

**PROVINCIAL EMERGENCY COORDINATION CENTRE
SEVERE WEATHER SITUATION REPORT
DECEMBER 15, 2006: 1430 HOURS**

CURRENT SITUATION

The third of three storms hit BC coastal areas over night and communities are currently performing damage assessments. A number of communities on Vancouver Island and the lower mainland are experiencing extended power outages due to previous wind storms which began last weekend. The south island was hit hardest by the storm with wind gusts in excess of 170 km/hr being recorded in Juan de Fuca Strait.

IMPACTS

BC Hydro indicates more than 180,000 customers are currently without Power on the North and South Island area, Metro Vancouver area and the Fraser Valley. Crews are currently out assessing and repairing damage. There were more than 250,000 without power at the height.

Telus reports 1600 lines down, mostly in Colwood, Sooke, Gulf Islands and south coast.

Ministry of Transportation reports Highway 1 near Yale and Highway 5 south of Merritt are closed due to snowfall. Highway 99 west of Vancouver is closed due to trees on the road.

BC Ferries reports a number of sailings were cancelled this morning; all appear to have resumed service with delays.

Several communities in greater Victoria are reporting damage to homes, buildings, and cars from falling trees. Approximately 45 homes have suffered significant structural damage due to falling trees.

OUTLOOK

Environment Canada indicates the low generating the strong winds has deteriorated and moved inland but there remains potential for strong gusts through the morning. Forecast for the Island is for the winds to diminish with conditions to return nearer to normal.