

From: ["Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca)
To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)
Date: 6/29/2021 3:12:06 PM
Subject: FW: Release: Facing unprecedented casualties, VPD deploys dozens of extra officers

Mayor and Council,

The following release from VPD regarding the number of sudden deaths occurring in recent days provides further indication of the terrible consequences of this hot weather, as well as the associated extraordinary demand on emergency services.

Best,
Paul

From: ADDISON, Steve <Steve.ADDISON@vpd.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, June 29, 2021 2:52 PM
Subject: Release: Facing unprecedented casualties, VPD deploys dozens of extra officers

****Sergeant Steve Addison will be available for clips at 3:00 p.m. in the media room at 2120 Cambie Street. A call-in option will be available for media to listen in and ask questions. See below for call-in details.****

Facing unprecedented casualties, VPD deploys dozens of extra officers

Vancouver – Vancouver Police are redeploying dozens of officers and are pleading for people to only call 9-1-1 during emergencies, as heat-related deaths have depleted front-line resources and severely delayed response times throughout the city.

"Vancouver has never experienced heat like this, and sadly dozens of people are dying because of it," says Sergeant Steve Addison, VPD. "Our officers are stretched thin, but we're still doing everything we can to keep people safe."

As of 1:45 p.m. today, VPD officers had responded to more than 65 sudden deaths since the heat wave began on Friday, with more casualties being reported by the hour. Today alone, officers had responded to 20 sudden deaths as of 1:45 p.m., with more than a dozen others waiting for police to be dispatched.

"The vast majority of these cases are related to the heat," adds Sergeant Addison. "We've never seen anything like this, and it breaks our hearts. If you have an elderly or vulnerable family member, please give them a call or stop by to check on them."

On a typical day, Vancouver Police respond between three and four sudden deaths throughout the city, working with Vancouver Fire Rescue Services, BC Ambulance, and the BC Coroners Service to investigate. Since Friday, VPD has averaged more than 14 sudden deaths a day.

VPD is immediately redeploying officers from our Investigation Division, and calling other officers in from home in an attempt to ease the backlog of calls, but warns that it could take several days for things to return to normal.

"Until this subsides, our priority will be responding to crimes-in-progress and calls that involve an immediate risk to the public," adds Sergeant Addison. "We're asking everyone to be patient and to understand that we're doing everything we can to respond to your calls for help."

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****Call in information****

From Vancouver: 604-688-2602
Toll free: 1-833-353-8610

Participant access code to join: **4481799**

Telephone participants will be on mute until the Q&A. To ask a question, during the Q&A, press *1. The system will prompt you when it's your turn to ask a question.