



ESS WATCH



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PEP - Emergency Social Services Office Monthly Bulletin

LONG RANGE PROVINCIAL FORECAST

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

Precipitation:

The predictions are for approximately 90% of the province will see below normal precipitation levels while a small area in the northwest portion along the Alaskan Panhandle is expected to see above normal levels of precipitation.

Temperature:

The prediction map shows the entire eastern border of the province to receive above normal temperature levels while the remaining majority can expect normal levels of 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:

- Wildfires
 - April 7 – Texas – wildfires have impacted the Kerr and Uvalde counties of the state. There were 50 homes threatened by a 1,100 acre fire in Kerr County. Last month a fire in the Texas Panhandle killed 11 people and burned nearly 1 million acres.
 - May 1 – Florida – Lee County officials reported that arson resulted in 9 to 15 homes, numerous vehicles and outbuildings damaged along with 1,000 acres of land.
- Floods
 - April 4 – California – two levees that broke in the Merced area (just outside of San Francisco) had forced some 200 people to be evacuated from their homes and farms.
 - April 10 – Democratic Republic of the Congo – heavy torrential rains have flooded out approximately 700 families and resulted in 7 deaths throughout the region.

- April 22 – Indonesia – flash flooding which caused at least 400 people to evacuate has left 19 dead and 3 missing in the East Java area of the country. The damage reports indicate that 22 bridges, 10 sections of asphalt roadway and 112 houses have been impacted.
 - April 28 – Argentina – the rain season was been significantly heavier than normal resulting in flooding that has destroyed at least 150 homes and several bridges. It was estimated that 1500 people had to be evacuated. The majority have returned to their homes but approximately 250 people still remain in emergency shelters.
 - Tornadoes
 - April 3 – Tennessee – severe storms actually impacted 8 states in the Midwest region but Tennessee was hardest hit. At least 2300 homes are destroyed and there are reports of 23 deaths throughout the area. The actual number of people affected is estimated to be in the hundreds since the storm impacted such a large area.
 - Earthquake
 - April 21 – Russia – there was a quake recorded with a magnitude of 7.9 on the Richter scale in the Kamchatka peninsula. The quake resulted in 600 people being evacuated from their homes due to significant damage.
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PEP - ESS OFFICE SECTION

Emergency Preparedness Week is May 7-13

There are 57 identified hazards in British Columbia including forest fires, landslides, floods, extreme weather, earthquakes and tsunamis. We also face dangers that are difficult to foresee such as hazardous material spills, disease outbreaks or the threat of terrorism. There are also risks when people enjoy the outdoors where they may become lost, injured or encounter dangerous wildlife or sudden storms and snow avalanches.

During Emergency Preparedness Week, communities across British Columbia and Canada will be organizing activities aimed at the importance of planning for emergencies so that residents can help their families and communities before, during and after a disaster.

Your community activities don't need to be time or labour intensive. Using available resources—you can develop events you think will best promote Emergency Preparedness Week. Posters, guides and other information will be available for distribution again this year. Information about family emergency preparedness and personal safety is available on the Provincial Emergency Program website www.pep.bc.ca.

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF ESS ACTIVITY

Date	# of Persons Assisted	Event
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 fire
	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	772	121 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
Apr 1	House Fire	3	Cranbrook
Apr 3	House Fire	1	Lake Cowichan
Apr 5	Apartment Fire	15	Vancouver
Apr 5	House Fire	8	Williams Lake
Apr 7	House Fire	2	Abbotsford
Apr 8	House Fire	5	Surrey
Apr 8	Hotel Fire	11	Princeton
Apr 10	House Fire	0	North Vancouver
Apr 10	House Fire	6	Surrey
Apr 12	House Fire	1	Nanaimo
Apr 13	Police Incident	20	New Westminster
Apr 15	House Fire	5	Surrey
Apr 18	House Fire	1	Saanich
Apr 18	House Fire	4	Clearwater
Apr 19	House Fire	4	Salmon Arm
Apr 20	House Fire	5	Mission
Apr 23	House Fire	0	Abbotsford
Apr 23	House Fire	4	Williams Lake
Apr 24	House Fire	2	Westbank
Apr 27	House Fire	1	Port Coquitlam
Apr 27	House Fire	3	Hope
Apr 27	House Fire	1	Nakusp
Apr 30	House Fire	5	Campbell River
Apr 30	House Fire	7	Chilliwack
Apr 30	House Fire	1	Keremeos
TOTAL		115	

Your feedback is [important](#) to us at the ESS Office.
Please send your comments, questions or tips to:
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