



Emergency Support Services

Suite 300 – 4545 Lazelle Ave
Terrace, BC V8G 4E1
250-615-6100
essdirector@rdks.bc.ca

ESS Final Report 2018 Wildfires Response

December 12th, 2018

Prepared by: Naomi Gourlay, ESS Program Coordinator, Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine

ESS mobilized in the beginning of August to support the evacuations that were taking place in Telegraph Creek and surrounding areas, as well as, throughout the Regional District of Bulkley-Neckako (RDBN). We activated Reception Centres (RCs) in Dease Lake, Terrace and Iskut with Kitimat and the Hazeltons staged for overflow.

The Dease Lake, Terrace and Iskut RCs remained open through to the first week of December providing referrals up to December 21st, the final re-entry date for Telegraph Creek residents to return home or into temporary housing. Sustaining multiple Reception Centres for such a prolonged period (almost five months) was not an easy task but we rallied through with the support of many stakeholders and take pride knowing that we have helped many on their road to recovery.

Over 500 people registered in the RDKS compared to 4000 in the RDBN and the City of Prince George. The scale and complexity of this regional incident was unprecedented and has prompted us to find new ways to increase our ESS capacity and implement new policies and procedures. To date, we have logged approx. 1700 Responder hours and it is our volunteer dedication that has helped to get us to the ESS finish line.

Within our current ESS model and capacity, we are prepared to handle level one to level two emergencies i.e. single-family house fires to moderate events such as neighborhood and small community evacuations. It is this trend in level three events - the regional disasters that involve extensive and prolonged evacuations that have us very concerned. We experienced many challenges including the immense pressure it put on our teams and suppliers.

This response has brought regional ESS supplier businesses and billetters over \$1.6 million in referral revenue. Outlined below is a breakdown of the \$ totals per service as provided in each community:

Reception Centres	Evacuees Registered	\$ Restaurant Meals	\$ Groceries	\$ Hotels	\$ RV Parks	\$ Billeting	\$ Transport	\$ Incidentals	\$ Clothing
Terrace	209	\$194,182	\$157,824	\$428,200		\$30,416	\$660	\$50	\$475
Dease Lake	243	\$3869	\$275,611.50	\$375,250	\$4475	\$54,310	\$1850	\$3150	
Iskut	61	\$500	\$62,280			\$18,860	\$646	\$2450	
Kitimat	3	\$810	\$787.50	\$1750		\$490		\$100	
New Hazelton	1		\$67.50			\$90			
	517	\$199,361	\$496,570.50	\$805,200	\$4475	\$104,166	\$3156	\$5750	\$475

TOTAL Referrals August 3rd – December 21st, 2018 = \$1,619,153.50

We are continuing to share strategies/resources, examine other models and work with the broader ESS community/EMBC to adapt, improve and evolve our ESS program to meet the changing conditions. We need to “think outside the box” for ESS to be sustainable in the face of these large-scale disasters. In 2019, we will continue to share new ideas and work together on tangible solutions.