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## INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
BC Coroners Service

### **Warmer temperatures prompt safety reminder from BC Coroners Service**

VICTORIA – With the arrival of summer and warmer temperatures, the BC Coroners Service (BCCS) is urging people to take extra care and plan ahead in the event of extreme-weather conditions.

According to updated data from BCCS, there were 11 suspected heat-related deaths in 2023. All such deaths were reported between May and August, with more than 80% occurring in July and August.

The report also found:

- approximately two-thirds of the deaths were among people over 60;
- males accounted for nearly three-quarters of heat-related deaths in the province; and
- the Interior Health Authority recorded the most deaths (five).

Extreme heat can have devastating consequences. In June and July 2021, 619 people died due to record-high temperatures in British Columbia. A BCCS death review panel identified several areas where loss of life could be prevented during extreme-heat events. The primary point was better identifying and supporting vulnerable populations.

This summer, in the event of unusually high temperatures:

- check on family, friends and neighbours, especially those who are elderly and living alone;
- visit cooler environments, such as cooling centres, malls, libraries and other air-conditioned community spaces;
- stay hydrated and avoid physical activities outside; and
- never leave children or pets alone in a parked car.

The data presented in the report is considered preliminary and subject to change as investigations conclude.

### **Learn More:**

Knowledge update - heat-related deaths in 2023: [https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/birth-adoption-death-marriage-and-divorce/deaths/coroners-service/statistical/bccs\\_heat\\_death\\_knowledge\\_update\\_2023.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/birth-adoption-death-marriage-and-divorce/deaths/coroners-service/statistical/bccs_heat_death_knowledge_update_2023.pdf)

Extreme Heat and Human Mortality: A Review of Heat-Related Deaths in B.C. in Summer 2021: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/birth-adoption-death-marriage-and-divorce/deaths/coroners-service/death-review->

[panel/extreme\\_heat\\_death\\_review\\_panel\\_report.pdf](#)

Province of British Columbia: Be prepared for extreme heat and drought: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-management/preparedbc/know-your-hazards/severe-weather/extreme-heat>

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