

LONG RANGE PROVINCIAL FORECAST

The Environment Canada forecasts for February, March and April are:

Precipitation: The prediction map has divided the province into 3 definite bands of precipitation. Appears to dry up in the southern half of the province with below normal levels of precipitation. The northern portion is looking at above normal and there is a band of normal levels shown directly across the centre of the province in line with the Queen Charlotte Islands.

Temperature: The entire province should experience above normal temperatures. The map actually indicates that the entire country with the exception of the Maritime Provinces is likely to experience the same temperature levels.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCIES

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

- Severe Weather
 - Jan 19 – British Columbia – heavy rain and storm activity from the Pacific Ocean resulted in a number of events through out the province. The Lower Mainland saw landslides in 3 communities resulting in evacuations and even one death. The Central interior had a number of flooding events also precipitated by this same weather frontal system. The Northeast portion saw a period of ice rain followed by rapid thaw that resulted in many road closures and then flooding events in a number of communities. Over 780 people were registered at 6 separate ESS Reception Centres.
 - Jan 23 – Swaziland – high wind followed by heavy rain has created significant damage to at least 130 residents. There were also reports of destroyed schools in the most affected areas of Manzini and Shiselweni.
- Man Made Incidents
 - Jan 31 – Pennsylvania – train derailment. A train carrying corrosive materials derailed resulting in at least 200 people being evacuated from their homes. No reports have been received of any injuries or the actual extent of the damage as chemicals were spilled into a local river.

- Floods
 - Jan 11 – Costa Rica – rains that initially started on Jan 7 and has been measured to be as much as 344.5 mm which exceeds the normal average for this time of year. The floods have caused more than 6,000 people to be evacuated and the death of 4 others.
 - Jan 25 – Guyana – heavy rain has caused significant flooding in the major population areas of this country. The flooding has affected almost 300,000 people (40 % of the entire population) and there was continuing concern as the rain continues to be forecast for this area.
- Earthquakes
 - Jan 23 – Indonesia – Sulawesi – there was a 6.1 magnitude quake measured in the area. The quake was located on land. This quake did not result in a tsunami but this did not alleviate the understandable fears of residents. There are reports of one death and significant building damage in Palu.

HIGHLIGHTED WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

This month we wish to direct readers to visit The District of Campbell River website. Along with a description of their community emergency programs there is a link to the next big ESS event on Vancouver Island. Campbell River has agreed to host the next

**Vancouver Island Emergency Preparedness Conference
for
Frontline Volunteers and Staff**

Enjoy your visit to the following internet link site:

http://www.dcr.ca/community_resources/emergency_services/

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.

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF ESS ACTIVITY

Date	# of Persons Assisted	Event
January 2005	247	31 separate house fires
	405	3 landslides
	282	7 flooding
Total – 2005	934	41 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
Jan 1	House Fire	1	Vancouver
Jan 2	House Fire	5	Langley
Jan 3	House Fire	3	Vernon
Jan 3	House Fire	2	Abbotsford
Jan 4	House Fire	3	Comox
Jan 5	House Fire	3	Cranbrook
Jan 7	House Fire	100	Kelowna
Jan 7	House Fire	3	Hope
Jan 7	House Fire	2	Smithers
Jan 8	House Fire	2	Nanaimo
Jan 9	House Fire	9	Langley
Jan 10	House Fire	5	Langley
Jan 10	House Fire	1	Nakusp
Jan 10	House Fire	4	Surrey
Jan 11	Landslide	7	Kelowna
Jan 11	House Fire	2	Penticton
Jan 11	House Fire	1	Squamish District
Jan 13	House Fire	4	Surrey
Jan 15	House Fire	4	MacKenzie
Jan 16	House Fire	7	Mission
Jan 17	House Fire	1	Gabriola Island
Jan 17	House Fire	7	White Rock
Jan 19	Landslide	390	North Vancouver
Jan 19	House Fire	11	Burnaby
Jan 20	Landslide	8	Delta/Tsawwassen
Jan 20	House Fire	1	Saanich
Jan 20	House Fire	1	Bowen Island
Jan 21	Flooding	84	Hixon
Jan 21	Flooding	72	Clearwater
Jan 21	Flooding	41	Keremeos
Jan 21	Flooding	73	Merritt
Jan 21	Flooding	10	Horsefly/McLeese

2005	Incident	# of people assisted	Community
Jan 21	House Fire	1	Okanagan Falls
Jan 21	House Fire	1	Fort St. John
Jan 22	House Fire	2	Vancouver
Jan 27	Flooding	1	Willow River
Jan 27	Flooding	1	North Nechako
Jan 27	House Fire	6	Surrey
Jan 28	House Fire	2	Surrey
Jan 28	House Fire	50	Vancouver
Jan 30	House Fire	3	Abbotsford
TOTAL		934	

**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 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.