

**PROVINCIAL EMERGENCY COORDINATION CENTRE
SEVERE WEATHER SITUATION REPORT
DECEMBER 17, 2006: 1300 HOURS**

CURRENT SITUATION

Response and recovery activities continue across South and Central Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland following 3 wind storms and a significant snow storm. Issues from each event flowed into subsequent events creating unprecedented response challenges for Local Governments and agencies. The last of the 3 wind storms was by all accounts the most destructive single storm event for hydro and telephone infrastructure in the provinces history. As well, private home damages are the worst in recent memory caused by a wind storm.

As recovery activities continue, Local Governments are dealing with the residual impacts of the extended power outages. Small water systems are beginning to experience loss of water and sewer systems that depend on pumps are beginning to spill over. Local Governments are rotating generators and pump trucks throughout their communities to deal with these issues. Thus far, these residual issues are being managed appropriately.

Southwest Region and Vancouver Island Region PREOCs and the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre continue to be activated to Level 1.

The following EOCs remain activated: Metchosin, Sooke, Delta, and North Shore.

BCAS Vancouver Island EOC is activated to level 1.

IMPACTS

As of this morning, BC Hydro indicates approximately 31,000 metered services remain without power across Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland. This translates to approximately 40,000 people on Vancouver Island and 110,000 people on the Lower Mainland who are still without power.

Telus reports that it is rotating generators throughout the Greater Victoria area to keep its telephone systems operating. As of this morning Telus reports that most of its issues are in the Metchosin, Sooke, Highlands and West Coast Road areas.

Current damage estimates indicate approximately 45 homes and 1 apartment building received structural damage as a result of the last storm across the South Island and Lower Mainland. Damage and risk assessment activities continue for the Local Governments.

Currently there are approximately 100 people receiving living assistance due to storm impacts. ESS volunteers continue to evaluate reported medical and hardship situations in their communities.

SOOKE and WEST COAST

- a few areas of Sooke Municipality are still inaccessible due to downed power lines and trees across the road
- several private homes and one apartment building have suffered structural damage.
- significant areas of these communities are still without power and phone service.
- a number of sewage pump stations are being operated by rotating generators
- West Coast Road (Highway 14) still with extensive tree, hydro and Telus issues between Sooke and Jordan River
- Port Renfrew community issues are currently being managed appropriately

CENTRAL-EASTERN VANCOUVER ISLAND

- several of the islands still have power outages but hydro crews are on those islands
- Sproat Lake-Port Alberni areas, power restoration is nearing completion
- heavy snow yesterday slowed the restoration activities

FIRST NATIONS

- INAC and FNESS along with the VIR PREOC are responding to the Pacheedaht First Nation (Port Renfrew) who have run out of water due to the power outage and the failure of a backup system. As of this morning the water is back on but a more sustainable solution is still being worked on.
- In Bamfield, BC Hydro was able to install a generator on the Huu-ay-aht FN water system yesterday. That system is now back in service.
- Hydro and phone service was restored to Ahousat FN on Saturday.
- power was restored to Thetis and Kooper Island FN communities on Saturday.

METCHOSIN

- volunteer Search and Rescue teams are circulating through the community this morning identifying significant risk issues such as "leaner trees" which may be creating public safety issues.
- a number of roads in the community are still closed by downed lines and downed trees
- significant areas of the community remain without power

GREATER VANCOUVER-FRASER VALLEY

- extensive areas of the North Shore remain without power
- extensive areas of the Tri-Cities remain without power
- most of the issues in these communities relate to support of senior and elder care facilities
- the SWE PREOC is supporting those community responses with MOF generators

RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

The Vancouver Island (VIR) PREOC continues to host daily coordination conference calls for stakeholders. The calls began with 8 agencies and 21 local governments with twice daily calls. As of this morning, the calls are one per day with the audience being 4 agencies and 5 local governments.

Local governments continue response and recovery activities. PEP continues to provide support as required.

Volunteer teams from ESS, SAR and Amateur Radio have been deployed in support of local governments; the SFU Communications vehicle has been deployed in the lower mainland to support provincial response activities. The Salvation Army Beacon Bus is supporting volunteers and community response in Sooke.

OUTLOOK

Generally weather on the south coast and southern Vancouver Island is not presenting any challenges to response and recovery activities. Over the next few days there are no specific changes anticipated in weather conditions for these regions.

Utility crews continue to repair systems in a priority manner and significant progress is being made.

A multi-agency VIR call was held at 10:00h this morning to coordinate response and recovery activities. The next call has been established for December 18, 2006 at 10:00h