

TO: PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE (PSC)
FROM: GENERAL MANAGER COMMUNITY SAFETY
SUBJECT: **2024 HEAT EVENTS SUMMARY**
PURPOSE: To provide a summary report regarding the 2024 Extreme Heat Responses.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report titled “2024 Heat Events Summary” dated October 23, 2024, be received for information.

1.0 POLICY SECTION

Policy objectives contained in the City’s *Moving Forward* initiative, the *Burnaby Strategic Plan* (2022), *Burnaby Community Safety Plan* (2020), the *Extreme Heat – Initial Response Guideline and Extreme Heat – Operational Response Plan* (2023) support our community through barrier-free responsive measures guided by scientific research and flexible and adaptive emergency plans.

2.0 BACKGROUND

British Columbia’s June 2021 heat wave was the deadliest disaster in provincial history. It highlighted the impacts of a changing climate and consequences of extreme heat events. 51% of the 619 deaths were recorded in the Fraser Health region, 73 of which were in Burnaby (BC Coroners Service, 2022¹). This prompted Council to identify response to heat events as an ongoing and critical priority.

The City’s heat planning in 2024 was undertaken by the Extreme Heat-Advance Planning Working Group (EH-APU), consisting of representatives from across city departments, Burnaby RCMP, and Fraser Health. The EH-APU met in May to review and update the Extreme Heat-Operational Response Plan (EH-ORP) in readiness for the 2024 summer season. No significant changes were made to the EH-ORP other than adopting a minor update made to the BC Provincial Heat Alert and Response System 2024 (BC HARS: 2024²).

¹ BC Coroners Service (2022). [Extreme Heat and Human Mortality: A Review of Heat-Related Deaths in B.C. in Summer 2021](#).

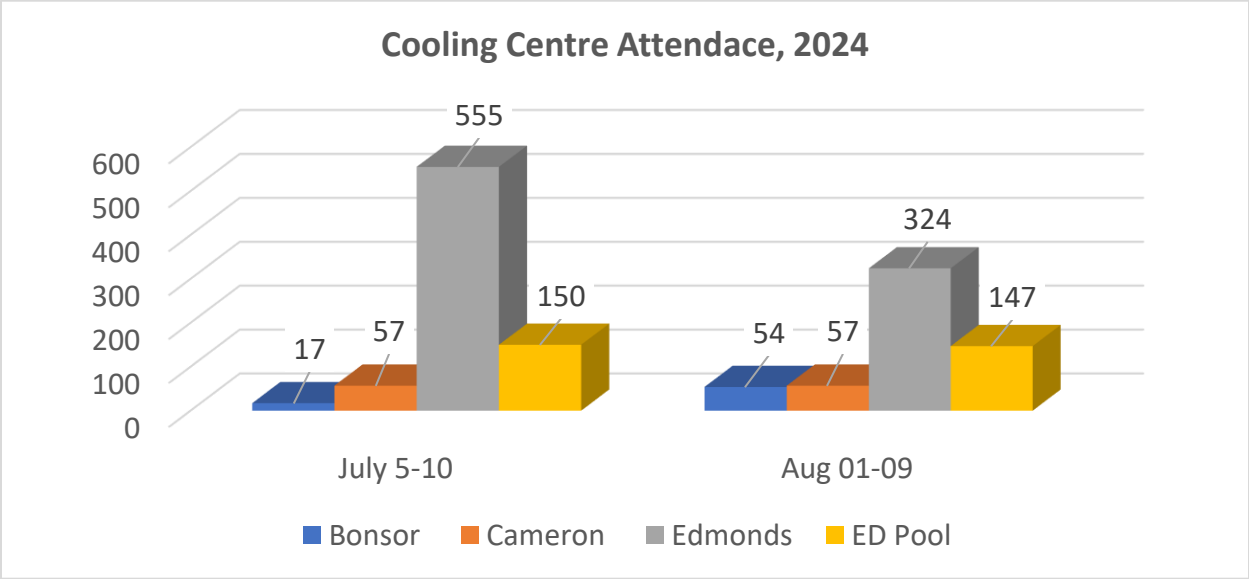
² BC HARS (2024), [BC Provincial Heat Alert and Response System: 2024](#)

3.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

One (1) period during the summer reached the forecast daytime high/overnight low temperatures thresholds of the BC HARS:2024 criteria which resulted in Environment and Climate Change Canada issuing a Heat Warning for BC-Southwest-Western Metro Vancouver. The City’s EH-ORP was activated twice (July 06-10 and August 01-09) and, under an abundance of caution, the Burnaby Society to End Homelessness Extreme Weather Response was activated three (3) times.

Period	ECCC Heat Warning Issued	City EH-ORP Activated	City Cooling Center Visits	RCMP PMHOST Interactions	City Wellness Check-In Calls ³	Community Partner Cooling Site ² Visits
Jul 06-10	Yes	Yes	1,999	35	1,454	929
Jul 16-17	No	No				Not provided before the deadline for this report.
Aug 01-09	No	Yes	582	0	0	
Sep 05-06	No	No				

The Edmonds Cooling Centre saw attendance that was exponentially higher than all other sites during Cooling Centre activations. This is likely the result of the early public communications, the high vulnerability building poster campaign reminding residents of the Cooling Centre locations and where they could find respite from the heat, and general awareness based on their experiences from prior years.



The turnout at the city cooling centres and the community partner Civic Square cooling site highlights the benefits of extreme heat planning, pre-season communications from the health authorities and the city, and confirms the community need for these supports.

4.0 COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable.

5.0 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Not applicable.

Respectfully submitted,

Charmaine Pflugrath, Emergency Management Coordinator

For

Dave Critchley, General Manager Community Safety

REPORT CONTRIBUTORS

This report was prepared by Charmaine Pflugrath, Emergency Management Coordinator, and reviewed by Scott Houston, Senior Manager, Risk Insurance and Claims.