



# ESS WATCH



November  
2004

## LONG RANGE PROVINCIAL FORECAST

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

Precipitation: The province is divided into three areas of prediction. A band of normal precipitation the length of the Queen Charlotte Islands stretches right across the province to the Alberta border. The area to the north of this band is expected to receive above normal levels. While the southern area of the province below the normal band is expected to receive below normal levels of precipitation.

Temperature: The above normal temperature area covers a vast majority of the province and covers from Vancouver Island to central Interior and then arching north to wards Jasper National Park. There is a small below normal temperature area in the far south east portion of the province.

---

## EMERGENCIES NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL

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

- Typhoons (Pacific Ocean equivalent to Atlantic Ocean Hurricanes)
  - Oct 20 – Japan – death toll from the typhoon Tokage has risen to 75 and 15 still reported as missing. More than 21,000 homes were damaged as result of the high winds associated with this storm and landslides from the high rainfalls.
  - Oct 31 - Taiwan – typhoon Nock-ten lashed the northern regions resulting in major industry shutdown and at least 3 deaths. The deaths were attributed to resulting flash floods from the typhoon.
- Floods
  - Oct 23 – Panama – some 3,400 people were affected by the overflowing rivers in the capital area of Panama City. More than 650 homes reported flooding and damage. Many residents would not evacuate due to fears of looting in the area.
- Volcano
  - Oct 31 – Papua New Guinea – some 4000 Manam island residents were evacuated from their homes as eruption on Mt. Iabu started to spew lava and ash.
- Severe Weather
  - Oct – Colombia – at least 11 deaths and over 70,000 people have been affected by the severe weather reported through out the month of October in Colombia. According to authorities some 3,500 homes have significant damage

- Nov 1 – Uganda – severe rainstorm has inflicted significant damage through a refugee camp of 62,000 people leaving 3 injured and at least 20,000 homeless. Some four thousand hut roofs were blown off by the high winds associated with this rainstorm.
- 
- Earthquakes
  - Oct 19 – China – Yunnan province was hit by a 5.0 strength earthquake that as left 20,000 homes damaged and 12 reported serious injuries
  - Oct 23 – Japan – a 6.1 earthquake has resulted in at least 31 deaths and thousands left homeless and lacking essential services in the northern prefecture of Niigata. There was significant damage to homes and road structures. There have also been numerous after shocks felt through out the entire area.

---

### Highlighted Website of the Month

This month we wish to highlight the web site of the North Shore Emergency Management Office (NSEMO). The NESMO group works as a cooperative link for the 3 local authorities of the City of North Vancouver, the District of North Vancouver and District of West Vancouver and their ESS volunteer teams.

Enjoy your visit to the following internet link site:

<http://www.nsemo.org>

*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](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
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	

<b>Date</b>	<b># of Persons Assisted</b>	<b>Event</b>
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	
March 2004 revised	81	33 separate house fires
	180	2 separate apartment fires
	261	
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>2,153</b>	<b>271 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
Oct 2	House Fire	1	Vancouver
Oct 3	House Fire	7	Abbotsford
Oct 3	House Fire	1	Abbotsford
Oct 4	House Fire	1	Fort St John
Oct 5	House Fire	1	Victoria
Oct 6	House Fire	1	Prince George
Oct 8	House Fire	2	Vancouver
Oct 8	House Fire	7	Cawston
Oct 8	House Fire	4	Chilliwack
Oct 8	Apartment Evacuation	10	Burnaby
Oct 9	House Fire	1	Langford
Oct 12	House Fire	3	Kelowna
Oct 14	House Fire	1	Saanich
Oct 15	House Fire	1	Westbank
Oct 16	House Fire	3	Chilliwack
Oct 16	House Fire	3	Coquitlam
Oct 18	Apartment Fire	31	Merritt
Oct 27	Apartment Fire	24	Vancouver
Oct 27	House Fire	2	Terrace
Oct 29	House Fire	2	Kelowna
Oct 29	House Fire	3	Kamloops
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>109</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).**