



ESS WATCH



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Emergency Social Services Office Monthly Bulletin

LONG RANGE PROVINCIAL FORECAST

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

Precipitation:

The prediction map shows that the approximately 85% of the province is expected to receive above normal levels of precipitation. Vancouver Island and a southern sliver of the province are expected to receive normal levels.

Temperature:

The entire province is again shown to be expecting above normal temperatures for the reporting period.

EMERGENCIES NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL

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

- Earthquake
 - October 10 – Pakistan – a magnitude 7.7 quake has affected an area bordering Pakistan, India and Afghanistan. There are estimates of 58,000 deaths in the affected regions. Estimates of over 4 million people being affected by the earthquake from all regions with the greatest impact reported in Pakistan. World relief efforts are active but having challenges in reaching much of the remote population areas.

- Flood
 - October 7 – China – the bank of the Hanjiang and Weiha rivers were strained by the constant heavy rainfall and has resulted in 286,000 people having to flee their homes. The regions within the swollen Yangtze and Yellow Rivers have seen 3 million people affected by flooding.
 - October 10 – Bangladesh – heavy rains and resulting flooding has resulted in 19 deaths and an estimated 10,000 mud and straw dwellings damaged.
 - October 18 – Indonesia – flash floods and landslides have left 20 dead in the already devastated region of Aceh province. There were also 250 injuries and 3,000 people left homeless.
 - October 27 – Vietnam – the central region has been affected by flooding. Over 6,700 homes have been affected by the flooding and there are reports of 67 deaths.

 - Hurricane
 - October 7 – Central America – the areas of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua were all affected by the heavy rains brought by hurricane Stan. An estimated 170,000 people had been affected by the severe weather related flooding and landslides.
 - October 25 – Florida – Hurricane Wilma made landfall as a category 3 storm. The devastation was significant through out the entire path through Florida. More than 6 million people lost power and many areas reported significant damages to building and homes. No reports of death or injury were available at this time.
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ESS Office Update

The hiring of the new Regional ESS/Recovery Coordinator positions for Surrey and Prince George regional office has been completed. We wish to welcome **Clare Fletcher** to the Surrey office and **Michael Higgins** to the Prince George office. Clare will start her new position in early January 2006 and Michael will arrive and report to work on November 7, 2005.

The position for the Kamloops office has been re-posted on the government Postings website and announcements of the successful applicant will be made at a later date when completed.

As many of the readers may have already discovered we are having some challenges with our toll free phone line's voicemail. The challenge is that we do not have any service yet. This service has been delayed by the work disruption at Telus and is something that we are attempting to address as quickly as we can and we apologize for any inconvenience that this presents to you.

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF ESS ACTIVITY

Date	# of Persons Assisted	Event
October 2005	60	21 separate house fires
	30	
September 2005	11	1 apartment fire
	6	1 stranded travellers
	107	1 house destroyed by vehicle
	72	20 separate house fires
August 2005	2	1 landslide
	20	1 police evacuation
	60	1 toxic fumes
	2,000	1 dangerous goods
	2,154	
July 2005	40	15 separate house fires
	567	2 forest fires
	40	1 gas leak
	77	1 apartment fire
	34	1 police evacuation
June 2005	758	
	54	20 separate house fires
	Unknown	1 flood
	Unknown	1 gas leak
May 2005 (revised)	54	
	123	28 separate house fires
	12	1 bus crash
	Unknown	1 police evacuation
	50	1 dangerous goods
April 2005	185	
	70	20 separate house fires
	8	1 flooded home (broken pipes)
March 2005	78	
	79	19 separate house fires
	53	2 police evacuation
	5	1 house destroyed by vehicle
February 2005	137	
	65	19 separate house fires
	33	3 apartment fires
	1	1 flood
January 2005	99	
	90	17 separate house fires
	50	1 apartment fire
	7	3 floods
	2	1 collapsed roof
Total – 2005	149	
	247	31 separate house fires
	405	3 landslides
	282	7 flood
	934	
	4,655	250 separate incidents

DETAILED ESS INCIDENTS FROM THE PAST MONTH

The following information is intended as a “snapshot” of recent ESS activity:

2005	Incident	# of people assisted	Community
Oct 1	House Fire	5	Mission
Oct 1	House Fire	7	Vancouver
Oct 4	House Fire	3	Creston
Oct 4	House Fire	1	Creston
Oct 4	House Fire	2	Campbell River
Oct 5	House Fire	2	Langley
Oct 6	House Fire	6	Vernon
Oct 6	House Fire	1	Kelowna
Oct 10	House Fire	5	Prince George
Oct 10	House Fire	1	Prince George
Oct 11	House Fire	4	Williams Lake
Oct 13	House Destroyed by Vehicle	6	Coquitlam
Oct 14	House Fire	2	Kelowna
Oct 16	House Fire	4	Prince George
Oct 18	House Fire	2	Vernon
Oct 19	House Fire	2	Kitimat
Oct 22	House Fire	4	Abbotsford
Oct 24	House Fire	5	Lake Cowichan
Oct 24	Apartment Fire	30	Port Coquitlam
Oct 25	Stranded Travellers	11	Chetwynd
Oct 28	House Fire	1	Kelowna
Oct 28	House Fire	2	Courtenay
Oct 28	House Fire	0	Vancouver
Oct 30	House Fire	1	Chilliwack
TOTAL		107	

Your feedback is important to us at the ESS Office. Please send your comments, questions or tips to:
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