

ESS Course Prerequisites

Overall, the logistics of requesting and hosting Emergency Social Services (ESS) courses has been working well, however one area that has experienced some challenges is the ESS course prerequisites. Prerequisites for ESS courses have always existed to ensure that participants possess the fundamentals of ESS.

These prerequisites have always been encouraged rather than enforced but it has become evident that a well communicated expectation is necessary to move forward in a way that is equitable, clear and achieves the goal of providing an optimum learning experience for all.

For the remainder of this fiscal year (to March 31, 2010), prerequisites will continue to be strongly recommended in the interest of all participants but will not be strictly adhered to where a lack of prerequisites by most participants might result in course cancellations. The exceptions to this will be ESS171 ESS Site Management and ESS180 Emergency Social Services Directors courses; these two courses will still require the prerequisites be completed prior to enrolment and attendance.

The Provincial Emergency Program (PEP), Emergency Social Services Association (ESSA) and the Justice Institute of British Columbia (JIBC) will continue to collaborate over the next several months to address the issue of prerequisites and determine the best approach to proceed that will be introduced for April 1, 2010. We will communicate the outcomes to all ESS stakeholders prior to the implementation of these changes.

Currently, the only mandatory course for all ESS members is ESS100 Introduction to ESS. You are urged to have ESS members complete this self-study course as soon as possible on joining. Once the student has completed the ESS100 Introduction to ESS Module 1 and Module 2 Quizzes, and has discussed them with their ESS Director or ESS Support Organization Coordinator (i.e., Canadian Red Cross, The Salvation Army, etc.), the student needs to complete the STUDENT INFORMATION form included in this package, have it signed by their ESS Director or Coordinator and fax it to the Emergency Management Division at 604.528.5521.

ESS100 is available on-line http://jibc.bc.ca/emergency/Programs_Courses/Online_Learning.htm or a printable version is available at: http://www.pep.gov.bc.ca/training/on_line.html

For further information please contact:

ESSA: 1.800.910.3772 or info@essa.ca

PEP: 250.952.5819 or bob.kennedy@gov.bc.ca

JIBC: 1.888.898.5422 or 604.528.5575 or ess@jibc.ca