



ESS WATCH



Issue #77

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PEP - Emergency Social Services Office Monthly Bulletin

LONG RANGE PROVINCIAL FORECAST

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

Precipitation: The entire province is likely to see below normal levels of precipitation for the coming months.

Temperature: The North West region of the province is going to receive above normal temperatures while the remainder of the province should see normal levels.

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:

- Interface Forest Fires
 - September 6 – Montana – a 180,000 acres fire destroyed 26 homes and 20 other buildings. There were approximately 840 people on the eastern edge of the fire and another 265 households were evacuated on the western edge.
 - Floods
 - September 7 – Illinois – The city of Rockford was inundated by heavy rains and the resulting flooding destroyed 20 homes and damaged several hundred others. An estimated 700 families were displaced by this event and were sheltered in a local school.
 - September 8 – Niger – four weeks of heavy rain and subsequent flooding has greatly impacted this already impoverished nation. It is estimated that 16,000 people have been left homeless with an additional 6,000 people impacted in neighbouring Burkina Faso.
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**ESS OFFICE
STAFFING ANNOUNCEMENT**

David Tomaz has been the successful candidate for a position within PEP. David is moving into his new role as the Local Authority Emergency Planning Officer effective September 4, 2006.

The position of Provincial ESS Coordinator will be eventually filled, however, several steps have to occur first including a review of the old job description with the B.C. Public Service Agency. Until this entire process is completed please direct all inquiries, comments, and questions to myself.

Please join me in wishing David all the very best in his new position where his skills and knowledge will continue to be of great value.

Thank You.

Jeff Cornell
Manager, Emergency Social Services Office

HIGHLIGHTED WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

We have passed the majority of the 2006 forest fire season and although many will have the opinion that the season was relatively quiet the Wildfire News website from the Ministry of Forests and Range; Protection Branch may change your mind. You will find out just how busy our colleagues have been this summer and how it compares to the past. Enjoy your tour!

<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/pScripts/Protect/WildfireNews/index.asp>

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF ESS ACTIVITY

Date	# of Persons Assisted	Event	
August 2006	80	31 separate house fires 1 apartment fire 1 gas leak	
	20		
	Unknown		
	100		
July 2006	81	20 separate house fires 2 apartment fires 5 forest fires 1 severe storm 1 police evacuation 1 apartment evacuation	
	500		
	3,679		
	27		
	2		
	100		
	4,389		
June 2006	85	23 separate house fires 7 apartment fires 1 forest fire 1 hydrate fire fighters	
	186		
	20		
	Unknown		
	291		
May 2006	69	20 separate house fires 6 apartment fires 1 flood 2 police evacuations 1 broken water main 1 severe storm	
	144		
	to be determined		
	14		
	45		
	8		
	280		
April 2006	69	22 separate house fires 1 apartment fire 1 hotel fire 1 police incident	
	15		
	11		
	20		
	115		
March 2006	64	24 separate house fires 2 apartment fires 1 flood 1 ferry sinking	
	63		
	1		
	99		
	227		
February 2006	92	27 separate house fires 2 floods 1 dangerous goods 1 apartment fire 1 bus fire	
	12		
	4		
	40		
	63		
	211		
January 2006	88	32 separate house fires 1 apartment fire 2 mudslides 1 police incident	
	3		
	5		
	2		
	98		
Total – 2006		5,711	239 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
Aug 4	House Fire	8	Delta
Aug 4	House Fire	5	West Vancouver
Aug 4	House Fire	2	Campbell River
Aug 4	House Fire	1	Surrey
Aug 5	House Fire	1	Vancouver
Aug 6	House Fire	2	Victoria
Aug 9	House Fire	0	Burnaby
Aug 11	House Fire	2	Duncan
Aug 14	House Fire	1	Ladysmith
Aug 14	House Fire	4	Chilliwack
Aug 18	House Fire	0	Denman Island
Aug 19	House Fire	3	New Westminster
Aug 20	House Fire	7	Olalla
Aug 22	House Fire	11	Duncan
Aug 22	Apartment Fire	20	Kelowna
Aug 24	House Fire	7	Vancouver
Aug 24	House Fire	1	Burnaby
Aug 25	House Fire	11	Vancouver
Aug 25	House Fire	0	Delta
Aug 27	House Fire	0	Gibsons
Aug 28	House Fire	1	Quadra Island
Aug 28	House Fire	3	Courtenay
Aug 29	House Fire	3	Langford
Aug 30	Gas Leak	unknown	Fernie
Aug 31	House Fire	7	Kelowna
	TOTAL	100	

Your feedback is important to us.
Please send your comments, questions or tips to:
Provincial Emergency Program, ESS Office,
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or e-mail at MHRESS@gov.bc.ca