

# ESS RDKS



## ANNUAL REPORT



Regional District of  
**Kitimat-Stikine**

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS & STATISTICS



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# A YEAR TO REMEMBER

## ESS Wildfire Response

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.

## Active ESS Responders

	2016	2017	2018
Skeena Valley	24	31	39
District of Kitimat	18	14	15
The Hazeltons	5	11	14
Stikine Region	6	7	8
Stewart			10
Nass Valley			20

2018 saw a significant increase in ESS volunteers and staff throughout the RDKS. This rise is attributed to community outreach and the commitment of local authorities and residents to get involved and help strengthen our regional ESS program.

## Total Volunteer Hours

Total volunteer hours in 2016 = 1362  
 Total volunteer hours in 2017 = 2340  
**Total volunteer hours in 2018 = 3763**

# 500+

# \$1.6 MILLION+

Evacuees registered and received services in the RDKS. 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.

Provided in referrals for groceries, restaurant meals, commercial accommodation, billeting, RV Parks, transportation, incidentals and clothing in the RDKS.



# Activations = 1835 Hours

Compared to 700 hours in 2017

**From mass care to single home structure fires, ESS RDKS responded to the following emergencies:**

- Volunteer Deployment to assist with Spring Flood events in Southern BC
- Multiple Reception Centres sustained for extended periods in Terrace, Kitimat, Hazeltons, Iskut and Dease Lake to assist Wildfire evacuees in our region
- A handful of Level 1 Structure Fires throughout the RDKS

# Training = 1508 Hours

Compared to 1500 Hours in 2017

**ESS RDKS delivered a comprehensive training program in 2018:**

- Annual NESST Conference in Terrace
- 3 Community-Based Courses Facilitated by the Justice Institute of BC
- Specialized Workshops such as Planning for People with Disabilities in Emergencies and Better Impact Volunteer Management Software Training
- "Just-in-Time" Training for New Recruits
- Regular Monthly Team Meetings

# Community Outreach = 155 Hours

Compared to 140 Hours in 2017

ESS provided Emergency Preparedness information and Recruitment materials at local events such as the Terrace Business Expo, City of Terrace Firefighters Canada Day Breakfast, Farmer's Markets, Community Open Houses and more.

We also delivered presentations, customized Intro to ESS & Reception Centre Workshops for Kitselas, the Gitksan Government Commission and Nisga'a Lisims Government.

# Committees = 265 Hours

The NESST Logistics Committee put in a lot of work 'behind-the-scenes' to help make our conference a success.



# ANNUAL STATISTICS

# NESST APRIL 13TH - 15TH, 2018

The Northern Emergency Support Services Training (NESST) conference brought ESS Responders and Emergency Management Staff from communities across Northern BC, as well as, representatives from organizations such as the Salvation Army, the Canadian Red Cross and the Disaster Psychosocial Services Program (DPS).

NESST was organized through a collaboration of local and regional governments across the North with the support of sponsorship.

The conference theme was **“Connected through Clear Communication”** and this mantra held strong throughout 2018's wildfire events.

We developed relationships and skills that helped us to better understand roles, responsibilities, resources available and best practices.

## 131

People gathered at the Terrace Sportsplex for the 6th Annual Northern Emergency Support Training Conference to learn, network and practice emergency scenarios together.

We continue to be a part of the NESST Organizing Committee with plans well underway for the 7th Annual NESST to take place in Prince George on April 12th - 14th, 2019.





This project builds upon our own emergency preparedness by providing an innovative new resource that delivers ESS support to member municipalities and remote areas of the RDKS such as Dease Lake this past summer, as well as, communities throughout the province if requested.

ESS will also be offering specialized training in 2019 that focuses on the role of ESS in large-scale emergencies, how to effectively manage a Reception Centre and integrate the Mobile Unit into a response.

First of its kind ESS Mobile Unit debuts in the RDKS as part of our commitment to increase access to ESS services.

Funded by the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund and the RDKS with in-kind support from the City of Terrace, the fully operational mobile unit is a self-contained satellite Reception Centre, as well as, a safe and efficient mode to transport ESS supplies, emergency equipment and volunteers to designated Reception Centres (RC).

Complete with its own power source, heat/AC, hardware and connectivity, Reception Centre tools and resources, emergency supplies and equipment and basic amenities, it also provides a respite area for ESS Responders to sleep and prepare their own meals which is especially important in areas where accommodation may not be available.



# NEW ESS MOBILE UNIT