



ESS WATCH



October
2004

LONG RANGE PROVINCIAL FORECAST

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

Precipitation: The forecast indicates normal level of precipitation for the North West portion of the province with the remainder of BC expected to receive above normal precipitation for the next three months.

Temperature: The entire province is forecast to continue to receive higher than normal temperatures for this period of the forecast.

EMERGENCIES NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL

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

- Hurricanes
 - September – Since there was such an active season during the past month we are reporting the significant events in a slightly different format.
 - Hurricane Frances
 - Bahamas – numerous people were evacuated from their homes to escape the hurricane that passed onto the island in early September.
 - Florida – millions of people were left without power for long periods of time. High winds and high rainfall have both had devastating effects on numerous counties in the state.
 - Hurricane Ivan
 - Grenada – the hurricane resulted in significant damage. Recovery is underway but reports stated that 1440 homes were destroyed and 1398 homes were damaged in this storm.
 - Florida – previous evacuations have limited the people dead and injury reports but the destruction and damage to property was again significant in a number of counties.
 - Hurricane Jeanne (and Tropical Storm status also)
 - Haiti – estimated 280,000 people affected by the storm when it passed through in September. Hardest hit was the city of Gonaives where recovery and restoration efforts are still ongoing. So far 1514 reported dead and 952 missing persons. State of emergency declared on September 21.
 - Bahamas – when storm was classed as hurricane it passed over Bahamas in which 2500 people were evacuated from homes. Thankfully no deaths or injuries reported. Second hurricane in the month of September.

- Florida – high winds heavy rain again left many evacuated residents in the cold and dark yet again this month. Significant resources are in play to assist in the response operations in this state.
- Floods
 - China – Southwest province of Sichuan – heavy week long rains have resulted in hundreds of thousands of homes sustaining damage and 196 confirmed deaths and 67 missing. There is an estimated 11 million people affected by this huge storm. Majority of deaths have been the result of flash floods and landslides in mountain valleys.
 - Panama – again torrential rains have wreaked havoc in areas of Panama City. Reports of 11 deaths and 9 missing thus far. There is an estimated 11650 people affected by the disaster and 281 totally damaged homes and 1405 other homes sustained damage.
 - Thailand – flash floods had left at least 2 dead and thousands stranded when more than a dozen villages were affected by flooding.
- Severe Weather
 - South Carolina – at least 10 tornado touchdowns have been reported. There was no significant infrastructure damage but there has been a report of one storm related death.
- Earthquakes
 - Bali – an unknown severity earthquake rocked this island and resulted in at least one death and two injuries.
 - China – a 5.0 earthquake in Gansu province of northwest China left 600 homes destroyed and more than 3800 homes damaged. The disaster has affected an estimated 100,000 people.

Highlighted Website of the Month

This month we would like to direct readers to one of our ESS Support Organizations websites. The Canadian Disaster Child Care (CDCC) *”is a network of individuals who prepare and commit themselves to reach out and comfort young children in disaster situations”*. On this site you will see the information on the activities and scheduled training workshops that are being provided by the CDCC organization.

Enjoy your visit to the following internet link site:

http://members.shaw.ca/disasterchildcare/future_workshops.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
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	
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	
Total – 2004	2,044	250 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
Sept 2	Apartment Fire	35	Vancouver
Sept 4	House Fire	3	Kamloops
Sept 7	Gas Leak	100	Fruitvale
Sept 8	House Fire	3	Chilliwack
Sept 8	House Fire	1	Chilliwack
Sept 11	House Fire	9	Mackenzie
Sept 12	House Fire	1	Port Alberni
Sept 13	House Fire	2	Prince George
Sept 16	House Fire	4	Abbotsford
Sept 17	House Fire	2	Abbotsford
Sept 20	House Fire	2	Port McNeill
Sept 23	House Fire	1	Chilliwack
Sept 25	House Fire	1	Burns Lake
Sept 26	House Fire	3	Castlegar
Sept 28	Gas Leak	300	Victoria
Sept 29	House Fire	2	Fort Nelson
TOTAL		469	

**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.**