

**PROVINCIAL EMERGENCY COORDINATION CENTRE
FLOODING SITUATION OVERVIEW
November 15, 2006 17:00Hrs**

OVERVIEW

A severe weather system has moved onto the British Columbia coast this morning as expected. 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.

Communities are reporting that extremely high winds and heavy rains are impacting central Vancouver Island and Greater Vancouver. As well, high winds and heavy snow are impacting many areas of the interior of the province.

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

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 is activated in Qualicum Beach to manage evacuees from Coombs.

Port Alberni has opened a comfort centre for those affected by flooding.

SITUATION

Southwest:

Approximately 40 evacuees remain out of their homes in West Vancouver.

Drive BC reports that Highway 99 is now open.

BC Hydro reports 5,000 residences of Horseshoe Bay will be out of power for approximately 24 hours and the Village of Lions Bay will be out of power for approximately two days.

Vancouver Island:

A "Flood Warning" was issued at 14:40 today by the Ministry of Environment River Forecast Centre, for the Cowichan, Englishman, Chemainus, Tsolum and Gold Rivers.

BC Ferries has resumed Vancouver Island to Mainland ferries, delays maybe experienced.

The road from Gold River to Muchalat Inlet remains closed by a washout. As do numerous other roads in Port Alberni, Tahsis and Port Renfrew.

A large area of Port Alberni remains without power and phone service due to high winds and falling trees, and BC Hydro estimates four hours for the return of power to core areas. Approximately 400 homes are impacted by flooding.

Approximately 30 people remain evacuated from a trailer park in Coombs,

Interior:

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

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

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