

Situation Report #12 – Final Report

HEALTHCARE EMERGENCY COORDINATION CENTER (HECC)

OPERATIONAL PERIOD

DATE: 08/19/2026

TIME: 14:00hrs

Distributed to the following types of organizations: All NWHRN Healthcare Emergency Contacts Statewide

Central & Eastern WA (CEW) Fire Healthcare Impacts and Updates

State Mission Number: 26-1349 2026 Wildfire Season

Background

Widespread wildfires burning in central and eastern Washington are causing impacts on all sectors of healthcare. NWHRN fully activated our Healthcare Emergency Coordination Center (HECC) on August 2, 2026, to help provide facilitation, coordination and support in connecting partners and other emergency response entities to address the needs of healthcare during this incident. As of August 6, 2026, NWHRN has shifted Snapshot Reports to become Situation Reports, though we will maintain our report numbering for continuity.

Current Situation

- [Central & Eastern Washington Weather and Smoke Outlook](#) - Heat risk, fire danger, and air quality impacts remain the primary weather variables of concern. Weather impacts are expected to range from minor to moderate with continuation of some thunderstorms, which will increase fire danger. Air quality will range from moderate to hazardous air quality levels across the state.
- All shelters in Spokane have now closed with 1 family remaining at a local hotel until Thursday.
- WA EMD reports as of 8/18 at 1700: There are 2 in Chelan and 3 large animal shelters in Okanogan/Ferry for displaced people and pets. There are currently 11 active fires in the state. See the SEOC report linked below for additional updates.
- Most hospitals report returning to normal operations and incident management teams having been standing down. Confluence Hospital in Central WA is still activated for smoke mitigation but planning to step down soon as well.
- Most partners report moving to demobilization of response teams as they focus on the recovery phase.

NWHRN Activities

- Due to the change in cadence of coordination meetings, response postures and partner needs, NWHRN will transition to demobilize at the end of today, 8/19 and move to Level 3 – Monitoring for Activation. Our duty office line always remains available 24/7, with the capacity to scale up should response needs arise.
- The Network hosted their final NWHRN CEW Fire Healthcare Impacts & Updates Meeting today, 8/19.
- NWHRN will send out the final Situation Report for the Central & Eastern WA Wildfire Response today, 8/19.
- NWHRN will not distribute the Washington State Brief (WSB) this Thursday, August 20th, 2026. Distribution of the WSB will resume on Thursday, August 27, 2026.
- NWHRN will host the regular monthly All Hazards Coordination Call next Thursday, August 27th @ 1pm, and will resume the weekly situational awareness check-ins with stakeholders in September.

- Our 24/7 Duty Officer remains staffed to respond to healthcare needs. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact our Duty Officer at hecc@nwhrn.org or 425-988-2897.
- In the event of a resource shortage that cannot be resolved via normal channels, please contact our Duty Officer. The [Resource Request Process](#) and 213 Resource Request Form can be found on our website.

Partner Activities

- **Disaster Behavioral Health Training for Providers**, more in-depth training in basic behavioral health support for Mental and Behavioral Health Providers of all kinds. (Hospital and Responding Agencies spiritual care/chaplains, Social Workers, Psychologists/Psychiatrists, Counselors and other community members and organizations that support the Mental and Behavioral Health. Both trainings are virtual and provided at no cost on August 21 and August 26 at Noon. Registration is required and can be found here and a flier on the NWHRN Alerts Media Events Page:
 - [Please register here in advance for the training on August 21, 2026 12:00 PM](#)
 - [Please register here in advance for the training on August 26, 2026 12:00 PM](#)
 - The training will include:
 - Common mental health impacts as they relate to disaster phases of response and recovery;
 - Interventions and supports most appropriate for the disaster phases;
 - How disaster behavioral health response differs from conventional care'
 - Types of disaster events and exposures that contribute to additional mental health risk;
 - Provided by Health Support Team- Dr Tona McGuire and Dr Kira Mauseth, who have a combined 25+ years of disaster response and recovery throughout the US and Internationally.
- **Washington Emergency Management Division Public Assistance is offering two virtual Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) training sessions** for jurisdictions affected by the August 2026 wildfires. The training will help jurisdictions identify potential Public Assistance damages and costs, understand basic applicant eligibility, and document information needed for the PDA process. Topics include damage descriptions, emergency work, preliminary repair-cost estimates, photographs, supporting records, and next steps for reporting damage information. Please attend one of the following sessions. Both sessions cover the same material. Please share this announcement with public works, finance, facilities, and other staff responsible for identifying, documenting, or reporting wildfire-related damage and costs. Questions may be directed to Eric Cunningham - eric.cunningham@mil.wa.gov
 - **Thursday, August 20, 2026, 1300–1500:** [Register / Join in Microsoft Teams](#)
- Charlie Health is hosting a free virtual support group for people in the Spokane area affected by the wildfires. It's open to the community, and no one needs to be a Charlie Health client to attend. Each session runs an hour and is led by Roxie Kelly, Ed.S., a Charlie Health group facilitator with 10 years in the mental health field. Roxie is also a Hurricane Helene survivor, so she brings personal experience with disaster recovery alongside her clinical background. Camera is optional, and sessions are not recorded.
 - **Thursday, Aug. 20, 12 p.m. PT** for participants 18 and older [Register Here](#)
 - **Friday, Aug. 21, 12 p.m. PT** for participants under 18 [Register Here](#)
- [State Emergency Operations Center \(SEOC\) Situation Update – 08/18/2026](#)
- [State Emergency Operations Center \(SEOC\) Situation Update – 08/17/2026](#)
- Long Term Care recovery - 170 of 177 adult family homes have returned so far, five of the six assisted living facilities returned, and the nursing home is set to start doing a staggered return of their residents next week, August 24th through the 27th. Dear provider letter to nursing homes on Friday on the 1135 waiver.
- [DSHS sent a Dear Provider Letter to Nursing homes regarding the 1135 waiver](#)
- Hospitals are focusing on response recovery for their staff and offering recovery resources.
 - [Donations for Providence Caregivers](#) - Anyone interested in donating to support the Providence care givers impacted by the fires.
 - [Support Health and Healing - MultiCare Foundations](#) Alternatively call our secure line and we can process gifts over the phone. That number is 253-290-9601 or call the MultiCare Foundation for info on an ACH or where to send checks. - Anyone interested in donating to support the MultiCare care givers impacted by the fires.
- WADOH reports scaling down to a Readiness Group posture while continuing to support the need for vital records.

Recovery Resources

- [CMS Emergency Response website](#)
- [ASPR - A Public Health Emergency Declaration](#)
- [CMS 1135 Waiver / Flexibility Request and Inquiry website](#)
- WA EMD – [Wildfire Resources and Status](#)
- WA EMD - [Initial Damage Assessment Advance Notice - 2026 Wildfires](#)
- WASILC [AFN Disaster Recovery Resource Guide](#)
- [DeafVee article on Spokane fires with YouTube interview](#)
- [After a Wildfire | Spokane Regional Health District](#)
- [Douglas, Chelan, Okanogan Washington VOAD](#)
- WA DOH - [Post-Fire Cleanup Guidance](#)
- PostFire LA Foundation - [Old Trails & Spokane Area Fires — What To Do First | PostFire](#)
- City of Spokane - [Community Resources, Donations Support, and Wildfire Information](#)
- Donation sites
 - Yakama Nation - <https://yakama.com/programs/signal-peak-and-ransier-fire-updates/>
 - Colville Tribe - <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/cedar-fund-wildfire-recovery-campaign>
 - Okanogan County - <https://occac.com/donate/>
- Governor Ferguson released an emergency proclamation on August 10, 2026, amending proclamation 26-03, waiving laws and regulations to support individuals, business, and healthcare during the emergency. [26-03.1 Wildfires – Immediate Relief and Response](#).
- [Governor Ferguson issues emergency proclamation suspending state laws to help those impacted by wildfires](#)
- [Governor Ferguson announces federal public health emergency for communities impacted by wildfires](#)
- [Emergency Order No. 26-02](#) and [Insurance Commissioner Kuderer's release](#)

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