

Situation Report #5

HEALTHCARE EMERGENCY COORDINATION CENTER (HECC) OPERATIONAL PERIOD

DATE: 08/06/2026

TIME: 16:00hrs

*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 to 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, we have moved from providing updates via Snapshot Reports to Situation Reports but will maintain our report numbering for continuity.

Current Situation

- City of Spokane EOC is currently activated at Level 2; EOC will deactivate on 8/6 at 1700 hours. County EOC will still be activated.
- Friday (8/7) and Saturday (8/8) (Central & Eastern Washington): Fire weather has been upgraded to a Red Flag Warning. This indicates a combination of hot, dry, and often windy conditions that can cause wildfires to start easily and spread rapidly. [Critical Fire Weather for Central and Eastern WA](#).
- Friday (8/7) (Western Washington): Forecasters have increased confidence in an [Orange HeatRisk](#).
- Air quality issues continue to impact the Central and Eastern WA area. Transportation still a large concern via ground and air due to poor visibility and road conditions.
- ASPR Region X reported that the Federal Public Health Emergency Request has gone through the CMS office and is now with the Secretary's office.
- Healthcare (hospitals and LTC/SNF) staffing continues to be a concern though facilities report their being able to manage with the currently available staff. Northern Idaho Healthcare Coalition continues to stand by to provide assistance if requested.
- Numerous shelters are operating for displaced people and pets. WA EMD reports 10 active shelters, with 7 of those located in Spokane. See SEOC report linked below in the additional updates.
- Flight EMS partners noted continued challenges with flying patients (rotary/fixed wing) due to visibility issues from smoke and high winds.

NWHRN Activities

- The Network continues to host and facilitate partner calls, both for general information sharing and targeted discussions with specific groups. These daily operational calls enable timely information exchange and support the coordination and advancement of operational activities.

THE HEALTHCARE EMERGENCY COORDINATION CENTER DUTY OFFICER
IS AVAILABLE 24 HOURS A DAY AT (425) 988-2897

- HECC is assisting with adding appropriate contacts to the Central & Eastern WA Fire HC Impacts & Update call and Situational Awareness (Snapshot and Situation Report) distribution lists, plus updating the NWHRN Operational Activities page related to any Wildfire Response resources at: <https://nwhrn.org/operational-activities/>.
- Continuing to work with hospitals and DSHS partners for placing response related non-acute care patients. While there has been some movement, they continue to have challenges with capacity related to the influx from these events. -DSHS, health district, hospitals and LTC associations continue to send out messaging to support these challenges. -Partners are working directly together on specific patients that they can coordinate for placement. -Transportation partners have been incredibly supportive in moving patients but resources across the area are spread thin, conditions are challenging and delays have been noted. -Influx of people coming into the hospital that do not need care but are worried well. -Some improvements in capacity but overflow areas remain in use. -Staffing shortages (hospitals and LTC/SNF) continue to be challenging.
- Working closely with 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.
- Maintaining regular connections with partner agencies to share information, ground truth statements, and build operational solutions.
- Liaison Team is supporting local governmental and healthcare coordination calls throughout the State.
- 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.
- Due to the ongoing response to the Spokane wildfires, NWHRN did not distribute the Washington State Brief this Thursday, August 6, 2026.

Partner Activities

- Disaster Assistance Center (DAC) has been set up at Shadle High School (open today noon-6pm and Friday/Saturday/Sunday from 9am-6pm). Close to 50 organizations will be on site to provide services, including DSHS, Community Services Office, Developmental Disability Administration, Veterans Community Response, and CHAS Health, which also has a brick-and-mortar clinic at the school.
- Hospitals are working through transportation and difficult to discharge issues with additional transport support from AMR.
- WA EMD has a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in progress with 211 in support of information around recovery with preliminary damages, insurance and homeownership damage assessments.
- [State Emergency Operations Center \(SEOC\) Situation Update and Media Summary - 08/05/2026](#)
- [State Emergency Operations Center \(SEOC\) Situation Update – 08/06/2026](#)
- The Washington Department of Health (WA DOH) Incident Management Team (IMT) current priorities include identifying at-risk populations and coordinating waiver requests with the Health Care Authority (HCA), Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), and Washington State Hospital Association (WSHA).
- DSHS submitted waiver request to USDA for reporting food loss submission period, requesting an extension from 10 days to 20 days.
- Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) programs remain operational and continue to provide remote services for most clients. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is replacing benefits for food lost as a result of the fires. WA DOH is also managing licensing activities and providing public information through its website and social media channels.
- Fresenius Eastern WA Dialysis clinics are all fully functional and staffed with appts available to support additional patients as needed. DaVita Kidney Care Indian Trail clinic remains closed for now and those patients are being treated at the Downtown Spokane clinic. Both organizations are willing to assist with any dialysis patient that arrives at the Emergency Department or other location needing dialysis treatment. Contact Fresenius Medical Care Patient Hotline at (800) 626-1297 or DaVita Kidney Care
- Behavioral Health Just in Time Training - Free leadership training and consultation are available for healthcare organizations supporting staff affected by this disaster. Designed for healthcare leaders, these services focus on mental and behavioral health support across all phases of the disaster cycle. A flyer about the training is available on the Network's Events page.

THE HEALTHCARE EMERGENCY COORDINATION CENTER DUTY OFFICER
IS AVAILABLE 24 HOURS A DAY AT (425) 988-2897

- City of Spokane is planning to deactivate the city EOC at 5pm today, 8/6. A representative will be at the county EOC to support regional operations and will remain available 24/7 as needed.
- The Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center, a Skilled Nursing Facility and several Adult Family Homes are in evacuation areas and have evacuated patients and residents. These facilities are preparing to re-open and accept returning patients, if possible, once it is safe to do so.

Resources

- NWS – [State & Vancouver BC Outlook](#)
- [Fire Outlook](#)
- [National Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook](#)
- WA Fire Map & Tracker - [WA Fire Map & Tracker](#)
- [WA Smoke Blog](#)
- [Smoke From Fires | Washington State Department of Health](#)
- [Wildfire smoke preparedness - King County, Washington](#)
- [EPA's AirNow mobile app](#)
- [Washington Children and Youth Activities Guide for Air Quality \(PDF\)](#)
- [Puget Sound Clean Air Agency Forecast | Air Quality Map](#)
- [SnoCo Smoke Safety at Home](#) - tips on keeping your indoor air clean. Including [choosing a portable air cleaner](#), [creating a clean air room](#), and free portable HEPA filters for [eligible Medicaid enrollees](#).
- [ASL YouTube video on making filters with box fans](#)
- [Portable Air Cleaner webpages](#)
- [Improving Ventilation and Indoor Air Quality During Wildfire Smoke Events \(PDF\)](#)
- For facilities in Ferry, Stevens, and Pend Oreille counties who are looking for air filters please contact Sonja Moore, Northeast Tri County Health District at 509-563-8036 or email Smooore@netchd.org
- SRHD - Organizations serving community members who need protection from wildfire smoke, ash, and debris may request N95 masks by emailing healthyliving@srhd.org. Please include the number of masks requested. SRHD staff will coordinate pickup times and locations.
- [Extreme Heat Cooling Centers-211](#)
- [211 Basic Needs Resources - Crisis Connections](#)
- [Airbnb teaming up with Washington 211, offering free housing for displaced Washingtonians](#)
- [Operational Activities - Northwest Healthcare Response Network](#)
 - [Wildfire Smoke Tip Sheet](#)
 - [Extreme Heat Tip Sheet](#)
 - [Extreme Heat Toolkit](#)
 - [Comparison of Heat Stroke vs Heat Exhaustion](#)
- Ready.gov Preparedness Toolkit - [Social Media Preparedness Toolkits](#)
- American Red Cross - <https://www.redcross.org>
- WA DOH – [Power Outages](#)
- WA Hospital GIS Map - [WA Hospital GIS Map](#)
- Washington GeoPortal - [Washington State Geospatial Open Data Portal](#)
- WSDOT Travel Realtime Map - [Travel Center Map | WSDOT](#)
- The Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies (PIDS), Disability and Disaster Hotline (800) 626-4959 call/text hotline@disasterstrategies.org <https://disasterstrategies.org/> If you do not connect, expect a call back within 48 hours. An ASL promo is being planned.
- RX Open is now live for communities impacted by wildfires across the West - [RX Open](#)
- 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/>
- [Douglas, Chelan, Okanogan Washington VOAD](#)

THE HEALTHCARE EMERGENCY COORDINATION CENTER DUTY OFFICER
IS AVAILABLE 24 HOURS A DAY AT (425) 988-2897



HECC Status: LEVEL 1 – **Activated**
Duty Officer (24/7): 425-988-2897
HECC Email: hecc@nwhrn.org

- WA DOH - [Post-Fire Cleanup Guidance](#)
- WA DOH - Air quality tech specialist - airquality@doh.wa.gov - That is for any guidance or technical assistance regarding wild fire smoke
- PostFire LA Foundation - [Old Trails & Spokane Area Fires — What To Do First | PostFire](#)

###