



ESS WATCH



Issue #69

January 2006

Emergency Social Services Office Monthly Bulletin

LONG RANGE PROVINCIAL FORECAST

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

Precipitation:

Approximately 75% of the province (starting north of the tip of Vancouver Island) is predicted to receive above normal levels of precipitation for this period. The remaining portion is estimating normal levels.

Temperature:

The entire province (virtually the entire country) is predicted to experience above normal levels of temperature.

EMERGENCIES NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL

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

- Wildfires
 - December 27 – Texas & Oklahoma – huge wildfires have destroyed at least 200 homes and caused 4 deaths to date in many counties of both these states. There is progress being made on the fires but the continuation of dry windy weather is creating hardships for response personnel.
- Earthquake
 - December 5 – Kalemie – a strong earthquake measuring 6.8 on the Richter scale was recorded. The reports state that about 9 homes were destroyed and 16 others were significantly damaged by the quake with the reported death of one child and injuries to a number of other people in the districts.
 - December 13 – Afghanistan – an earthquake measuring 6.7 on the Richter scale was reported in the north eastern region. No reports of injuries or impacts to the population have been released yet.
- Landslide
 - December 28 – Yemen – death toll has reached 52 while searches continue as a large section of a mountainside has fallen onto a section of Daphir village destroying approximately 50 homes.
- Flood
 - December 9 – Bosnia and Herzegovina – the heavy rains and resulting flooding has impacted 3,100 individuals in a number of municipalities.
 - December 17 – Philippine – flooding resulting from severe rains have left nine deaths and 209,866 people affected. There were at least 37 evacuation centres opened to receive the fleeing populations.

- Volcano
 - November 27 – Vanuatu – Mt Ambae erupted and caused the evacuation of thousands of the people from the estimated population of 10,000 people on the island of Ambae. There are 17 emergency evacuation centres opened to provide housing for anywhere from 10 to 800 people in each one.

ESS Office Update

1. Reminder! We have upgraded our loaner ESS table top display units. So our previously available loaner units are now going to be raffled off to any ESS teams that wish to be entered into a draw for them. The entry deadline is January 13, 2006 and we will draw the winners on January 18, 2006. Winners will be contacted directly and announcements made in subsequent editions of the ESS Watch.
 2. The next ESS Office Update Letter will be mailed out soon with loads of new information that will be of interest for you in terms of the ESS program.
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2005 in Review

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF ESS ACTIVITY

Date	# of Persons Assisted	Event
December 2005	79	27 separate house fires
	46	2 separate apartment fires
	7	1 flood
	12	1 apartment evacuation
	30	1 gas leak
	174	
November 2005	59	22 separate house fires
	25	1 apartment fire
	3	1 gas leak
	67	1 police evacuation
	154	
October 2005	60	21 separate house fires
	30	1 apartment fire
	11	1 stranded travellers
	6	1 house destroyed by vehicle
	107	
September 2005	72	20 separate house fires
	2	1 landslide
	20	1 police evacuation
	60	1 toxic fumes
	2,000	1 dangerous goods
	2,154	

Date	# of Persons Assisted	Event
August 2005	40 567 40 77 34 758	15 separate house fires 2 forest fires 1 gas leak 1 apartment fire 1 police evacuation
July 2005	54 Unknown Unknown 54	20 separate house fires 1 flood 1 gas leak
June 2005	123 12 Unknown 50 185	28 separate house fires 1 bus crash 1 police evacuation 1 dangerous goods
May 2005 (revised)	70 8 78	20 separate house fires 1 flooded home (broken pipes)
April 2005	79 53 5 137	19 separate house fires 2 police evacuation 1 house destroyed by vehicle
March 2005	65 33 1 99	19 separate house fires 3 apartment fires 1 flood
February 2005	90 50 7 2 149	17 separate house fires 1 apartment fire 3 floods 1 collapsed roof
January 2005	247 405 282 934	31 separate house fires 3 landslides 7 flood
Total – 2005	4,983	308 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
Dec 1	Flood	7	Saanich
Dec 2	House Fire	1	Richmond
Dec 2	House Fire	3	Nanaimo
Dec 2	House Fire	6	Surrey
Dec 3	House Fire	6	Kelowna
Dec 4	House Fire	2	Surrey
Dec 4	House Fire	2	Saanich
Dec 4	House Fire	3	Chilliwack
Dec 5	House Fire	1	Burnaby
Dec 6	Apartment Evacuation	12	Vancouver
Dec 9	House Fire	3	Burnaby
Dec 12	House Fire	2	Lac La Hache
Dec 14	House Fire	0	Vancouver
Dec 15	House Fire	4	Langley
Dec 15	House Fire	1	Abbotsford
Dec 16	House Fire	5	Bowen Island
Dec 18	House Fire	3	Chase
Dec 19	House Fire	3	Chetwynd
Dec 19	House Fire	4	Merritt
Dec 20	House Fire	1	Terrace
Dec 20	House Fire	6	Saanich
Dec 21	House Fire	1	Prince George
Dec 22	House Fire	2	Ladysmith
Dec 23	House Fire	5	Vancouver
Dec 23	House Fire	1	Maple Ridge
Dec 23	Gas Leak	30	Fruitvale
Dec 24	House Fire	4	Burnaby
Dec 26-	Apartment Fire	30	Vancouver
Dec 28	Apartment Fire	16	Vancouver
Dec 29	House Fire	1	Port McNeill
Dec 29	House Fire	5	Nanaimo
Dec 31	House Fire	4	Prince George
TOTAL		174	

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
or e-mail at David.Tomaz@gov.bc.ca.