

**PROVINCIAL EMERGENCY COORDINATION CENTRE
SEVERE WEATHER SITUATION REPORT
DECEMBER 20, 2006: 1400 HOURS**

CURRENT SITUATION

Response and recovery activities continue across south, central and northern Vancouver Island as well as on the Lower Mainland, following three wind storms and a significant snow storm. Service outages for hydro and telephone are down to a few thousand isolated customers.

A new storm event is due to impact south and central Vancouver Island this evening. Environment Canada indicates the wind gusts may reach 70 to 100 km per hour over eastern Vancouver Island and possibly the Gulf Islands. As well the Port Alberni area may see high winds.

All provincial and municipal EOC's have now been stood down for this event, but ongoing monitoring of this new storm event will continue.

IMPACTS

BC Hydro reports that only pocket outages remain, mostly in the Western Communities of Greater Victoria and west Bamfield.

Normal services have been restored to all communities with respect to food and fuel deliveries and all provincial roads are open in the impacted regions. Some local roads are still closed due to danger tree issues.

As of this morning Telus reports that it has nearly completed service restoration work.

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.

OUTLOOK

A new storm system is expected to reach Vancouver Island late this afternoon with winds peaking by early Thursday morning. Currently wind gusts of 70 to 100 km per hour are forecast for eastern and central Vancouver Island from this event.

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 21, 2006 at 10:00h