May 14, 2025

Extreme Heat & Wildfire Smoke Response

Planning for Unsheltered Housing & Service Providers











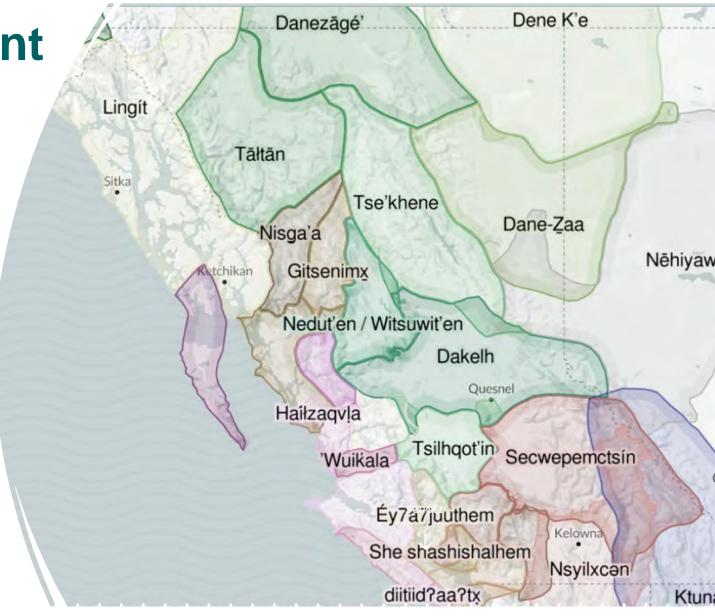




Land Acknowledgement

BC Housing gratefully acknowledges that we live and work on the unceded traditional and ancestral homelands of hundreds of Indigenous Peoples and Nations across British Columbia, each with their own unique traditions, history and culture.

We are committed to strong Indigenous partnerships and relationships based on principles of Reconciliation.





Housekeeping



Recording & Materials

This webinar is recorded, and attendees will receive the recording and slides afterward.



Mute your Mic

Stay muted unless called on to speak to reduce background noise.



Asking Questions

Use the chat or Q&A function anytime. During the Q&A session, raise your hand and wait to be unmuted before speaking.



Stay Connected

Email extremeheat@bchousing.org with any follow-up questions or comment





Agenda

Areas of Activity, Info/Resources Available, Preparing for Heat, and BC Housing Support Allison Dunnet, BC Housing

2025 Forecast, Health Impacts, and Research Updates Dr. Amy Lubik, Fraser Health

Provincial Perspective
Jonathan Carroll, Ministry of Health

Municipal Response – Heat & Wildfire Smoke Events Katia Tynan, City of Vancouver

Municipal Response – Heat & Wildfire Smoke Events Tanya Seal-Jones, City of Victoria

Non-profit Experience During Heat & Wildfire Smoke Events Kelly Fehr, Turning Points

Non-profit Outreach Support to Park & Street Encampments Tanya Fader, PHS Community Services Society





Areas of Activity

- 1. Increasing capacity within the non-profit housing sector
- Building organizational capacity within BC Housing
- 3. Reducing risk of overheating in new construction and existing buildings
- 4. Research and engagement
- 5. Collaborating with stakeholders





What information is available for you?

bchousing.org/projects-partners/extreme-heat

Extreme Heat and Wildfire Smoke





Tenants can make use of <u>dedicated extreme heat information</u> to keep safe during hot weather,

If you are a non-profit housing provider in B.C. in need of extreme heat and wildfire smoke related equipment, see sourcing equipment.

Quick Links

Public Weather Alerts for BC L3
HealthLinkBC - Beat the Heat L3
BC CDC Wildfire Smoke L3

PreparedBC - Extreme Heat [5]

Useful Documents

<u>Tips to Beat the Heat - Poster</u>

Tenant Extreme Heat Check-In Card



Health Impacts

Everyone is at risk of heat and wildfire smoke illnesses in the summer, and social housing tenants are at increased risk because they often have fewer resources.

Prepare a EHWS Response Plan

A guide to help non-profit housing providers develop an Extreme Heat and Wildfire Smoke Response Plan for their organization.

Planning and Communicating with Tenants

Building managers and housing providers should communicate with tenants and building staff about the risks of extreme heat and poor air quality, the signs and symptoms of related illnesses, and how to stay safe.

How to Cool a Space

There are different actions building operators, staff and tenants can take to cool a space.

Resources and Webinars

The following resources and webinars will help you stay informed and prepared during extreme heat and wildfire smoke in BC.

Extreme Heat Information for Tenants

Find information on cooling centres, tips to beat the heat, and when to seek help.



How can non-profits be prepared?

How can BC Housing support you?



Check your Extreme Heat and Wildfire Smoke inventory



Identify inventory items that need to be restocked – if you need additional funding contact your Portfolio Manager (NPPM/SHA)



Proceed to purchase Extreme Heat and Wildfire Smoke supplies (Do No Wait!)



Monitor Heat Alert updates from Ministry of Health and our Partner Bulletin



When a Heat Alert is announced – If your region is facing supply shortages contact extremeheat@bchousing.org







Image of the Sea to Sky Corridor on the traditional and unceded territories of the Lil'wat, N'Quatqua, Samahquam, Skatin, Squamish and Xa'xtsa Nations.

Territory Acknowledgement

We recognize that Fraser Health provides care on the traditional, ancestral and unceded lands of the Coast Salish and Nlaka'pamux Nations and is home to 32 First Nations within the Fraser Salish region, which is also home to many Métis Chartered Communities. Fraser Health is dedicated to serving all Indigenous people, and honours the unique cultures of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit living within the Fraser Salish region.

Vancouver Coastal Health is committed to delivering exceptional care to 1.25 million people, including the First Nations, Métis and Inuit, within the traditional territories of the Heiltsuk, Kitasoo-Xai'xais, Lil'wat, Musqueam, N'Quatqua, Nuxalk, Samahquam, shíshálh, Skatin, Squamish, Tla'amin, Tsleil-Waututh, Wuikinuxv, and Xa'xtsa.

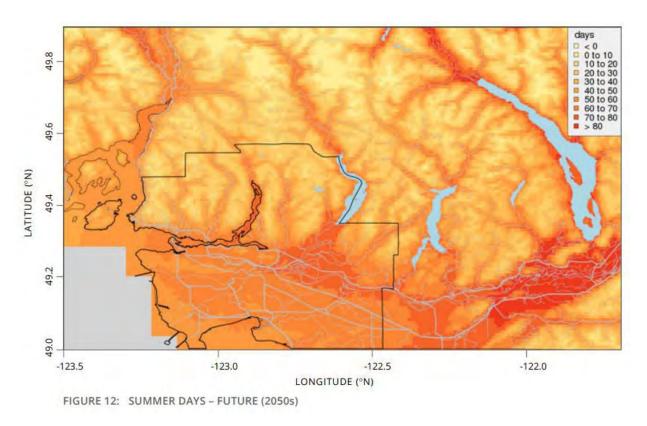


Overview

- Impacts in our region
- BC Heat Alert and Response
- Health Impacts of Heat
- Heat planning
- Wildfire smoke
- Resources



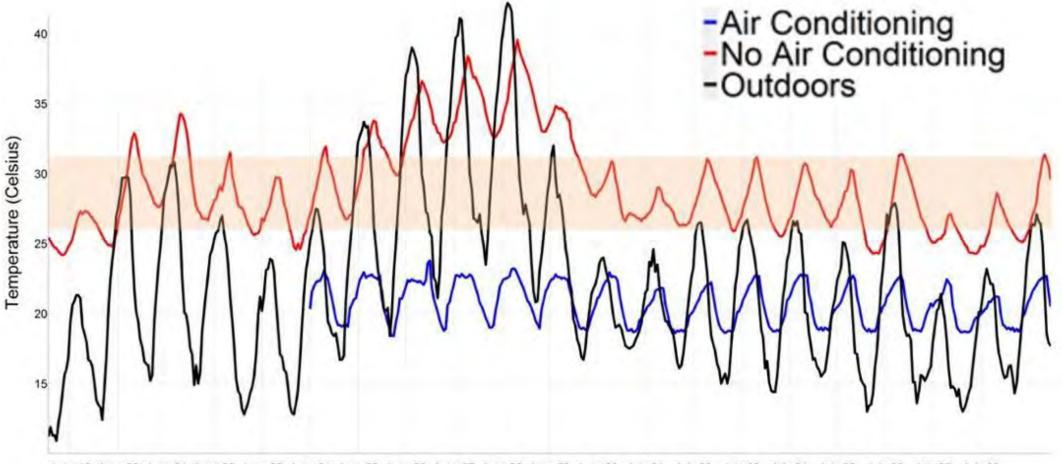
Heat projections in the region



Days above 25°C Past and Projected				
	Average days (past)	Projected for 2050	Projected for 2080	
Abbotsford	33	53-96	75-128	
Burnaby	22	44-89	68-121	
Chilliwack	43	61-104	82-132	
Delta	17	39-86	66-119	
Port Moody	30	41-85	64-115	
Hope	46	50-92	71-117	
Langley	30	46-91	70-122	
Surrey	25	46-92	71-125	
Maple Ridge	36	52-96	74-127	

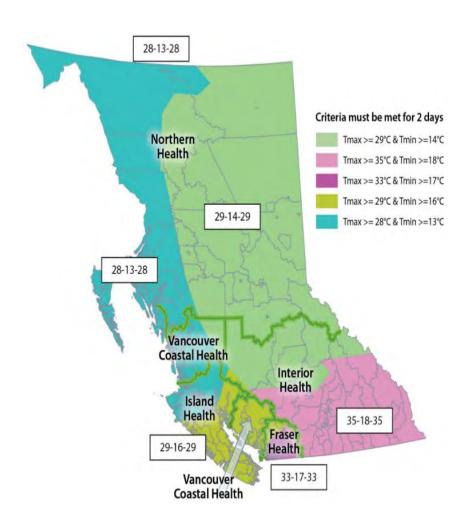
Metro Vancouver (2016). Climate Projections for Metro Vancouver.

People die because it is hot inside



June 19 June 20 June 21 June 22 June 23 June 24 June 25 June 26 June 27 June 28 June 29 June 30 July 01 July 02 July 03 July 04 July 05 July 06 July 07 July 08

BC Heat Alert Response System



Alert level	Heat Warning	Extreme Heat Emergency	
Public health risk	Moderate (5% increase in mortality)	Very high (20% or more increase in mortality)	
Descriptor	Very hot	Dangerously hot	
Historic frequency	1-3 per summer season	1-2 per decade	
Criteria	Southwest = 29-16-29°C* Fraser = 33-17-33°C* Southeast = 35-18-35°C* Northeast = 29-14-29°C* Northwest = 28-13-28°C* *(Daytime high, nighttime high, daytime high)	Heat warning criteria have been met and forecast indicates that daily highs will substantively increase day-over-day for 3 or more consecutive days	

Organizations doing heat response can request ECCC notification emails: meteopac@ec.gc.ca

Heat and Smoke Related Health Impacts





People at higher risk from heat

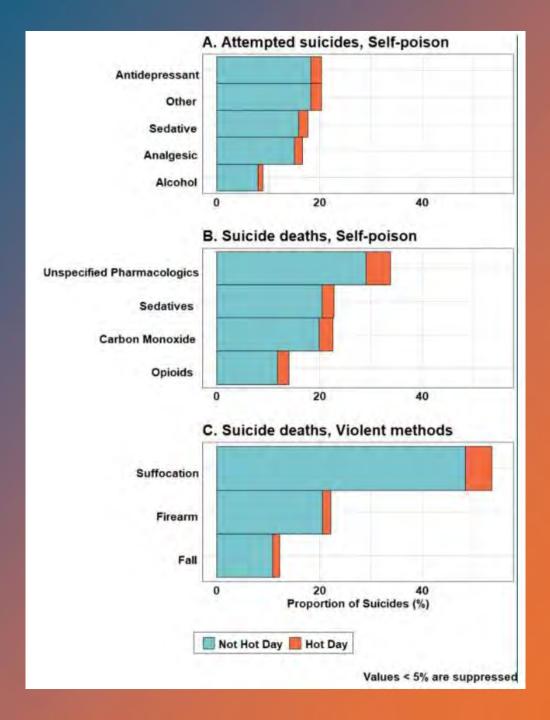
Physiological Vulnerability

- Seniors
- ☐ Chronic Health Conditions
- ☐ Mental Illness e.g. Schizophrenia
- ☐ Certain Medications/ Substances
- ☐ Limited mobility
- ☐ Infants and Young Children

Social/ Environmental Vulnerability

- Socially Isolated
- ☐ People without access to A/C
- ☐ Unhoused individuals
- ☐ Lack of greenspaces/ Urban Heat Island





Mental Health and Substance use

- Some substances, meth or cocaine can increase body temperature
- Opioids can make it hard to feel heat or take action
- Increasing temperatures are associated with higher odds of drug toxicity
- Heat impacts is associated with suicidal ideation and attempts
- Naloxone may not work as well if exposed to high temperatures

Li, K et al, (2025). Environmental Health

Unpacking vulnerability of schizophrenia during the heat dome (Liv Yoon, UBC)

SUBSTANCE USE

- Worsened schizophrenia symptoms
 - Paranoia, agitation, hallucinations
- Intensified feelings of overheating
 - Heart rate, blood pressure
- Isolation increased substance use
 - Reinforcing cycle
- Less aware of heat impacts
 - Obscure need for treatment

"The alcohol causes aggravation, causes you to become really mad, weed just makes you really paranoid, makes the voices worse."

(B08: 38; Male: Housed; Non-Prescribed Substance Use: N/A; Prescribed Medication: Clozapine, Paliperidone)

"I just used drugs and the heat just didn't seem as bad if I was high."

(A13: 24; Male; Housed; Non-Prescribed Substance Use: Methamphetamine, Cigarettes, Fentanyl, Benzos; Prescribed Medication: N/A)

CONCRETE ACTIONS: INDIVIDUAL-LEVEL

(Kirby, Kenny et al., under review)

- Keep aware of public heat warnings (media, public weather alerts website, or app)
- If available, make sure your mechanical cooling is working, or shade your windows with window film or curtains
- Find out where your nearest cooling centres are
- Make sure you have access to clean drinking water, light-weight, light-coloured, loosefitting clothing, and foods that do not require heat to cook
- Keep in mind whom you can reach out to in case of emergency
- Write out meds, health conditions, allergies, list of 2 people, crisis hotline
- Keep aware of signs and symptoms of heat illness
 - Schizophrenia vs. heat (vs. substance use)

CONCRETE ACTIONS: COMMUNITY-LEVEL

(Kirby, Kenny et al., under review)

- Leverage existing relationships with healthcare providers, wellness teams
 - Let them know of signs and symptoms of heat illness & factors increasing heatsusceptibility in scz: awareness, meds and substance use, lack of access to heat-mitigating behaviours, living space, seeking support
- Conduct in-person checks and remote checks, including post-EHE monitoring
- Check housing status & indoor environmental quality (IEQ)
 - If no A/C in individual unit, is there an in-building space that can be used as a cooling room? Connect with bldg. managers
- Perhaps the first step after this webinar: Connect with orgs in your area that support people with scz and other mental illnesses

Heat planning





People who are unhoused or have mental health challenges

Prepare for Extreme Heat: A Guide for People Who Use Substances



An extreme heat event can be dangerous to your health.

Substances can make you more sensitive to extreme heat.

- . Stimulants (cocaine, crack, or meth) can increase your body temperature and make
- . Opioids (heroin, fentanyl) can make it hard to feel hot and take action to protect yourself.

Symptoms from extreme heat can last a long time.

· People usually experience health effects during a heatwave, but some people might have symptoms that last weeks or months.

It is important to be prepared for extreme heat events.

Make an extreme heat kit

- · Bottled water
- · Cups
- · Large basins or water jugs
- Ice packs and ice
- · Containers to hold ice
- Towels
- Sunscreen
- · Fruit and vegetables Taxi vouchers
- · Tin foil

- · Misting bottles
- Take Home Naloxone kits
- · First aid

There may be barriers to getting these supplie Find what you can and reach out for support



Extreme heat and smoke guidance for those supporting unhoused community members

Information and resources for community organizations.

Summer heat can pose serious health risks to people who are unhoused or living in precarious housing, especially those with pre-existing heart, lung or mental health conditions.

This resource provides information and resources related to extreme heat response for those who work with people experiencing homelessness or in lowincome buildings.

Organizations that work with clients who are unhoused or in precarious housing are encouraged to communicate in advance with guests, volunteers and staff about the risks of extreme heat, the signs and symptoms of heat-related illness and how to stay safe in hot weather.

Extreme heat events are announced by Environment and health authorities at temperatures that are associa and hospitalizations.





Best practice is providing cool spaces

- Monitor indoor temperature. Risk of heat-related illness increases over 26°C (78 °F).
- A/C or heat pumps (highlight low-cost)
- External window shading and/or films or foil
- Close windows and blinds during the day (approx 10am to 8pm). Open windows overnight.
- Make/ Provide a cool room, if you can
- Residential Tenancy Act update
- Do not rely on fans as primary cooling method for people at higher risk from heat. Fans do not lower body temperature. Use fans to move cool air inside overnight or create a cross breeze.

Promising Practice: Providing AC Units (Nanaime



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-NC



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-NC

Community partnerships are key

- The city identified buildings that were at risk of overheating
- Connected with building management
- Can use Emergency Management and Climate Resilience funding to rent A/C in the event of a heat alert/ emergency



Outdoor cooling works too

- Set up in areas with natural breeze, if possible
- Tents can provide shading
- Use evaporative coolers (\$100-\$500)
- Have spaces for pets
- Misting stations can offer relief, but can contribute to humidity
- Offer programming if you can
- Let bylaw officers know to direct people
- Let people know of cool, green areas nearby

Encampment guidance



- Educate residents on health impacts, including heat amplifying in tents
- Ask residents to download apps
- Provide reflective tarps, if possible
- Suggest check-ins, particularly for certain conditions
- Suggest nearly cool spaces
- Provide drinking water



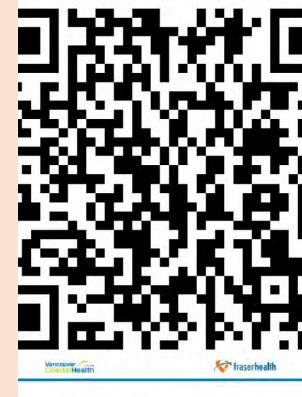
Extreme heat events can lead to dangarous indoor temperatures in homes without functioning air conditioning. Health checks are used to assess how people at high risk of heat-related illness are doing during extreme events, in-person health checks are best, but a remote health check is better than no health check.





Checking-in on people

- Public: NCCEH Health Check
 During Extreme Heat Events Guide
- Community Organizations: VCH Heat Check-In Support Framework, training videos and materials.



HEAT CHECK-IN SUPPORT FRAMEWORK

FOR NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

HODATED, HUNE 2022



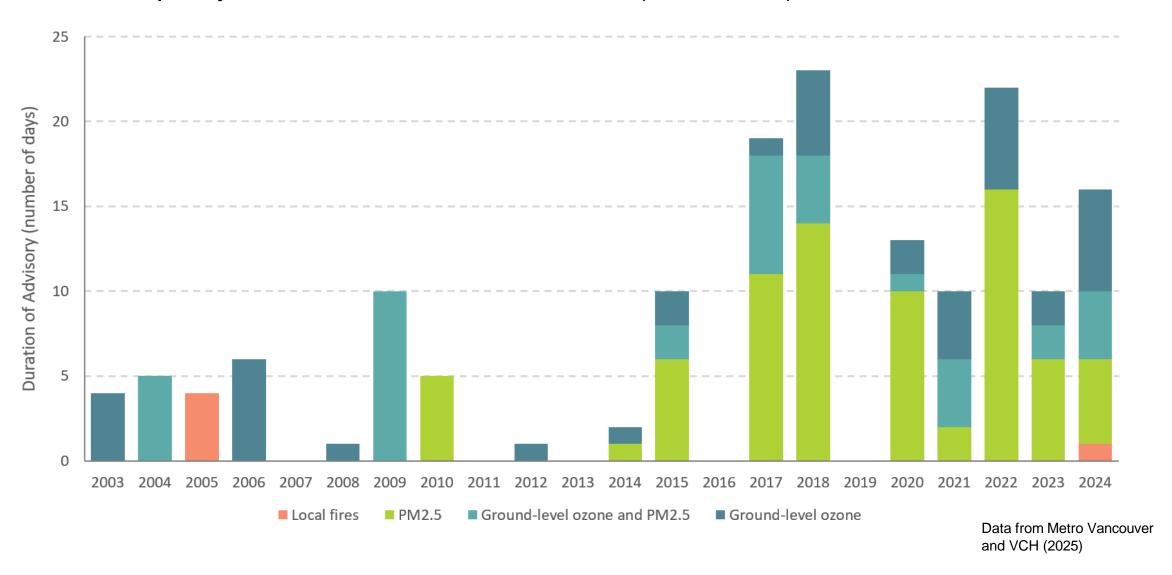
Wildfire smoke

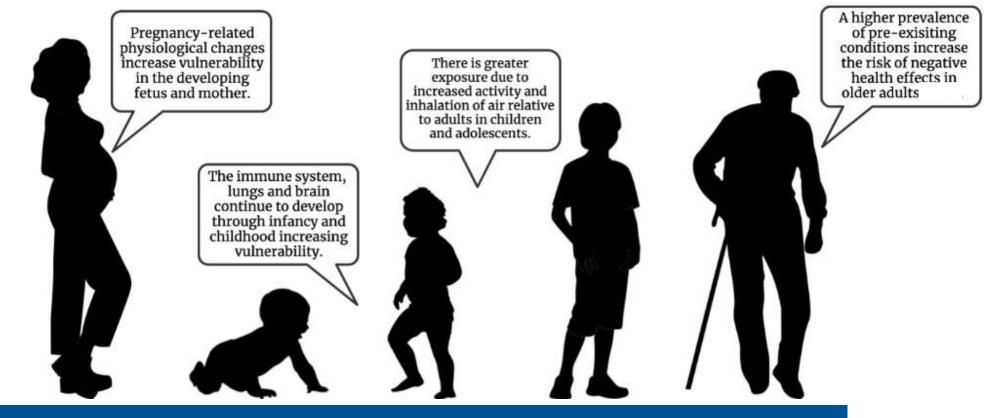




Summers Compared: Wildfires and Smoke

Air quality advisories in Metro Vancouver (2003-2024)





People at higher risk from wildfire smoke

- Pre-existing medical conditions (e.g. asthma, COPD, cardiovascular disease)
- Infants and young children
- Pregnant people
- Older adults

- People who are under housed
- Living in spaces **without** air filtration systems or portable air cleaners
- Work or are active outdoors

Environmental Health Impacts of Wildfires, UC Davis.



Action: Promote/ create air cleaners

Ensure cooling spaces are also clean air spaces

Share information about

- Using a portable HEPA air cleaner (BCCDC)
- Making a do-it-yourself air cleaner (BREATHE)

Host DIY air cleaner workshops

WILDFIRE SMOKE AND YOUR HEALTH



Respiratory Protection for Wildfire Smoke

Wearing a respirator can help reduce exposure to the tiny particles in wildfire-smoke, especially when you cannot access cleaner indoor air. A well-fitted respirator can remove more than 90% of smoke particles. It is important to understand how to use respirators safely and effectively.



Well-fitted respirators offer effective protection from fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}).

- Respirators are marked with letter and number combinations, such as N95, KN95, and KF94. These products are very similar, but the markings indicate different standards used to test them.
- A good fit is the most important thing for reducing smoke particles. Inhaled air must pass through the material of the respirator, not around it.
- A well-fitted respirator will reduce PM₂₅ concentrations by more than 90%.
- Make sure your respirator is the right size and shape for your face.
- A 3-layer cloth or disposable procedure mask provides some protection against PM₂₅ but less effective than a respirator.
- Simple 1-layer cloth masks, bandanas, gaiters, scarves, or t-shirts offer no protection, whether wet or dry.

Know how to use respirators properly.



- It is NOT SAFE to wear any mask while sleeping.
- Most respirators and masks cannot protect against the gases in wildfire smoke, which may also cause irritation.
- Wearing a respirator may make breathing more difficult. Seek cleaner indoor air and remove your respirator if you are having trouble catching your breath.
- Respirators can be uncomfortable to wear for long periods, especially when it is hot.
- Respirators do not work as well when they are sweaty, wet, or dirty. Put on a new respirator when needed.
- People with limited upper body mobility may need help using respirators.
- If you move around a lot, the fit of a respirator might be affected. Make sure to check the fit often if you are bending, lifting, or running (see next page).
- Even when you are wearing a respirator, listen to your body at all times, and stop or reduce activities if you feel unwell.

C Face Masks for Wildfire Smoke

con wood wronwarion boods on building remake

Actions for smoke continued...

If people must be outdoors **consider a mask**:

- Most protection: well-fitted mask labeled with letters and numbers like N95, KB95, or KF94.
- Some protection: Cloth mask with three layers or a disposable medical mask
- **No protection**: Masks with one layer, bandanas, scarves, or t-shirt

Access mental health supports, as needed:

- Canadian Mental Health Association
- Indigenous-specific supports
- *Heat is a more immediate health concern for <u>most</u> people. Keep spaces cool if there is heat AND wildfire smoke at the same time.

Questions?

Contact: healthyenvironments@fraserhealth.ca





Resources





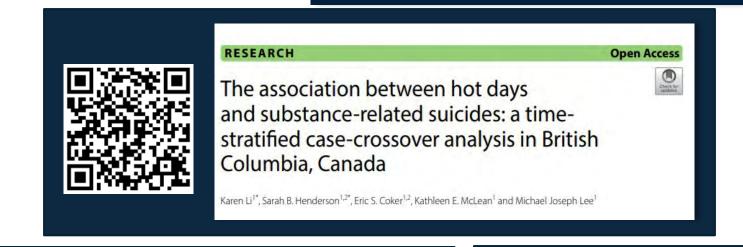
Recent Research

READ THE OPEN ACCESS ARTICLE:



Surviving the 2021 heat dome with schizophrenia: A qualitative, interview-based unpacking of risks and vulnerabilities.

Social Science & Medicine (2025) https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2024.117656





Hot weather and death related to acute cocaine, opioid and amphetamine toxicity in British Columbia, Canada: a timestratified case-crossover study

Sarah B. Henderson PhD, Kathleen E. McLean MPH, Yue Ding MHSc, Jiayun Yao PhD, Nikita Saha Turna PhD, David McVea MD MPH, Tom Kosatsky MD MPH



RESEARCH ARTICLE

The combined impacts of toxic drug use and the 2021 Heat Dome in Canada: A thematic analysis of online news media articles

Emily J. Tetzlaff 12, Nicholas Goulet 1,2,3, Melissa Gorman 2*, Glen P. Kenny 1,4

- 1 Human and Environmental Physiology Research Unit, School of Human Kinetics, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, ON, Canada, 2 Heat Division, Climate Change and Health Office, Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch, Health Canada, Ottawa, ON, Canada, 3 Behavioural and Metabolic Research Unit, School of Human Kinetics, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, ON, Canada, 4 Clinical Epidemiology Program, Ottawa Hospital Research Institute, Ottawa, ON, Canada
- * melissa.gorman@hc-sc.gc.ca

BC HARS: Suggested NGO Actions*

Pre-season

- Create or review heat response plan
- Organize or participate in forums to discuss collective responses to extreme heat
- Identify and display/share information on extreme heat (e.g. VCH and BC Housing resources)
- Identify clients who may be at high risk for severe illness during extreme heat
- Explore options for temporary cooling spaces and clean air on-site
- Create lists of cooling and cleaner air centres/spaces
- Explore potential options for transportation to cooling

During a Heat Warning

- Conduct community outreach, focusing on high-risk populations to raise awareness
- Share local cooling centre information, consider opening a cooling space

During an Extreme Heat Emergency

- Engage in wellness checks for people at high risk
- Increase community messaging
- Consider expanding hours of temporary cooling spaces

*As funding and capacity allows. May be done in partnership.

BC Provincial Heat Alert and Response System (BC HARS): 2024

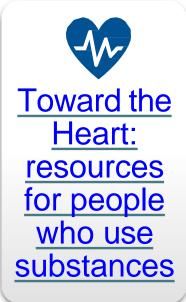


Heat Readiness Supportive Documents













WeatherCAN app

Smoke Resources





Smoke and heat guidance for public gatherings



FHA Wildfire Smoke page

BCCDC Resources

Advocacy Supporting Documents



Summer Heat and Health:
Recommended Actions for Stratas and Landlords



Guidelines for cooling spaces

Vancouver Coastal Health



Policy tools for cooler spaces

Vancouver Coastal Health

Seniors and People with Medical Conditions





How can extreme heat affect my health?

Extreme heat can affect your health in a number of ways. It can cause heatrelated illnesses such as heat exhaustion and heat stroke. It can worsen any existing health conditions. In extreme situations, it can result in permanent disability or death.

Who is more likely to have problems and why?

The people more likely to have problems with extreme heat are:

- older adults
- people without air conditioning
- people who don't leave their home often because of mobility, social anxiety, or other challenges
- people with chronic health conditions such as kidney, heart, or lung disease

During extreme heat, our bodies works hard to keep us cool. This effort can put added strain on the body when a person has a medical condition, making the medical condition worse. As we get older, our bodies might not sense that we are overheating. For these reasons, we need to pay extra attention.

Some medicines can interfere with your body's natural ability to get rid of heat, increasing the chances of overheating and dehydration. The sun and heat has a stronger effect on your body if you take any of these types of medicines:

- angiotensin-converting-enzyme (ACE) inhibitors
- anticholinergics for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), urinary incontinence, or overactive bladder
- beta blockers

- calcium channel blockers
- diuretics
- vasoconstrictors
- medicines for mental health such as antidepressants, anxiolytics, lithium, phenothiazines, antipsychotics, benzodiazepines, etc.

Page 1 of 4

If you take any of these types of medicines, ask your doctor or pharmacist how you can prevent stronger effects during extreme heat.

www.fraserhealth.ca

This information does not replace the advice given to you by your healthcare provider. Catalogue #267482 (June 2022) | To order patientative freesthants can



Also available at https://patienteduc.fraserhealth.ca/

People Who Use Certain Medications



Some medications impair the body's ability to cool itself. For example:

- Beta blockers (e.g. metoprolol or bisoprolol), which are medications used for certain heart conditions and for treating high blood pressure.
- Antihistamines, including over-the-counter cold or allergy medications (e.g. diphenhydramine or Benadryl*), off-the-shelf sleeping pills (e.g. Nytol*).
- Medications with anticholinergic effects, including urinary incontinence medications (e.g. oxybutynin), medications for Parkinson's disease (e.g. benztropine) and some antidepressants (e.g. amitriptyline or nortriptyline)



Some medications can dehydrate you. For example:

- Diuretics (e.g. hydrochlorothiazide or furosemide), laxatives (e.g. Senokot") or some diabetes medications (e.g. Invokana" or Jardiance"), increase the elimination of bodily fluids through urine or stool.
- Some antidepressants (e.g. fluoxetine, lithium or venlafaxine) cause excessive sweating, which can lead to dehydration.



Some medications can increase your body temperature. For example:

- Antipsychotic medications (e.g. risperidone, planzapine or quetiapine)
- Stimulant medications for attention disorders, such as amphetamines (e.g. Dexedrine® or Adderall®)



Some medications cause low blood pressure that heat and hot temperatures can worsen. For example:

- Medications for heart disease (e.g. nitroglycerin and calcium channel blockers).
- Medications for high blood pressure (e.g. ACE inhibitors)



The effects of some medications can be affected by dehydration. For example:

- Digoxin
- Lithium
- Warfarin
- Antiepileptics (e.g. phenytoin)

Some drugs and medications make it difficult for your body to adapt to hot temperatures

- Before the onset of warmer weather, ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse if your medications may increase your sensitivity to heat.
- Stay in contact daily with family, neighbours or friends, during hot weather, especially if you live alone. Make sure they know you are taking a drug that makes you more sensitive to heat and let them know immediately if you are not feeling well.
- Do not stop taking any medications unless directed to do so by your doctor.





CLICK OR SCAN FOR RESOURCE

Extreme Heat Health Impacts in B.C.

Extreme Heat and People Experiencing Homelessness

May 14, 2025



Territorial Acknowledgement



Crossing Cultures and
Healing totem pole
designed to further
reconciliation, placed next to
the provincial Ministry of
Health building in Victoria.

Master carvers and brothers Perry and Tom LaFortune of the Tsawout First Nation carved the pole (2018).



Agenda



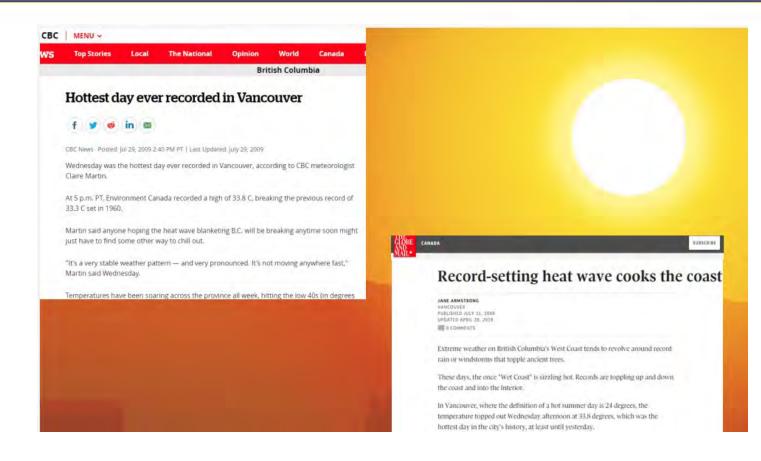
- 1. Background on Some Extreme Heat Impacts in B.C.
- 2. BC Heat Alert and Response System (BC HARS)
- 3. EMCR Policy 5.14
- 4. Resources



Background: Extreme Heat Impacts in B.C. 2009



- Extreme heat event in greater
 Vancouver lasted just over a
 week in late July to early August
- Temperatures at Abbotsford airport recorded the hottest 7day period on record since 1986
- Associated with 110 excess deaths
- This heat event and lead to the development of a heat alert and response system in the lower mainland



Background: Extreme Heat Impacts in B.C. 2009



As a result of Curtis Brick's death, Council on September 10, 2009, moved that:

"FURTHER THAT staff undertake a review of existing extreme weather emergency services offered by the City and make recommendations on these services that would further reduce the risk for street homeless and other vulnerable populations, such as homebound senior citizens, in the event of extreme heat or cold events."



Background: Extreme Heat Impacts in B.C. 2021



- Heat dome
 - Linked to an estimated 740 excess deaths
 - ➤ BC Coroners Service directly attributed 619 deaths in British Columbia to this extreme heat event
 - ➤ The highest number of deaths were recorded on June 28 & 29 also the hottest days of the heat event

Extreme Heat and Human Mortality: Analysis of community deaths during the catastrophic 2021 heat dome A Review of Heat-Related Deaths in B.C. Early evidence to inform the public health response during subsequent events in greater Vancouver, Canada Sarah B. Henderson*, Kathleen E. McLean, Michael J. Lee, Tom Kosatsky in Summer 2021 in greater Vancouver do not have air conditioning, and there was a 440% increase in community deaths during the event. Readily of 2.88 (1.85, 4.49) for the most deprived category. Heat dome deaths also had lower greenness within 100 m than typical weathe sex. High indoor temperatures likely played an important role. Public health response should focus on highly debrived neighborhoo **Heat Dome** Report to the Chie Release Date: June 7, 2

What is causing Canada's "Heat Dome"?

Background: Heat Events 2022-2024





Summer 2022 was the first year with the BC HARS in place



2023 Heat season kicked off early at the end of April



Confirmed that 2024 is not warmest year on record globally



June to September 2022 there were six Heat Warnings issued



2023 overlayed with drought, wildfires and air quality challenges



In B.C. Heat Warnings were issued for over 18 consecutive days from July 6-23, 2024



Extended heat event July 25–Aug 1 2022 impacting 40 regions in the province



Globally 2023 was hottest year on record...until 2024



Approximately half of those 18 days breaking daily records

What is the BC HARS?



- The BC Heat Alert and Response System (BC HARS) was rolled out in June 2022
- Describes a two-tier heat alerting system:
 - Heat Warning (uncomfortable heat)
 - Extreme Heat Emergency (dangerous heat)
- The BC HARS also identifies public health recommendations, actions, and messaging to reduce heatrelated illness and mortality

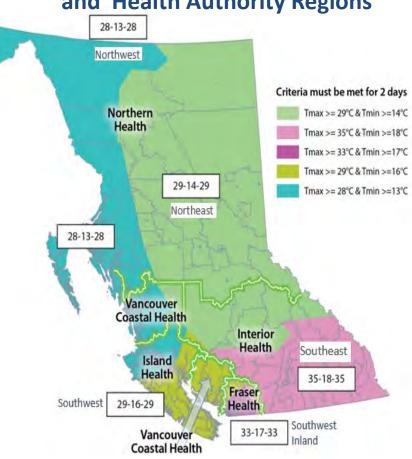
BC Provincial Heat Alert and Response System (BC HARS): 2025



BC HARS: Criteria







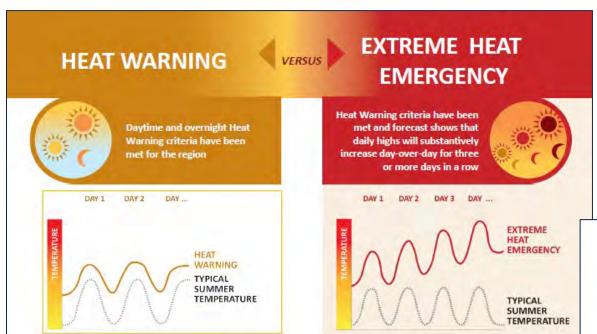
Type of alert	Heat Warning*	Extreme Heat Emergency
Public health risk	Moderate (5% increase in	Very high (20% or more
	mortality)	increase in mortality)
Descriptor	Very hot	Dangerously hot
Historic frequency	1-3 per summer season	1-2 per decade
Criteria	Southwest = 29-16-29** Fraser (SW Inland) = 33- 17-33** Southeast = 35-18-35** Northeast = 29-14-29** Northwest = 28-13-28**	Heat Warning criteria have been met and forecast indicates that daily highs will substantively increase dayover-day for three or more consecutive days

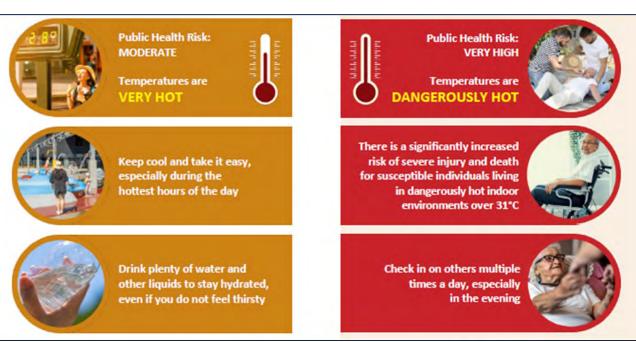
^{*(}Daytime high, nighttime low, daytime high)

^{**}Addition to the activation criteria for a Heat Warning after the third event of the season in the respective forecast region (due to social adaptation and acclimatization)

BC HARS: Two-Tier System







BC HARS Key Messages:



Pre-season Key Messages

As of June 2022 B.C. has a two-tier Heat Alert
 System (HARS).

If you have air conditioning, be sure to turn it on.

es are very hot and there is a urn it on.

thealth risk. A Heat Warning will us.

issued one to three times in a typical summer.

- The second HARS level, an Exc. Heat
 Emergency, means that temperatures and dangerous and there is a very high public health risk. An Extreme Heat Emergency may only be issued one to two times per decade.
- It is important to have a plan for Heat
 Warnings and Extreme Heat Emergencies –
 see Prepared BC Emergency Guides.

It is important to evaluate whether you can safely stay in your home during an Extreme Heat Emergency (prolonged exposure to temperatures over 31°C are dangerous for susceptible people) - see the indoor temperature guide in Extreme Heat Emergency.

Heat Warning Key Messages

- (ONLY if/when indicated by ECCC) The Heat Warning could evolve into an Extreme Heat Emergency. Be prepared to activate heat plans.
- Drink plenty of water and other liquids to stay hydrated.
- Take it easy, especially during the hottest hours of the day.
- Seek cooler indoor and outdoor spaces.
 If you have air conditioning, be sure to turn it on. It does not need to be on as high as it can go to help keep you safe.
- Take a cool shower or put part of your body into a tepid bath.
- Wear a wet shirt or apply damp towels to your skin to cool down.
- It is important to remember that overheating can lead to heat exhaustion and heat stroke.
- Signs of heat exhaustion include heavy sweating, headache, muscle cramps, feeling unwell, extreme thirst, and dark urine. If you

Extreme Heat Emergency Key Messages

- · All Heat Warning messages apply.
- Indoor environments without effective air conditioning may become dangerously hot as the temperatures increase over the coming days.
- Top floors of buildings and rooms with windows that face west, and south will be particularly hot.
- Monitor indoor temperatures for yourself and those you are checking on.
- It is important to know the in our temperature guide
- Sustained exposure to temperatures of 26°C or less are generally safe.
- Sustained exposure to temperatures from 26°C to 31°C may pose a risk to the most susceptible people.
- Sustained exposure to temperatures over 31°C should be avoided for susceptible populations, whenever possible. If they cannot be avoided, monitoring of the environment (using

Air Quality, Heat Warning and Extreme Heat Emergency Messaging

- Air quality during a Heat Warning / Extreme
 Heat Emergency may be affected by high
 concentrations of
 lt is important to
 especially if there
 know the indoor
 Heat and air pollu
 temperature guide
- different ways, and so care susceptible to cets of both.
- Cool aner indoor air is the best way to protect yourself from heat and air pollution.
- Heat poses a bigger risk than smoke for most people, so prioritize staying cool.

BC Provincial Heat Alert and Response System (BC HARS): 2025

Prolonged exposure to temperatures over 31°C are dangerous for susceptible people

It is important to evaluate whether you can safely stay in your home during an Extreme Heat Emergency.



BC HARS Recommended Actions:



Ministry of Health

(Local Authorities includes Municipalities and Regional Districts)

The recommendations below are meant to support planning from a public health perspective as capacity and funding permits.

Create or review and update your heat response plan and other relevant emergency response plans, including local authority emergency management plans and business continuity plans, in consultation with key partners.

Communities

For rural communities or areas with limited infrastructure, consider feasibility and appropriateness of utilising a local school, meeting hall or other communal gathering space (including shaded outdoor spaces) that could be utilised as a temporary cooling space.

Recommended Actions Pre-season

As applicable and feasible for your specific community, municipality or regional district:

response plan and other relevant
emergency response plans, including
local authority emergency management
plans and business continuity plans, in

tion with key partners.

or participate in exercises and discuss and improve and collective responses to eat.

mmunity heat messages and ation strategies to help cisks and mitigation

ency planning for g and peer supply in

Recommended Actions Heat Warning

As applicable and feasible for your specific community, municipality or regional district:

- Act in accordance with heat response plans for a Heat Warning event.
- Undertake community outreach
 focusing on susceptible and high-risk
 populations and groups that support
 them. Consider appropriateness of
 working with a community navigator or
 community liaison.
- Consider temporarily revising local authority bylaws that would ease heat health impacts such as water restrictions or opening hours for parks and public spaces.
- Update local authority websites and social media pages with consistent community messages and heat health information or messaging.

Recommended Actions Extreme Heat Emergen

As applicable and feasible for your fic community, municipality or red district:

- Act in accordance leat response plans for an Extra Heat Emergency event.
- Participate in coordination call for situational apdate.
- Undertake community outreach focusing on susceptible and high-risk populations and groups or organizations that support these populations. Consider appropriateness of working with a community navigator or community liaison.
- Consider establishing overnight cooling centres to support early
- in partnership with the local health authority, encourage wellness checks for

Recommended Actions Post-season

Undertake community outreach focusing on susceptible and high-risk populations and groups or

organizations that support

these populations.

As applicable and feasible for your specific community, municipality or regional district:

- Undertake local recovery activities, as required.
- Conduct AAR or other formal evaluations following deactivation, and include recommendations.
- Consider and implement lessons learned/observed.
- Actively engage with local service providers and community members about how they are r heat, and identify an new or emerging nee

consistent community with height consistent consistent

about heat health.

Update local authority websites and social media pages with consistent community messages and heat

BC HARS Recommended Actions:



Create or review and update your heat outreach plans and communication strategies geared towards any susceptible and high-risk populations that you support..

Recommended Actions Pre-season

As applicable and feasible for your specific organization:

- Create or review and update your heat response plan and other relevant heat plans, including business continuity plans in consultation with key partners.
- Create/check contingency planning for airconditioning and power supply in your buildings.
- Organize or participate in exercises and forums to discuss and improve individual and collective responses to extreme heat.
- Create or review and update your heat
 - red towards any susceptible

Emergency cooling centres and public cooling spaces can be found via the EMCR
EmergencyMapBC. Share local cooling centres information through all feasible formal and informal communications channels and media sources.

he <u>WeatherCan App</u>)

nt information sources for
no may be at risk of extreme
are any additional
needed.

Recommended Actions Heat Warning

As applicable and feasible for your specific organization:

- Act in accordance with heat response plans for a Heat Warning event.
- Conduct community outreach, focusing on identified susceptible and high-risk populations that your group or organization supports, to raise awareness about the risks of heat.
- Be mindful of cultural safety when conducting community outreach.
- Inform local governments and partners
 of community needs for establishing
 cooling centres that are culturally and
 socially appropriate for the most
 susceptible and high-risk populations
 that you work with.
 - Emergency cooling centres and public cooling spaces can be found via the EMCR EmergencyMapBC
- Share local cooling centres information through all feasible formal and informal communications channels and media sources.

Recommended Actions Extreme Heat Emergency

As applicable and feasible for your specific organization:

- Act in accordance with heat response plans for an Extreme Heat Emergency event.
- Participate in coordination call for situational updates to answer questions directly.
- If appropriate, engage in wellness checks (multiple times a day, especially in the evening) for people at high risk of severe outcomes. See NCCEH guide for doing health checks during extreme heat events.
- As feasible, increase community messaging about the dangers of an Extreme Heat Emergency through local media, standard and informal communication channels.
- Cancel or reschedule major events to cooler times of the day (particularly relevant for outdoor events or in venues without air conditioning).

Recommended Actions Post-season

As applicable and feasible for your specific organization:

- Consider undertaking local activities, as required
- Consider and imp
- Active with local community

 ers about how they are recovering
 from the heat, and identify and respond
 to any new or emerging needs.
- Build on the momentum of post-season activities to create a more resilient community with heightened awareness about heat health.

If appropriate, engage in wellness checks (multiple times a day, especially in the evening) for people at high risk of severe outcomes. See - NCCEH guide for doing health checks during extreme heat events.

Cancel or reschedule major events to cooler times of the day (particularly relevant for outdoor events or in venues without air conditioning).

So Who is the Most Susceptible?



Individual and Community-level Susceptibility

Protective Factors

- Privilege
- Greenspace
- Being in Care
- Social connection



Risk Factors

- MaterialDeprivation
- Isolation
- Mental Illness
- Substance Use
- Other chronic comorbid health conditions

Susceptible Populations





SENIORS



People who LIVE ALONE



People with PRE-EXISTING HEALTH CONDITIONS such as diabetes, heart disease or respiratory disease



People with MENTAL ILLNESS such as schizophrenia, depression, or anxiety



People with SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS



People with LIMITED MOBILITY



People who are MARGINALLY HOUSED



People who WORK IN HOT ENVIRONMENTS



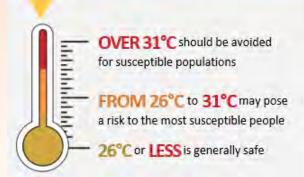
People who are PREGNANT



INFANTS and YOUNG CHILDREN The following people are especially susceptible to heat health impacts and need to be prepared and supported, particularly if they do not have access to air conditioning:

- older adults
- people who live alone
- people with pre-existing health conditions such as diabetes, heart disease or respiratory disease
- people with mental illness such as schizophrenia, depression, or anxiety
- people with substance use disorders
- people with limited mobility
- people who are marginally housed
- people who work in hot environments
- people who are pregnant
- infants and young children

Know the indoor temperature guide and keep a thermometer beside you so you know when your home is getting too hot,



EMCR Reimbursement (Policy 5.14 Interim Extreme Weather Emergency)





POLICY 5.14

Created: 2022 JUN 23 REVISED: 2023 NOV 25

5.14 Interim Extreme Weather Emergency Task Number Eligibility

5.14.1 GENERAL

When extreme weather is forecasted actions are taken as outlined in the BC Public Alerting System or BC Provincial Heat Alert and Response System (HARS) and the event is considered an "emergency" within the meaning of both the *Public Health Act* and the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*.

Incremental reimbursement may be requested when Environment an Extreme Heat or Cold Emergency, Heat or Cold Warnings, in su when triggers are met as outlined in an Indigenous governing to weather plan. For the purposes of this policy, extreme weather cold that is outside the region's normal range of weather.

As a result, task numbers can be requested by Indigenous gover eligible emergency response costs, effective on the date of this p Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation. EMCR Policy 5.14 (gov.bc.ca)

Addendum-policy 5.14 (gov.bc.ca)

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND RECOVERY COSTS ADDENDUM – ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT FOR EXTREME WEATHER EMERGENCIES

Task numbers may be requested when Environment and Climate Change Canada issues an Extreme Weather Alert (such as Warnings, Watches, Advisories, and Special Weather Statements) in support of a community's response or when triggers are met as outlined in an Indigenous governing bodies and Local Authorities extreme weather plan. The best way to ensure the eligibility of your expense is to submit an Expense Authorization Form (EAF) to EMCR for approval. The EAF provides the details of the expenditure, its rationale, and an estimate of the total expense for the response activity. Incremental costs will be considered for an extreme weather emergency, where actions are taken as outlined in the BC Provincial Heat Alert and Response System (HARS) or the BC Public Alerting System.

Costs will not be reimbursed if otherwise covered by the BC Housing Extreme Weather Response program.

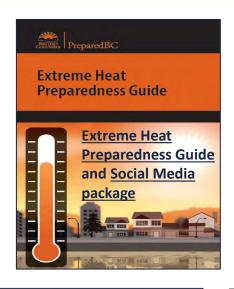
EMCR Reimbursement (Policy 5.14 Interim Extreme Weather Emergency)



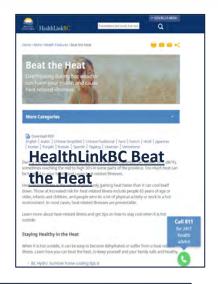
EXTREME HEAT COVERAGE			
Expense Item	Response Item	Eligible	Not Eligible
Bottled Water	Materials	 Bottled water made available at community cooling centre facilities. Bottled water distributed during health and wellness checks where water is not readily available. 	Bottled water purchased for distribution to private residences or locations that have water readily available.
Day and night facilities for use as Emergency Cooling Centres (Cooling Centres are not Group Lodging Facilities)	Facility Rental	 Rental of a non-local authority or First Nation facility for the provision of an emergency cooling centre. Incremental janitorial and utilities costs. Incremental security costs. 	Rental of community-owned facility or loss of use charges.
Cooling device rental for Cooling Centres		 Cost of cooling device rentals. Incremental utility expenses. 	 Cooling device costs submitted in the absence of a prior approved EAF.
Electrolytes	Materials	 Single-use or bulk packages of electrolytes. 	

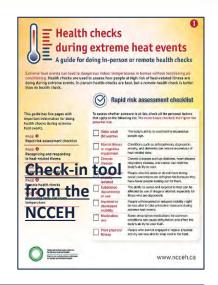
Some Tools, Resources and Links







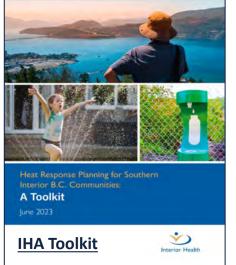


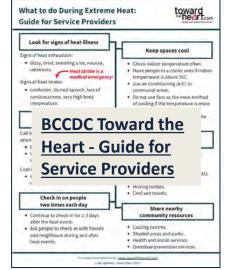












Health Authority Information:

Island Health
Fraser Health
Vancouver Coastal health
Authority
Northern Health
Authority
Interior Health Authority

Thank you!

Additional Questions <u>jonathan.carroll@gov.bc.ca</u>
Or feedback or comments on the BC HARS: <u>Heat.Response@gov.bc.ca</u>





Municipal Heat and Wildfire Smoke Plans and Services

2025-05-14



City Heat Actions

- Improve access to drinking water, pools, spray parks, misting stations, bottled water, coolers, canopies, and umbrellas for shade at parklets and plazas
- Establish indoor shelter from the heat (Cooling Centres)
- Monitor Nonmarket Housing and support Private SROs
- Disseminate public information and multi-lingual messaging
- Support and coordinate with community partners
- Procure and deliver Cool Kits



Specific City-Delivered Supports

Outdoor Pools: 10+

- 2nd Beach & New Brighton
- Maple Grove & Hillcrest
- Wading pools
- Kits pool opening mid June

Spray Parks: 14

Cooling Centres: 38

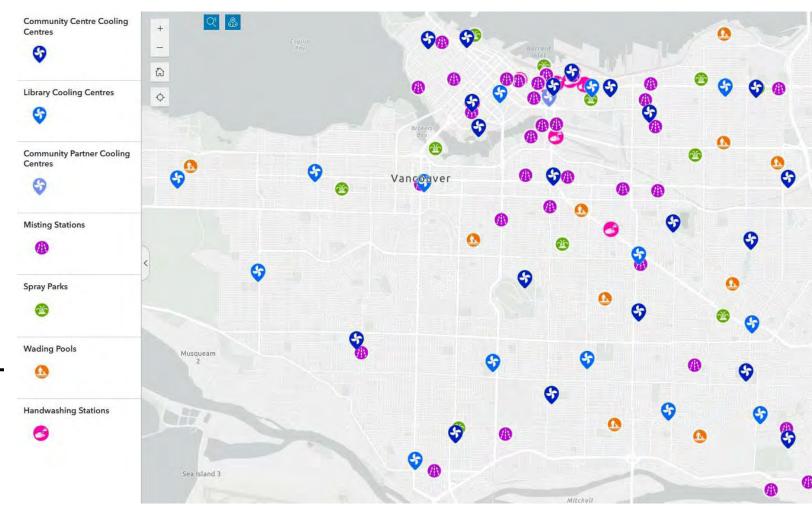
VPB sites extend hours and welcome pets

Misters, Fountains, and Hand-Washing Stations: 200+

 Transitioning temporary assets to permanent

Bottled Water Distribution:

- Carnegie, GP, ESC, Ray Cam and other channels
- VPB Rangers



City Public Messaging

- Webpage and digital map: vancouver.ca/hotweather
- Information Bulletin
- Social media content planning
- Printable, multi-lingual information available in Vancouver's top 12 languages:

vancouver.ca/heatinfo

- Printable neighbourhood maps
- Targeted messaging to key distribution lists







Other actions

- Funding: grants to community-based organizations and the SRO-C
- Cooling for persons with disabilities: expanding 2024 pilot with Technology For Living
- DIY Misting Stations: supporting misters for community partners
- Creative Shade Canopies: exploring projects to create knitted or crochet shade canopies
- Sunscreen Dispensers through BC Cancer: connecting partners with BCCS on sunscreen dispensers



Community-led Actions since 2022

Wellness checks

• Distributed Cool Kits, fans, water bottles, and ice cream vouchers

Multilingual + peer-based training and engagement

• First aid training, heat and harm reduction

• Installed AC, heat pumps and outdoor shade

• Land-based cooling (forest, lakes)

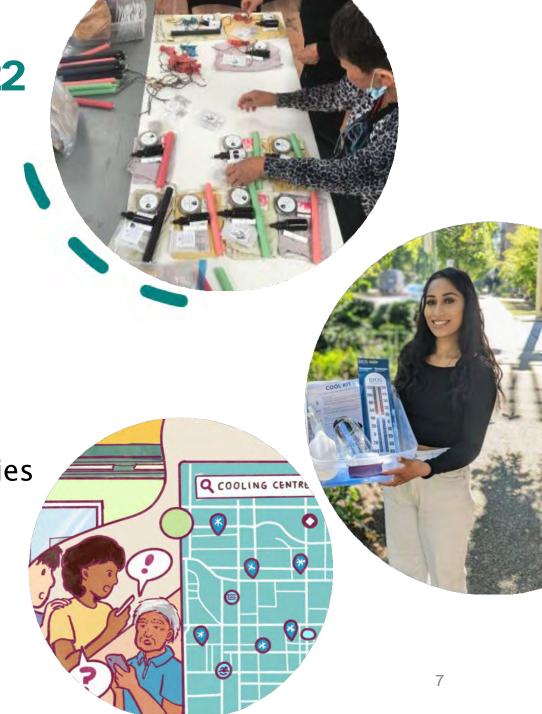
Provided cool spaces with food, games, and movies

Stocked community coolers

Built DIY misting stations

Workshops on heat preparedness and cool kits

Created database of vulnerable seniors



City Air Quality Actions

- Civic facilities with HEPA, MERV 13 filtration or higher
 - 14 spaces at community centres and libraries
- DIY Air Cleaner Program with BREATHE
- Public messaging and material, including map:
 - vancouver.ca/wildfiresmoke
- Multi-lingual information available in Vancouver's top 12 languages:
 - vancouver.ca/smokeinfo



Thank you!



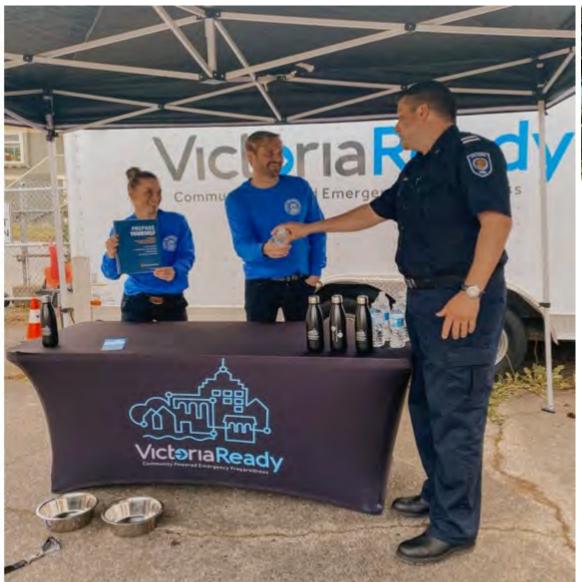
Municipal Response During Heat and Wildfire Smoke Events



MISTING

Please visit
VictoriaReady.ca
for tips on how to stay cool.











History

- 2021 Heat Dome (24 deaths in Greater Victoria Area)
- Cooling centres and misting stations (2022-2023)
- Misting Stations and more focus on collaboration with Community Partners (2024-2025)
- Resilience Hubs 2025 + (HVAC systems)









Extreme Heat Resources

- Extreme Heat Information Portal (next slide)
- Extreme Heat Response Plan
- Collaboration and coordination with community organizations and service providers (messaging & resources)
- Public Messaging
- Extreme Heat Flyer
- Cooling Resources Misting Stations, spray parks, indoor spaces







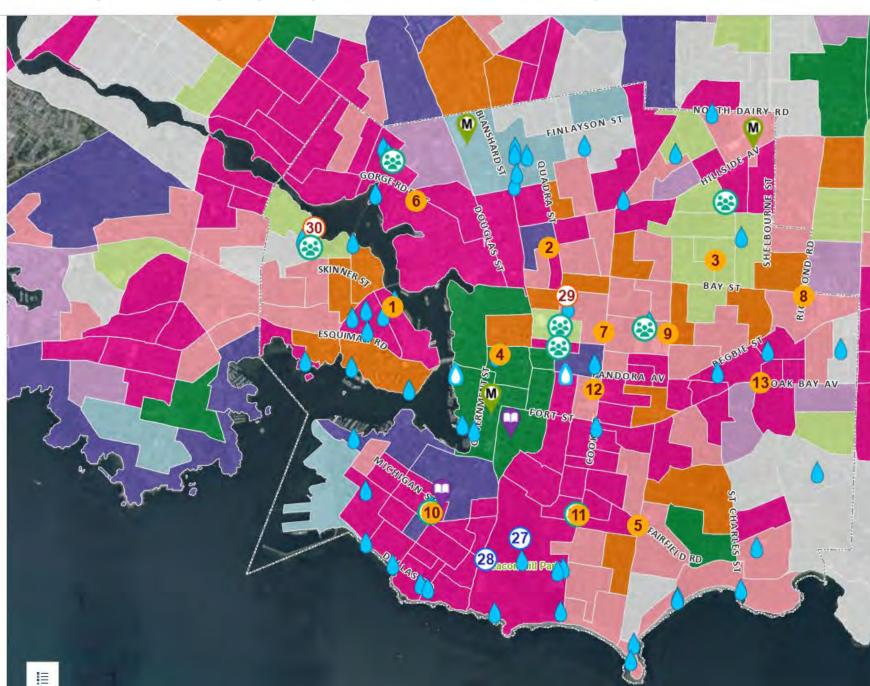


Building and Demographic Vulnerability

Bivariate mapping is a way to show how two vulnerability indices, in this case the Demographic Vulnerability Index and Building Vulnerability Index, relate to each other. It uses two different sets of colours to help visually compare and highlight areas where these two indices may have high vulnerability to extreme heat.



Relationship Building Vulnerability Index Demographic Vulnerability Index High - Low Both High Both Low Low - High





- 1. Harbour Road Neighbour Hub
- 2. Wark Street Park Neighbour Hub
- 3. Corner of Belmont/Haultain St.
- 4. Centennial Square
- . Corner of Fairfield Rd/Moss St
- Corner of Gorge Rd E/Dunedin St
- Corner of Cook St/Caledonia Ave
- 3. Corner of Bay St/Richmond Ave
- Fernwood Square

*Misting stations and portable water fountains will be available for use throughout the summer.

- Cook Street Village Activity Centre, 380 Cook St
- Victoria Fire Department Headquarters, 1025 Johnson St
- 13. Corner of Oak Bay Ave/Morrison St

Other Community Assets

- Beacon Hill Park Splash Pad, Beacon Hill Park via Bridge Way
- Beacon Hill Park Watering Can, Circle Drive at Douglas St
- 16. Crystal Pool, 2275 Quadra St
- 17. Swimming dock at Banfield Park



City of Victoria



Extreme Heat Response Plan 2024



Community Organizations & Service Providers

- 1. Does your organization work with any of the populations who have been identified as the most vulnerable to extreme heat listed in the chart below?
- 2. Do you have the means to conduct health checks on these individuals during extreme heat events?
- 3. Does your organization currently provide any extreme heat resources to community members such as cooling resource information, messaging, sunscreen, bottled water, spray bottles, or conduct health checks?

Table 1. Populations most susceptible to extreme heat

Live alone or are socially isolated	Are chronically ill (i.e., heart disease, diabetes)	
Are over 65 years of age	Use substances or take specific medications	
Are materially or socially deprived	Work outdoors or in hot environments	
Live with a disability or reduced mobility	Live with mental illness (e.g., schizophrenia, depression, anxiety)	
Have a cognitive impairment	Are infants, young children or pregnant	



Coordination and Collaboration with Community Organizations and Service Providers

To: Community organizations and service providers

Subject: CITY OF VICTORIA EXTREME HEAT RESPONSE PLAN ACTIVATED

The City of Victoria's Extreme Heat Response Plan has been activated in response to Environment Canada and Climate Change (ECCC) declaring an extreme heat emergency. Some people are more at risk of heat related illness and death, and we encourage you to do outreach and health checks using the attached NCCEH Health Checklist with these populations during this extreme heat emergency. Pre-existing medical conditions, certain medications, substance use disorders, social isolation, age, and pregnancy are all risk factors related to heat illness and death. If you are a cool facility that the public can come to cool off during this heat emergency, please let us know your hours and location and resources available. If you require assistance with cooling resources such as bottled water, electrolytes, ice, etc. please reach out. If and when you conduct outreach and distribute the attached extreme heat flyer, please let us know who you have distributed it to. The City of Victoria has activated additional drinking water fountains and misting stations throughout Victoria for the hot summer months. Please distribute the attached map of resources and information to your networks and clients so they know where to access resources to stay safe and healthy during this extreme heat emergency.

Attachments (2):

- City of Victoria <u>Extreme Heat Flyer</u>
- Health Checks during extreme heat events A guide for doing in-person or remote health checks:

If you do not wish to receive this information, please let us know and I will remove you from the distribution list. If you know of any other organizations that should receive these email notifications, please let us know. Also, if your organization is in the City of Victoria and will be providing extreme heat resources this year, please let us know!



Available funding from EMCR

EXTREME HEAT COVERAGE				
Expense Item	Response Item	Eligible	Not Eligible	
Bottled Water	Materials	 Bottled water made available at community cooling centre facilities. Bottled water distributed during health and wellness checks where water is not readily available. 	Bottled water purchased for distribution to private residences or locations that have water readily available.	
Day and night facilities for use as Emergency Cooling Centres (Cooling Centres are not Group Lodging Facilities)	Facility Rental	 Rental of a non-local authority or First Nation facility for the provision of an emergency cooling centre. Incremental janitorial and utilities costs. Incremental security costs. 	Rental of community-owned facility or loss of use charges.	
Cooling device rental for Cooling Centres		Cost of cooling device rentals. Incremental utility expenses.	 Cooling device costs submitted in the absence of a prior approved EAF. 	
Electrolytes	Materials	 Single-use or bulk packages of electrolytes. 		

An Extreme Heat Alert is in effect. Please check on your friends, family and neighbours who may be vulnerable.

Extreme Heat



Our region is expected to experience more frequent extreme heat events in the coming years. Learn more about the potential impacts of extreme heat and how you can prepare and respond.

Who is Vulnerable?

Certain groups are at greater risk of health impacts during extreme heat. People in these groups may be particularly vulnerable if they live alone or lack access to air conditioning or other ways to stay cool. Please check on your friends, family and neighbours who may be vulnerable.





Confusion

Dizziness or fainting

High body temperature

Flushed skin with no sweating



People with medical conditions and/or socially isolated medications

Prepare and Stay Informed



Subscribe to Vic-Alert to receive emergency notifications including extreme weather hazards, victoria.ca/VicAlert.



Identify the coolest place in your home for sleeping. Close blinds, curtains and windows during the hottest part of the day and open them in the evening to let cooler air in.

Places to Cool Down



If you are unable to stay cool at home, identify places in your community with air conditioning such as a friend's house, a mall or library. Never rely on fans as the only way to cool your body during extreme heat.

See the reverse for a map of cooling resources. For more tips on how to stay cool, visit victoria.ca/ExtremeHeat

Mild to Moderate Heat-Related Illness

Skin rash Headache

Heavy sweating

information on heat-related illness.

Dark urine and increased urination

Extreme thirst

If these symptoms develop, move to a cooler space, drink plenty

of water and use water to cool your body—wear a wet shirt or

apply damp towels to your skin. Visit HealthLinkBC for more

Rapid breathing and heartbeat

Muscle cramps

This is a medical emergency, call 911.

While waiting for help, move the person to a cool place right away and apply cold water to large areas of the skin, if possible.

Severe Heat-Related Illness

Provincial Heat Alert Response System



LEVEL 1: Heat Warning

Temperature forecast calls for a daily high of 29°C with a minimum overnight low of 16°C for at least two days.



LEVEL 2: Extreme Heat Emergency

Temperature forecast meets the criteria for a Level 1 Heat Warning with temperatures continuing to increase over a three-day period.





Heat & Wildfire Smoke events

What if it's hot and smoky?

Heat generally causes more deaths on a hot day than smoke causes on a smoky day. However, many people impacted by heat are also impacted by smoke. If you belong to an at-risk group, prioritize staying cool. If you can't create a cooler, cleaner air space in your home, try visiting an air-conditioned public space or a cooling center.



When there is an extreme heat event occurring with wildfire smoke, prioritize keeping cool, because overheating can be more dangerous to your health.



Turning Points Collaborative Society

Preparing and responding to Extreme Heat, Wildfire Smoke and Wildfire Evacuations



Introductions

Kelly Fehr

- Executive Director of Operations
- Responsible for operations in Enderby, Vernon, Kelowna, West Kelowna and Summerland

Topics

- Procedure for Activating an Extreme Weather Response
- Fire Evacuation Planning
 - Who to include
 - Alternate Command Center
 - Emergency Response Center support
 - Notifications
 - Staff Coordination
 - Site Salvaging and Closure
 - Client Transport
 - Temporary Accommodations
 - Resuming Regular Operations

Procedure for Activating an Extreme Weather Response

Partner organizations track weather reports and IH alerts to see if conditions are meeting heat wave definition

- In the Okanagan "Heat Waves" are when temperatures are above 35°C for two consecutive days and overnight temperatures remain above 18°C.
- A "Heat Emergency is when heat wave temperatures last longer than two days AND there are concerns for the health and safety of vulnerable populations. In this situation, other levels of government (Province of BC, IH, and the City of Vernon) may initiate additional warnings, protocols and resources.

Communication procedures between providers during a heatwave, heat emergency or wildfire smoke Event

- Partner organizations use the COOL Team email distribution list for easy communication with service providers/Bylaw/RCMP/IH
 - Monthly COOL Team Meeting
 - Updates on program changes are emailed to the team in real time and provided to clients.
 - The Survival Guide and other related brouchures are updated and provided to people at the library, emergency shelters and though outreach teams.

Communication procedures to notify people who are unsheltered during a heatwave, heat emergency or wildfire smoke event

- Social Planning Council develops "poster" of resources/first aid tips/map; can be adapted as needed
- COOL Team assist with warning clients of upcoming heat and smoke events and hand out posters with health tips and resources
- COOL Team will conduct wellness checks during the heat and smoke events and provide referrals/support as needed.

Access to Air-Conditioned and Smoke Free Spaces

Service Providers extend the hours of operation as staffing capacity permits

- Shelter
- Upper Room Mission
- Street Clinic/MHSU/CSO/Service Providers
- Library
- Weekends Anglican Church for Saturday lunch

Access to Drinking Water

- 24/7 access: Three exterior drinking fountains
- The Library has an interior drinking fountain
- MHSU and Salvation Army- have water stations for filling bottles inside their facilities
- Shelters, URM, Street Clinic, MHSU, CSO, Service Providers

 access to water for clients during regular operating
 hours
- COOL Team delivers water to camps

Resources to Be Activated During Heat Wave

(temporary measures until temperatures return to normal range or smoke significantly clears)

- Posters of resources/map/first aid tips are promoted/distributed by COOL Team
- COOL Team partners will provide access to additional bottled water as needed. COOL Team partners will assist with coordination and funding for additional bottled water (e.g. donations from community etc.)
- CSO to set up tents for additional shade during regular operating hours
- Street Clinic to set up a hose/mister, shade and water, located on outside patio during regular operating hours

Where to access water



FOUNTAINS AND REFILL STATIONS

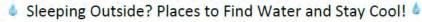
- Polson Park Close to Band Shell, across from the Pavilion (fountain) 2600 BC-6
- Downtown washroom on 30th Avenue at 35th Street (fountain & bottle refill station)
- Owntown washroom at Bus Loop 31st Avenue at 30th Street (fountain & bottle refill station)
- DND Park (bottle refill station) Falaise Drive (access off Mission Road)
- Marshall Field back of soccer building (near washrooms) (fountain & bottle refill station) 6891 Okanagan Landing Road
- Ranger Park (fountain) 1900 47th Avenue

WASHROOMS WITH POTABALE WATER

- MacDonald Park 43rd Avenue and 27th Street
- Alexis Park 3951 Alexis Park Drive
- Grahame Park 5700 Okanagan Avenue
- Polson Park two locations 2600 BC-6
- Kin Beach Park 7248 Tronson Rd
- Paddlewheel Park 7815 Okanagan Landing Road
- Marshall Field 6891 Okanagan Landing Road

Subject to Seasonal Operation (April to October)

Where to find safe spaces with Air Conditioning, access water and Health & Safety Tips





- o Polson Park has an outdoor drinking fountain close to the Band Shell across from the Pavilion.
- o The downtown washrooms have exterior taps with drinking water.
- o The Library has an indoor drinking fountain.
- o MHSU (Downtown) and the Salvation Army House of Hope have water stations to fill bottles.
- Most service providers and outreach teams (Upper Room Mission, Street Clinic, Community Safety Office etc) will provide extra water, as needed.

Thealth and Safety TIPS:

- · Protect yourself from the sun by staying in the shade, avoiding direct sun mid-day and wearing a hat.
- · Seek cooler, breezier areas when outdoors, such as large parks with lots of trees.
- Stay hydrated drink water regularly, even more than you think you need.
- · Take it slow with outdoor activities rest and relax often if you feel fatigued.
- Stay in tune with your body. Watch for thirst, fatigue, dizziness, confusion, weakness, and fainting.
- First aid includes cooling and hydration. If illness is severe, call 911.

Spaces with Air Conditioning:

- o Okanagan Regional Library:
 - Mon: 10:00 am to 5:30 pm; Tue, Wed &Thu: 10:00 am to 9:00 pm; Fri & Sat: 10:00 am to 5:30 pm
- Upper Room Mission:
 - Monday to Friday: 9:00 am 4:00 pm; Saturday and Sunday: 2:00 pm 5:30 pm



Procedure for dealing with media inquiries

 Each partner organization will handle media inquiries for their component of the extreme weather plan

What if the wildfire smoke event escalates and the fire is at your door?

- Does your organization have a plan in place?
- Will you be prepared to transition your clients to an alternate location?
- Do your staff know how to respond? Will they participate in the evacuation of the site and transportation to the alternate site?
- Do you know what your staff will prioritize when salvaging an at risk site?
- Where will your staff stay when they are working from an alternate worksite in another community?

In 2023 TPCS evacuated three worksites during the wildfires

What can you learn from our experience:

- We were prepared with a well thought out and documented plan that all staff were trained in.
- Regular planning meetings were held a minimum of once per day leading up to the evacuation, during it and as restoration work was completed at the sites.
- BC Housing and service providers from a neighbouring community were there to support us.
- Not everything will go as planned

Fire Evacuation Planning, who to include

- Communications Department
- Finance Department
- Human Resources Department
- Operations Department
- Joint Occupational Health & Safety Committee
- Residents/Clients

Questions? Comments?

Kelly Fehr, Director of Operations <u>kelly@turningpoints.ngo</u>
Turning Points Collaborative Society <u>www.turningpoints.ngo</u>
Serving Enderby, Vernon, Kelowna, West Kelowna and Summerland



Executive Director of Human Resources and Executive Director of Operations – The moment we realized the time spent consulting with staff and clients, calling transportation companies, looking for accommodations and training staff was all worth it.

Vision Group Consulting supported Turning Points Collaborative Society in creating the Emergency Fire Evacuation Plan.

Email: Vgconsultingcanada@gmail.com

UNSHELTERED EXTREME HEAT & WILDFIRE SMOKE RESPONSE

NON-PROFIT OUTREACH SUPPORT TO PARK & STREET ENCAMPMENTS



11

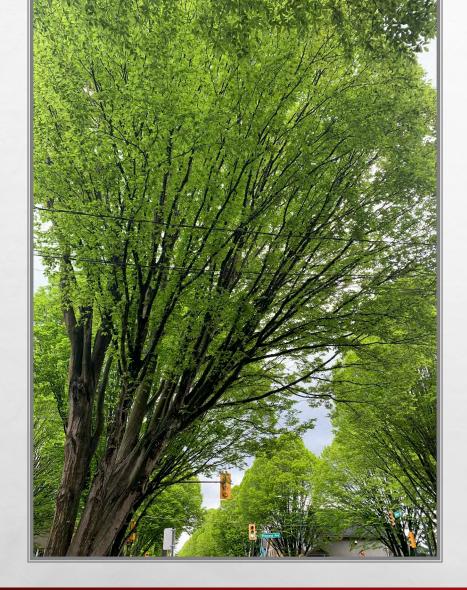
RESIDENTS SHOULD POSTPONE OR REDUCE OUTDOOR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY DURING SMOKY SKIES, ESPECIALLY IF BREATHING BECOMES UNCOMFORTABLE, THE NOTICE SAYS.

SMOKE EXPOSURE IS OF PARTICULAR CONCERN FOR PEOPLE WITH UNDERLYING CONDITIONS SUCH AS ASTHMA, CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE AND OTHER LUNG DISEASES, HEART DISEASES OR DIABETES, AS WELL AS THOSE WITH RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS, OUTDOOR WORKERS, PREGNANT PEOPLE, SENIORS, INFANTS AND CHILDREN, ACCORDING TO THE DISTRICT.

AS REPORTED BY CTV NEWS

"

HOW CAN YOU REDUCE YOUR EXPOSURE IF YOU'RE LIVING OUTSIDE?



SAFETY FROM SMOKE & EXTREME HEAT

Wildfire smoke I Vancouver Coastal Health - VCH

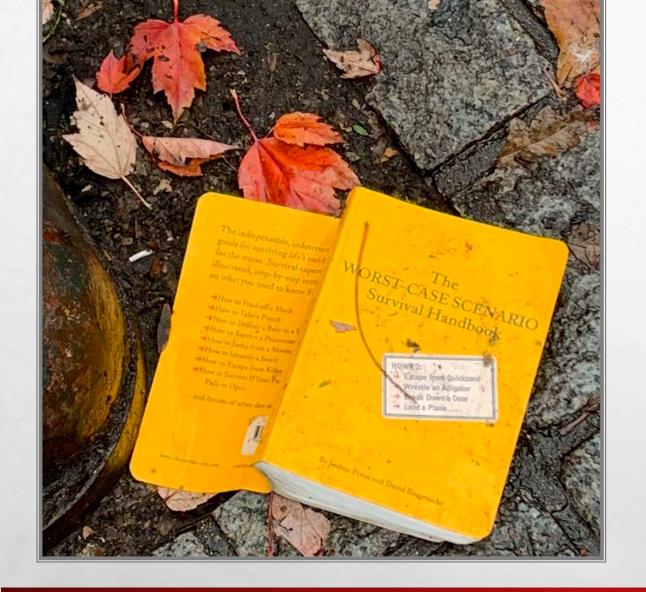
Reduce Everyone'S Expos...

Protect Others in The Co...

Keep Update >

- 1. Use a portable HEPA air cleanerto filter the air in one or more rooms at home. Keep windows and doors closed but ensure the space does not get too hot.
- 2. If a HEPA air cleaner is not available, consider making a homemade box fan air filter..
- 3. Visit public spaces such as community centres, libraries, and shopping malls which tend to have cleaner, cooler indoor air.
- 4. Limit activity and outdoor exercise on smoky daysbecause the harder you breathe, the more smoke you inhale. Take it easy and take frequent breaks if outdoor activities cannot be avoided.

See more on vch.ca



COMPLEX COMPOUNDING CRISES

- EXTREME HEAT
- OVERDOSE PREVENTION & INTERVENTION
- POOR AIR QUALITY
- POPULATIONS WITH MULTIPLE VULNERABILITIES





FOREST FIRES & URBAN FIRES



KEEPING STAFF TRAINED AND PREPARED FOR ALL EMERGENCY SCENARIOS

WELLNESS CHECKS IN ENCAMPMENTS

FIRE CHECKS & RESPONSE

OVERDOSE RESPONSE

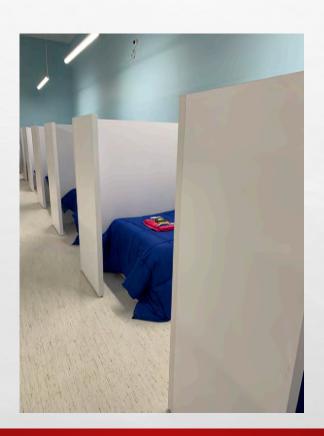
HYDRATION & COOLING

AIR QUALITY INTERVENTIONS



MOVING FORWARD







Resource Links

BC Housing

- www.bchousing.org/projectspartners/extreme-heat
- extremeheat@bchousing.org

Vancouver Coastal Health

- www.VCH.ca/heat
- www.VCH.ca/wildfiresmoke













