



ESS WATCH



August
2004

LONG RANGE PROVINCIAL FORECAST

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

Precipitation: The forecast map indicated an above normal level of precipitation for a majority of the North West portion of the province extending to about half way down just above the latitude of the northern tip of Vancouver Island. The eastern corners (north and south) both are shown to anticipate lower than average precipitation.

Temperature: The forecast is clearly still for above normal temperatures for the entire country. The entire province is anticipated 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:

- Floods
 - July 13 – Bangladesh – Monsoon season has resulted in wide spread flooding in many areas of India with Bangladesh being the hardest hit. At last report there are 535 deaths attributed to the flooding. Now additional concerns around disease and water borne illnesses are making recovery efforts very difficult. There are an estimated 42 million people left homeless or displaced from their homes.
 - July 14 – Tajikistan – so far most reports are indicating damage and no reports of casualties or injuries have been listed. Large areas of road infrastructure are reported hampered or completely impassable.
 - July 18 – Japan – Flooding and landslides have resulted in at least 18 dead and more listed as missing. The flooding has occurred in the northern coastal areas of the country.
 - July 23 – New Zealand – floods combined with numerous quakes (largest reported at 5.4 on the Richter scale) has left at least 1,500 displaced and 2 deaths.
 - July 27 – Vietnam – flash flooding from torrential rainfall in the province of Ha Giang has left a death toll of 36 to date with at least 17 others still listed as missing.

- Man made Disaster (Explosion)
 - August. 01 – Paraguay – a gas explosion and subsequent fire has resulted in at least 305 deaths and 298 wounded thus far. There are also a significant number of missing people reported and rescue operations are still ongoing.

- Severe Weather
 - July 09 – Japan – a severe heat wave has been blamed for at least 4 deaths in the central region of the country.

- Forest Fire
 - July – British Columbia – there are numerous fires in the province and the largest with any impact on populated areas is the Lonesome Lake fire. There are approximately 60 people ordered evacuated and approximately 1,500 others under an evacuation alert. Weather is still a major factor in the fight against this blaze. Last reported to cover approximately 19,000 hectares of forests.
 - July – Portugal – amidst a heat wave the country is battling 10 major forest fires. This is very reminiscent of last year’s devastation but thankfully to date there has been no reports of fatalities.
 - July – Washington State, USA – three large wildfires around Lake Chelan has consumed 38,000 acres of forest to date.

Highlighted Website of the Month

We are pleased to announce the introduction of the revised Emergency Social Services ESS website of the ESS Program Office. The new look of the website is clean and fresh but all the valuable information that was there before is there again and updated to meet BCERMS standards. Please feel free to browse the many pages of the site and let us know of any omissions or corrections that you find necessary. Also visit often as any changes to the Reception Centre Operational Guidelines for example will be announced and published here. Enjoy your visit to either of the following internet link sites:

<http://www.ess.bc.ca> or <http://www.mhr.gov.bc.ca/ess/>

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 Program Office News

A special announcement!

The Reception Centre Operational Guidelines manual sections are now available as MS Word documents. There is a zipped file (to reduce size of the downloaded file) posted on our website at www.mhr.gov.bc.ca/ess/receptions_oper.htm. This copy will be readily updated and kept current as any revisions or modifications are made to the manual. For those readers without internet access to obtain the manual then we have produced a finite supply of CDs with the manual in MS Word format. To get a hold of a CD please contact our office at 1-800-585-9559 and let us send one to you.

ESS ACTIVITY

Date	# of Persons Assisted	Event
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
	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	1,443	209 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
July 3	House Fire	3	Vernon
July 4	Armed Standoff	1	New Westminster
July 6	House Fire	2	Prince George
July 7	Apartment Fire	20	Oak Bay
July 12	Hydrate Fire Fighters	20	New Westminster
July 14	House Fire	6	Vancouver
July 15	House Fire	3	Victoria
July 17	House Fire	3	Langley
July 18	House Fire	2	Coquitlam
July 20	House Fire	2	Kelowna
July 26	Forest Fire	60	Charlotte Lake
July 26	House Fire	6	Surrey
July 29	Forest Fire	74	Anahim/Nimpo Lakes
July 29	House Fire	1	Nelson
July 31	House Fire	4	Vancouver
TOTAL		207	

**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.**