

LONG RANGE PROVINCIAL FORECAST

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

Precipitation:

The probability maps show nearly the entire province as below normal levels of precipitation. The only area showing normal is the northwest portion adjacent to the Alaskan Pan Handle.

Temperature:

The map for temperature is again showing the province nearly entirely covered with anticipated above normal temperature ranges for the period noted above. The only area in the normal range appears to be east of the Central Okanagan region to the Alberta border.

EMERGENCIES NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL

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

- Severe Weather
 - February – Islamabad – the harshest winter in memory has resulted in many hardships for the countries of Afghanistan and Pakistan (see Kashmir note in Avalanches). The past month and half has seen at an estimated 778 deaths as result of the harsh weather. People have been isolated for long periods that have allowed disease and starvation to cause death in the townships.
 - February 28 – Cook Islands – Cyclone Percy (with sustained winds of 230 km/hour = Force 5 storm) has devastated the entire populations' residences. On the islands of Pukapuka and Nassau there has been almost complete destruction of all the homes (10 remain) of the 600 people that reside there.

- Floods
 - February 17 – Venezuela, Colombia and Guyana – nearly 110,000 people have been displaced by the flooding and landslide events that have been happening in these three neighbouring countries. There is an estimated 250,000 people directly affected by these natural disasters. There are reportedly 50 confirmed fatalities.
 - February 19 – California – this event actually could be reported in 3 separate categories as the severe weather that produced the flooding has also resulted in a number of landslides. The weather has left many homes either damaged or under severe risk and has been accounted for at least 10 deaths in southern California. The areas of the devastating 2003 fires are the most at risk of flash flooding and landslide activities. No estimates provided on the number of people impacted by evacuations in the numerous counties.
 - Volcano
 - Jan 28 – Papua New Guinea – the volcano on the island of Manam that resulted in evacuations in October 2004 has again erupted. Of the 9,600 inhabitants of the island there has been one death and the remaining 2,000 (those that had not left in October) have since been removed from the area. This is a definite example of a long term response to the needs of displaced residents in emergency care centres.
 - Avalanche
 - February 19 – Kashmir – significant snowfall and the resulting avalanches have lead to at least 252 deaths in the country. Stranded people in little hamlets of the mountainous regions have been hardest hit.
 - Earthquakes
 - February 22 – Iran – a 6.4 magnitude quake has resulted in an estimated 602 deaths and at least 990 injured. The quake area has affected at least 40 villages and impacting an estimated 30,000 to 40,000 people.
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HIGHLIGHTED WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

This month we are happy to direct readers to another active ESS community website. The Maple Ridge area, which includes Pitt Meadows, has been very active and busy. Please take a look and see how their program operates in the community.

Enjoy your visit to the following internet link site:

http://www.mapleridge.org/emergency/municipal_emergency.html

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
February 2005	90	17 separate house fires
	6	2 flooding
	1	1 apartment flooding
	2	1 collapsed roof
	99	
January 2005	247	31 separate house fires
	405	3 landslides
	282	7 flooding
	934	
Total – 2005	1033	62 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
Feb 2	Roof Collapsed	2	Smithers
Feb 2	House Fire	5	Langley
Feb 3	House Fire	1	View Royal
Feb 4	Flooding	4	Duncan
Feb 5	House Fire	3	Pemberton
Feb 7	House Fire	2	Nanaimo
Feb 8	House Fire	5	Kelowna
Feb 9	House Fire	6	Prince Rupert
Feb 12	House Fire	1	Port Alberni
Feb 13	House Fire	30	Mission
Feb 14	Flooding	2	Houston

2005	Incident	# of people assisted	Community
Feb 14	House Fire	2	Prince George
Feb 19	Apartment Flooding	1	Coquitlam
Feb 19	House Fire	4	Burnaby
Feb 20	House Fire	4	Prince George
Feb 21	House Fire	5	Prince Rupert
Feb 24	House Fire	4	Vancouver
Feb 24	House Fire	4	North Vancouver
Feb 24	House Fire	4	White Rock
Feb 25	House Fire	3	Castlegar
Feb 25	House Fire	7	Whistler District
TOTAL		99	

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
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