



ESS WATCH



Issue #66

October 2005

Emergency Social Services Office Monthly Bulletin

LONG RANGE PROVINCIAL FORECAST

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

Precipitation:

The prediction map shows that the lower half of the province in line with the northern tip of Vancouver Island can expect above average levels. The rest of the province should see normal levels of precipitation.

Temperature:

The entire province (the entire country actually) is 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
 - September 28 – Peru – a 7.0 magnitude earthquake has reportedly resulted in five deaths, 67 injuries and 1,103 families affected. Post disaster assessments indicated 486 damaged homes and 617 homes totally destroyed.
- Flood
 - September 14 – Myanmar – monsoon rains and the resulting flooding have hit this region. To date the reports state that 27 people have died and the number of affected is still ongoing and unavailable.
 - September 30 – Fiji – sudden flood waters have killed at least one person and affected thousands as they were forced from their low lying homes to spend the night in evacuation centres.

- Hurricane
 - September 29 – 5 Southern States – Hurricanes Katrina and Rita have battered many areas in the southern states. Situation reports have 348 shelters still open providing for 47,000 evacuees in Louisiana, 21 Disaster Recovery Centres (having already processed 37,000 residents since Katrina), electrical power was restored to 700,000 customers since Rita and an additional 500,000 customers still without power primarily due to Rita. Over 37,000 National Guardsman and 14,244 active military personnel are being used in operations in Louisiana, 20 medical assistance centres have treated more than 34,000 people, veterinarian groups have treated more than 7,000 pets. Disaster debris removed to date has topped 1 million cubic yards with an estimated 15 million more cubic yards of disaster debris to go, to date more than 6,500 temporary tarpaulin roofs have been installed in five parishes impacted by Katrina.

- Landslide
 - September 28 – Nepal – the western region has experienced significant landslides and the country is still trying to access rural regions. At this point the death toll stands at 51 and is expected to rise as more investigation and support moves into remote areas.

- Typhoon
 - September 6 – Japan – Typhoon Nabi, a category 3 storm, forced over 100,000 people to flee their homes in southern Japan. This typhoon has also impacted parts of North Korea and reportedly left one person dead, 40 injured and 17 missing.
 - September 12 – China – Typhoon Khanum being the 15th storm to batter China has resulted in 1.35 million people evacuated, 14 people dead and nine others injured.
 - September 26 – Vietnam – Typhoon Damrey has impacted this country with winds in excess of 133 kph. Situation report as of October 2 states: 59 dead, 16 missing and 28 injured persons. Infrastructure has 113,523 homes submerged, 4,746 homes collapsed/swept away and 6,426 communication poles broken.

ESS Office Update

1. Attached to this ESS Watch is a copy of the announcement that was sent to all Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance (MEIA) offices and employees. The purpose of the announcement was for clarification for both MEIA staff and local ESS Directors in terms of ESS forms that were stockpiled throughout the province.
2. The ESS Office staff have new contact numbers.

Jeff Cornell, Manager (250) 952-5819	Cheryl Venn (250) 952-5834 or 1-800-585-9559
Maggie Grant (250) 952- 5821	Christine Ritson (250) 952-5832 or 1-800-585-9559
David Tomaz (250) 952-5820	Karinne Jordan (250) 952- 5818

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3. The hiring for the new Regional ESS/Recovery Coordinator positions is still in process and announcements will be made at a later date when completed.

We will continue to post the most current information available regarding the transfer of ESS to PEP on the web site (www.ess.bc.ca), so please check it periodically for updates.

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF ESS ACTIVITY

Date	# of Persons Assisted	Event
September 2005	72	20 separate house fires
	2	1 landslide
August 2005	20	1 police evacuation
	60	1 toxic fumes
	2,000	1 dangerous goods
	2,154	
	40	15 separate house fires
July 2005	567	2 forest fires
	40	1 gas leak
	77	1 apartment fire
	34	1 police evacuation
	758	
June 2005	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
	99	
January 2005	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		226 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
Sept 1	House Fire	1	Vancouver
Sept 2	House Fire	9	Dawson Creek
Sept 2	House Fire	0	Kamloops
Sept 5	House Fire	6	Kelowna
Sept 6	House Fire	1	Nanoose Bay
Sept 10	House Fire	1	Squamish
Sept 10	Landslide	2	Lillooet
Sept 11	House Fire	2	Kitimat
Sept 12	House Fire	2	Nanaimo
Sept 13	Police Evacuation	20	Richmond
Sept 18	Toxic Fumes	60	Chilliwack
Sept 19	House Fire	2	Kamloops
Sept 20	House Fire	1	Cranbrook
Sept 20	House Fire	5	Fort St John
Sept 21	House Fire	3	Williams Lake
Sept 23	House Fire	0	Richmond
Sept 24	House Fire	2	Vancouver
Sept 25	House Fire	1	Williams Lake
Sept 27	Dangerous Goods	2,000	Abbotsford
Sept 27	House Fire	27	Vancouver
Sept 28	House Fire	1	Nanaimo
Sept 29	House Fire	4	Courtenay
Sept 30	House Fire	2	Peachland
Sept 30	House Fire	2	Chilliwack
TOTAL		2,154	

This publication is also available on the ESS website at <http://www.mhr.gov.bc.ca/ess/watch.htm>

Your feedback is **important** to us at the ESS Office. Please send your comments, questions or tips to:
David Tomaz, Provincial ESS Coordinator, at 1-800-585-9559, by fax at 250-952-4888
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