

**PROVINCIAL EMERGENCY COORDINATION CENTRE
SEVERE WEATHER SITUATION REPORT
DECEMBER 14, 2006 1500 HRS**

CURRENT SITUATION

A number of communities on Vancouver Island are experiencing extended power outages due to a series of severe wind storms which began impacting the Island last weekend.

Wind warnings are in effect for: all of Vancouver Island, Southern Gulf Islands, Sunshine Coast, Whistler, Howe Sound, Greater Vancouver, and Fraser Valley.

A strong Pacific storm is moving towards the British Columbia coast today and will cross Vancouver Island tonight. Ahead of the storm this afternoon winds will increase to southeast 50 to 70 km/h in most coastal locations. Winds are expected to shift to west 60 to 90 km/h overnight through early Friday morning across all of the south coast as the low moves inland. Wide spread power outages and telephone outages may be experienced across Vancouver Island and parts of Greater Vancouver.

The Vancouver Island PREOC, the Southwest PREOC and the PECC are currently activated for this event.

IMPACTS

BC Hydro indicates that there is extensive damage to the BC Hydro system and suggests that customers should expect outages to continue and possibly increase well into the weekend depending on weather conditions. As of this morning, approximately 22,400 customers on Vancouver Island and Gulf Islands and 1000 customers in the lower mainland were without power.

Ministry of Transportation reports no road closures or major events in the Vancouver Island or South West Regions at this time.

PEP is working with Vancouver Island Health Authority officials to provide propane fuel for the Bamfield medical clinic's back up generator. As well, PEP is working with the community to obtain diesel fuel for the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre generator as the Centre may serve as a reception centre should the situation require it. INAC, FNESS and PEP are working with BC Hydro to coordinate generators for the community and for the HUU-AY-AHT First Nations water systems.

Hornby Island has been without power for an extended period, as a result water or sewer systems are not functioning. Comox Strathcona Regional District is opening a comfort centre and group lodging on Hornby for families with small children and those with specific needs.

18 Port Alberni families were displaced when the roof blew off their building Monday night. Assistance was provided through Emergency Social Services and the local government, PEP, and local church groups and NGO's are working to ensure appropriate accommodations will be found.

36 residents from Cowichan First Nations were displaced due to flooding. The Cowichan River has been subsiding since it peaked at midnight and local authorities are monitoring the situation closely.

Outer Gulf Islands have activated their EOC staff at a level 1 and are getting a warming centre ready on Pender Island should it be required.

A local government conference call was held at 1300 hours and a multi-agency call will be held at 1600 to coordinate response to this event.

OUTLOOK

Conditions are expected to deteriorate overnight with a significant increase in storm-related power outages and transportation disruptions as the severe windstorm crosses over the west coast of BC including Vancouver Island, the Southern Gulf Islands and the lower mainland.