

Homelessness Emergency Situation Report

Incident Name: Homelessness Emergency

Incident Commander: Aaron Lande

Operational Period: March 2026

Situation Report # 29

New Emergency Orders

None. The list of existing emergency orders can be found on the City's [Homelessness Emergency Declaration](#) page.

Emergency Response

- We have lost **10** people since December 2025 Homeless Memorial
 - **3** in the month of March
- Vancouver Fire data reported quarterly: calls related to or involving homelessness.
 - *Next update in for 1st quarter 2026 has been delayed due to new software implementation. Fire hopes to have ability to report by end of the 2nd quarter of 2026.

- Vancouver Police data:

Police Events and Time on Events with Unsheltered Homelessness Involvement

	March 2026	Year to Date
# of Events* (percentage of all events)	768 (8.1%)	2,250 (8.4%)
Hours spent on events** (percentage of all police event hours)	1,577.6 (14.1%)	4,607.6 (14.8%)

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

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

HART Activities

- HART conducted clean-ups at the following locations:
 - Area around W 11th, 12th, 13th, and Jefferson, King, Lincoln streets
 - Several scattered sites addressed by Sheila’s rapid response crew
 - Regular coordination with WSDOT for outreach and cleanup on their properties along the freeway system in the City of Vancouver; updated agreement coming to Council in May.

HART Encampment Cleanups and Solid Waste Removal

Type of Operation	Tons Removed
Health & sanitation encampment cleanups coordinated between HART, Public Works, and the Vancouver Police Department	13.60
HART Encampment Response Coordinator – rapid response crew	12.07
Year-to-date	101.92

- Handed out **68** naloxone kits and provided awareness on overdose response to **17** individuals through our partnership with WA State Dept. of Health’s Opioid Education and Naloxone Distribution (OEND) Program.
 - Unsheltered individuals reported to HART they used the naloxone HART distributed to reverse **7** separate overdoses this month.
 - OEND 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.

Community Engagement

- HART participated in a stakeholder focus group led by a Portland State University student researching Clark County's CARE Tool, a recent update to the coordinated entry assessment tool used for prioritization and placement of individuals seeking housing and services. We look forward to the findings.
- HART toured the local Domestic Violence Shelter and learned about their programming. Their programs serve all people regardless of their housing status.

Safe Stays/Safe Park

- **The Outpost:**
 - 2 residents transitioned into housing
 - 3 residents are approved for housing programs and closer to moving to housing
 - 1 resident obtained their Social Security card, a necessary next step for housing
 - Residents continue to note how much they enjoy community building time, such as crafts and other activities which provide opportunities for connection
- **Hope Village:**
 - 2 residents are close to transitioning into housing
 - 1 resident obtained their ID and 2 residents obtained their Social Security cards
 - 11 of 19 residents are completely 'document ready'
 - 1 resident had a job interview
 - 5 residents were accepted into the Goodwill Job Connections program
 - Hope Village reported having 27 individual providers visit residents at the community to support them with services.
- **Kiggins Village:**
 - 1 resident obtained employment
 - 3 residents obtained their ID cards, and 1 resident obtained their Social Security cards
 - 1 resident has been working towards obtaining his driver license
 - 9 residents engaged in detox and/or treatment services
 - Currently, one half of village residents are engaged in either mental health care and/or substance use treatment programs and taking steps towards greater health and stability!
- **415 West:**
 - 3 residents obtained their ID cards, and 1 resident obtained their Social Security card
 - 2 residents obtained employment
 - 4 residents continue to engage in substance use treatment services
 - 2 residents have graduated from the Recovery Navigator program
 - Several residents engage in Couve Collective and other support circles

- Residents are also focusing on their medical health, establishing primary care, and obtaining glasses
- “The highlight of the month was Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) Mobile came and set up at 415 West. DSHS answered questions regarding benefits, signed individuals up for services, and issued new benefits cards. They were able to assist 7 residents, 1 St. Paul's guest, and several other unsheltered community members who dropped in. It was a success!!!”
- **Homeward Bound – Safe Park:**
 - 58 participants including 12 children and 27 pets
 - 3 residents transitioned to housing
 - 1 veteran resident is awaiting a move-in date after securing a HUD VASH voucher
 - 1 resident went to substance use treatment services (which led to recovery housing)
 - 2 residents obtained employment
 - 1 resident obtained health insurance
 - 1 resident engaged in mental health treatment services
 - 1 resident has written and self-published a book about being one’s authentic self
 - Multiple organizations visit the site each month to support residents, such as- SeaMar/CSNW, Our Lady of Lourdes, Bunkas, Retired Veterans Group, Serving Hands Medical, Outsiders Inn, Fish of Orchards, Chainbreakers, CRMH Mobile, among others.

Mobile Health – Columbia River Mental Health

After significant organizational changes in 2025, Mobile Health services have resumed and are continuing to rebuild capacity.

- Current staff include a Nurse Practitioner, Peer Support Specialist, and Program Coordinator
- Positions still in recruitment (with interviews underway) are the Mental Health Professional and Registered Nurse

While not at full capacity yet, the Mobile Health Team is actively delivering services in the field and coordinating with system partners. Direct service delivery updates for February and March 2026 include:

- Caseload of approximately 20 clients
- 21 medical services provided – some conditions treated include wounds, local and systemic infections and chronic illnesses
- 3 mental health assessments completed, with additional assessments scheduled
- Weekly presence at Safe Stays and Safe Park
- Participation in community resource and outreach events at Couve Collective and River City Church

- Ongoing weekly support for and coordination with Community Court

In addition to direct services, CRMHS is supporting system-wide training and capacity-building for Vancouver’s Homelessness Response Program:

- Motivational Interviewing (MI) training completed for HART, Safe Stays, Safe Park and Mobile Health staff
- Another MI training is being scheduled for Fall 2026 for Bridge Shelter staff
- Advanced trainings that increase MI skills and reinforce established skills will be scheduled throughout the next year
- Coordinating with City, Safe Stay/Safe Park and Bridge Shelter providers to develop and implement training curriculum to increase service provider capacity and enhance service delivery across City Homelessness Response programs

Community Court

Community Court outcomes	Total individuals
Newly cited/referred to Community Court	62
Opted into Community Court	13
Graduations (successful completion)	6
Community Service hours completed	56
Obtained Temporary Housing	3
Mental Health/Substance Use Disorder evaluations completed	5
Accessing/participating in treatment services	6

- Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) supervisor Will Frigon will present a Brown Bag Lunch & Learn event to discuss Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits updates. Many Community Court participants have been impacted by the new Federal criteria for receiving SNAP benefits.

- Community Court is expanding on-site community restitution opportunities to help maintain a clean and orderly parking lot. We are also working with our partners to promptly report and address any concerns outside our facility. We remain committed to being responsible stewards and good neighbors to those around us.

Bridge Shelter

By the end of March all site work necessary to receive the two structures had been completed. This includes completing most of the underground work, the foundations/slabs, and paving the parking lot so it can be used as a staging area. Also in March, the dormitory building was received and, by the end of March, significant progress had been made on the major steel erection.

Things are generally going well but the accelerated pace of the project means that there is constant pressure on the schedule from unknown delays and we continue to rely on the help of our many partners – our consultant team led by SEA, our contracting team led by Tapani, and our City team.

Property Closures

None. The list of properties closed by emergency orders can be found on the City's [Homelessness Emergency Declaration](#) page.

Appreciation

This month, we extend our sincere gratitude to Nikki Chen and Jen Dugger-Spalding from the City's Engagement and Access Department. Jen has been instrumental in supporting HART with ADA-related concerns, offering thoughtful guidance that balances the needs of all involved while ensuring compliance. Nikki has helped foster meaningful community dialogue, engaging with individuals who are passionate about supporting our unsheltered neighbors, even when perspectives differ. Their efforts are helping remove barriers and building a more inclusive Vancouver for all. We deeply appreciate their expertise and partnership!

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

- Economic Prosperity and Housing Department
- Public Works
- Vancouver Police Department
- Vancouver Fire Department
- Engagement and Access
- 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