

Situation Report #11

HEALTHCARE EMERGENCY COORDINATION CENTER (HECC)

OPERATIONAL PERIOD

DATE: 08/17/2026

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](#) - Smoke: Smoke has decreased across the area except for the Wenatchee/Moses Lake area, which continues to see degraded air quality due to being downwind of the Little Giant Fire. Fire Weather: Tuesday and Saturday – dry and breezy winds will lead to elevated critical fire weather conditions, especially in Central WA. More widespread fire weather concerns on Saturday with a dry cold front passage. Thunderstorms: Monday – low chance (5 to 10 percent) of thunderstorms in North Cascades and far SE Washington/Central ID. Brief downpours, fire starts, gusty winds. Chances drop off for the rest of the week. Heat: Temperatures increase into low to mid 90s. Some areas approaching Moderate HeatRisk Thursday and Friday.
- WA EMD reports as of 8/16 at 1700: There are 2 active shelters in Spokane, 1 in Chelan, 1 in Stevens and 3 large animal shelters in Okanogan/Ferry for displaced people and pets. There are currently 14 active fires in the state. See the SEOC report linked below for additional updates.
- Healthcare partners have reported significant improvement to capacity concerns related to the wildfire and staffing impacts, although community recovery will take some time.
- Several response partners reported assessing demobilization to response teams as they move towards assessment and recovery phases.

NWHRN Activities

- The Network continues to host and facilitate partner calls, both for general information sharing and targeted discussions with specific groups. NWHRN CEW Fire Healthcare Impacts & Updates Meeting cadence has moved to Monday, Wednesday, and Friday starting Monday, August 17, 2026. NWHRN Situation Reports will follow the same cadence as the CEW Fire Healthcare Impacts & Updates Meetings.
- Due to change the in cadence of partner meetings and needs of the partners, NWHRN has moved to Level 2 – Partial Activation as of Monday August 17, 2026, at 0800.

- Working closely with response partners, healthcare entities, WA DOH, DSHS, and WA EOC to provide healthcare situational awareness and request/asks to support healthcare needs. Continue to operate as a member of WA DOH ESF8 team and provide healthcare perspective for state solutions.
- 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.
- NWHRN encourages healthcare partners to remain aware of phishing campaigns targeting healthcare during this response. We recommend verifying emails to ensure they are accurate and coming from persons or agencies your organization usually communicates with.
- 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.

Partner Activities

- **Spokane Fire Response / Recovery Behavioral Health Trainings.** Three hybrid trainings will be presented in Spokane at Gonzaga and via Zoom on **August 19, 2026 at 10:30am, 12:30pm, and 2:30pm**. Each session lasts about 90 minutes, and content will repeat for each session, with time for Q&A. The zoom meeting room will be open for most of the day. [Please Register Here for the Behavioral Health Training Zoom](#); Please use the link above to sign up or see the flyer on the NWHRN AlertMedia Events Page,
- **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
 - [Interactive PDA Training August 19 20 2026 \(2\).pdf](#)
 - **Wednesday, August 19, 2026, 0900–1100:** [Register / Join in Microsoft Teams](#)
 - **Thursday, August 20, 2026, 1300–1500:** [Register / Join in Microsoft Teams](#)
- WA EMD - [Initial Damage Assessment Advance Notice - 2026 Wildfires](#)
- [State Emergency Operations Center \(SEOC\) Situation Update – 08/16/2026](#)
- [State Emergency Operations Center \(SEOC\) Situation Update – 08/15/2026](#)
- [State Emergency Operations Center \(SEOC\) Situation Update – 08/14/2026](#)
- [State Emergency Operations Center \(SEOC\) Situation Update - 08/13/2026](#)
- SRHD will deactivate their IMT at the end of the day today, August 17, 2026.
- WSHA has compiled information on the waiver approvals - Please see the WSHA Wildfire Public Health Emergency and Important Waivers on the NWHRN AlertMedia Events Page.

- CMS Emergency Approvals and Payment for Services Dear Provider Letter is available for review on the NWHRN AlertMedia Resources Page.
- DSHS has transitioned to Level 2 as of 1700 on Thursday, August 13, 2026. This includes the demobilization of the Liaison Officer.
- [DSHS sent a Dear Provider Letter to Nursing homes regarding the 1135 waiver](#)
- DSHS has worked on compiling information on the Disaster Cash Assistance Program. Please see the letter from Economic Services Administration (ESA) Assistant Secretary Carla Reyes on the NWHRN AlertMedia Events Page.
- DaVita Kidney Care Indian Trail clinic has reopened today! Contact Fresenius Medical Care Patient Hotline at (800) 626-1297 or DaVita Kidney Care, Rachel Goering at (509)-363-0070 for any urgent patient needs.
- 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.
- Spokane Health and Rehab has begun building remediation and planning on admitting residents on 8/24. Avista Senior Living is currently working on cleanup efforts, assessing smoke damage, and determining the repairs needed to safely restore the facility.
- WADOH reports exploring a possible online Fee Waived portal for vital records.
- The Red Cross has an information card available with a QR code to share with partners, constituents, clients, friends, and anyone who may have been impacted by the Spokane-area wildfires. The card is located on the NWHRN AlertMedia Resources Page.

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](#)
- 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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