



ESS WATCH



Issue #76

August 2006

PEP - Emergency Social Services Office Monthly Bulletin

Announcement about a change to the ESS Watch

Do you enjoy reading the monthly ESS Watch bulletin from the PEP ESS Office?

This publication has been in circulation now since April 2000 when the first edition was created by Dave Scott. Each month our office produces and mails out over 300 copies of this publication to community ESS Directors, Emergency Program Coordinators and other ESS stakeholders. With the return of the ESS website and the increased use of websites for communicating with large numbers of people we have decided to convert the monthly mailing of the ESS Watch into a website only document.

The final printed and mailed out version of the ESS Watch bulletin will be Issue #76, the August 2006 edition.

Your questions, concerns and feedback are greatly desired about this publication and our decision to make this a solely electronic publication. Please contact David Tomaz by email, phone or fax through the attached contact information.

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LONG RANGE PROVINCIAL FORECAST

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

Precipitation: Appears that the all regions except for the Stikine Regional District will see below normal levels for the next three months.

Temperature: The only area to likely see normal temperatures will be the Kootenay regions. All other areas of the province can expect above normal temperatures.

EMERGENCIES NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL

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

- Volcanoes
 - July 10 – Papua New Guinea – Mount Karai and Mount Bamus started to expel vapour , ash and smoke that forced 700 hundred people from their villages.
- Earthquake/Tsunami
 - July 17 – Indonesia – a magnitude 7.7 earthquake off the coast of Java resulted in a 2 meter tsunami being generated and impacting the island. There were more than 550 deaths and thousands more displaced as a result of the tsunami impacting this low lying island.
 - July 29 – Tajikistan – there was a 4.5 magnitude quake in the Qumsangir District that has directly affected approximately 8,900 people. The damage reports thus far are 539 homes fully destroyed and 582 homes partially destroyed.
- Floods
 - July 10 – China – a threatening typhoon that weakened to a tropical storm still resulted in extensive flooding and landslides. Reports only indicate more than 30 deaths and no reports of affected numbers of people.
 - July 23 – Mauritania – heavy storms and resulting flooding has resulted in 7 deaths and at least 19 injuries. No reports on actual damages were available.
 - July 24 – Republic of Korea – torrential rainfall has resulted in flooding that has impacted 4,630 people. Of which 2,182 people are being housed in temporary shelters. There are reportedly 25 deaths and 22 missing persons as result of the flooding.
 - July 28 – Texas – rainfall surpassing a normal annual level fell in 4 days leading to flooding and evacuations in the area of El Paso. At one point more than one thousand people were in shelters.
 - July 29 – Pakistan – while many people are still recovering from the devastating earthquake of 2005 the monsoon season has resulted in at least 70 flood related deaths throughout the country. The flooding has also resulted in landslides that are impacting transportation infrastructure and access for relief agencies.

HIGHLIGHTED WEBSITE

We are pleased to once again announce the reintroduction of the Emergency Social Services (ESS) website from the PEP ESS Office. The new website is cleaned up and refreshed without losing any of the valuable information that was there before. Please feel free to browse the many pages of the site and let us know of any omissions or corrections that you may find necessary. Visit often as any changes to the Reception Centre Operational Guidelines (hint hint) for example will be announced and published here.

Enjoy your visit to:

<http://www.ess.bc.ca/index.htm>

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF ESS ACTIVITY

Date	# of Persons Assisted	Event
July 2006	81	20 separate house fires
	500	2 apartment fires
July 2006	3,679	5 forest fires
	27	1 severe storm
	2	1 police evacuation
	100	1 apartment evacuation
	4,389	
June 2006	85	23 separate house fires
	186	7 apartment fires
	20	1 forest fire
	unknown	1 hydrate fire fighters
	291	
May 2006	69	20 separate house fires
	144	6 apartment fires
	to be determined	1 flood
	14	2 police evacuations
	45	1 broken water main
	8	1 severe storm
	280	
April 2006	69	22 separate house fires
	15	1 apartment fire
	11	1 hotel fire
	20	1 police incident
	115	
March 2006	64	24 separate house fires
	63	2 apartment fires
	1	1 flood
	99	1 ferry sinking
	227	
February 2006	92	27 separate house fires
	12	2 floods
	4	1 dangerous goods
	40	1 apartment fire
	63	1 bus fire
	211	
January 2006	88	32 separate house fires
	3	1 apartment fire
	5	2 mudslides
	2	1 police incident
	98	
Total – 2006	5,611	214 separate incidents

DETAILED ESS INCIDENTS FROM THE PAST MONTH

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

2006	Incident	# of people assisted	Community
July 1	Forest Fire	3,500	Tumbler Ridge
July 2	Forest Fire	1	Anahiem Lake
July 3	House Fire	3	Abbotsford
July 4	House Fire	1	Vancouver
July 5	House Fire	7	Vancouver
July 6	House Fire	2	Westbank
July 6	Severe Storm	27	Penticton
July 7	House Fire	6	Kelowna
July 12	House Fire	10	Vancouver
July 14	House Fire	2	Creston
July 14	Police Evacuation	2	Prince George
July 17	House Fire	2	Surrey
July 17	Apartment Evacuation	100	Esquimalt
July 20	Apartment Fire	300	Coquitlam
July 21	Forest Fire	60	Alexis Creek
July 23	Forest Fire	117	Galiano Island
July 24	House Fire	4	Prince George
July 24	House Fire	1	New Westminster
July 24	House Fire	3	Vernon
July 24	Forest Fire	1	Puntzi
July 25	House Fire	3	Williams Lake
July 25	House Fire	9	Chilliwack
July 25	Apartment Fire	200	Richmond
July 27	House Fire	3	Port Alberni
July 28	House Fire	6	Kelowna
July 28	House Fire	1	Courtenay
July 29	House Fire	4	Vancouver
July 29	House Fire	5	Penticton
July 31	House Fire	1	Kelowna
July 31	House Fire	8	Delta
	TOTAL	4,389	

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 250-952-5831
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