



ESS WATCH



Issue #71

March 2006

Emergency Social Services Office Monthly Bulletin

LONG RANGE PROVINCIAL FORECAST

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

Precipitation:

The north west coast up to the Yukon border is expecting below normal levels while the north east corner (approx. Peace River area) is expected to receive above normal levels. The rest of the province can expect normal levels for the period.

Temperature:

The forecast is for the entire province to expect to receive below normal temperatures for the 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:

- Landslides
 - February 22 – Philippines – large mass of soils and vegetation have buried a small village with an estimated population of 1,800. So far there has been very little success in rescue efforts and essentially the operation has become a casualty recovery effort at this time. In addition to the directly impacted people there are an estimated total of 2,900 people displaced by this calamity.
- Floods
 - February 17 – Papua New Guinea – heavy rainfall for two weeks has resulted in overflowing of rivers and flooding in the southern regions of the country. So far reports of the flooding have impacted 6,467 people in seven different villages or wards. The greatest impact thus far has been on drinking water sources since so many villages depend on wells that are now compromised due to the flooding actions of the rivers.
 - February 21 – Indonesia – torrential rainfall has resulted in the Rano Wangko River breaching the river shores and causing flash flooding in Manado City. So far reports indicate 33 deaths and a number of injuries of the 17,500 displaced people. The damage reports indicate 2,067 houses damaged by the flooding and landslides.

PEP - ESS OFFICE SECTION

Given some recent feedback from community volunteers and our Regional Staff members throughout the province, we thought that repeating a couple of items from the last ESS Office Update letter would be appropriate in case there are readers that did not receive the letter in February.

Level One ESS Support

Over the past few months Canadian Red Cross (CRC) staff has been in contact with those local authorities that have traditionally relied on CRC to manage Level One ESS response in their community to discuss their options for ongoing delivery of these services.

Some communities have identified new service providers, such as local ESS teams or other community organizations, to take responsibility for Level One ESS. In those communities where former PDA volunteers are not already part of the ESS team, we encourage ESSDs to connect with these experienced responders to determine if they are interested in continuing their emergency response work as part of the local ESS team.

During this transition, and until March 31, 2006, Canadian Red Cross regional staff will continue to be available to provide support to Level One ESS (or PDA) responders, as needed.

ESS Office staff also provides phone support 24/7 for any level of ESS response province-wide.

Guidelines for Highly Infectious Diseases

All ESS Directors should have received a copy of the Guidelines for Highly Infectious Diseases that was distributed with the January ESS Watch. Following some recent feedback, we would like to remind teams that these guidelines were developed at the request of those ESS teams who are considering a potential role in the event of a pandemic event or other infectious disease crisis.

The guidelines do not represent any expectation on the part of the ESS Office or PEP that ESS teams would necessarily take on these roles, but are meant to provide a basis for ESS Directors to make informed decisions when working with community emergency managers or health authorities involved in pandemic or infectious disease planning or response.

If there are any other issues or items that you would like to see posted here on the ESS Watch monthly bulletin please do not hesitate to drop us a note either directly to myself (David.Tomaz@gov.bc.ca) or our office (MHRESS@gov.bc.ca).

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF ESS ACTIVITY

Date	# of Persons Assisted	Event
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	309	68 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
Feb 1	House Fire	2	Barriere
Feb 4	Flooding	unknown	Delta
Feb 5	House Fire	7	Peachland
Feb 6	House Fire	1	Victoria
Feb 7	House Fire	3	Kelowna
Feb 8	House Fire	0	Mission
Feb 9	House Fire	4	Maple Ridge
Feb 9	Flooding	12	Cobble Hill
Feb 10	House Fire	3	Burnaby
Feb 11	House Fire	10	Vancouver
Feb 11	House Fire	3	Williams Lake
Feb 12	House Fire	3	Vernon
Feb 14	House Fire	1	Richmond
Feb 14	House Fire	6	Mission
Feb 14	House Fire	2	Burns Lake

2006	Incident	# of people assisted	Community
Feb 15	Dangerous Gases	4	Richmond
Feb 16	House Fire	2	Vernon
Feb 17	House Fire	2	Surrey
Feb 18	House Fire	2	Maple Ridge
Feb 18	House Fire	2	Keremeos
Feb 18	House Fire	2	Mount Currie
Feb 19	House Fire	2	Courtenay
Feb 22	House Fire	8	Victoria
Feb 23	Bus Fire	63	Fernie
Feb 24	House Fire	1	Chilliwack
Feb 24	House Fire	3	Port Alberni
Feb 24	House Fire	3	Courtenay
Feb 24	Apartment Fire	40	Burnaby
Feb 26	House Fire	10	North Vancouver
Feb 26	House Fire	2	Victoria
Feb 27	House Fire	7	Williams Lake
Feb 28	House Fire	1	Abbotsford
	TOTAL	211	

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.