



ESS WATCH



Issue #56

December
2004

LONG RANGE PROVINCIAL FORECAST

The Environment Canada forecasts for December, January and February are:

Precipitation: Approximately 50% of the province in the lower portions is predicated to receive below normal precipitation for the reporting period. The upper northern area bordering on the Yukon Territory is supposed to receive above normal levels and the remaining 40% of the province should experience normal levels.

Temperature: The prediction maps show that approximately 80% of the province will experience above normal temperatures. There is also a relatively small area that appears to encompass the central Okanagan and Western Kootenay regions that is expected to receive below normal temperatures.

EMERGENCIES NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL

Recent global emergencies and their aftermath's affecting large numbers of people and property include but certainly not limited to:

- Typhoons
 - Nov 19 – Philippines – Typhoon Muifa contained significant rains and high winds. There are reports of at least 3 deaths and 1,000 displaced residents in eastern regions of this country.
 - Dec 02 – Philippines – Typhoon Nanmodel resulted in an additional 38 deaths and 33 missing persons from this weather ravaged country (see section on Severe Weather also).
- Floods
 - Nov 10 – Costa Rica – the province of Limon has seen greater storm activity that has forced at least 1,000 residents to seek refuge in 10 emergency shelters.
 - Nov 26 – Texas – heavy rains led to the flooding of the community of Wharton. The flood levels forced 150 residents out of their homes for the weekend.
- Volcano
 - Nov 23 – Papua New Guinea – a significant eruption of spewing ash (plume was recorded at 14 km in height) has forced more than 9,000 residents to flee the small island of Manam. The ash has destroyed crops and contaminated drinking water sources.

- Severe Weather
 - Nov 18 – Poland – gale force winds have killed at least 7 people and left a large amount of the population without power service.
 - Nov 26 – Slovakia – wind speeds of 173 km were recorded and left at least 2 deaths and 10 missing on the weekend. Reports of damaged homes and blocked roads have left an uncounted number of people affected by the storm.
 - Nov 29 – Philippines – a tropical storm that swept through the area has left 669 dead and 697 reported as missing at this time. Much of the devastation is from flooding waters and landslides as a result of the severe storm activity in the region.

- Tornado
 - Nov 23 – Louisiana – the storm has resulted in significant damage to the community of Olla. Of the 587 homes there at least 163 have been completely destroyed.

- Earthquakes
 - Nov 10 – Japan – northern regions recorded a 5.3 quake with one person reported injured at this time. Last month this same region suffered a 6.8 quake that left at least 39 dead.
 - Nov 12 – Indonesia – a 6.0 magnitude quake has left 27 dead and least 116 injured in eastern Indonesia. Almost 14,000 homes were totally or partially destroyed in the quake so there are expectations that the injury and death count will rise as thorough searches are completed.
 - Nov 20 – Costa Rica – a magnitude 6.2 quake has resulted in at least 8 deaths and heavy damage to community infrastructures in the area of San Jose.
 - Nov 26 – Indonesia – the 6.4 quake has resulted in at least 19 deaths and incomplete reports of damage to residential homes.

Highlighted Website of the Month

This month we wish to direct readers to visit the City of Coquitlam’s website. On these pages you will be introduced into how that community integrates ESS with other emergency response services and preparedness programs.

Enjoy your visit to the following internet link site:

<http://www.coquitlam.ca/Residents/Public+Safety/Emergency+Preparedness/Emergency+Social+Services.htm>

If your ESS team and/or community have a website relating to your ESS program please let David Tomaz (email David.Tomaz@gems6.gov.bc.ca) know about it. We will post the site addresses through this publication to let other volunteers know about you and your local programs.

ESS ACTIVITY

Date	# of Persons Assisted	Event
November 2004	98	26 separate house fires
	50	1 separate apartment fire
	50	1 armed stand off
	3	1 stranded travellers
	5	1 landslide
	206	
October 2004	44	18 separate house fires
	55	2 separate apartment fires
	10	1 apartment evacuation
		109
September 2004	34	13 separate house fires
	35	1 separate apartment fires
	400	2 gas leaks
		469
August 2004	88	22 separate house fires
	3	1 dangerous goods
	20	1 landslide
	20	1 hostage taking
		131
July 2004	32	10 separate house fires
	20	1 separate apartment fire
	1	1 armed stand off
	134	2 forest fire
	20	1 hydrate fire fighters
		207
June 2004	69	22 separate house fires
	35	2 separate apartment fires
	26	1 apartment evacuation
	13	1 forest fire
	40	1 armed stand off
		183
May 2004	62	22 separate house fire
	10	2 floods
	91	3 separate apartment fire
	2	1 crime scene investigation
		165
April 2004	86	25 separate house fires
	64	3 separate apartment fires
		150

Date	# of Persons Assisted	Event
March 2004 revised	81	33 separate house fires 2 separate apartment fires
	180	
	261	
February 2004	69	27 separate house fires 4 separate apartment fires 1 police incident
	248	
	3	
	320	
January 2004	111	42 separate house fires 1 flooding 1 propane leak
	2	
	45	
	158	
Total – 2004	2,359	301 separate incidents

DETAILED ESS INCIDENTS FROM THE PAST MONTH

The following information is intended as a “snapshot” of recent ESS activity:

2004	Incident	# of people assisted	Community
Nov 1	House Fire	16	Burnaby
Nov 1	House Fire	7	Surrey
Nov 1	House Fire	?	Agassiz
Nov 2	House Fire	9	Richmond
Nov 3	House Fire	1	Burns Lake
Nov 4	House Fire	2	Chilliwack
Nov 6	House Fire	3	Victoria
Nov 7	House Fire	5	Aldergrove
Nov 7	Stranded Travellers	3	Terrace
Nov 9	Armed Stand-off	50	Merritt
Nov 10	Apartment Fire	50	Prince Rupert
Nov 11	House Fire	5	Port Coquitlam
Nov 11	House Fire	2	Clearwater
Nov 11	House Fire	1	Creston
Nov 12	House Fire	2	Richmond
Nov 14	House Fire	4	Nelson
Nov 14	House Fire	2	Fort Nelson
Nov 14	House Fire	2	Merritt

2004	Incident	# of people assisted	Community
Nov 15	Landslide	5	Courtenay
Nov 15	House Fire	3	Abbotsford
Nov 16	House Fire	6	Kelowna
Nov 17	House Fire	3	Osoyoos
Nov 19	House Fire	1	Terrace
Nov 21	House Fire	4	Chilliwack
Nov 22	House Fire	10	Abbotsford
Nov 23	House Fire	1	Hope
Nov 23	House Fire	4	North Vancouver
Nov 23	House Fire	2	Nelson
Nov 30	House Fire	2	Vancouver
Nov 30	House Fire	1	Castlegar
TOTAL		206	

Your feedback is important to us at the ESS Program Office.
Please send your comments, questions or tips to David Tomaz,
Provincial ESS Coordinator,
at 1-800-585-9559, by fax at 250-356-9129 or e-mail at David.Tomaz@gems6.gov.bc.ca.