



# ESS WATCH



June  
2004

## LONG RANGE PROVINCIAL FORECAST

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

Precipitation: The continued outlook for the period has indicated below normal precipitation for pretty well the entire province, except west coast of Vancouver Island and the North West quadrant, starting in June. There were no other changes indicated on the maps from last month's precipitation report.

Temperature: The forecast continues to be for above normal temperatures that are anticipated to cover the entire province starting in June.

For comparison purposes, and to present a different perspective on the forecast, we have decided to include a quick review of the Old Farmer's Almanac predictions for the summer of 2004. Of additional special note would be that it has been recognized that last year the Almanac better predicted the provincial drought conditions than Environment Canada. So, from the Old Farmer's Almanac 2004:

Precipitation: There is expected to be above normal precipitation for June and August with July being a drier than normal month. Of note is that August is expected to be 40 mm above normal.

Temperature: The expectations for June are slightly below normal, July slightly above normal and August significantly below normal temperatures.

Now the ESS Program Office would dearly love to see the Farmer's Almanac predictions be the more accurate of the two sources but we continue to prepare and plan for the anticipated activities of this summer.

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## EMERGENCIES NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL

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

- Floods
  - May 13 – Pennsylvania – flash floods have claimed two lives and damaged homes in this state.
  - May 24 – Iowa – resulting from the severe weather front that had tornadoes created in the state there are reports of flooding and significant damage in 16 separate counties.
  - May 24 – Pennsylvania – additional flash flooding has resulted from more heavy rains. There are reports of more than 200 homes being affected in the eastern regions of the state.
  - May 27 – Haiti, Dominican Republic – heavy rains have resulted in floods and mudflows that has killed an estimated 2,000 people and destroyed thousands of homes.

- Man made Disaster (Explosion)
  - May 24 – Romania – an overturned fertilizer truck exploded and claimed the lives of 16 people (first responders and journalists) following a vehicle accident.
  - May 25 – Georgia, USA – chemical plant explosion and fire have created an initial 5 mile radius evacuation area. Prevailing winds and smoke composition will determine any further or ongoing evacuations.
  
- Severe Weather
  - May 13 – Bangladesh – violent storms have left three dead and at least 200 injured in this country that is also suffering from sweltering heat waves at this time of year.
  - May 14 – Texas – severe weather front passing through Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Mississippi has created damage from flood and high winds.
  - May 17 – Philippines – Typhoon Nida (up to 205 kilometres/hour winds) had displaced more than 16,000 people.
  - May 23 – Nebraska – tornadoes have damaged or destroyed 120 to 130 homes in thirteen counties. Shelters and numerous services have been activated to meet the needs of the people affected by the storm.
  - May 20 – Pakistan – heat wave has claimed 10 lives and unclear how many others have fallen ill as a result of the 47 degree Celsius weather.
  - May 21 – Iowa – tornadoes have damaged 30 of the 40 resident homes in 2 counties. There are an estimated 845 people directly affected by this disaster.
  - May 27 – Kentucky – severe weather patterns have wreaked havoc in this region of the states again with home damage and people dislocated from their homes.
  - June 01 – Tennessee, West Virginia, and Indiana – storms have swept eastward and left a path of damage and significant people in need of recovery services. There were three deaths reported from the weekend storms in these states.
  
- Forest Fire
  - May 04 – California – two separate and significant fires (El Cerrito & Eagle) have consumed over 9,000 acres and have resulted in over 3,000 evacuated homes. At this time the fires are approximately 10% contained.
  - May 27 – New Mexico – two wildfires have scorched more than 10,000 acres and 48 homes. At the time of report the fires were 10% contained with no numbers of people affected.

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## **Highlighted Website of the Month**

We are pleased to present the following link to the City of Prince George Emergency Services website. One can see how they are promoting individual preparedness and planning in case of disaster. Enjoy your visit to the following internet link site:

[http://www.city.pg.bc.ca/city\\_services/emergency/](http://www.city.pg.bc.ca/city_services/emergency/)

*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](mailto: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
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	
<b>Total – 2004</b>	<b>1,053</b>	<b>167 separate incidents</b>

## 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
May 1	House Fire	2	Abbotsford
May 1	House Fire	3	Vancouver
May 2	House Fire	2	Revelstoke
May 2	House Fire		New Westminster
May 7	House Fire	1	Vancouver
May 7	Apartment Fire	44	Kelowna
May 8	Apartment Fire	31	Langley
May 8	House Fire	4	Whistler

2004	Incident	# of people assisted	Community
May 10	House Fire	3	Courtenay
May 10	Crime Scene Investigation	2	Maple Ridge
May 11	House Fire	1	Vancouver
May 11	House Fire	7	Nelson
May 11	House Fire	1	Vancouver
May 15	House Fire	7	Mission
May 16	House Fire	3	Sechelt
May 18	House Fire	1	Quesnel
May 19	Apartment Fire	16	Vancouver
May 20	House Fire	1	Victoria
May 20	House Fire	4	Fort St John
May 21	House Fire	1	Keremeos
May 22	Flood	2	Comox
May 24	House Fire	4	Pemberton
May 26	House Fire	5	Courtenay
May 26	House Fire	2	Esquimalt
May 28	House Fire	1	Nanaimo
May 29	House Fire	6	Vancouver
May 30	House Fire	3	Fort St James
May 30	Flood	8	Vancouver
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>165</b>	

**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](mailto:David.Tomaz@gems6.gov.bc.ca).**