

The City of Spokane

## Weekly News Update for Aug. 22

*Stay up-to-date on City of Spokane and employee news with our weekly Employee Update.*

### **A Message From Mayor Nadine Woodard**

Our community has been deeply impacted by the fires that have engulfed neighborhoods and lives around our region. For the thousands that have been impacted, thousands more know and support someone who has experienced the terror of the past several days. We are devastated and shaken by their loss.

As dark as these days have been the outpouring of support has been truly amazing. The Spokane region has come together with offers of food, shelter, clothing, animal care, and so many other individual acts that make a big difference.

It's times like this that remind us that we truly live as one, extremely caring region. We are a place where helping our neighbor in time of need is a belief system that shows itself in our actions time and again.

Our friends, neighbors, and loved ones have been dealt a major blow. Some are just beginning to pick up the pieces while others are still waiting anxiously.

For those of you fortunate enough to be in a position to help lend a hand or a shoulder to cry on, thank you for showing us what it means to meet this moment together.

And, to the first responders, who are still on the fire lines, communicating with families, and keeping their neighborhoods safe from further impact, thank for answering the call over and over despite your exhaustion.

Brighter days are ahead because of all of you.

Mayor Woodward

The continued impact of the emergency response will reveal employee needs in the days ahead.

1. Employee Assistance Program services are [available to employees via our internal sharepoint](#) or Human Resources
2. Employees needing time off should work with their direct supervisor to schedule leave
3. Employees that have been impacted by these wildfires should work with their direct supervisor and Human Resources to access available employee resources
4. Supervisors will continue to monitor air quality for adherence to safe work policies, which includes measures to provide a safe working environment during elevated air quality levels for those who work in the field

If you are looking for ways to assist community members in need, you can make donations directly to the [local American Red Cross](#). Innovia has also set up a [community relief fund](#).

## **Bring Your Child to Work Day AND Employee BBQ Video & Pics**

Thank you for joining us on Bring Your Child to Work Day AND the Employee BBQ! We had a great time at the City Hall tours, riding the Loeff Carrousel and Numerica SkyRide, eating lunch with our coworkers, and meeting the Spokane Indians' mascot Otto.

[Click here to download photos from the Employee BBQ!](#)



Thank you to the Mayor's Office and Cabinet for putting these events together!

## **More Information to Assist You**

*Here are some more resources from our Employee Assistance Program:*

### **[How to Listen to Someone Who Is Hurting](#)**

Whenever people face bereavement, injury, or other kinds of trauma, they need to talk about it in order to heal. To talk, they need willing listeners.

Unfortunately, many people shrink from listening to people in pain. They may feel like they have enough troubles of their own, or be afraid of making matters worse by saying the wrong thing.

Sometimes people excuse themselves by assuming that listening to people who are hurting is strictly a matter for professionals such as psychotherapists or members of religious organizations. It is true that professional people can help in special ways and provide the suffering individual with insights that most people aren't able to offer. However, their assistance, although valuable, is no substitute for the caring interest of supervisors, coworkers, friends, and others from the person's normal daily life.

It is natural to feel reluctant or even afraid of facing another person's painful feelings, but it is important not to let this fear prevent you from doing what you can to help someone who is suffering.

**Employee Information Portal** ([covid19.spokanecity.org/](https://covid19.spokanecity.org/))

Remember, this Employee Information Portal is a great resource for employees to stay current on what's happening with the COVID-19 response. The [Employee Information Portal](#) can be accessed from work or home, using a computer or mobile device. All of the emailed information we have sent to employees is archived here.