



Homelessness Emergency Situation Report

Incident Name: Homelessness Emergency

Incident Commander: Aaron Lande

Operational Period: July 2025

Situation Report # 21

New Emergency Orders

2023-03-008 relating to the closure of 9.66 acres of public property commonly known as ‘The Burnt Bridge Creek trail near Andresen Rd. The list of existing emergency orders can be found on the City’s [Homelessness Emergency Declaration](#) page.

Emergency Response

- We have lost 19 people since December 2024 Homeless Memorial
 - 2 in the month of July
- Vancouver Fire data:
 - 268 Fire calls for service related to homelessness
 - 1,363 EMS/Rescue calls year to date
- Vancouver Police data:

Police Events and Time on Events with Unsheltered Homelessness Involvement

	July 2025	Year to Date
# of Events* (percentage of all events)	971 (9.5%)	6,816 (10.1%)
Hours spent on events** (percentage of all police event hours)	2,246.3 (18.4%)	13,989.5 (17.9%)

*Total number of events officers indicated were related to unsheltered homelessness in the month of June and year to date (YTD), as well as the percentage of all events relative to all police events in July and YTD.

**Total number of officer hours spent on events officers indicated were related to unsheltered homelessness in the month of June and year to date (YTD), as well as the percentage of time spent on these events relative to all events in July and YTD.

HART Activities

- HART conducted clean-ups:
 - Area around W 11th, 12th, 13th, and Jefferson, King, Lincoln streets
 - Columbia Way and Columbia St area
 - W Mill Plain near 4th Plain connector
 - 4th Plain Blvd and I-205
 - Regular coordination with WSDOT for outreach and cleanup on their properties along the freeway system in the City of Vancouver

HART Encampment Cleanups and Solid Waste Removal

Type of Operation	Tons Removed
Coordinated health & sanitation encampment cleanups	31.18
HART Encampment Response Coordinator – rapid response crew	5.56
Year-to-date	191.15

- Responded to 113 My Vancouver app submissions in July; YTD: 718
- Handed out 12 naloxone kits and provided awareness on overdose response to 9 individuals through our partnership with WA State Dept. of Health’s Opioid Education and Naloxone Distribution (OEND) Program.
 - The Dept of Health has temporarily suspended shipment of the kits due to the end of the State fiscal year, and unpredictable Federal funding streams which partially support this program.

- This program supports access to naloxone for people who are likely to experience or witness an opioid overdose by providing free naloxone to organizations and community groups for distribution to clients and community members.
- Closure of the Burnt Bridge Creek trail encampment near Andresen took place on July 23

Burnt Bridge Creek Trail closure outcomes

Outcome	Total individuals
Total number of people counted living at Burnt Bridge Creek Trail at official count	41
Accepted/entered shelter	23
Remain in shelter	13
Entered and exited shelter	10
Declined shelter and/or engagement	10
Ineligible for shelter	2
MIA/not present prior to closure	6
Arrests or citations on closure day*	0

*Several citations given in months leading up to the closure day, with some people being cited multiple times.

Solid waste removal at Burnt Bridge Creek camp

Location	Tons of solid waste removed

Burnt Bridge Creek/Andresen	7
Other Burnt Bridge Creek locations	3.22
Total solid waste removed	10.22 tons

Community Engagement

- Developed a partnership with the WA State Department of Ecology Litter Corps. They primarily focus on roadside litter cleanup in addition to illegal dumpsites on public lands. HART often gets reports of solid waste for removal which has no connection with homelessness. Litter Corps has already removed a giant pile of discarded tires and cleaned up litter along the banks of a local creek! We look forward to continuing our partnership, and enjoying a cleaner, safer community!

Safe Stays/Safe Park

- The Outpost:
 - 1 resident transitioned into housing.
 - 2 residents have move-in dates scheduled in August, and 6 other residents are approved or nearly certified for various housing programs (4 for Everybody In pilot, and 2 for Lincoln Place 2).
 - 1 resident obtained ID.
 - 1 resident completed detox services and doing quite well.
 - July was a busy month celebrating the 4th, a resident's birthday, recovery café meetings, craft days, bingo nights, and more, plus connecting with visiting past graduates during these events!
 - Many of these events are hosted or led by other community members or partners – Recovery Café, YMCA, and other friends of the Outpost Safe Stay Community.
 - The same OI staff member that helped paint the street mural at 11th & Esther is hosting arts and crafts with the residents.
- Hope Village:
 - 1 resident transitioned into housing.
 - 1 high-needs resident transferred to another system of care.
 - 3 residents are either referred or nearly ready for housing referral with Aug/Sept projected move in dates, and 1 resident is planning to reconnect with family out of state.

- Welcomed 1 resident as a transfer from safe park, providing more substantial stability, shelter, and intensive case management to move forward.
- 1 resident obtained ID, 2 residents obtained birth certificates, and several other residents made progress on document-readiness.
- 2 residents seeking employment had interviews.
- Sadly, we experienced the sudden and tragic loss of a staff member at this site, Scott Thacker. Scott was a veteran, a peer, a father, and a friend to many. He was an absolute pleasure to work with, and he is sorely missed. Staff and residents created a memorial space at the site and organized a vigil, allowing staff, residents and Scott's family and work friends to honor and remember him together.
- 415 West:
 - 4 residents have been referred to various housing programs (2 for LP2).
 - 3 residents obtained IDs, and 3 residents obtained Social Security cards.
 - 1 resident obtained employment.
 - Multiple residents continue to engage in treatment, and one is seeking inpatient care.
 - Milestones: 1 resident celebrated 30 days clean and sober while another passed the 15-year mark!
 - Among all the positive things happening, the passing of a prior participant was hard on staff and current participants. Staff have been assisting the family, the medical examiner, the property manager, and the VA with information, needed documents, and next steps that are to follow. He will be greatly missed.
- Kiggins Village:
 - 4 residents obtained IDs; 3 residents obtained Social Security Cards; 1 resident obtained their birth certificate, helping with document-readiness for housing.
 - 1 resident participated in detox services.
 - 25% of current participants have been in program less than 9 days in this period, so are currently in the early stages of stabilization and case planning for each participant.
 - The City posted needs for the Safe Stays, and a home builders foundation donated a gazebo for outdoor meeting space as well as providing a lot of beautifications on site.
 - Several neighbors have expressed interest in supporting Kiggins Village with monthly meals, game nights and other donations.
- Homeward Bound – Safe Park:
 - 70 total individuals served – including 8 children, and 36 pets.
 - 6 residents transitioned to various housing types: no subsidy, subsidized, family reunification.
 - 2 residents transferred to another program of care better suited to meet their needs.
 - 1 resident struggling to get ID/SS card now has them and landed a job interview.

- 2 residents have accepted employment who were previously unemployed.
- 1 resident celebrated 6 months of sobriety.
- Multiple residents with health needs (dentures, vision care, etc) were able to connect with those services.
- Provide transportation to 6 or more residents each week to connect with New Life Resource Hour where residents connect with supportive services and build connections beyond the programming at Safe Park.

Bridge Shelter

- Demolition on property is complete.
- The land use permit was reviewed by the City; building permit set submitted by the design team and is being reviewed by permit officials.
- City Council approved purchase of Pre-Engineered Metal Building (PEMB) from Sourcewell (BlueScope/Butler is supplier). We hope to give a Notice to Proceed (to begin fabrication) in August.
- Procurement released RFP for early procurement of the electrical switchgear, which is a long-lead item (RFP closed August 13).
- We expect to release the Invitation to Bid (ITB) for general contractor in late August or early September.

Community Court

- Outcomes:

Community Court outcomes	Total individuals
Newly cited/referred to Community Court	59
Opted into Community Court	16
Graduations (successful completion)	3
Community Service hours completed	23
Obtained Temporary Housing	7
Mental Health/Substance Use Disorder evaluations completed	2

- Court was not held on July 4th, so only 3 weeks of Community Court held in July.
- Funding for a Probation Services Case Manager position was secured, and this person will be assigned to Community Court each week to expand capacity for conducting the intake assessments each week. Interviews were held in July with an anticipated start date in early August.

Property Closures

Under Emergency Order 2023-003, the City Manager declared additional publicly owned property closed. The list of properties which have been closed by emergency orders can be found on the City's [Homelessness Emergency Declaration](#) page.

Appreciation

This month, we recognize Neighbors on Watch (NOW) volunteer program of the VPD for their ongoing support of the City's response to unsheltered homelessness in our community.

NOW volunteers are citizens who choose to donate their time, talents, and effort to support the mission of the VPD. They work closely with the Neighborhood Police Officers (NPOs) who work closely with HART, focusing their attention in those areas meaningful to the work of both the VPD and HART. They provide extra "eyes and ears" reporting concerns in a timely manner to the NPOs and HART, sometimes closing the gap between someone living unsheltered and the services they need to move forward. We appreciate both their selfless volunteerism as well as their great partnership in addressing unsheltered homelessness in our City.

In recognition that the City's Homelessness Response team could not accomplish what it does alone, especially during this declared emergency, HART would like to express its appreciation for the many departments and individuals who partner in the work:

- Economic Prosperity and Housing Department
- Public Works – grounds, streets, greenways, parks, environmental services, transportation, and more
- Vancouver Police Department
- Vancouver Fire Department
- Vancouver Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
- Code Compliance
- Parking Services

- General Services
- Information Technology
- Planning
- Budget
- Legal
- Procurement
- Administrative Assistants
- And countless others who are critical to our mission