

Situation Report #7

HEALTHCARE EMERGENCY COORDINATION CENTER (HECC) OPERATIONAL PERIOD

DATE: 08/10/2026

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, NWHRN has shifted Snapshot Reports to become Situation Reports, though will maintain our report numbering for continuity.

Current Situation

- Governor Ferguson released an emergency proclamation today 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](#). The governor is also preparing a request for a Major Disaster Declaration from the Federal Government.
- Governor Ferguson announced Friday that the United States Department of Health and Human Services has declared a Public Health Emergency in response to the devastating wildfires in Eastern Washington. [Governor Ferguson announces federal public health emergency for communities impacted by wildfires](#)
- The Board of Health for the [Chelan-Douglas Public Health District has declared a local public health emergency due](#) to wildfire smoke and hazardous air quality.
- As of August 7, 2026, WA State Office of the Insurance Commissioner has issued [Emergency Order No. 26-02](#) and [Insurance Commissioner Kuderer's release](#)
- Little Giant Fire grew 15k acres over the weekend, with 2% containment.
- [Central & Eastern Washington Weather and Smoke Outlook](#) - Widespread smoke will persist this week. Dry, breezy conditions Monday–Tuesday will increase fire danger, especially in Central Washington. Showers and higher humidity Wednesday–Thursday may help, but gusty winds and new fire starts remain possible. Rain chances increase Friday–Sunday, with temperatures cooling toward normal.
- Omak Stampede event runs 8/13-8/16. Event will not be cancelled despite requests from local authorities due to poor air quality. Attendees will be provided with masks at the event.
- Hospitals in Central WA report an uptick in hospital visits due to respiratory concerns from ongoing poor air quality.
- Evacuation orders in Spokane are beginning to lift, and affected facilities are working on plans for their return.
- Airlift NW and LifeFlight report being able to return to normal operations.
- WA EMD reports 7 active shelters, with 4 located in Spokane, 2 in Stevens and 1 in Chelan operating for displaced people and pets. There are currently 23 active fires in the state. See SEOC report linked below in the additional updates.

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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. Currently coordinating situational awareness connections about current and anticipated wildfire activity as well as smoke impacts.
- NWHRN is leading the continued development of the 2026 Wildfire Evacuation plan for Rural Hospitals with our colleagues from Harborview Medical Center. The next step is to socialize the framework with potential receiving hospitals and local DMCCs. NWHRN will reach out to targeted representatives for this opportunity. NWHRN is also working with LTC associations and DSHS for evacuation pre planning with LTC facilities in these same rural areas.
- NWHRN continues to work with hospitals and DSHS partners for placing response related patients in hospitals to non-acute care facilities. Hospitals reported some improvement in capacity. Partners are working directly together on specific patients that they can coordinate for placement.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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/>.
- 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

Partners Updates shared on the NWHRN 9:30am Healthcare Call:

- **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. Please contact Dr. Kira Mauseth drkiramauseth@gmail.com or Tona McGuire TLMCG01@gmail.com.
 - Spokane Fire Response / Recovery Behavioral Health Trainings. Three hybrid trainings will be presented in Spokane and via Zoom on August 19, at 10:30am, 12:30pm, and 2:30pm, and last about 90 minutes. The zoom meeting room will be open for most of the day. The content will repeat for each session, with time for Q&A. [Please Register Here for the Behavioral Health Training Zoom](#); A flyer about the training will be available soon on the Network's Events page. Please use the link above to signup.
- Representatives from Health Systems Quality Assurance will provide an update on the status of 1135 waivers on our August 11 operational call.
- Additionally, our colleagues at DSHS provided this update on our call today.
 - Home and community living assistance (HCLA) is working with the Department of Health and Health Care Authority on submitting federal waivers:
 - Appendix K, for Medicaid disaster relief, was submitted on August 6
 - 1115 and 1135 waivers are being worked on for submission now that the federal Public Health Emergency declaration is in place
 - HCLA is working to waive and suspend specific state RCWs and WACs for long-term care facilities (these will be included in the Governor's Proclamation):
 - RCW 70.128 , RCW 70.128.066 and WAC 388-76: permit DSHS to authorize expedited emergency admissions and temporary incases in licensed Adult Family Homes capacity for individuals displaced by the wildfire emergency. It also allows for the agency to establish alternative timeframes for

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completion of required assessments, service plans, approvals, and admission documentation, and may impose conditions necessary to protect resident health and safety

- RCW 18.20.350, RCW 18.20, and WAC 388-78A: to the extent necessary, permit expedited emergency admissions and temporary capacity adjustments in Assisted Living Facilities for individuals displaced by the wildfire emergency. Required assessments, service planning, and admission documentation shall be completed as soon as reasonably practicable under alternative timeframes established by DSHS, and any temporary capacity authorization shall remain subject to Department established health and safety conditions.
- RCW 18.51.091, RCW 18.51.240, RCW 74.42, and WAC 3588-97: to the extent necessary to permit expedited emergency admission, transfer, and temporary placement of Nursing Homes residents displaced by the wildfire emergency, including temporary resident capacity increases approved by DSHS. These flexibilities shall be subject to conditions established by DSHS to protect resident health and safety.
- CMS Emergency Approvals and Payment for Services Dear Provider Letter is available for review on the NWHRN events page.
- Disaster Assistance Center (DAC) has been set up at Shadle High School (open daily through Wed 8/12 from 9am-6pm). Close to 50 organizations will be on site to provide services or information. EMD DAC Coordinator - Chansie.Donald@mil.wa.gov & Richie Bauer, Spokane EOC Donation Manager is the local contact for Spokane and surrounding areas. More information and participating organizations can be found at <https://www.spokanecommunityresources.org/disaster-assistance-center.html>
- VA Hospital is reported as no longer being in Level 3 evacuation. Staff are returning today to begin preparing the hospital for patients to begin returning tomorrow. NWHRN will be available to support any WATrac Patient Tracking needs.
- Long-term Care facilities are working on plans to return, now that the evacuation orders are being lifted.
- Hospitals in Eastern WA report staffing in stable and improving. Evacuation zones have dropped as fires are being contained. Staff are starting to return home. 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
- Northern Idaho Healthcare Coalition continues to stand by to provide assistance if requested.
- Hospitals are working through transportation and difficult to discharge issues with additional transport support from AMR.
- Some hospitals are reporting a shift in focus to internal HR response and resources for caregivers and staff impacted by the fires.
- Chelan/Douglas PH is working with schools in anticipation of students returning to school in a few weeks, ensuring they have air scrubbers in place ahead of time to help mitigate impacts from smoke. Air purifiers and air scrubbers are being made available where possible for vulnerable populations and hospitals/clinics.
- 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 - 08/09/2026](#)
- [State Emergency Operations Center \(SEOC\) Situation Update and Media Summary - 08/08/2026](#)
- [State Emergency Operations Center \(SEOC\) Situation Update – 08/08/2026](#)
- [State Emergency Operations Center \(SEOC\) Situation Update and Media Summary - 08/07/2026](#)
- 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 a waiver request to USDA, requesting the submission period for SNAP recipients to report food loss to be extended from 10 days to 20 days. The start date is 8/1.
- 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 is planned to reopen on 8/17. 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, Rachel Goering at (509)-363-0070.

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](#)
- [After a Wildfire | Spokane Regional Health District](#)
- [Douglas, Chelan, Okanogan Washington VOAD](#)
- 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 wildfire smoke
- PostFire LA Foundation - [Old Trails & Spokane Area Fires — What To Do First | PostFire](#)
- 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](#)
- American Kidney Foundation – [Resources for kidney patients affected by WA wildfires](#)
- 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/>
- 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](#)

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HECC Status: LEVEL 1 – **Fully Activated**

Duty Officer (24/7): 425-988-2897

HECC Email: hecc@nwhrn.org

- [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](#)

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