



ESS WATCH



July
2004

LONG RANGE PROVINCIAL FORECAST

The Environment Canada forecasts for July, August and September are:

Precipitation: The graphical maps are still showing reduced moisture for the entire province. There is no relief in site for the period of this report.

Temperature: In reverse of the moisture situation the temperature graphics show almost the entire province to be above normal temperatures for the entire three month period.

EMERGENCIES NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL

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

- Floods
 - June 5 – China – Hubei province saw significant flood activity that has resulted in at least 5 deaths and reports of 13 others missing.
- Man made Disaster (Explosion)
 - June 4 – California – dirt levee break has affected an undetermined number of people since it has allowed salt water to potentially contaminate the drinking water source for communities all the way from San Francisco to Los Angeles.
- Earthquake
 - July 2 – Turkey – a magnitude 5.1 quake has left at least 18 dead and 27 injured in a remote territory of this country.
- Severe Weather
 - May – Myanmar – tropical storms containing cyclone winds had resulted in reports of 140 dead and 18,000 people left homeless in this area. Along with the land based damages was the reports of at least 84 lost ships and an ocean liner that ran aground and sank.
 - June 7 – Pakistan – heavy rains have resulted in at least 7 deaths and damage to several mud brick homes.

- June 24 – Wisconsin – powerful storms with some tornado activity has damaged numerous home and resulted in thousands of people to be without power for some time.
- Forest Fire
 - June – British Columbia – Although no actual evacuations resulted from the 4 interface fires located in a number of areas of the province there is a definite heightened sense of alertness in the provincial emergency management system. There are presently approximately 400 fires burning in BC and approximately 4,300 people were on alert to evacuate.
 - June 23 – Arizona – a huge wildfire is threatening a community of 14,000 people. As of July 1 the fire has grown to 43,000 acres in size.
 - June 24 – Alaska – although there are numerous fires in the state a community north of Fairbanks has seen hundreds evacuated due to the 225,000 acre Boundary fire.

Highlighted Website of the Month

We are pleased to present the following link to the City of Richmond Emergency Social Services website. Here you will find an example of a community ESS Plan. Enjoy your visit to the following internet link site:

http://www.city.richmond.bc.ca/emergency/prepare/ess_draft.htm

If your ESS group 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
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	
March 2004 revised	81	33 separate house fires
	180	2 separate apartment fires
	260	
February 2004	69	27 separate house fires
	248	4 separate apartment fires
	3	1 police incident
	320	
January 2004	111	42 separate house fires
	2	1 flooding
	45	1 propane leak
	158	
Total – 2004	1,236	192 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
June 3	Apartment Fire	25	Coquitlam
June 4	House Fire	2	Salmon Arm
June 6	House Fire	1	Keremeos
June 6	House Fire	2	Courtenay
June 7	House Fire	3	Surrey

2004	Incident	# of people assisted	Community
June 7	House Fire	1	Smithers
June 7	House Fire	6	Dawson Creek
June 9	House Fire	2	Port McNeil
June 10	House Fire	4	Nanaimo
June 10	House Fire	6	Abbotsford
June 11	House Fire	3	Penticton
June 12	House Fire	7	Abbotsford
June 17	House Fire	2	Terrace
June 17	House Fire	3	Kamloops
June 18	House Fire	5	Creston
June 19	House Fire	4	Surrey
June 19	Apartment Evacuation	26	New Westminster
June 20	House Fire	5	Lake Cowichan
June 21	House Fire	2	Langley
June 24	House Fire	2	North Vancouver
June 24	Forest Fire	13	Kluskus
June 25	House Fire	1	Lake Cowichan
June 25	House Fire	8	Chetwynd
June 28	Armed Stand off	40	Victoria
June 29	Apartment Fire	10	Victoria
	TOTAL	183	

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.