

**PROVINCIAL EMERGENCY COORDINATION CENTRE
FLOODING SITUATION OVERVIEW
November 16, 2006 09:00Hrs**

OVERVIEW

An intense frontal system which impacted the South Coast and Vancouver Island yesterday moved into the interior of the province overnight. The intensity of the storm began to diminish by 18:00 hours last night as the front moved through.

This morning all areas are reporting that winds are calm and the rain has ceased.

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) remain activated to support local governments.

Emergency Operation Centres (EOCs) activated in Lions Bay and Maple Ridge and the combined West Vancouver and North Vancouver EOC are all moving into damage assessment and recovery this morning.

A Reception Centre remains activated at the West Vancouver Seniors Centre for evacuees. And a reception centre remains activated in Qualicum Beach to manage evacuees from Coombs. Reception centres opened in Cowichan Lake and Youbou November 15 are now closed.

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

SITUATION

Southwest:

River levels are dropping this morning as heavy rainfall has ceased.

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

Widespread power outages continue in the area. BC Hydro's website is showing over 125,000 customers without power this morning. BC Hydro expects that most service outages will be dealt with today.

Several West Vancouver/North Vancouver elementary schools remain closed today.

At this time, there are no damage reports from the Fraser Valley, however it is expected that several areas did experience some damage.

In Maple Ridge, cleanup continues.

The Valley Cliff area of Squamish remains isolated due to a road washout effecting approximately 200 people, but there is emergency access by forestry road. Damage assessment is underway.

On the Sunshine Coast the Egmont area is without telephone service. An ambulance has been stationed in the area for emergency situations.

Vancouver Island:

Over 8,000 customers remain without power this morning on Vancouver Island. Some service outages are expected to continue until tomorrow, particularly in the Tofino and Ucluelet areas.

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

The road from Gold River to Muchalat Inlet remains closed. As well, the Cowichan Lake south shore road is closed at Sutton Creek and Cowichan Bay Road is closed at Highway 1 due to water on the road.

Cleanup continues in the Port Alberni area. The Alberni Valley Regional District reports that up to 400 homes may have been impacted by flooding. As well, the rural areas outside of Port Alberni remain without power. BC Hydro is sending additional personnel to the Port Alberni area this morning. Four families were provided with lodging last night through the volunteer Emergency Social Services program.

The Cowichan Valley Regional District has moved to recovery and damage assessment procedures. They report that 50 to 60 homes were impacted by flooding.

Interior:

The storm that hit the South Coast and Vancouver Island moved into the interior overnight. The strength of the storm had diminished significantly and impacts are less severe that they were on the outer coast. Heavy snowfall was reported in a number of areas which created some travel issues.

OUTLOOK

Environment Canada is forecasting a return to rain for coastal areas of the province tomorrow, rainfall forecasts are showing fairly low accumulations for Friday and Saturday.

Based on the current weather forecasts conditions should continue to improve over the next few days.

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