Extreme Heat and Wildfire Smoke: Essential Tools for Preparation and Protection
We are on Ancestral Lands

Joining from the unceded territories of the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Səl̓Ílwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh), x�wməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam) peoples.

Our work at BCNPHA takes place throughout the ancestral lands and the many unceded territories of 198 distinct First Nations in British Columbia.
Thank-you to our BCNPHA Education Partners
Extreme Heat Webinar Series

June 2021 - Addressing Extreme Heat and Wildfire Smoke
   Equity-Informed Approaches

April 2020 - Building Overheating and Air Quality
   Considerations in New Construction

May 2020 - Addressing COVID-19 and Overheating in
   Non-Profit Housing

July 2020 - Retrofits for Overheating Buildings and
   Poor Indoor Air Quality

May 2019
Preparation for Extreme Heat and Poor Air Quality Events
# Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:00 – 1:05</td>
<td>Welcome &amp; Introductions</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jackie Kanyuk, Senior Program Delivery Manager, Asset Management, BCNPHA</td>
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<td>1:05 – 1:25</td>
<td>Dr. Michael Schwandt, Medical Health Officer, Vancouver Coastal Health</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Who is most vulnerable to extreme heat and wildfire smoke related illness?</td>
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<td>• What are the best strategies to mitigate risks of extreme heat &amp; wildfire smoke?</td>
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<td>Questions: 5 min</td>
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<td>1:25 – 1:45</td>
<td>Heat Response in Non-profit Housing: Experiences, Actions, Lessons</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Luanne Ruotsalainen Executive Director, Dakelh and Quesnel Community Housing Society</td>
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<td>• Patti MacAhonic Executive Director, Ann Davis Transition Society</td>
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<td>• Marty Jones Director of Housing, Surrey Urban Mission Society</td>
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<td>1:45–1:55</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
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<td>1:55 – 2:10</td>
<td>Resource sharing - preparing for the heat season</td>
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<td>Magda Szpala Sustainability and Resilience Director, BC Housing</td>
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<td>2:10–2:30</td>
<td>Question + Answer and closing</td>
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BCNPHA Webinar - Extreme Heat and Wildfire Smoke

Extreme Heat and Poor Air Quality Events in BC: Health Effects and Planning

Dr. Michael Schwandt, Medical Health Officer, Vancouver Coastal Health

April 28, 2022

With acknowledgements to:
Dr. Sarah Henderson, Emily Peterson
I live and work on the traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.

Source: www.johomaps.net
Expected changes with climate change

• Vancouver, 2050:
  • Doubling of days above 25°C
  • Days above 30°C occur 12 times more frequently.
  • Warmest days are 4°C warmer
  • Increased wildfire smoke impacts (hotter, drier summers)

Source: City of Vancouver, Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium
Temperature records broken in June 2021

Source: The Weather Network
British Columbia

595 people were killed by heat in B.C. this summer, new figures from coroner show

More than 231 died on June 29 alone, during 'heat dome' that caused record temperatures, data says

Rhianna Schmunk · CBC News · Posted: Nov 01, 2021 9:17 AM PT | Last Updated: November 1, 2021
Outline

• Heat and wildfire smoke related illness
• Vulnerability to heat and smoke
  • Physiological
  • Social
  • Environmental
• Planning for extreme heat and wildfire smoke
• Resources
Outline

• Heat and wildfire smoke related illness

• Vulnerability to heat and smoke
  • Physiological
  • Social
  • Environmental

• Planning for extreme heat and wildfire smoke

• Resources
A scenario...

• It has been very hot in your community for several days: over 30°C during the day, and over 20°C overnight.

• You are made aware that a 72 year-old man, living alone, has been experiencing heavy sweating, dizziness and headache for the past day. In the past hour, he briefly lost consciousness and is confused about his whereabouts.

Questions:

• What actions would you like to take (or should be taken by partners) to support this individual’s health?

• What other information would you like to know?

• Please write down (or type) your ideas...
Proposed actions:

• Seek emergency medical care (ER, ambulance) promptly. Heat stroke is a medical emergency!
• Lower body temperature with wet cloths or a cool shower.
• Ensure that light and loose clothes are being worn.
• Move to a cooler place if possible. (Access cool zones in residential buildings, community centres, shopping areas if available.)
Background – Recent health impacts of heat in BC

• Starting on June 25, 2021, the entire province experienced an extreme heat event that lasted eight days. This was the first time all regions of the province were impacted simultaneously and temperatures exceeded many historical records.

• These high and unprecedented temperatures resulted in 740 excess deaths in the province (Henderson et al.) and required immediate action to ensure client, resident, patient, and staff safety.

• It is recognized that climate change has increased the likelihood of extreme heat and other dangerous seasonal weather related events.
EXTREME HEAT UPDATE:

BCCDC estimates 740 excess deaths from June 25 – July 2

Source: BCCDC
Estimated excess deaths during the heat dome (June 25 - July 2) by age group and setting of death

Number above the bar: percentage increase above expected deaths

Source: BCCDC
Emerging themes

**Risk factors**
- Deprivation
- Isolation
- Mental illness
- Substance use
- Comorbid diabetes

**Protective factors**
- Privilege
- Greenspace
- Being in care
EXTREME HEAT

Older adults, infants, young children, people with chronic conditions, and those on certain medications are especially sensitive to the health effects of heat and should take extra care.

**HEAT EXHAUSTION SYMPTOMS**
- Skin Rash
- Heavy Sweating
- Dizziness or Fainting
- Nausea or Vomiting
- Rapid Breathing & Heartbeat

**HEAT STROKE SYMPTOMS**
- Headache
- Difficulty Concentrating
- Muscle Cramps
- Extreme Thirst
- Dark Urine & Decreased Urination
- High Body Temperature
- Dizziness or Fainting
- Confusion
- Lack of Coordination
- Very Hot and Red Skin

Anyone with these symptoms should be moved to a cool space and given plenty of water.

CALL 911 - Heat stroke is a medical emergency and requires immediate attention.
Respiratory issues (shortness of breath, severe cough, chest pain)

Increased risk of some infections (pneumonia, COVID-19, ear infections)

Emerging research on longer-lasting health effects (e.g. worsening heart disease)

Wildfire Smoke

Why is it a health concern?

Matz et al. (2020) assessed the health impacts from wildfire seasons across Canada using data from 2013–2015 and 2017–2018 seasons. They estimated that Metro Vancouver experienced 100 acute premature mortalities attributable to wildfire PM$_{2.5}$ exposure during these two wildfire seasons.
Fine Particulate Matter (PM$_{2.5}$)

- HUMAN HAIR: 50-70 μm (microns) in diameter
- PM$_{2.5}$: Combustion particles, organic compounds, metals, etc. < 2.5 μm (microns) in diameter
- PM$_{10}$: Dust, pollen, mold, etc. < 10 μm (microns) in diameter
- FINE BEACH SAND: 90 μm (microns) in diameter

Vancouver Coastal Health
Wildfires and asthma, BC

- 43,000 extra puffers
- 38% increase

- 10,000 extra MD visits
- 19% increase

% Change in Ventolin Dispensations 2017-2018

% Change in Asthma Visits 2017-2018
WILDFIRE SMOKE

Older adults, infants, young children, pregnant women and people with chronic conditions are especially sensitive to health effects of wildfire smoke and should take extra care.

COMMON SYMPTOMS
- Lung Irritation
- Eye Irritation
- Runny Nose
- Sore Throat
- Headaches
- Mild Cough

MORE SEVERE SYMPTOMS
- Shortness of breath
- Severe cough
- Dizziness
- Chest discomfort
- Heart palpitations
- Wheezing

Anyone with these symptoms needs medical attention
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Heat vulnerability

• Factors in vulnerability or resilience to heat illness may be physiological, social, and environmental.

• Body temperature is normally maintained within a narrow range, and we can only tolerate brief and minor elevations in temperature.
Physiological vulnerability to extreme heat

• Evaporation (via sweating) is the body’s main mechanism for heat dissipation (along with radiation of heat from skin)

• Processes for cooling are affected by:
  o Age
  o Pre-existing medical conditions (heart and lung disease, circulatory diseases, diabetes, neurological conditions)
  o Acute illness
  o Medications and drugs
  o Acclimatization
Medications and drugs affecting risk of heat illness

• Antihistamines
• Decongestants
• Some antipsychotic and antidepressant medications
• Diuretics
• Anticholinergic agents (wide variety of conditions, incl. asthma, Parkinson’s)
• Antiepileptic agents
• Beta blockers (blood pressure management)
• Alcohol
• Cocaine
• Amphetamines
• And more...

“Pre-season” advice:
Health care providers, including pharmacists, can provide individual advice!
Social vulnerability to extreme heat

• Reduced access to cooling facilities and other heat mitigation measures (e.g. A/C)

• Social isolation and barriers to reaching help

• Socially vulnerable groups may be more likely to live in neighbourhoods with environmental vulnerability
But the climate is only one of the reasons that Joseph Lazcko, a sixty-eight-year-old man of Hungarian descent, died alone in his Northwest Side apartment in the days that followed. Although he kept to himself, Lazcko apparently staved off loneliness by collecting his neighbors’ unwanted mail and filling his home with phone books, old newspapers, and shoddy furniture. Lazcko preserved order amid the chaos of broken radios and piled seat cushions by keeping a calendar, in which he recorded the daily temperature and noted the news stories that moved him. On July 15 he entered “94 degrees” in the book. On July 16 he was dead.
Environmental vulnerability to extreme heat: built environments

- Sparse vegetation
- Darkly hued roofing and paving materials
- Lack of cool neighbourhood spaces
- → Higher heat load in urban areas: “urban heat islands”
Urban heat island effect

Température superficielle apparente dans la RMR de Vancouver le 17 juillet 2004
Classification de température selon la moyenne (24,01°C)
Built environment risk factors

❌ No mechanical cooling
❌ Higher floor of building
❌ Directly under the roof
❌ South and/or west facing windows
❌ Large window surface area
❌ Singled pane windows
❌ No external window shading
❌ No evening cross breeze
❌ Low neighborhood greenness

BCCDC
Protective environments

- Ventilation, air conditioning
- Trees and vegetation, water features
- Green roofs, cool roofs (reflective)
- Cool pavement surfaces
Smoke Vulnerability

More sensitive
- People with pre-existing medical conditions such as asthma and cardiovascular disease
- Infants, young children, and people who are pregnant
- Older adults

More exposed
- People who are homeless and under-housed
- Live in homes without mechanical ventilation, air filtration systems or portable air cleaners
- Work or are active outdoors

Considering heat and air quality together

• Periods of poor air quality may overlap with extreme heat events (consider summer wildfire seasons)

• Many vulnerabilities for effects of extreme heat are also important for air quality impacts
  – Older adults, infants/children, chronic conditions, homelessness/underhousing

• Heat is a bigger health risk than smoke for most people, so cooling should generally be prioritized

• Key for both heat and smoke events: Cool, clean indoor air
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Heat and smoke response planning

• Develop clear plan of action with roles and responsibilities
• Identify susceptible individuals *prior* to the hot-weather season
• Create lists of cooling and cleaner air facilities and strategies
• Identify and establish links with partners in community: municipal government, health agencies, community-based organizations
• Develop/share communication materials for staff and residents
• Monitoring of environmental conditions (weather and smoke) and health impacts
• Post-season evaluation and improvement of response
Spending time in a COOL SPACE and drinking plenty of WATER is the best way to prevent heat-related illnesses.

DRESS FOR THE HEAT
- Wear loose-fitting, light-colored, breathable clothing.

KEEP THE SPACE COOL
- Keep the building cool using blinds to block the sun, and open windows at night to let cooler air in.

STAY INFORMED & PLAN AHEAD
- Reschedule outdoor activities to cooler times of the day and avoid sun exposure.
- Check the latest heat alert information & weather forecast.

HYDRATE
- Drink plenty of water, and offer it to those in your care.

CHECK-IN
- Pay attention to how you feel, and watch for symptoms of heat illness in those around you.

COOL OFF
- Take breaks from the heat by spending a few hours in a cool place (e.g. air conditioned community center, tree-shaded area).
- Use water to help cool-off (e.g. cool shower, wet towels).

Vancouver Coastal Health
vch.ca/heat
Heat response for NGOs:

• Display heat health communication material in venues, and distribute to strategic teams or employees who engage with the high-risk populations identified

• Assess cooling centre locations (for accessibility, hours, appropriate space for high-risk or vulnerable populations)
  • Share local cooling shelter information through formal and informal communications channels and media sources
  • Explore on potential options for transportation

• Community outreach focusing on identified vulnerable and high-risk populations that your group or organization support to raise awareness about the risks of heat.
  • Provide consistent heat health messages during client/community visits and telephone calls.

• Encourage wellness checks for people at high risk of severe outcomes, with advice from the local health authority

• Establishing temporary cooling spaces and clean air on-site
REDUCING EXPOSURE to wildfire smoke is the best way to protect health.

STAY INFORMED & PLAN AHEAD
- Check the latest local air quality readings and advisories regularly.

CHECK-IN
- Pay attention to how you feel, and watch for symptoms in those around you.

HYDRATE
- Drink plenty of water, and offer water to those in your care.

RELOCATE
- Go to local libraries, community centers or other public spaces that have central air conditioning and cleaner air.

REDUCE EXPOSURE
- Reduce outdoor physical activities and stay indoors when smoke is heavy.

COOL & FILTER
- Filter indoor air by adjusting the existing centralized HVAC system, or use portable air cleaners with HEPA air filters.
- Keep windows and doors closed during high smoke times; but on hot days, make sure the indoor temperature is at a comfortable level because heat can be dangerous.
- Use energy efficient cooling in addition to portable air cleaners to create cool spaces with clean air for hot days.
Effective mitigation strategies

- Heat pumps
- External window shading
- External window films
- Close windows during the day
- Open windows overnight
- Use fans to move cool air in
- Increase neighborhood greenness

BCCDC
Cleaner Air Spaces

Building Filtration Systems

• **Highest rated** MERV filter possible
  - Minimum MERV 13
  - Consider HEPA for smoke events

• **Recirculate** the air when outdoor conditions are poor and draw in **fresh air** when the smoke abates, as pollutants can become trapped inside

• **Follow recommended filter replacement schedule**

Portable Air Cleaners

• Portable air cleaners with **HEPA filtration**

• Units **certified** by Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers

• **Sized** for your space

http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/prevention-public-health/wildfire-smoke
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• Resources
Resources: heat

• Health Canada Infographics and factsheets on heat and health:
  


• vch.ca/heat
Resources: Wildfire smoke

• BC Centre for Disease Control fact sheets:
  • http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/prevention-public-health/wildfire-smoke
  • vch.ca/wildfiresmoke
Thank you! Questions?

michael.schwandt@vch.ca
Non-Profit Providers’ response

- How have you observed extreme heat impact the populations you support?

- Which populations have been most impacted, and why?

- What have you done to support the community you serve to stay safe & healthy during heat events?
“Through compassion and commitment, we take pride in housing people from all walks of life and feel honored to help make our housing their home.”

— Luanne Ruotsalainen, Executive Director
We have Several different programs that we offer to the community of Quesnel, they are:

- 33 Housing units under the Urban Native Housing Program;
- 31 Housing units under BC Housing Affordable Housing Programs;
- 28 Housing units under the Rural and Native Housing Program;
- 38 Housing units in downtown Quesnel.

Seniors Building

- Operating Managers - Silver Manor - 30 units under BC Housing Program.
Extreme Heat Response

- Purchased A/C units, created tenant payment plan for A/C purchases
- Cooling stations
- Applied for funds for gift cards
- Arranged grocery deliveries
- Regular check in’s on elders and vulnerable tenants
Extreme Heat Response

• Testing swamp coolers in apartment hallways
• Maintenance ensures A/C units are running effectively twice daily in the common rooms
• Tenants offer to help whenever they see another tenant in need
Extreme Heat Response

• Being as prepared as we can:
  • Spare A/C units on hand
  • Buying cases of water in advanced
  • Getting checklist ready of who we know will need attention
  • Helping tenants re-install their A/C units
  • Ensuring A/C units in common rooms are serviced and ready
3 P’s Collision of People, Planet and Profits

in Extreme Climate Events

Patti MacAhonic, MBA - Ann Davis Transition Society

PROVIDING EDUCATION, PREVENTION AND SUPPORT SERVICES TO THOSE AFFECTED BY ABUSE OR VIOLENCE since 1980
Transitional Housing

Ann Davis Transition House and Ann Davis Women's Centre provide temporary safe shelter and support for adult women and women with children who are at risk of or are victims of domestic violence. The houses are staffed 24 hours a day, are pet-friendly, and work on a communal living model.

- In 2021 we provided bed stays for 8,174 women and children
- The need for affordable housing is still on the incline with 43% of Chilliwack's homeless population being women
- Crisis and support calls are up 43.7% (Based on November 2020 statistics)
- Numbers of senior women seeking help is rising exponentially each year, (with one week having 80% of residents over 50).
Stats for the Fraser Valley Health Authority (FV) June 25 – July 1st

FVHA had 52% of the deaths due to the Heat Dome – 273 persons

79% were 65 or over and 51% were women

In Chilliwack of 22 deaths, 15 were women

Chilliwack was the 6th highest township in BC reporting heat stroke events
Women experiencing poverty, domestic violence, and risks in severe climate events

• Women living with the “daily disaster” of domestic violence are also highly vulnerable when disasters transform geographies, institutions, and relationships.

• In the vicious dynamic of power and control, battered women live in a world of increasingly narrow social networks, often isolated, unable to take or keep paid work, lacking transportation, and financially dependent.

• Organizational responses to 3 crises of Heat Dome, Flooding and Pandemic to domestic violence in disaster-impacted communities matter. The daily realities of living with violence make attending to the threat of disaster unlikely and stabilizing life in a disaster-stricken neighborhood and community very difficult.

• Already in emotional crisis, women at risk of violence or experiencing violence are focused on the relationship they have just left; or are trying to survive day to day in the present danger of their lives, they often lack the ability to have a strong sense of awareness of what’s going on around them. And many crisis happen quickly and demand quick responses to stay safe.
Domestic Violence, Women experiencing poverty and risks in Severe Climate Events

• Severe weather events like mudslides, heat events or flooding often isolate women at home in unsafe environments without working telephones or accessible roads; contact with crisis counselors may be cut off and court-ordered protection unavailable when major disasters disrupt or destroy lifeline services, including law enforcement agencies.

• Older women with limited income are also more at risk as we have tragically seen with the Heat Dome, with an unconscionably high number of women dying alone in their homes due to a lack of being able to keep cool and experiencing life threatening heat stroke.
June-July 2021 Heat Dome Response

Migrant Farm Workers

On June 28th, 2021, Ann Davis Society assisted over 100 migrant women farm workers who needed urgent help. 55 women were being moved from working outside to working in a refrigerated environment and the rest needed resources to combat the heat.

Our Outreach Team was able to provide each woman with weather appropriate clothing, hats, hygiene products and grocery cards for medical needs.
June-July 2021 Heat Dome Response

Community Outreach

From June 28th to July 2nd, the Ann Davis Outreach Team went out into the community to attempt to provide some relief and necessary items to our most vulnerable population. The Team gave out 303 care kits. We also gave out separately, water, clothing, sunscreen and resourced accommodations, we provided service to over 1000 persons.

Chilliwack's Island 22 is one of the local locations where some of our community's vulnerable, street entrenched and displaced seniors' population, call “home.” Individuals, have set up temporary shelters with tents, wood pallets or small trailers.

During the heat dome event, Ann Davis Outreach Team made several visits to the camps at Island 22.

The Team gave out 42 care kits to the individuals at Island 22.
June-July 2021 Heat Wave Response

Community Response

Much of the help we were able to give to our community was made possible with the generous donations of our supporters.

Through social media, we were able to let people know that we were doing outreach and get the message out about those we were serving at the time. This included asking community members to contact seniors they knew who may be at risk to do “check ins”. The community engagement on our posts was tremendous, with donations of water, sunscreen, aloe, hats, sandals, Gatorade and summer clothing which greatly aided us in helping those at risk.
June 2021 Heat Wave Response

Testimonials – the persons affected

➢ Every day that we were out in the community we saw vulnerable persons hiding in bits of shade, doing whatever they could to stay cool. Our team was greeted with gratitude, as we were able to provide such immediate care supplies. There were many people gathered in Salish Park near the trees, so many of them with heat stroke, needing water and protective clothing, it was very apparent the urgency that was needed for outreach to gather as many items as possible and meet these people where they were at.

➢ One man just sitting in the grass off of the overpass, he was crying, and his feet had burned all over, there was only 1/2 of his feet covered with shoes, as the rest had melted. We were able to provide him with a real pair of sandals, I will never forget the look on his face after- it was pure relief.

➢ One person was so surprised to have outreach approach them we found them hidden between 2 shopping carts with a sheet and an umbrella draped over it, once we met, they were able to share their story and able to build a relationship with staff. They are now housed thanks to this relationship as we were able to get them into subsidized housing.
Thank You

Patti MacAhonic
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604-793-5003
info@anndavis.org
www.facebook.com/AnnDavisTransitionSociety
Surrey Urban Mission Society
What do we do?

- We work with the unhoused in the Whalley area of Surrey.

- We operate 4 Shelters which provide safety and rest for over 200 people every night.

- We provide food services, providing 1000 meals daily.

- We provide clothing and essentials for shelter guests and others in need.

- We run a Community Connections Worker program. This program assists guests and general public with resources, referrals and connection to local, provincial and federal agencies and ministries.
How did we respond to the 2021 heatwave?

- **Water:**
  Each shelter responded with either bottled water or water in a cup.

- **Sprinkler / Hose:**
  Each shelter provided a sprinkler or hose for guests to cool down with.

- **Cooling Tents:**
  Our ERC and Olive Branch locations set up cooling tents. The ERC tent provided cooling options for shelter guests as well as those in the North Surrey area.

- **Outreach:**
  The CCW team would do outreach each day. The team provided water as well as guiding people to cooling centers within the Whalley area. If someone was struggling with heat exhaustion or heat stroke the CCW would call non-emergency RCMP or BC Ambulance in extreme cases.
Planning Ahead 2022

- Expand the number of Cooling Tents.
- Extended hours and area for our CCW Team.
- Getting the word out in advance. Involve our community.
Public Opportunities

We want to provide opportunities for our community to get involved.

We are finding that due to Covid, people want to give, donate, volunteer – care for their neighbour!

Over the next few months we will be collecting:

Hats, Sunscreen, Bottled Water & Energy Drinks and other items that could provide some relief from the heat.
Contact:

marty.jones@sumsplace.ca
Extreme Heat and Wildfire Smoke

Magdalena Szpala, Sustainability & Resilience Director, BC Housing

• April 28, 2022
BC Housing Pre-Summer Preparations

Staff awareness

BC Housing Extreme Heat and Wildfire Smoke Procedure

• Roles + Responsibilities
• Before Summer Preparedness Checklist
• Setting up Cooling + Clean Air Rooms
• Inventory Review

Identifying Tenants Most at Risk

Communication Material

Additional Resources
Staff Awareness

- Before summer, all team members should be aware of potential impacts of heat / air quality due to wildfire smoke:
  1. Health risk, symptoms
  2. Preparation, communication, mitigation
  3. How to stay informed on potential public health warnings

Recommend staff presentation or a workshop on risks, mitigation, roles
### BC Housing

### Extreme Heat and Wildfire Response Procedure

- Create a Before Summer Preparation Summer Checklist
- Share and make aware
  - Ensure everyone is aware what actions are needed and when, including sign-off on check lists.

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**Checklist 1: An Example of a Before Summer Preparation Checklist for Site Staff**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Who?</th>
<th>Actions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All staff</td>
<td>1. I’m familiar with extreme heat, wildfire smoke and COVID-19 health risks, symptoms, and appropriate action.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building managers</td>
<td>2. I have assessed where there might be potential cooling opportunities within the property for the tenants. (E.g. creation of a cross breeze in the corridors, or setting up “cool rooms” or “cooling zones” by installing a portable air conditioning or fans in the common rooms, or creation of a shaded area outside of the building if there’s adequate space)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building managers</td>
<td>3. If my building has a common area, I have set it up as a “cooling room” using fans or air-conditioning and implemented COVID-19 protocols.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building managers</td>
<td>4. If my building already has a portable air-conditioning unit, I have maintained it (e.g. cleaned the filters) as recommended and checked that it works.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building managers</td>
<td>5. If appropriate, I have provided shaded outdoor areas that allow for maintaining of COVID-19 protocols such as physical distancing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building managers</td>
<td>6. I have all other items that will be used for the cooling room: such as water, window coverings, chairs.</td>
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BC Housing
Extreme Heat and Wildfire Response Procedure

• Setting up Cooling and Clean Air Rooms >>
• Find information on how to develop your own cooling/clean air room: www.bchousing.org/projects-partners/extreme-heat/how-to-cool-a-space
Identifying Tenants Most at Risk

Tenants who may be at risk:

1. Individual risk factors (as identified by health experts)
2. Building/unit risk factors
3. Other factors

Once the tenants most at risk are identified, staff will create the tenant list and proceed to connect with these tenants.
Communication Materials

Building Poster

Tenant response card
Additional Resources

• Extreme Heat Preparedness Planning Guides/templates
• Health symptoms and what to do
• Tenant materials (protect your pets, how to cool a space)
• How to stay informed about the weather forecasts
• Design guidelines and other resources for new construction

www.bchousing.org/projects-partners/extreme-heat
Extreme Heat and Wildfire Smoke Planning Workshops at RENTS:

- May 10: Nanaimo
- May 26: New Westminster
- June 16: Prince George
Questions?

For more information, please contact:

Magdalena Szpala, mszpala@bchousing.org
Thank-you to all who helped on this webinar