



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee

Date: January 17, 2017

From: Tim Wilkinson
Acting Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue

File: 09-5000-01/2017-Vol
01

Re: Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – December 2016

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report - December 2016”, dated January 17, 2017 from the Acting Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue, be received for information.

Tim Wilkinson
Acting Fire Chief
(604-303-2701)

Att. 2

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF ^{Acting} GENERAL MANAGER	
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: DW
APPROVED BY CAO	

Staff Report

Origin

This report provides Council with an update on Richmond Fire-Rescue (RFR) activities. RFR continues to work towards the City's vision of being the most appealing, livable, and well-managed community in Canada, through the delivery of its programs and services. 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

Community Involvement

RFR advances public awareness, education and community bridge building by participating in training events and community activities. During December 2016 the following events took place:

- Public Education and Fire Safety Trailer visits to: Debeck Elementary School, BC Muslim School and Quilchena Elementary School. Education staff engaged with over 100 students providing fire safety education;
- Information sessions for fire prevention were provided to: Richmond RCMP Youth Squad Outreach, SUCCESS Fire Safety Talk for new immigrants, St. John's Ambulance Fire Hall Tour; and
- RFR supported or hosted charitable/community events including the: Odd Squad Society Charitable Fundraiser for Youth Outreach, Hamilton Community Association lighting of No. 5 Fire Hall festive lights, Steveston Santa Parade and Burkeville Christmas Parade.

Staff engaged with over 1,199 children and adults in the community during December, providing fire safety and harm reduction information.

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 December 2016 there were a total 1101 incidents, representing a 15.4 per cent increase in calls (Attachment 1). The average time on scene for RFR crews was 28.50 minutes, a decrease of 12.3 per cent from 2015. This is due to the nature and severity of each call and the duration on scene.

In December 2016 there were 40 dispatched fire calls. Of those, 29 were actual reportable fires, 136 apparatus' were used and 388 fire personnel attended.

Fire damage and property losses during the month are estimated at \$299,145. This total includes \$236,800 for building/asset loss and \$62,345 for content loss. The total building/asset and content value at risk was estimated to be \$35,747,560 and the total value preserved from damage was \$35,448,415. These numbers translate to 99.2 per cent of value protected (Figure 1), this figure is an increase from the 99.1 per cent protected value observed in 2016.

Figure 1: Fire Calls By Type and Loss Estimates – December 2016

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	4	3,732,660	1,000	1,405,000	800	5,135,860
Multi family	8	23,220,500	201,000	177,000	61,520	23,134,980
Commercial / Industrial	5	6,975,400	2,800	205,000	25	7,177,575
Outdoor	6	-	-	-	-	-
Vehicle	6	32,000	32,000	-	-	-
Totals*	29	33,960,560	236,800	1,787,000	62,345	35,448,415

*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 fires to the place of origin in these notable December 2016 incidents:

- Fire at a commercial property on No 1 Road. On arrival crews saw large amounts of smoke coming out of the structure. Crews proceeded to extinguish the fire and BC Hydro and Fortis BC were requested to attend. Onsite crews provided traffic safety in the surrounding area. RFR crews worked with Fortis BC and BC Hydro to secure the structure and shut down any utility supplies to the building. Steveston Harbour Authority also attended to examine the dock from the water to see if there were any further issues. A Fire Investigator was requested to attend for further investigation.
- Fire at a multi family residence on Dover Crescent. Arriving crews found that the fire had caused burns to two residents and heat damage to the property. RFR crews extinguished the fire and proceeded to ventilate the residence. BC Ambulance services provided medical care to the two residents and Emergency Social Services were called to deal with the displacement of the residents. A fire investigator also responded to this incident.
- Fire at a single family residential property on Jesmond Avenue. On arrival RFR crews attacked and quickly extinguished the fire. There were no injuries and emergency Social Services were called to assist with several displaced residents. A fire investigator was requested to attend.

- Fire of a travel trailer located on River Road. Arriving crews worked to quickly extinguish the fire. The occupant of the trailer required both medical and Emergency Social Services assistance. There were also two dogs on scene which had suffered smoke inhalation and injury; the Richmond Animal Protection Society was requested to attend and arrange veterinary care. Due to the cold weather and water used to extinguish the fire, RFR crews requested the City's Public Works attend to salt the area. The incident is under investigation.
- Bus fire on a vacant property on River Road. RFR crews attacked and extinguished the fire. There was no-one on the bus at the time of the fire; however two tenants were provided treatment by BC Ambulance for minor injuries and smoke inhalation. Due to other suspicious fires in the area a Fire Investigator and the RCMP were requested to attend and the incident is under investigation.
- Hazmat incident at a commercial property on Ferguson Road. On arrival RFR crews were directed to an employee who had come into contact with an unknown liquid. A risk assessment was carried out on site and it was concluded that the patient had not been exposed to harmful substances. The patient was provided medical care by BC Ambulance Services. The substance was contained by RFR staff for future clean up and removal by a specialist company.
- Hazmat incident at a commercial property on Ferguson Road. Report received of an employee who had come into contact with a powdery substance. RFR crews set up hazmat protocols, including increasing area of isolation and shutdown of the heating, ventilation and air-conditioning system. The patient was provided medical care by BC Ambulance Services and the substance was contained by RFR staff for future clean up and removal by a specialist company.

Financial Impact

None

Conclusion

During December 2016, calls for service increased by 15.4 per cent from December 2015. RFR will continue to monitor these activities to identify trends and ensure potential solutions.

The continued increase in RFR's emergency response has a direct impact on unit availability, response times, availability for non-emergency operations and in-service training. RFR continues to review the available statistics and amend resource allocation, as necessary.



Tim Wilkinson
Acting Fire Chief
(604-303-2701)

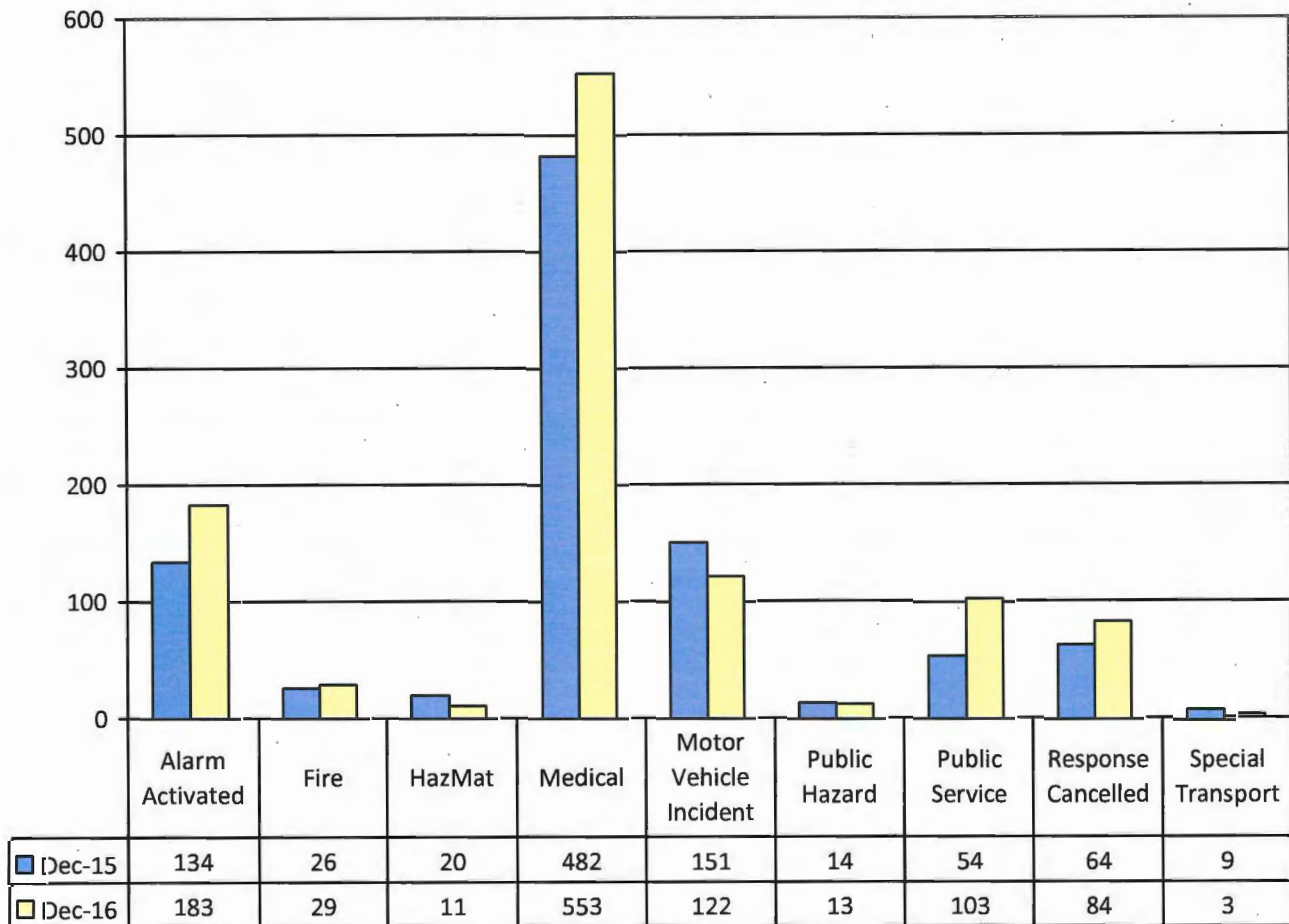
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Att. 1: Suppression Activity
Att. 2: Location of December's Fire, Medical and MVIs

Suppression Activity

The following chart provides a month to month comparison regarding incidents occurring in December 2015 and 2016. In December 2016, there were a total of 1101 incidents, compared to 954 in December 2015. This represents an increase of 15.4 per cent.

Table 1: December 2015 & 2016 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 50.2 per cent of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of December 2016. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for December 2015 and 2016 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 553 medical incidents in December 2016 compared to 482 in December 2015, an increase of 14.7 per cent.

Table 2a: December 2015 & 2016 Medical Calls by Type

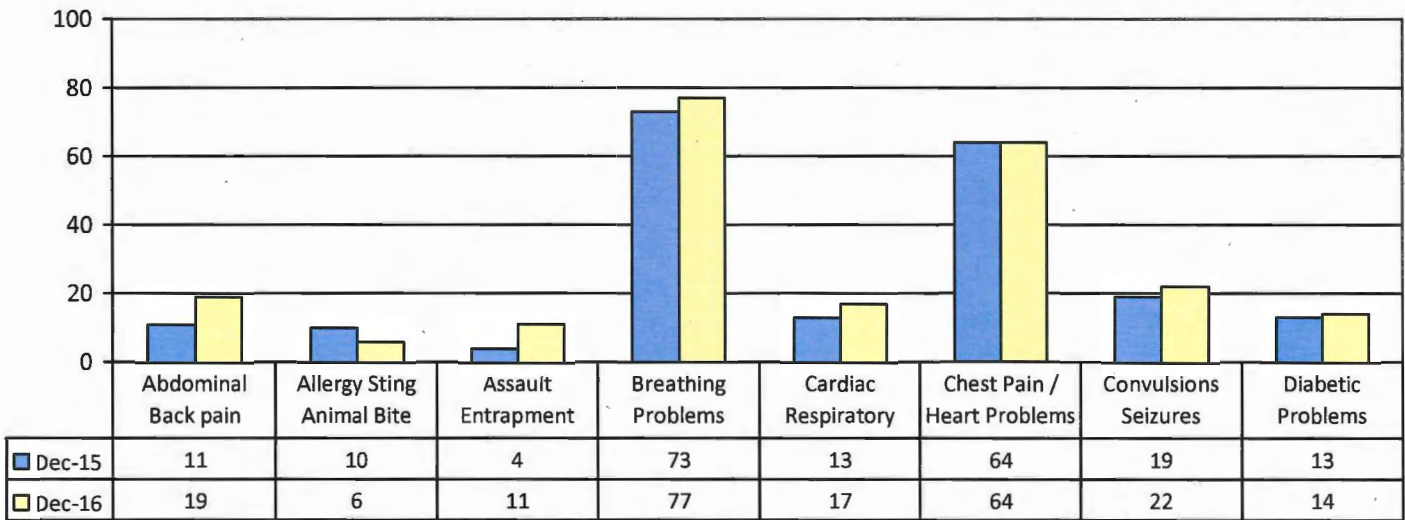
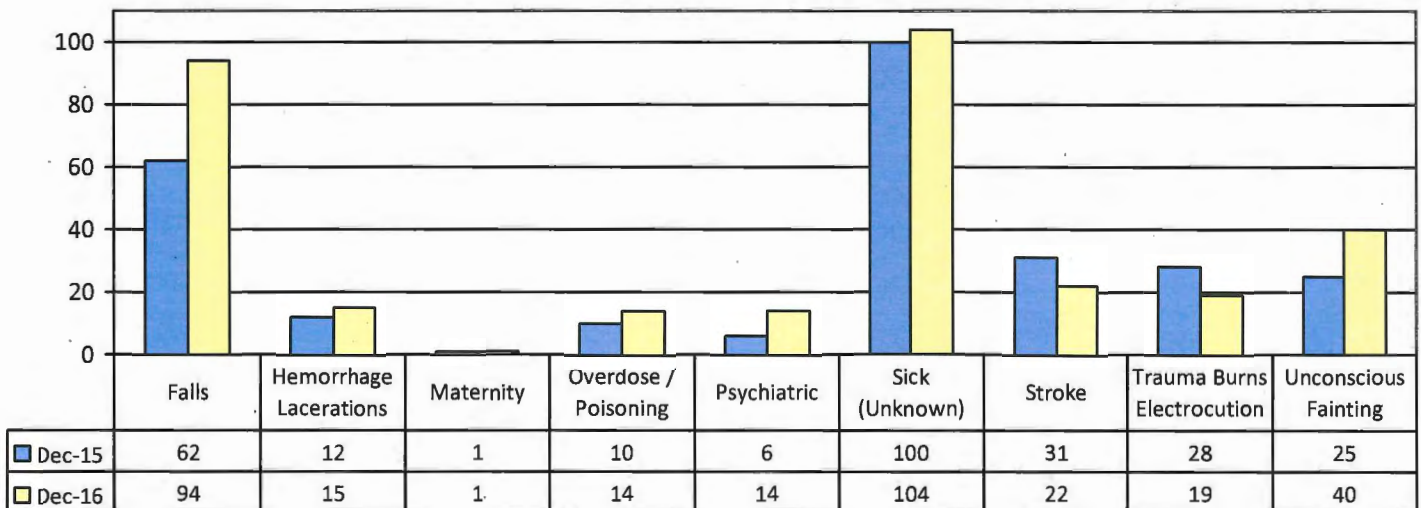


Table 2b: December 2015 & 2016 Medical Calls by Type



Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for December 2016 are listed below:

Table 3: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – December			
	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	0	4	0
Residential - Multi-family	1	7	0
Commercial/Industrial	0	3	2
Outdoor	0	5	1
Vehicle	0	4	2
Totals	1	23	5

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

Hazardous Materials

Table 4: HazMat Calls By Type – December	
	Details
Natural Gas / Propane Leaks (small)	6
Standby / Support for other Agency (RCMP)	1
Unclassified	4
Totals	11

Figure 1: Location of reportable fires attended in December (total 29)

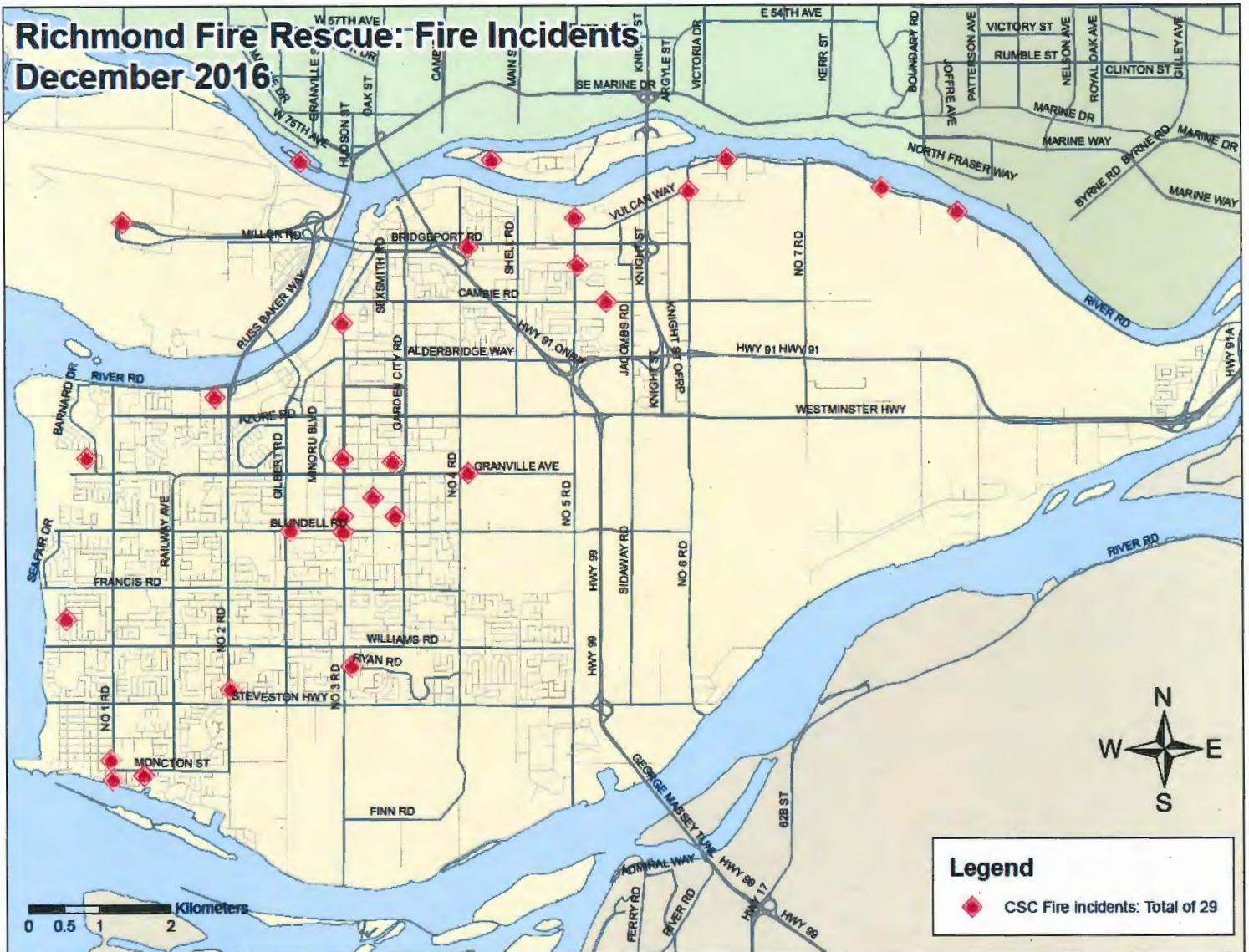


Figure 2: Location of medical calls in December (total 553)

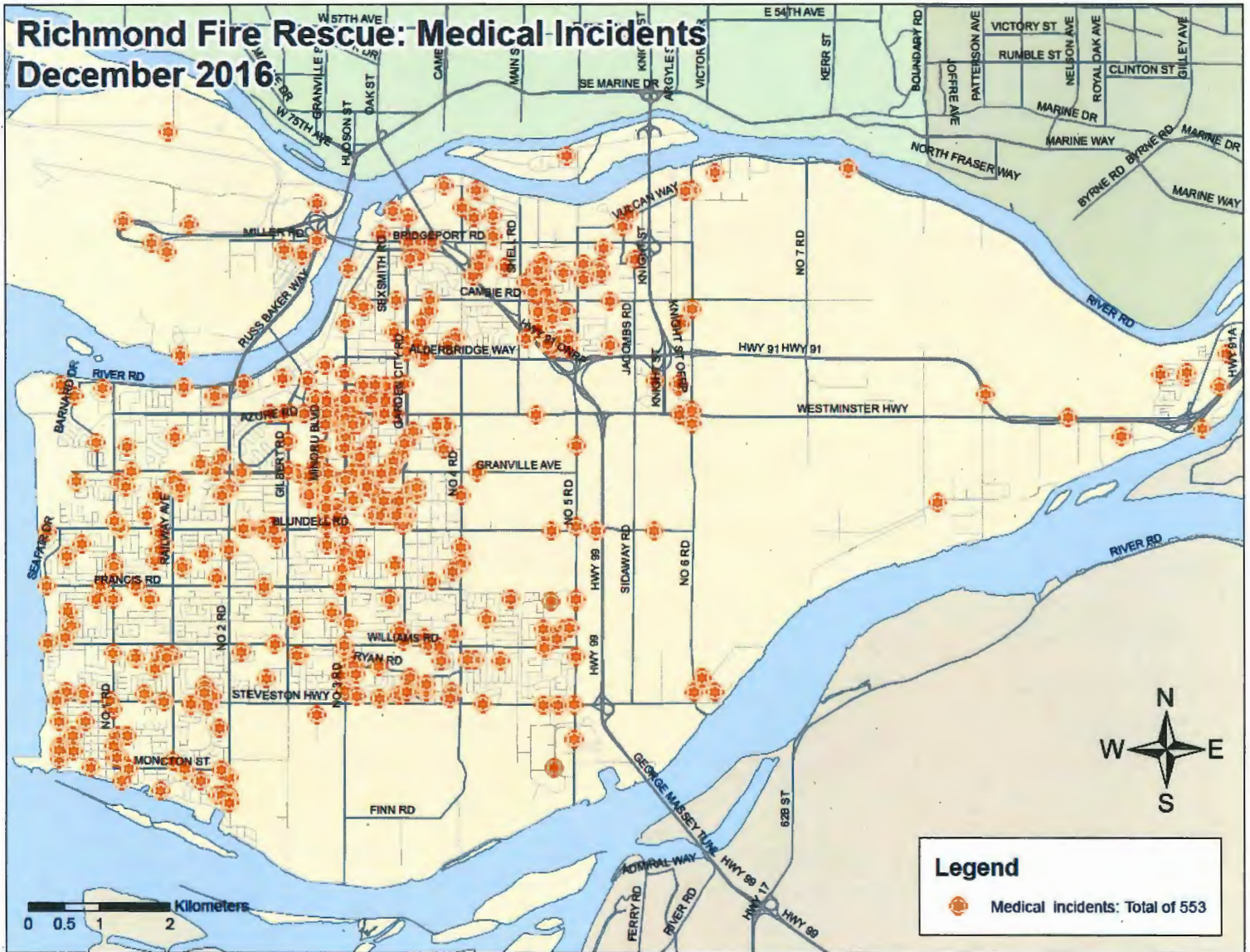


Figure 3: Location of MVI calls in December (total 122)

