



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** March 28, 2014
From: John McGowan **File:** 09-5000-01/2014-Vol
Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue 01
Re: **Richmond Fire-Rescue – February 2014 Activity Report**

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled "Richmond Fire-Rescue – February 2014 Activity Report" dated March 28, 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 updates on Richmond Fire-Rescue 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 Term Goal #1:

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

Training Office Update

The new recruits completed their seven-week Orientation Training module during the month of February. Their programs included: Auto Extrication, Fire Ground Survival and Fire Ground Task Functions. The information and exposure to the variety of subjects ensures the success of the recruits when they transition to shift duty with the suppression crews.

Education

With a goal to reduce the loss of life, injuries and property through education and prevention, RFR conducts annual educational and awareness campaigns based on community risk. The education messaging associated with Richmond's fire types is as follows:

- February was Heart Health Month and RFR conducted a media campaign educating the public on the risks and prevention activities related to heart disease. New releases, Facebook and fire hall sign messages were used to educate the public. RFR crews attended several incidents of heart related calls, including:
 - A full arrest of a person at YVR, the patient's pulse was restored. RFR crews worked with BCAS to restore the patient's pulse;
 - A cardiac arrest on Viking Way. A bystander had started CPR and had twice brought the patient back to breathing. On arrival RFR set up an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and continued with patient care with BCAS. The patient was transferred to hospital;
 - A pulse was regained using CPR protocols on a cardiac on Aspin Drive. One firefighter accompanied the patient to hospital; and
 - RFR crews set up an AED and used CPR protocols for a female who had suffered a cardiac arrest at Sunnyholme Crescent. The patient's pulse was regained and RFR assisted with patient care and transport to hospital.

- In February, our safety messages focussed on Smoke Alarm battery replacement and maintenance by relaying the importance of regular maintenance of the devices.
- Spring Cleaning and the dangers of build up of debris around homes and gardens was another theme. The removal of accumulated combustible materials around structures such as dead vegetation or stored materials is an annual Spring Cleaning Safety campaign which will continue in the months of March and May.
- Kitchen fires are the primary cause of fires in Richmond. RFR, throughout the year, distribute kitchen fire safety information at all public education events and activities attended. In February there were several incidents of pot on stove related fires which included injury to residents and damage to property. RFR continues to monitor Richmond's emergency response statistics and focuses its education campaigns and materials to align with the community risk.

RFR continues to work with the RCMP, other City agencies and community partners to advance pedestrian safety. The Pedestrian Campaign is scheduled and will run in the spring.

Community Involvement

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

- On one day 16 car seat inspections were conducted to keep children safe while travelling in the motor vehicle. Fire staffs were able to talk with the parent/guardians and answer their questions. This provided an opportunity to see firefighters in a positive, non-emergency circumstance.
- Pumper visits were made to the *Renaissance Kids Preschool* and *Two Times Pre-School Group*. Fire crews provided approximately 61 preschoolers with safety messages in Stop, Drop and Roll and 9-1-1 How to Use the Telephone.
- Educational workshops were provided for seniors at the *Minoru Place Activity Centre*. The training provides an opportunity for the Community Relations Officer and Fire & Life Safety Educator to provide first-hand knowledge, education and training to groups of individuals within the community in fire safety messages for seniors.
- The Local 1286 Firefighters Union volunteered their time to attend the *Annual Touchstone Pancake Eating together Breakfast* at DeBeck Elementary School. This provided another opportunity for the community to interact with the firefighters in a positive way. Adults were provided with kitchen safety messaging and children were given reflective slap bands, stickers and candy with safety messages.
- RFR staff located at all fire halls participated in the *Pink Shirt Day – Anti-bullying campaign*. Crews wore pink t-shirts to raise awareness of bullying, show support for the campaign and promote the anti-bullying message.
- In February RFR crews distributed a Fire and Life Safe Community bulletin to residents in the Ainsworth area as a result of a fire incident in the area. The bulletin promotes Fire and Life Safety tips including clothes dryer maintenance, debris clean up around risk areas, and safe combustible storage messaging.

Emergency Response

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

There were 16 fires in February 2014. Fire losses during the month are estimated at \$887,250. This total includes \$864,850 for building loss and \$22,400 for content loss. The increase in total content loss was attributed to one event with an estimated \$750,000 of damage to property as a result of water damage. The total building and content value at risk was estimated to be \$18,339,900, and the total value preserved was \$17,452,650. These numbers translate to 95% of value protected (see Figure 1 below).

Figure 1: Fire Calls By Type and Loss Estimates – February						
Incident Type Breakdown	Call Volume	Estimated Building Value \$	Estimated Building Loss \$	Estimated Content Value \$	Estimated Content Loss \$	Estimated Total Value Preserved \$
Residential:						
- Single-family	4	4,353,000	93,100	1,096,400	3,500	5,352,800
- Multi-family	4	1,014,000	2,500	39,000	1,800	1,048,700
Commercial/Industrial	4	11,500,000	767,250	335,000	17,100	11,050,650
Fire – Outdoor	3	-	-	-	-	-
Vehicle	1	2,500	2,000	-	-	500
Totals*	16	16,869,500	864,850	1,470,400	22,400	17,452,650

*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 February incidents:

- Crews responded to an incident on Minoru Road where a waste basket on the second floor was on fire. The fire was easily extinguished but it was noticed that the ceiling tiles had been removed, potentially allowing the fire to spread. RCMP were requested to further investigate due to potential criminal activity.
- RFR responded to Ainsworth Drive for a clothes dryer fire. The home owner had tried to extinguish the fire but was overcome by the smoke and was taken to the hospital. The damage was kept to the laundry room but smoke was throughout the home. The entire family was home at the time of the fire and no one else was injured.
- A structure fire on Gilbert Road was suppressed by the sprinkler system causing major water damage. The fire was reported to Hall 1 at 5am by a diligent paper carrier who had noticed the water.
- Other fire incidents during February included: a fire in Rideau Park School on Demorest Road and a laundry room fire on Leslie Road which caused significant damage to the single storey structure.

During February RFR crews responded to a number of medical incidents relating to assaults or traumatic injuries including:

- An assault on General Currie Road where a man was left with lacerations to the face;
- On Jones Road a person was found lying on the ground bleeding from face lacerations;
- A suspicious death caused by a fall from the 12th floor of a hotel. The incident is still under investigation by the RCMP; and
- Assistance was provided to BCAS for a gunshot victim on McKim Way. Crews were later requested back to the scene, by the RCMP, to wash down the scene of the incident;

RFR crews responded to multiple motor vehicle incident calls, including:

- Crews attended a rolled over vehicle at St Edwards Drive which pushed the highway dividers out onto Highway 99. The incident closed one lane on Highway 99 and St. Edwards were completely shut down. RFR crews attended to patient care and two people were taken to hospital. RCMP investigated.
- A semi trailer struck the Blundell Overpass. There were no injuries but significant traffic backups and damage to the overpass.

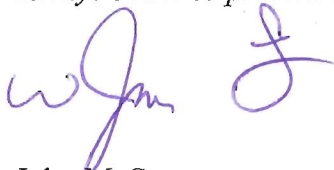
A summary of 9-1-1 emergency response statistics is found in Attachment 1, Tables 1, 2, 3 and 4. The location of February's fire, medical and motor vehicle incident calls are depicted in Attachment 2, Figures 1, 2 and 3.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

Our service delivery model is prevention focussed 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.*



John McGowan
Fire Chief
(604-303-2734)

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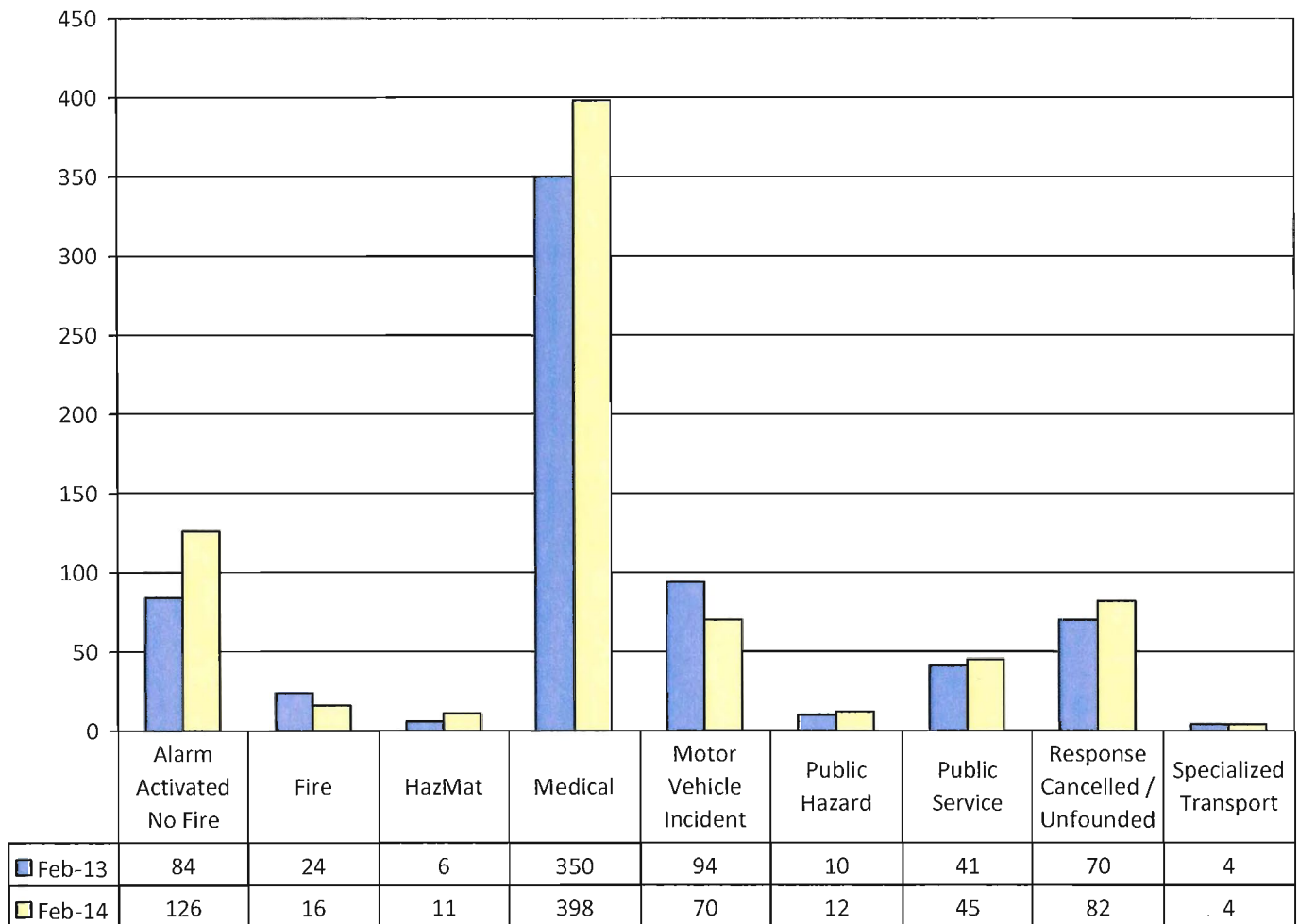
Att. 1: Suppression Activity

Att. 2: Location of February's Fire, Medical and MVI calls

Suppression Activity

The following chart provides a month to month comparison regarding incidents occurring in February 2013 and 2014. In February 2014, there were a total of 764 incidents, compared to 683 in February 2013. This represents an increase of 11.9%. The majority of the increases were attributed to fire and medical calls.

Table 1: February 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 52% of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of February. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for February 2013 and 2014 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 398 medical incidents in February 2014 compared to 350 February 2013 an increase of 13%. Increases in medical incidents of falls could be as a result of snow and ice present during the month of February.

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

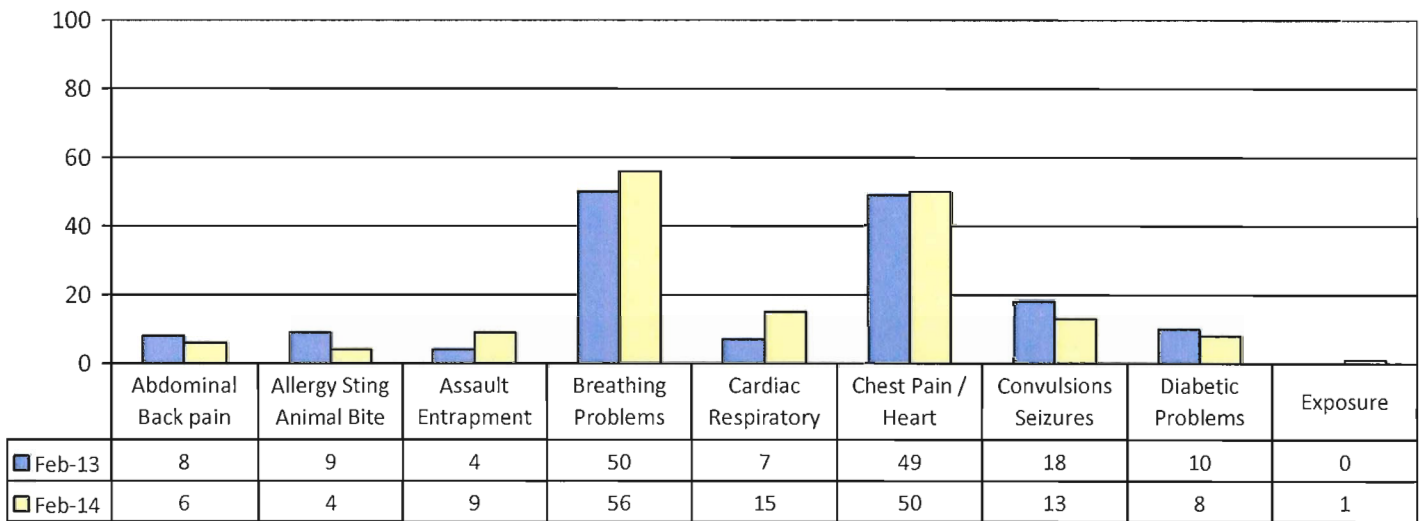
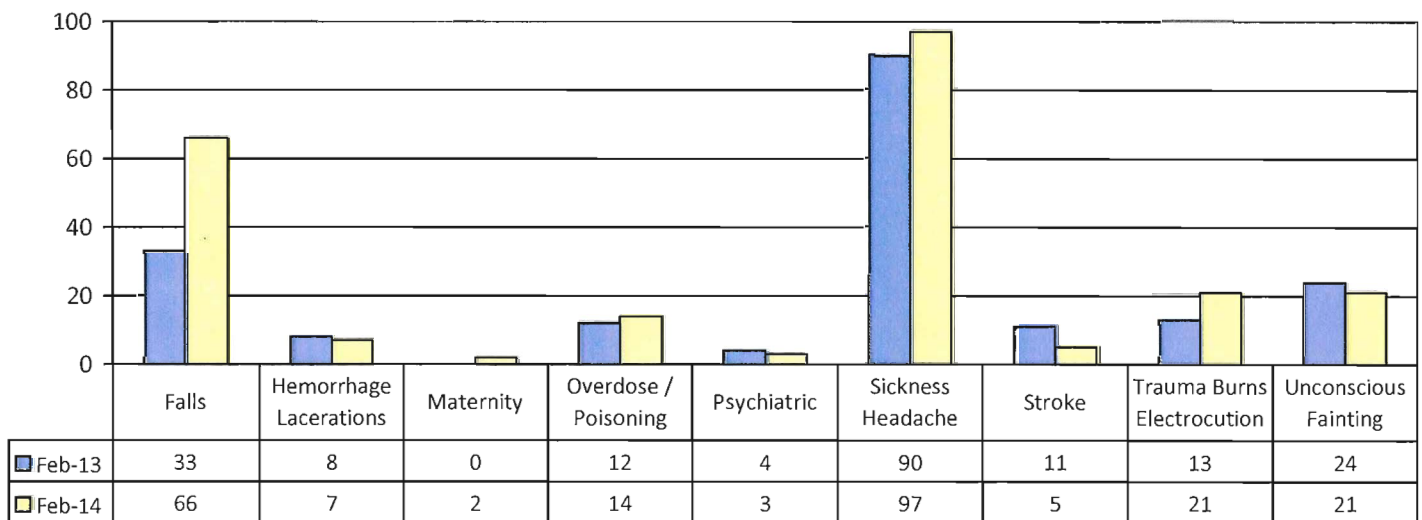


Table 2b: February 2013 & 2014 Medical Calls by Type



Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for February 2014 are listed below:

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

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 – February	
	Details
Corrosive	0
Natural Gas / Propane Leaks (small)	8
Misc. (empty containers to unknown powder)	3
Totals	11

Figure 1. Location of February's fires (total 16)

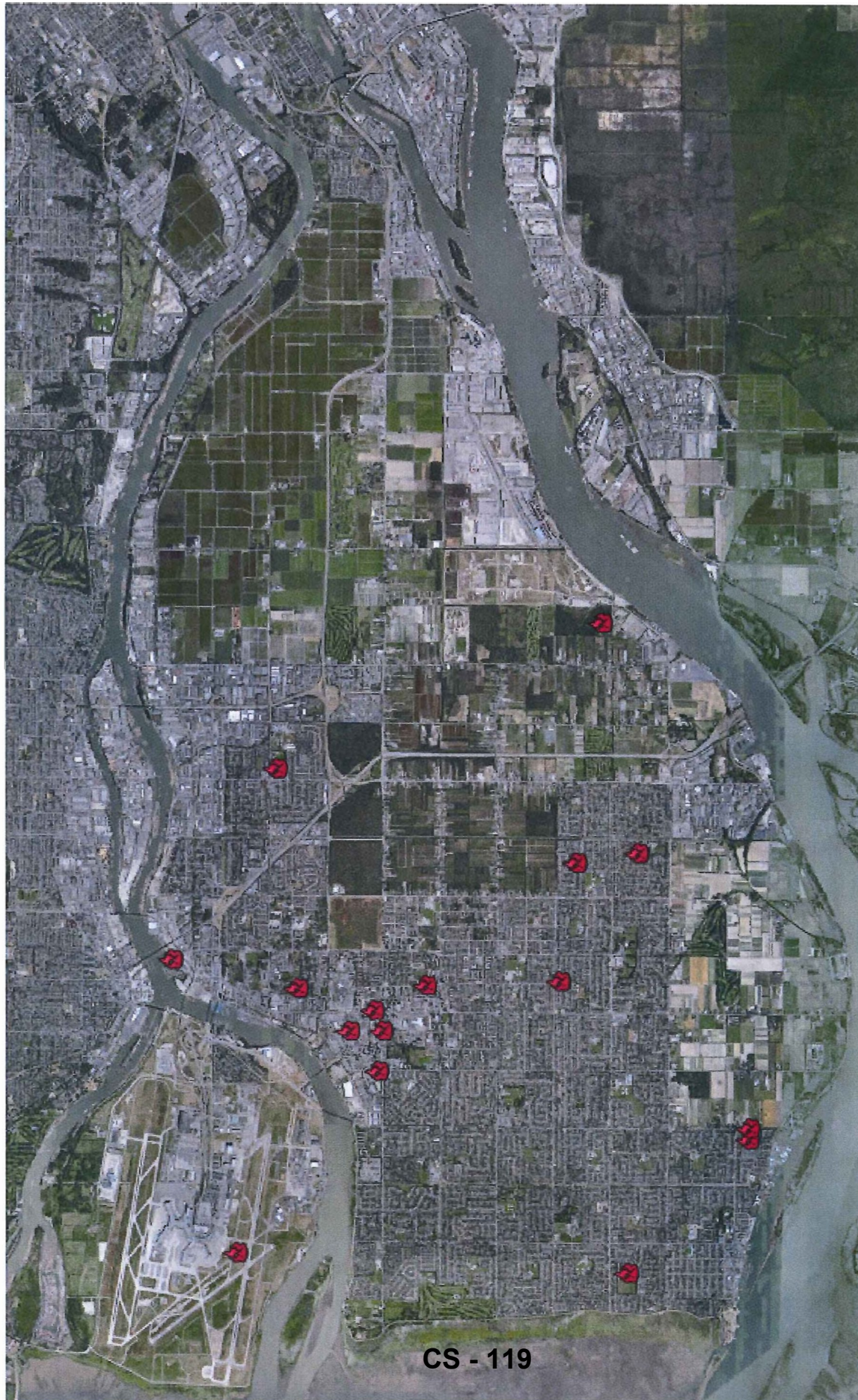
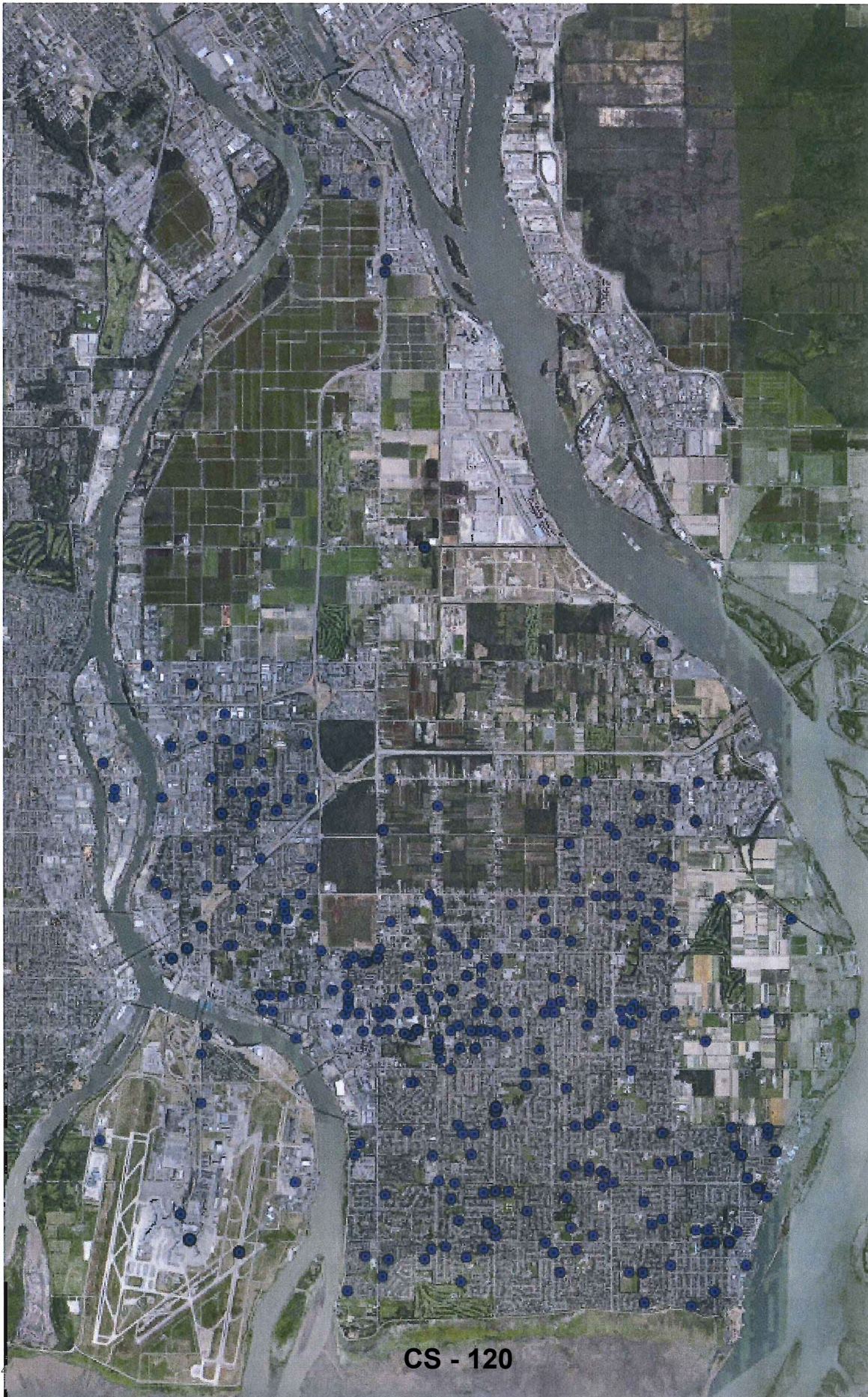


Figure 2. Location of February's medical calls (total 398)



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Figure 3: Location of February's MVI calls (total 70)

