



FRIENDS OF ESS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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Welcome to the Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine's Emergency Support Services Quarterly Newsletter. Here we will share ESS news, special interest stories, volunteer spotlights and other noteworthy bits from ESS teams throughout the RDKS and beyond into other areas of the province. Our aim is to keep ESS Partners, First Responders and Community Leaders informed of our activities, plans and accomplishments.

DATES TO REMEMBER

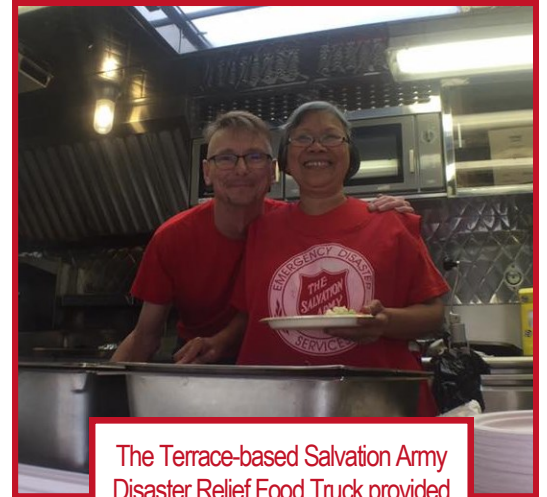
Stikine Team Meeting	June 19
Kitimat Team Meeting	June 20
Skeena Valley Team Meeting	TBA
EOC Operations Training—Terrace	June 28
Site Management Training—Hazelton	July 8
Managing Volunteer Programs—Kitimat	August 26
Public Safety Lifeline Leadership Training—Terrace	September 23-24
Kitimat Team Meeting	September 26
Skeena Valley Team Meeting	September 27
Intro to Group Lodging & Applied Training—Prince Rupert	September 30

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WEEK EVENTS

May 7th to 13th, 2017 marked Emergency Preparedness Week and ESS RDKS helped to relay messages of Personal and Family Preparedness through local TV and community events.

Naomi Gourlay brought Open Connection Host, Robert Pictou to Save On Foods in Terrace to shop for emergency supplies and show people how easy it is to build a 72 Hour Personal or Family Preparedness Kit using local resources.

ESS also participated in the Nisga'a Lisims Government



The Terrace-based Salvation Army Disaster Relief Food Truck provided a hot lunch for all event participants.

Emergency Preparedness/Health and Safety Week event held in the village of Gitwinksihlkw. ESS RDKS focused on the Reception Centre (RC) and displayed tools and resources used in RC activation and management. The Nisga'a Valley Health Authority, Gitwinksihlkw Fire Department, Salvation Army Disaster Food Services, RCMP and St John's Ambulance also participated with displays and presentations.

Congratulations to Anthony Moore on a successful event. We were honored to be a part of the line-up.



Greeting attendees at the ESS Booth

NESST WEEKEND COMING TO TERRACE IN 2018



ESS RDKS at NESST 2017 in Fort St. James.

The Northern Emergency Support Services Training Weekend brings together ESS volunteers and staff from across the province to network, collaborate and learn together. On April 28-30th, 2017, the 4th Annual conference hosted a record-breaking 88 participants in Fort St. James with workshops in Psychological First Aid, Emergency Pet Care,

Emergency Planning for People with Disabilities, Leadership and Communication and Level One Response. Skills and knowledge were put to work in the functional Reception Centre exercise on Sunday.

Terrace and Thornhill will host the 5th Annual NESST on April 13th – 15th, 2018. We are excited to showcase our communities, local businesses and support organizations to next year's attendees, as well as, generate awareness for ESS in our region and encourage more people to get involved.

Plans are beginning to take shape and if you would like to get on board the Organizing Committee, WE WANT YOU! This is also a wonderful opportunity for businesses and organizations to get involved as a sponsor. There are many different ways to sponsor, support ESS and receive recognition.

Contact Naomi Gourlay, essdirector@rdks.bc.ca for more information on NESST 2018.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: SUSAN & DANNY VIVEIROS

Susan and Danny Viveiros joined the Skeena Valley ESS team in October of 2015 and have since been very active. Together, in that short period of time, they have amassed 230 hours of service. This month, Susan and Danny Viveiros are acknowledged for their efforts and teamwork as an integral part of the team. Please enjoy this brief interview:

What first interested you about volunteering with ESS?

Volunteering was a way to give back and support our community.

Has your work or personal life influenced you as volunteers?

Having skills such as speaking a second language, being calm, being organized, good at trouble shooting, being friendly, willingness to do what is needed are all valued and have helped us feel more confident as volunteers and more confident as helpers on a larger scale.

Has volunteering together brought you closer together as a couple?

Volunteering together has given us an opportunity to grow and learn as a couple. It has allowed us to be supporting partners in a richer way and provided opportunities to see and value the strengths each of us have

What has motivated you as volunteers?

We were looking for a way to give back to our community. What we discovered through ESS is that we have become part of a warm, welcoming team of helpers.

What positive effects has volunteering had for you?

We've had multiple opportunities for new learning both locally and regionally. And through these opportunities we have gotten to know and interact with teams in neighboring communities. Volunteering has given us a place to both give and receive support from a network of caring and compassionate people.

Do you have any long-term volunteering goals?

We would like to continue to learn and develop our skills in all aspects in the work of ESS and maybe one day be part of a mobile unit.



Susan and Danny
Viveiros

To nominate a deserving volunteer for September's Volunteer Spotlight, please email Megan at reception@rdks.bc.ca.

REASONS TO VOLUNTEER

1. Helps others in times of need
2. Provides opportunities for growth through training and experience
3. Connects you to new people
4. Makes a difference in your community.

ESS STATS FOR MARCH 1ST THROUGH MAY 31ST 2017:

- 1000+ Volunteer hours for training and response
- 1 Level 1 Activation—Skeena Valley
- 1 Level 1 Activation—Kitimat
- Flood watch/alert in the Bulkley Valley

FAREWELL IN THE STIKINE



Dawn Tomkins and
Naomi Gourlay

Over the course of two short years, Dawn Tomkins has worked hard to create awareness for the ESS Program and recruit volunteers to build an ESS Team in the Stikine Region. What started as one dedicated individual grew to seven registered volunteers interested in learning and developing a process to help people in the event of an emergency evacuation.

Like all great leaders, Dawn will be moving away to take on new challenges in another part of the province. While this is sad news for us we are extremely grateful for the incredible amount of work she poured into her team and community.

We would also like to acknowledge and thank John and Mary Waite for their commitment and interest in ESS over the past year. While they are not leaving the area, they are stepping back but will always be there to help in a large-scale evacuation.

Thank you to the members of the Stikine team and especially Dawn for all you have done. We wish you much success and happiness in your new endeavors.

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