



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee

Date: August 12, 2019

From: Tim Wilkinson
Fire Chief

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

Re: **Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – July 2019**

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – July 2019”, dated August 12, 2019, from the Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue, be received for information.

Tim Wilkinson
Fire Chief
(604-303-2701)

Att. 1

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

Staff Report

Origin

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #1 A Safe and Resilient City:

Enhance and protect the safety and well-being of Richmond.

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 July staff engaged with adults, while continuing to develop effective interagency relationships and partnerships within the community.

July 2019 events included safety presentations for SUCCESS Immigration Settlement & Integration Program and a site visit for the Works on Wheels Tour. Community events included the Canada Day celebrations.

Prevention

The RFR smoking campaign titled "*the world is not your ashtray*" runs between June and September. In July 2019 there were 54 cigarette related fires in Richmond, a reduction from 113 reported fires in June 2019 (Attachment 2).

RFR Rescue crew provided onsite hazard inspections for the weekend of the Maritime Festival and surrounding areas. There were no major issues with food trucks, traffic or crowd control at the times of the inspections. Crews reported that attendance was not too overcrowded, facilities were adequate and the food trucks were well arranged and prepared. Private security for the event had traffic flow well in hand and no problems were evident. The event ran smoothly.

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 2019 there were a total 822 incidents, representing a 1.6 per cent increase in calls from July 2018 (Attachment 1).

The average time on scene for RFR crews was 28 minutes; this is a decrease over the 34 minutes in 2018. This is due to the nature and severity of each call.

In July 2019 there were 58 reportable fires to the Office of the Fire Commissioner; representing a 33 per cent decrease from July 2018 as a direct result of the smoking campaign. The average figure for fires reported in July over the last five years, is 86. 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 the fire to the room of origin. The room of origin standard is especially important in terms of fire loss, which increases some ten-fold once the fire leaves the room of origin. Fire damage and property losses during July 2019 are estimated at \$42,486. This total includes \$42,186 for building/asset loss and \$300 for content loss. The total building/asset and content value at risk was estimated to be \$61,548,486 and the total value preserved from damage was \$61,506,000. These numbers translate to 99.9 per cent of value protected (Table 1); this is the same as the 99.1 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	-	-	-	-	-	-
Multi family	7	59,270,000	13,000	10,000	300	59,266,700
Commercial/Industrial	2	-	-	-	-	-
Outdoor	46	2,268,486	29,186	-	-	2,239,300
Vehicle/Vessel	3	-	-	-	-	-
Totals*	58	61,538,486	42,186	10,000	300	61,506,000

*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 July 2019 incidents:

- July 1 – Update from Canada Day celebrations.** RFR staff were located with RCMP at their command post located at Steveston Park. Two Fire Prevention Officers performed pre-opening fire safety inspections of food trucks and public safety partners. RFR crews were located in the Steveston area and responded to four medical events in support of onsite medical personnel, as well as patrolled for public safety hazards. RCMP estimated attendance at 80,000 people. There were high temperatures recorded on the day and crowd volume was high. This was a very successful event with only a few very minor issues reported.
- July 3 – Bush fire on McMath Road.** Arriving RFR crews saw a hedge fully engulfed in flames. RFR crews were able to quickly extinguish the hedge and prevented spread of the fire to nearby homes. Access for crews to this incident was difficult because the residential electrical supply wires were energized and arcing in the hedge. RFR crews remained on scene awaiting BC Hydro to arrive to disconnect the electricity supply. RFR crews proceeded to extinguish the remaining fire. There were no injuries reported.
- July 4 – Commercial building fire on Cambie Road.** On arrival RFR crews confirmed smoke in the building and fire on top of a mezzanine. A sprinkler head had activated containing some of the fire and RFR crews extinguished the remaining fire. Smoke had traveled throughout the building and ventilation was set up. A RFR Fire Investigator attended along with the RCMP. There were no visible occupants, in the building as it was after hours. No injuries were reported. The property was secured and fire watch of the unsecured building was conducted.

- **July 10 – Gas incident on No. 2 Road.** RFR crews responded to an apartment building for a reported gas eruption. Upon arrival, witnesses stated windows, soffits and drywall had been blown out. RFR crews saw white smoke coming from the fourth floor and visual signs of damage. RFR crews checked all floors for residents and applied water to areas of charring. Using a Thermal Imaging Cameral (TIC) crews were able to determine that there was no fire spread. Onsite Fortis BC, WorkSafe BC, TSBC Gas, BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) worked closely with fire staff to ensure all risks had been mitigated. There was significant flooding in a number of suites in the building. The City’s Emergency staff were onsite assisting evacuees with relocation for the evening with the assistance of Translink who had provided busses. Over 40 people were initially displaced as a result of the event. Multiple units were later deemed uninhabitable, with the remainder of the residents able to return home later that night. RFR Fire Investigators continue to work with the strata building management and a City building inspector to determine the next steps for the property. No injuries were reported.
- **July 12 – Wild land fire on Shell Road Trail.** RFR crews arrived and, after an initial investigation, requested the assistance of additional vehicles and staff. There were two areas of smoldering ground cover on the trail. RFR crews used approximately 500 gallons of water and six buckets of Cold fire to extinguish the fires. RCMP responded to assist as there was significant evidence of illegal burning in the area. A RFR Fire Inspectors attended.
- **July 13 – Hedge fire on No. 3 Road.** RFR crews arrived and quickly extinguished a hedge fire close to a nearby residence. There was some damage to the property due to the heat of the fire. Crews sprayed down the house exterior and checked for hot spots with a TIC. The RCMP attended to speak to the occupants. A RFR Fire Investigator attended.
- **July 15 – Hedge fire on No. 3 Road.** RFR crews responded to a large hedge fire. Crews quickly engaged the fire with water and Cold Fire and extinguished it. The fire was at the same location as the hedge fire on July 13. RCMP assisted in taking over scene security and initiating an investigation. RFR Fire Investigator attended. There were no injuries reported for occupants, public or RFR staff.
- **July 21 – Kitchen fire on No. 5 Road.** Arriving crews saw smoke coming from a suite in a four story residential property. RFR crews gained access via the balcony to find smoke coming from the kitchen area. Crews extinguished the fire and nearby smoldering cabinets and shut off the gas to a stove. Crews used ventilation to remove smoke from the suite and the nearby hallways. Emergency Programs provided assistance for two individuals who were displaced as a result of the incident. There were no injuries reported.
- **July 27 – Residential fire on Minoru Boulevard.** RFR crews responded to a townhouse for a report of flames visible on the front porch. On arrival, the occupants had managed to extinguish the flames that had travelled inside their front door. RFR crews checked for any fire spread. Crew used fans to vent the premises and once cleared took air samples throughout the residence and found no hazards present. Due to the suspicious nature of the fire, the RCMP responded to the incident. Video evidence of the incident was made available to RCMP by the home owner. A RFR Fire Investigator attended.

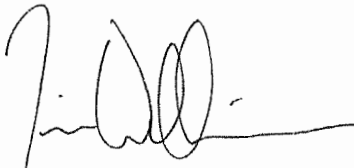
- **July 27 – Residential fire on Minoru Boulevard.** Arriving RFR crews found a fire burning on the exterior of an apartment. RFR Crews proceeded to attack and extinguish the majority of the fire very quickly, to extinguishing some troublesome hot spots shortly thereafter. There were no injuries to any occupant. RCMP and BCEHS were on scene and the RCMP assisted with preliminary investigations. Accommodation and meals were provided by Emergency Programs for two displaced families and their pets. No residents were injured. An RFR Firefighter was taken by BC Ambulance for further medical attention. A RFR Fire Investigator attended.
- **July 31 – Hazmat incident on Grant McConachie Way.** RFR crews responded to a call for service to the departures area of an airport for a gas that was making citizens cough. RFR crews arrived to discover a bear spray had been accidentally deployed. Crews remained on scene assisting with decontamination of the area and the effected people. On site airport and BCEHS staff provided patient care. The spray was removed by the RCMP.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

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



Tim Wilkinson
Fire Chief
(604-303-2701)

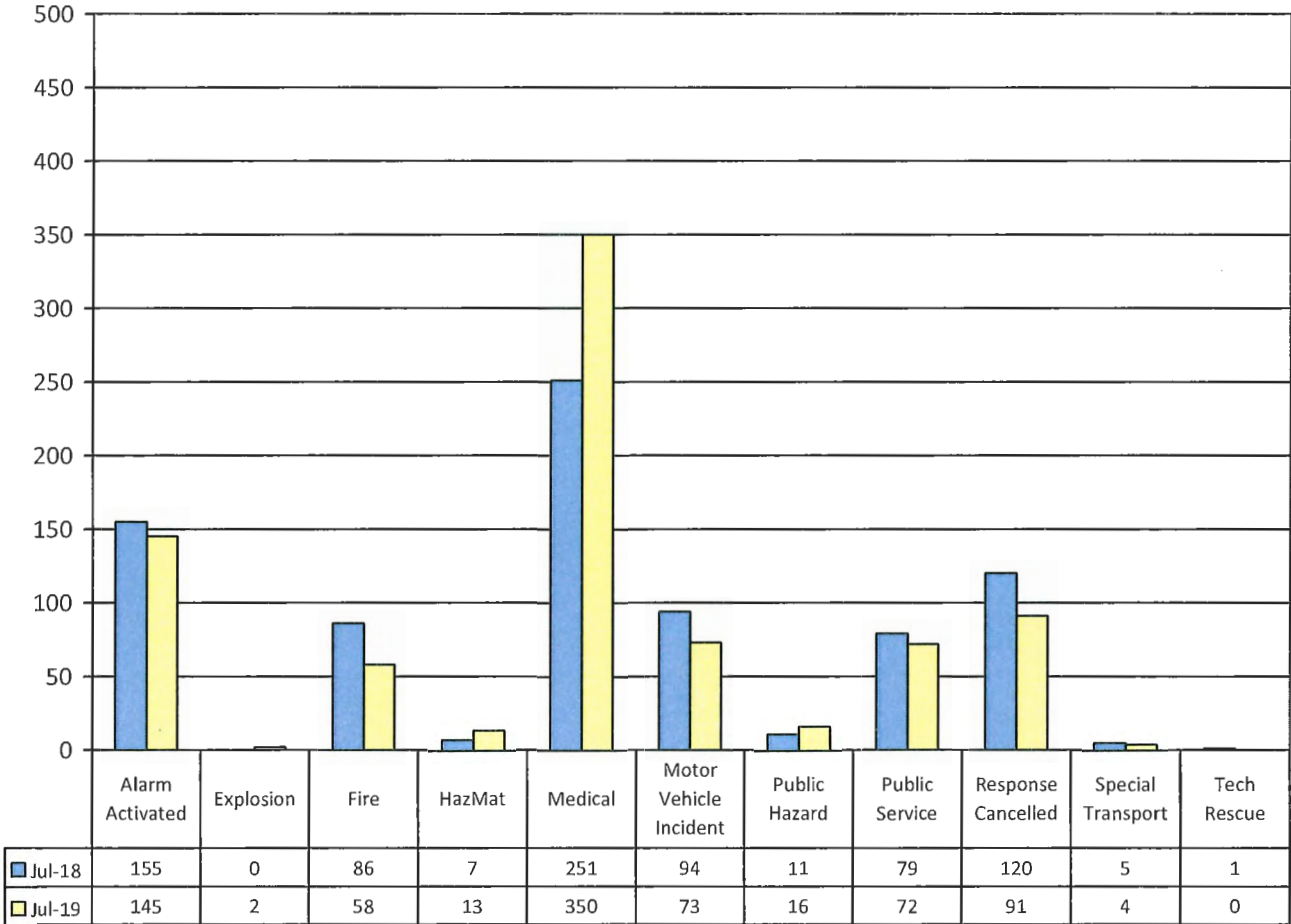
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- Att. 1: Suppression Activity, including location of July's Fire, Medical and MVIs
2: Cigarette fire locations in July.

Calls for Service Volumes

The following chart provides a month to month comparison regarding incidents occurring in July 2018 and 2019. In July 2019, there were a total of 822 incidents, compared to 809 in July 2018. This represents an increase of 1.6 per cent.

Table 3: July 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 43 per cent of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of July 2019. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for July 2018 and 2019 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 350 medical incidents in July 2019 compared to 251 in July 2018, an increase of 39 per cent.

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

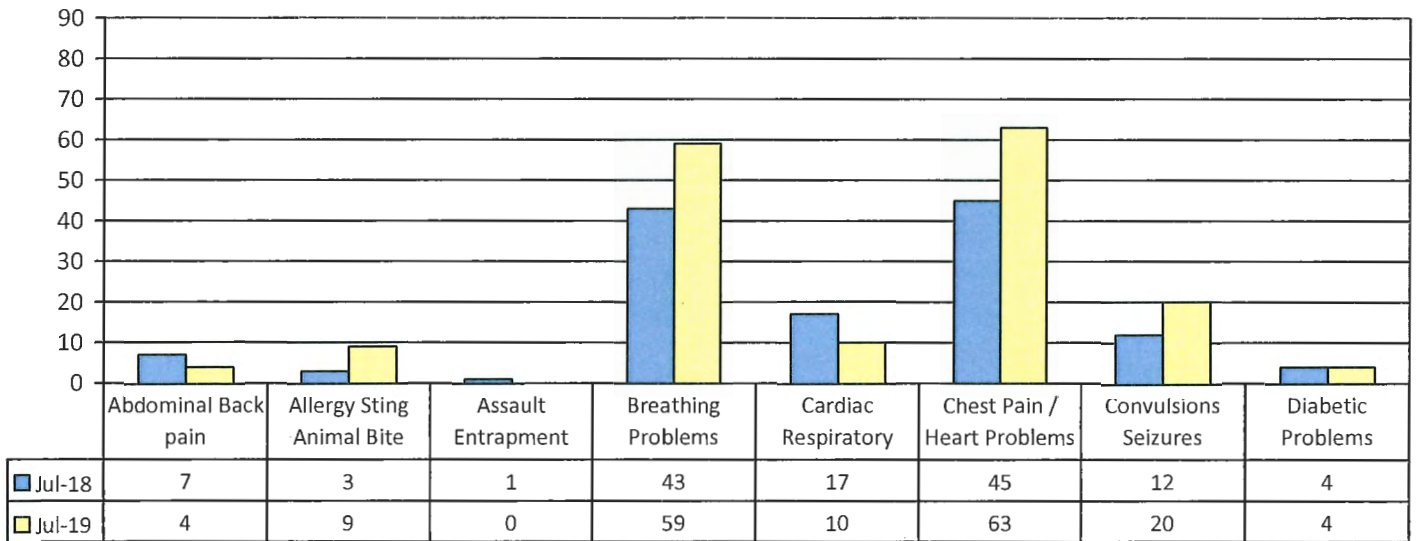
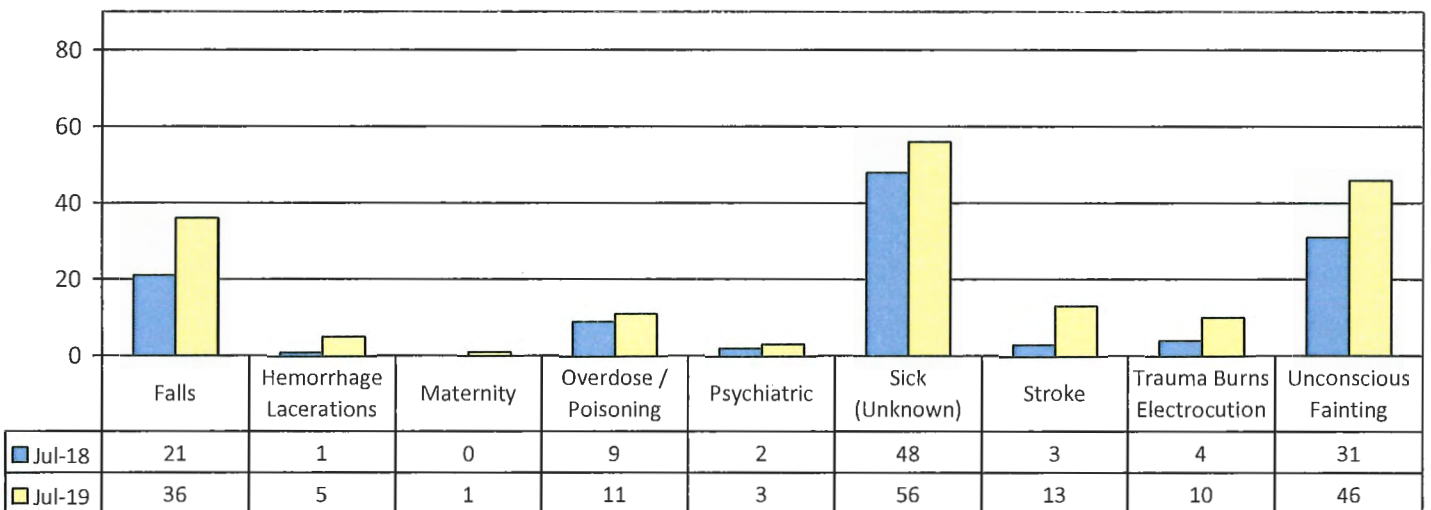


Table 4b: July 2018 & 2019 Medical Calls by Type



Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for July 2019 are listed below:

Table 5: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – July 2019			
	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	-	-	-
Residential - Multi-family	-	5	2
Commercial/Industrial	-	1	1
Outdoor	2	35	9
Vehicle	-	3	-
Totals	2	44	12

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 – July 2019	
	Details
Natural Gas / Propane Leaks (small)	4
Flammable / Combustible Liquids	4
Oxidizing Substances	1
Toxic/Infectious Substances	1
Unclassified	3
Totals	13

Figure 1: Location of reportable fires attended in July 2019 (total 58)

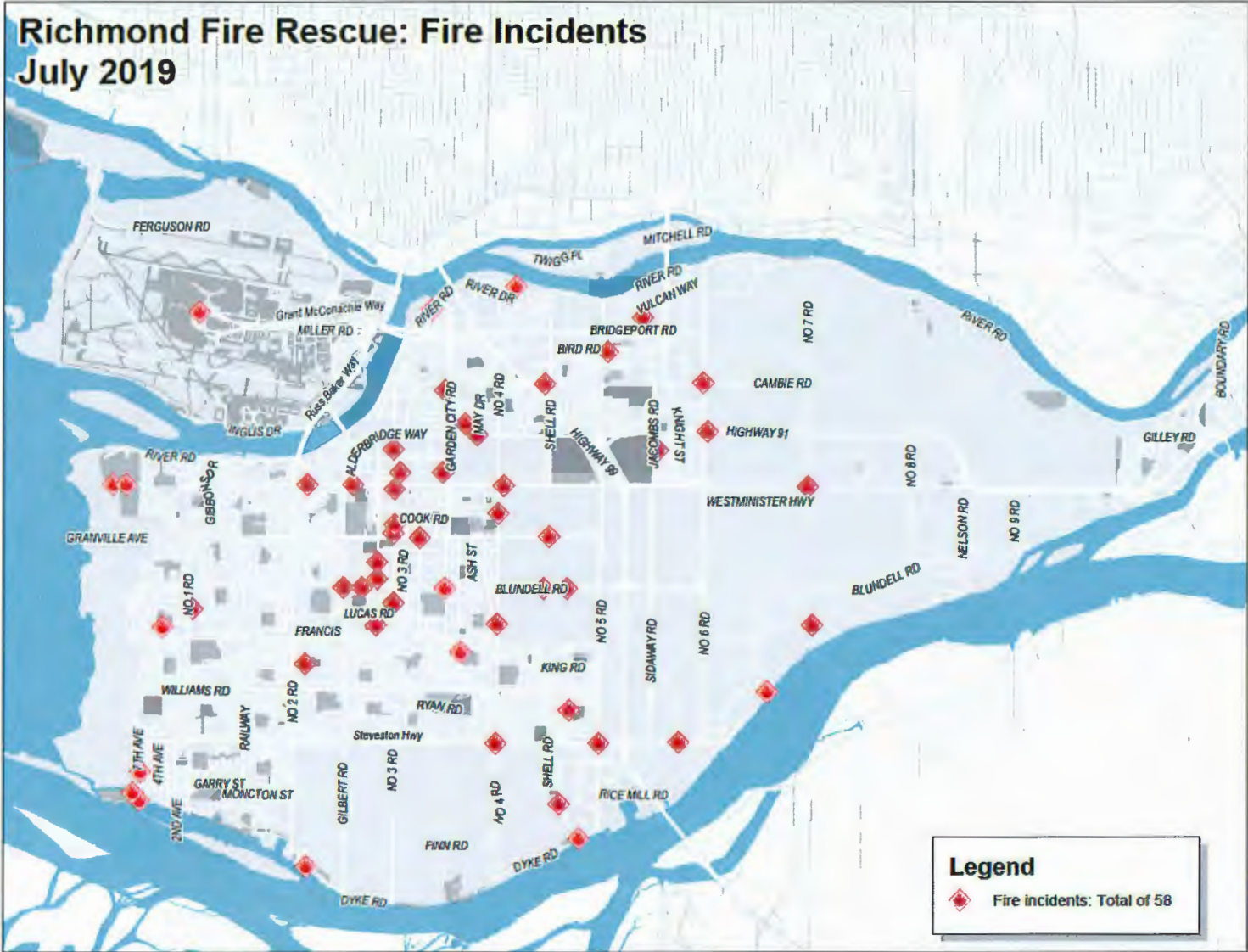


Figure 2: Location of medical calls in July 2019 (total 350)

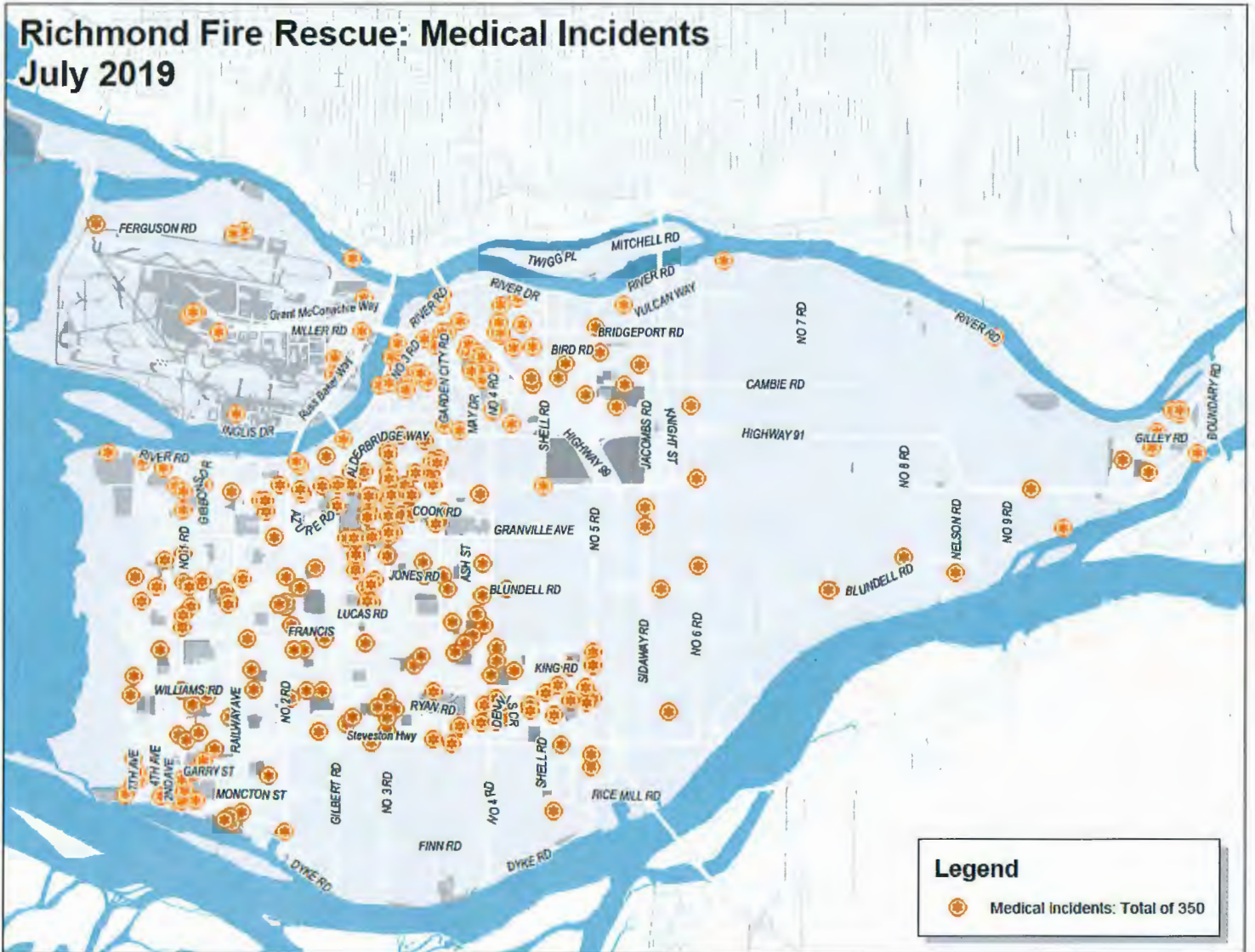


Figure 3: Location of MVI calls in July 2019 (total 73)

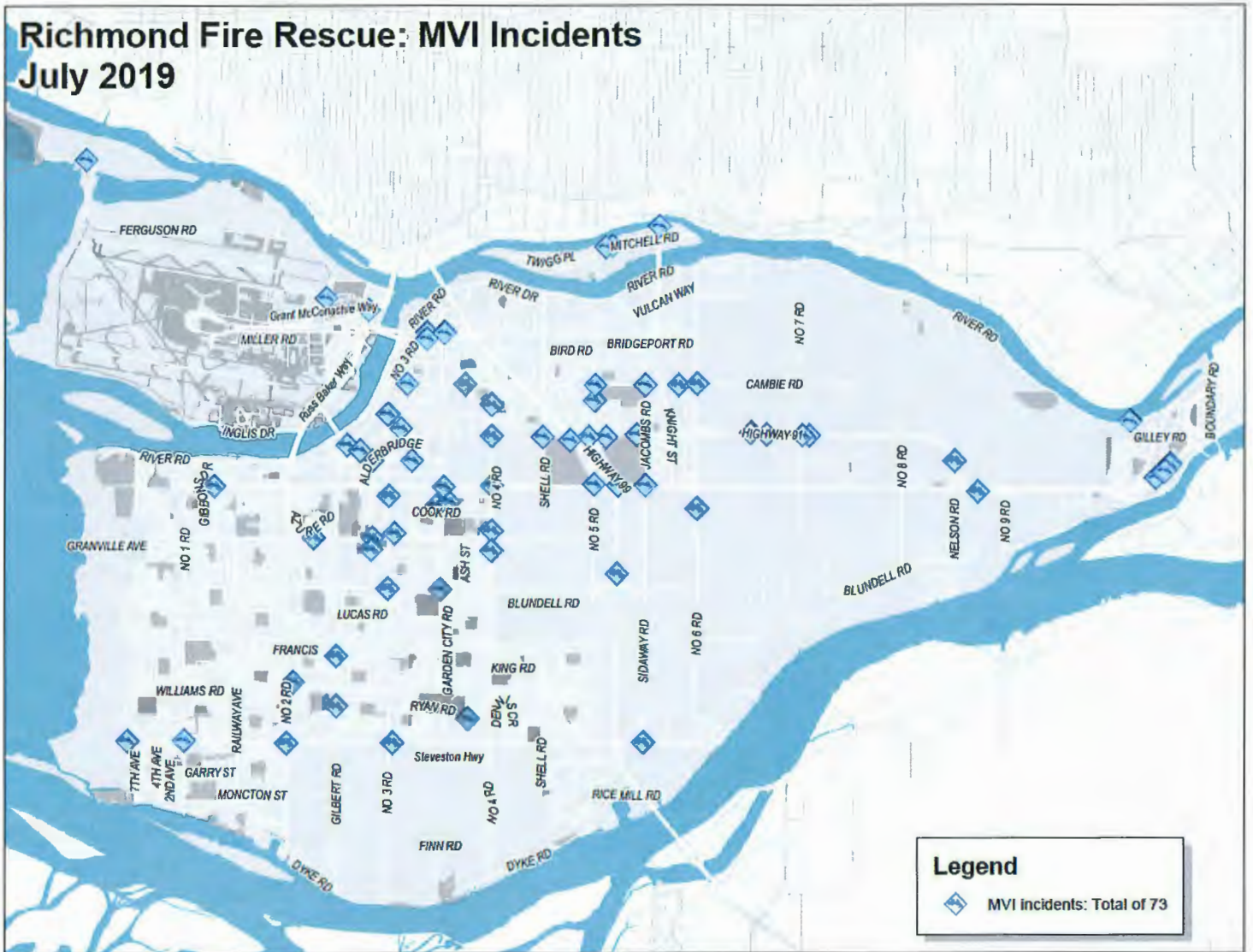


Figure 4: Cigarette Fire Statistics – July 2019

Fire Attributed to Discarded Cigarettes

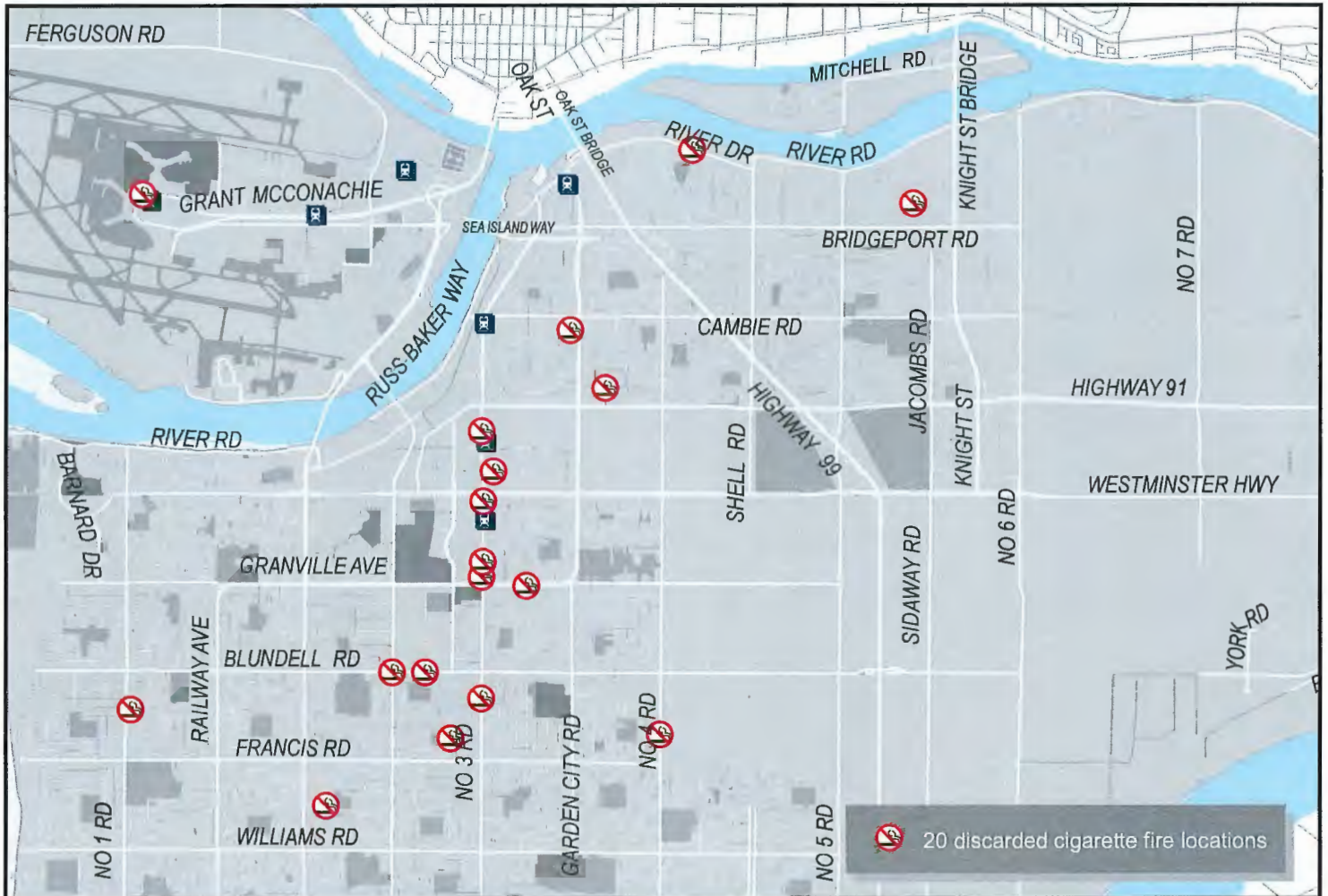


Figure 5: Cigarette Fire Statistics – July 2019

Location Density Heat Map Surface for cigarette fires

