

**PROVINCIAL EMERGENCY COORDINATION CENTRE
FLOODING SITUATION OVERVIEW
November 15, 2006 14:30 Hrs**

OVERVIEW

A severe weather system has moved onto the British Columbia coast. Winds to 120 km/hr are in the forecast for the west coast of Vancouver Island and up to 100 km/hr in the Greater Vancouver area. Heavy rain is forecast for many areas as well.

RESPONSE STATUS

The Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC) in Victoria and two Provincial Regional Emergency Coordination Centres (PREOCs) in Southwest (Surrey) and Vancouver Island (Victoria) are activated to support local governments.

An Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) is activated in Lions Bay and West Vancouver and North Vancouver have opened a combined EOC.

A Reception Centre is activated at the West Vancouver Seniors Centre for evacuees. And a reception centre has been setup in Qualicum Beach to manage evacuees from Coombs.

SITUATION

Wide spread power outages and telephone outages are currently being experienced across Vancouver Island and parts of Greater Vancouver.

Southwest:

From the Greater Vancouver area there are reports that two buildings collapsed due to the high winds. One was a 4-story building under construction and the other a home damaged by a falling tree, causing a partial collapse of the building. There are no reports of injuries in either incident.

West Vancouver police have undertaken a tactical evacuation of approximately 40 people from homes and a townhouse complex due to concerns over falling trees.

Drive BC reports that Highway 99 has been closed from Horseshoe Bay to Lions Bay.

School children in a number of communities have been sent home due to the power outages.

Vancouver Island:

A "Flood Warning" was issued at 14:15 today by the Ministry of Environment River Forecast Centre, for the Cowichan, Englishman and Chemainus Rivers.

BC Ferries has cancelled all Vancouver Island to Mainland ferries until further notice.

The road from Gold River to Muchalat Inlet has been closed by a washout. As well, Drive BC is reporting numerous road closures in Port Alberni, Tahsis and Port Renfrew.

A large area of Port Alberni is without power and phone service due to high winds and falling trees. The community has reported that they have no issues at this time.

Approximately 30 people from a trailer park in Coombs have been evacuated due to falling trees, and flooding was reported in the Cowichan Lake area earlier today.

Interior:

Heavy snowfall warnings have been issued by Environment Canada for a number of interior communities.

In the Northern Interior, power outages are reported in McBride and heavy snowfall is also reported.

OUTLOOK

Environment Canada is forecasting the high winds and rain to continue throughout the afternoon today. As the storm front moves inland late this afternoon, the winds are expected to diminish.

Events on Vancouver Island and in the Greater Vancouver area are expected to continue over the next several hours.

CURRENT INFORMATION

Flood Warnings and Watch

Ministry of Environment – River Forecast Centre

http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/rfc/river_forecast/advisories_current.htm

Road Closures

Ministry of Transportation – Drive BC

<http://www.drivebc.ca>

Weather Forecast

Environment Canada

http://www.weatheroffice.ec.gc/canada_e.html