columbia Parliament Building memorial site on March 4th, in Victoria. This year four Richmond Firefighters were recognized; Captain Mel Armstrong, Captain Robert Martens, Captain Karl Bessler and Captain Bryan Kongus.
- Staff participated with the lower mainland district RCMP Emergency Response Team in an active-shooter exercise at the MacArthur Glen Mall. RFR staff participated in the briefing and support casualty collection with BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS).
- The Fire Chief and the Community Relations Officer made a presentation to the residents of The Maple Residences Seniors Living facility.

Prevention

Richmond Fire-Rescue Prevention Team provides service in the following areas:

- Building plan review;
- Safety inspections;
- Fire investigation;
- Code enforcement;
- Complaint investigation; and
- Appeal management.

Major Prevention Initiatives

Persons inhabiting City Property, 23560 Westminster Highway (Hamilton)

The Community Safety Committee asked staff to provide more detailed information on the services provided for the homeless encampment in Hamilton. The actions taken to date by Fire personnel are as follows:

- Twice weekly inspections, inspections are photographed and recorded into the Fire Department Records Management System;
- Creation of pre-fire plan;
- Provision of safety briefings and documents to inhabitants;
- Provision of smoke/CO detectors for each tent;
- Provision of fire extinguishers; and
- Provision of First Aid equipment including:
 - First Aid gloves;
 - Naloxone kits; and
 - A sharps container.

Steveston Harbour Authority

Over the past few years there have been a number of serious fires and safety breakdowns on the lands controlled by the Steveston Harbour Authority.

Staff have taken the following corrective actions:

- Created a strategic partnership with Small Harbours, Canada and Steveston Harbour Authority where twice yearly strategic planning meetings will be conducted;
- Inspected all properties and docks;
- Forwarded recommendations for improvements;
- Installed temporary fire protection systems with permanent upgrades in the near future; and
- Created a joint inspection plan where Steveston Harbour Authority will enforce fire code compliance with their tenants.

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 March 2019 there were a total 810 incidents, representing a nine per cent reduction in calls from March 2018 (Attachment 1).

The average time on scene for RFR crews was 29 minutes; this is an increase over the 26 minutes in 2018. This is due to the nature and severity of each call.

In March 2019 there were 41 reportable fires to the Office of the Fire Commissioner; representing a 51 per cent increase from March 2018. The average figure for fires reported in March over the last five years, is 28. RFR continues to monitor fire activities to identify and create programs to respond to emerging trends.

RFR's emergency fire response goal is to maintain fire to the room of origin. The room of origin standard is especially important in terms of fire loss increases some ten-fold once the fire leaves the room of origin. Fire damage and property losses during March 2019 are estimated at \$278,090. This total includes \$248,050 for building/asset loss and \$30,040 for content loss. The total building/asset and content value at risk was estimated to be \$149,860,600 and the total value preserved from damage was \$149,582,510. These numbers translate to 99 per cent of value protected (Table 1); this is the same as the 99 per cent protected value observed in 2018.

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	3	3,245,900	50	359,200	40	3,604,010
Multi family	8	146,184,000	245,500	51,000	30,000	145,959,500
Commercial / Industrial	4	-	-	-	-	-
Outdoor	20	-	-	-	-	-
Vehicle/Vessel	6	20,500	2,500	-	-	18,000
Totals*	41	149,450,400	248,050	410,200	30,040	149,582,510

*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).

Significant Events

Fire crews minimized harm and limited fires to the place of origin in these notable March 2019 incidents:

- March 17, 2019 – Medical event on Maple Road. RFR crew responded to a medical call where an adult pregnant female was experiencing convulsions. The RFR crew arrived prior to BCEHS staff and provided first responder care to the patient. A short time after BCAS staff entered the residence their personal Carbon Monoxide detectors activated and indicated high levels of Carbon Monoxide gas present. All occupants were immediately removed from the residence. All four occupants living in the home were transported to hospital for treatment for exposure to high levels of Carbon Monoxide gas. RFR crews also reported to Richmond General Hospital for assessment and treatment. After a number of hours on O₂, RFR crews blood levels returned to normal levels and they returned to active duty.
- March 19, 2019 – Motorhome fire on Nanika Crescent. On arrival crews quickly set up and extinguished the fire using the Class A wetting agent, Cold Fire. A Thermal Imaging Camera was used to check for hot spots and scene overhaul. There were no injuries reported. A Fire Investigator attended; at this time fire cause determination has not been finalized and the investigation continues.
- March 19, 2019 – Mechanical fire on Burrows Road. The fire was located in a dust cyclone. The fire crew ensured that there were no ongoing hot spots and/or fire extension. There were no injuries reported. A Fire Investigator attended; at this time fire cause determination has not been finalized and the investigation continues.
- March 27, 2019 – Fire at commercial property involving three vehicles and a portable office structure on Nelson Road. The fire caused a number of diesel tanks to rupture and approximately 900 litres of diesel fuel leaked out of the tanks. RFR crews successfully extinguished the fire and were able to dyke the spilled fuel into one area. The fire was managed such that the fire impingement on the office structure was minimized with salvage and overhaul ensuring extinguishment of hot spots. One person had suffered smoke inhalation and was treated on scene by RFR and BCEHS crews. RFR Fire Investigator, WorkSafe BC and Richmond RCMP attended. The site management staff was left to coordinate site cleanup and the BC Ministry of the Environment were contacted. The fire cause is still under investigation with RFR working closely with RCMP.
- March 28, 2019 – Fire at residential property on Brown Road. This fire occurred within the kitchen area of an apartment situated on the 7th floor. The sprinkler system had activated in the residence containing the fire at the point of origin. The water from the sprinkler activation migrated from the seventh floor down to the main lobby area. Crews used fans to evacuate the smoke from the building. There were no reports of any injuries, though one resident was evaluated and treated by BCEHS staff for smoke inhalation. A Fire Investigator attended and determined the fire to be accidental due to human failing.

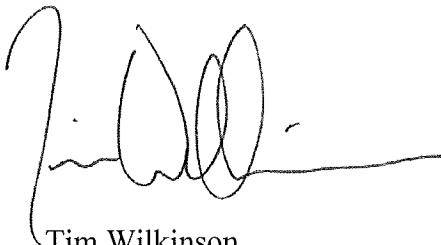
- March 30, 2019 – Fire at a commercial property on Capstan Way. Staff responded to a structure fire located within an auto body shop. This was a second alarm fire. The fire conditions were difficult in that there were dark smoke conditions, difficulty accessing areas within the structure and multiple car fires inside of the building. Multiple RFR crews attacked and extinguished the fire using water and Cold Fire. A Fire Investigator attended due to the suspicious nature of the fire and as such RFR and RCMP are jointly investigating the cause and origin. The investigation is ongoing.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

RFR monitor activities to identify and create programs to respond to emerging trends.

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)

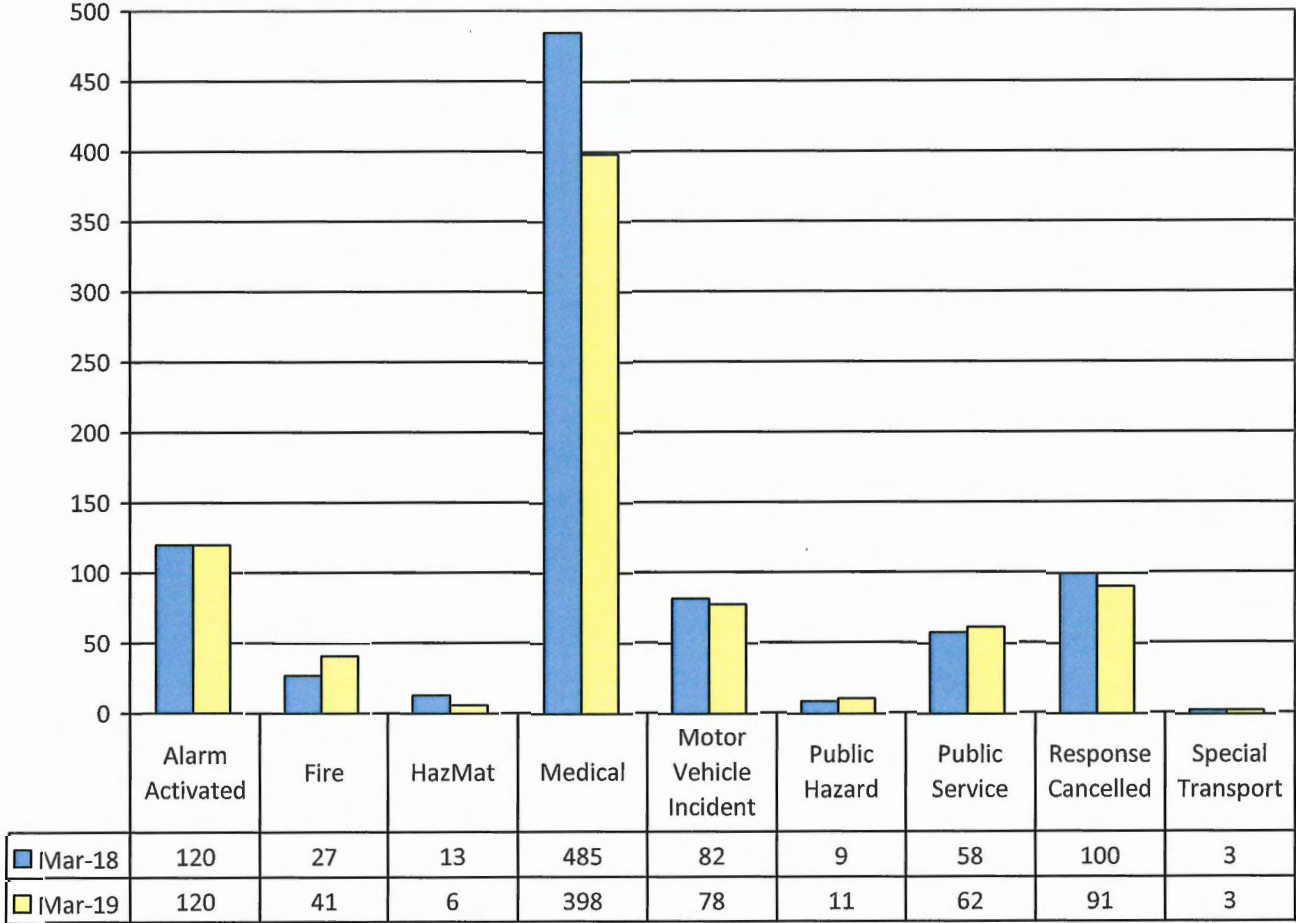
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- Att. 1: Suppression Activity
2: Location of March's Fire, Medical and MVIs

Calls for Service Volumes

The following chart provides a month to month comparison regarding incidents occurring in March 2018 and 2019. In March 2019, there were a total of 810 incidents, compared to 897 in March 2018. This represents a decrease of nine per cent.

Table 3: March 2018 & 2019 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 49 per cent of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of March 2019. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for March 2018 and 2019 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 398 medical incidents in March 2019 compared to 485 in March 2018, a decrease of 17 per cent.

Table 4a: March 2018 & 2019 Medical Calls by Type

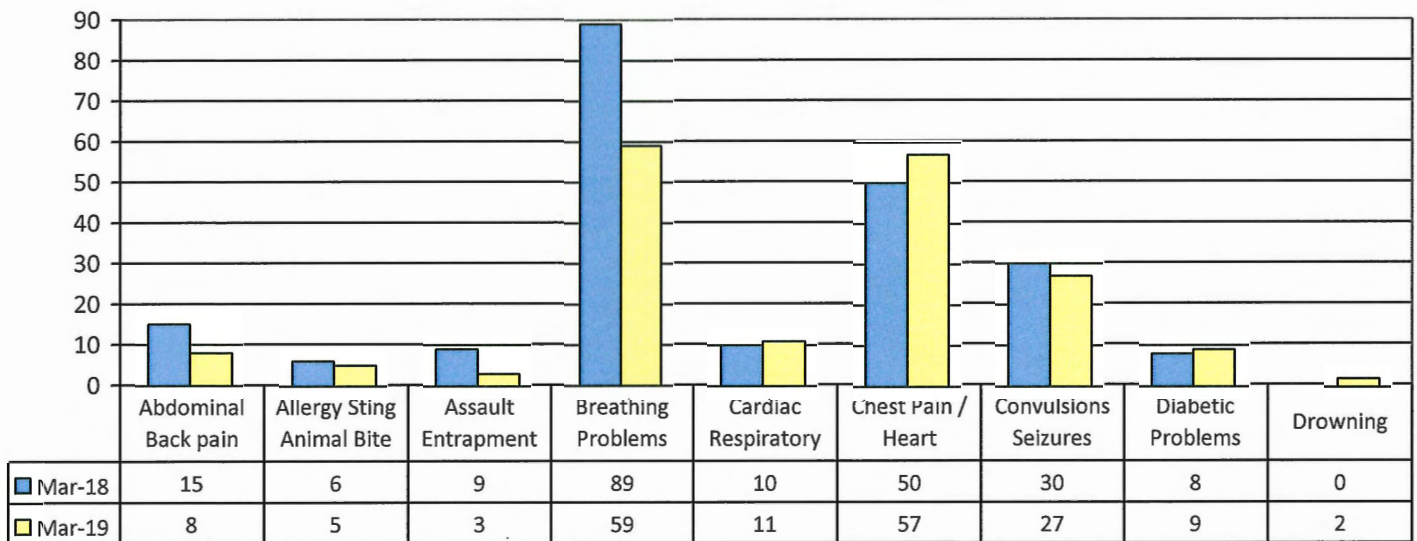
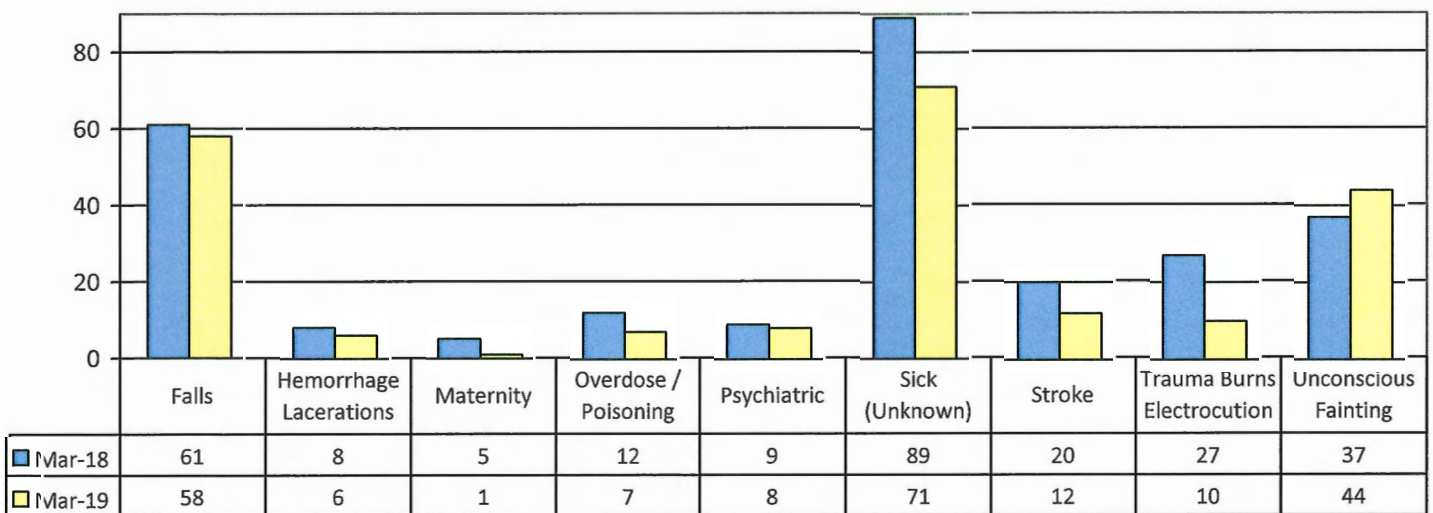


Table 4b: March 2018 & 2019 Medical Calls by Type



Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for March 2019 are listed below:

Table 5: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – March 2019			
	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	-	3	-
Residential - Multi-family	1	7	-
Commercial/Industrial	-	3	1
Outdoor	3	15	2
Vehicle	1	2	3
Totals	5	30	6

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

Hazardous Materials

Table 6: HazMat Calls By Type – March 2019	
	Details
Natural Gas / Propane Leaks (small)	1
Flammable / Combustible Liquids	3
Unclassified	2
Totals	6

Figure 1: Location of reportable fires attended in March 2019 (total 41)

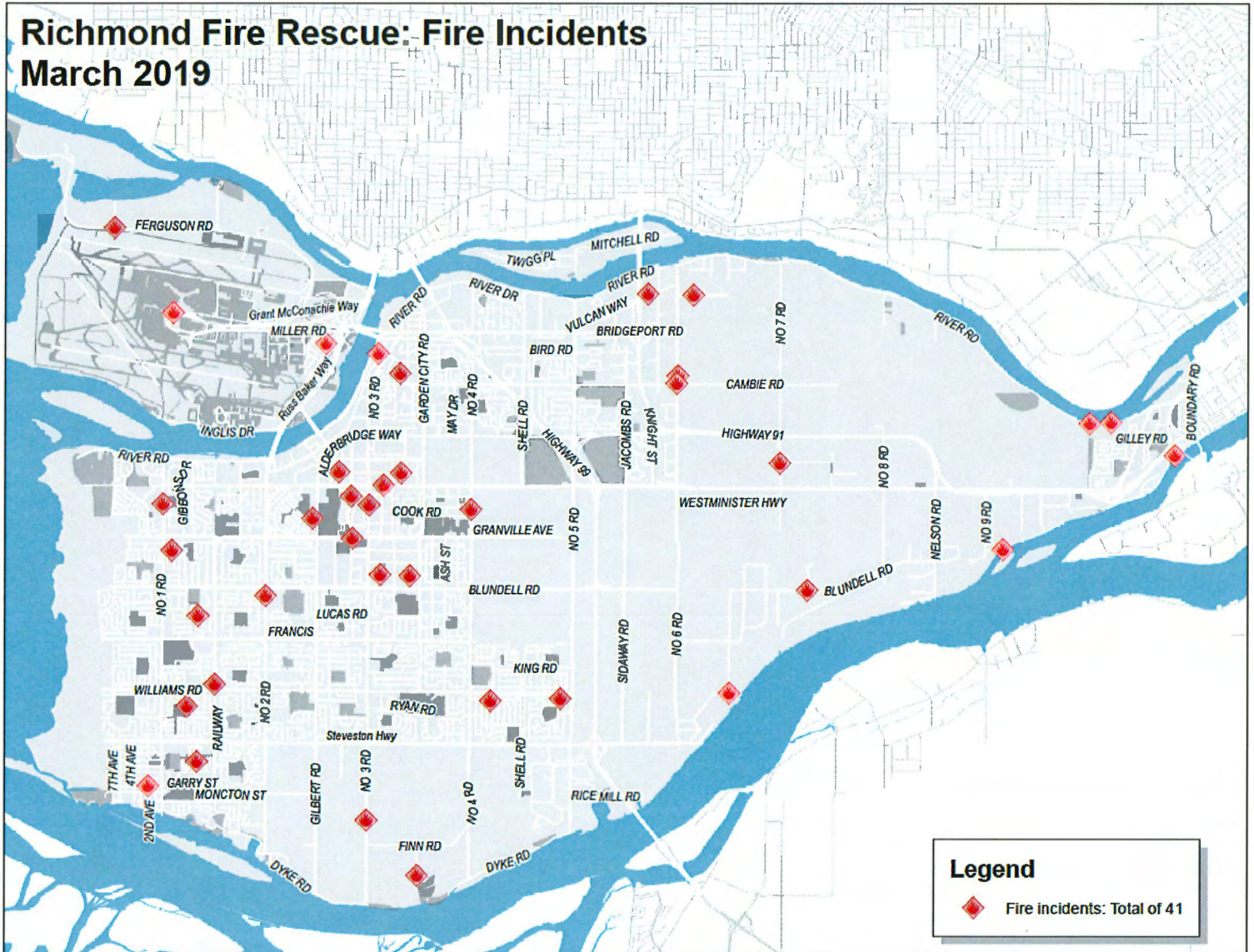


Figure 2: Location of medical calls in March 2019 (total 398)

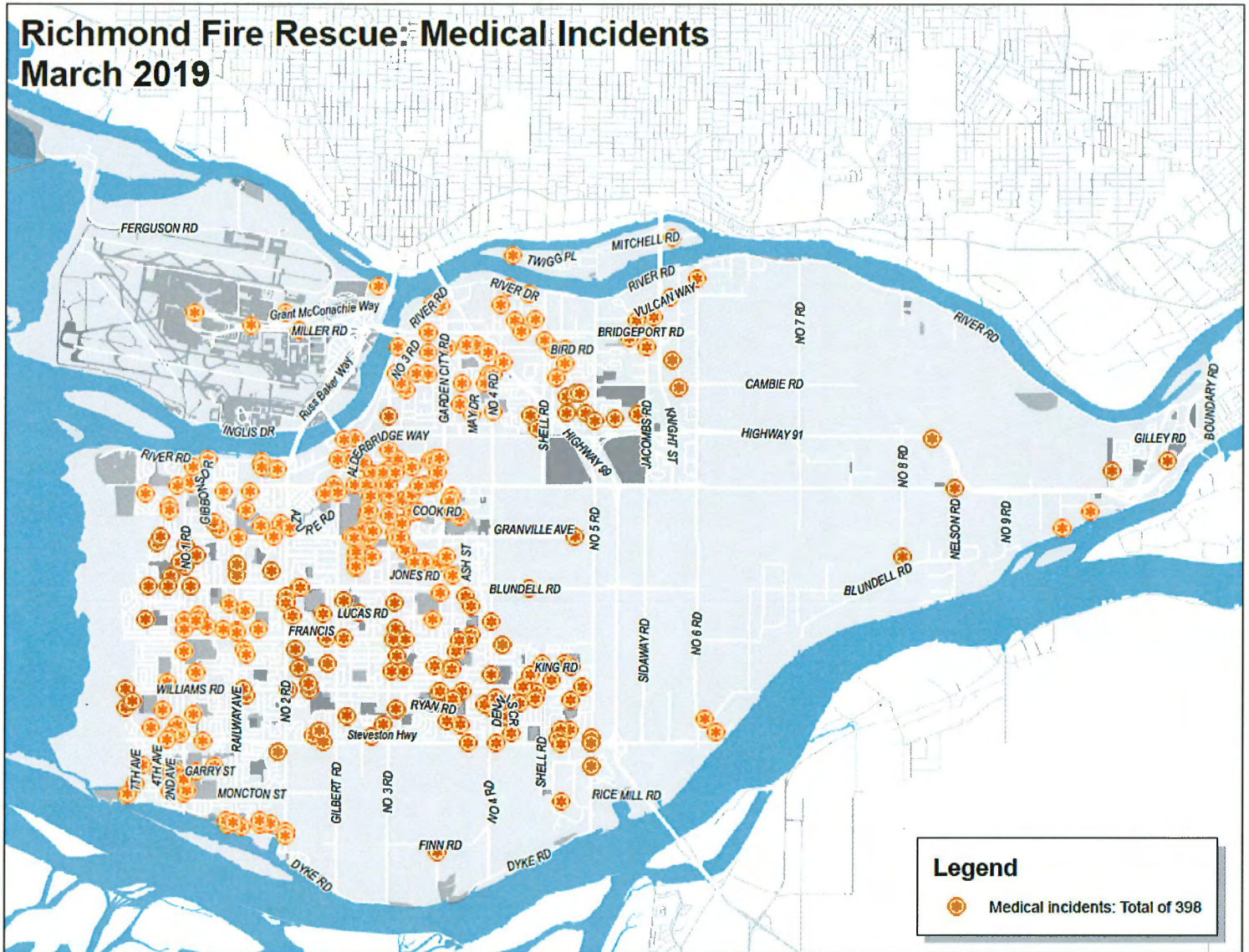


Figure 3: Location of MVI calls in March 2019 (total 78)

