



## Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre Spring Freshet – Information Report June 7, 2007 1700 hours

---

It is extremely important to be prepared for emergencies. Assemble and keep an emergency kit that contains enough supplies to support you and your family for at least 72 hours.

### **Overview**

More rain is expected over Burns Lake, Hazelton and the Bulkley Valley today.

The next system is forecast to move onto the south coast Saturday with 20-30 mm of rain for the Lower Mainland. No other significant rainfall is predicted.

Temperatures remain at or below seasonal norms.

A **High Streamflow Advisory** means that river levels are rising or expected to rise rapidly, but that no major flooding is expected. Minor flooding in low-lying areas is possible.

A **Flood Watch** means that river levels are rising and will approach or may exceed bankfull. Flooding of areas adjacent to affected rivers may occur.

A **Flood Warning** means that river levels have exceeded bankfull or will exceed bankfull imminently, and that flooding of areas adjacent to the rivers affected will result.

### **Northeast Region**

A **Flood Warning** is in effect for the Upper Fraser River (McBride, Prince George, Quesnel and other locations along the Fraser River). The Upper Fraser is expected to stay above flood stage through the weekend and into next week.

The Upper Fraser River at Prince George is above flood stage and is anticipated to peak today. Flooding is occurring in Prince George, Quesnel and other locations along the Upper Fraser.

A **Flood Warning** is in effect for the Liard River.

Unsettled weather is predicted to continue for the rest of the week, with near or slightly below normal day-time temperatures, and periods of rain.

A **High Streamflow Advisory** is in effect for the Southern Peace River. River levels are expected to continue to rise over the next several days.

## **Northwest Region**

A ***Flood Warning*** is in effect for the Skeena River. The rate of rise has slowed but the river may continue to rise very slowly for the next day or two, as snowmelt continues adding water. Flooding is occurring along unprotected sections of the Skeena valley, near Terrace and in other communities along the Skeena.

A ***Flood Warning*** is in effect for the Bulkley and Telkwa rivers. Large snowpacks remain in the Morice and Telkwa drainages, and those rivers will continue to generate snowmelt water for the next couple of weeks.

Flooding will continue along the Bulkley Valley, and through Smithers and other affected communities, through the weekend and into next week.

A ***Flood Warning*** is in effect for the Nass River. Flooding is anticipated in unprotected sections of the Nass Valley. The Nass River peaked at noon on Tuesday and is now receding. This is the largest spring season flow ever measured on the Nass and about the third largest flow measured on the Nass in the past 72 years.

A ***High Streamflow Advisory*** is in effect for the Nechacko River.

The potential for higher water flows remains on the Skeena, Bulkley and Nass rivers, depending on the weather and the volume of snowmelt.

## **Central Region**

A ***High Streamflow Advisory*** is now in effect for the North Thompson River upstream of Kamloops. (Birch Island, Clearwater, McLure).

The cooler weather has reduced snowmelt rates and water input to rivers. This weather is expected to remain for the remainder of the week.

Flooding may occur along low-lying sections of the river upstream of Kamloops in areas without protection of standard dikes. No flooding is forecast for the City of Kamloops.

## **Southeast Region**

A ***Flood Warning*** is in effect for the Columbia River (Golden).

A ***High Streamflow Advisory*** is in effect for the Slocan River, Illecillewaet River (Greeley) and Kicking Horse River (Golden).

## **Southwest Region**

A ***High Streamflow Advisory*** is in effect for the Lower Fraser River, encompassing the area between Hope and the ocean. The water level on the Fraser River throughout the Lower Mainland will be high for the week or longer. As a result of cool weather and dropped snowmelt rates, the flows forecast for the lower Fraser through the Lower Mainland are now being reduced. Flooding is anticipated to occur in areas unprotected by dikes.

The flood risk season for the Lower Fraser will not be over before the end of June.

A **High Streamflow Advisory** is in effect for the Lillooet River (Pemberton/Mt Currie).

### **River Level Situation and Forecast:**

Click [here](#) for latest detailed forecast and commentary.

Click [here](#) to view up-to-date information from the River Forecast Centre website.

Click [here](#) to view real-time B.C. river level monitoring station readings.

### **Weather Forecast:**

Click [here](#) to view the Environment Canada Weather Office forecasts.

### **Public Health Advisories:**

Click [here](#) to view public health information provided by the B.C. Ministry of Health.

### **Highway Conditions:**

Highway 16 is closed in both directions at Port Edward turnoff in Terrace and 48 kilometres east of Terrace due to flooding and rock slide.

Nisga'a Highway is closed in both directions from Gitwinksihlkw (Canyon City) to Greenville due to flooding.

Highway 51 is closed in both directions 20 kilometres east of Telegraph Creek due to wash out.

Travel Advisory is in effect due to flooding between Howser and Gerrard Bridge on Highway 31.

Usk ferry service has been suspended.

Ferry service in Little Fort and McClure has been cancelled.

CN Rail line is closed from Smithers to Prince Rupert (along Highway 16 corridor). Shames Flat portion of the railroad track has washed away due to water erosion.

For the most up-to-date information on this situation and others, visit [www.drivebc.ca](http://www.drivebc.ca) or call toll-free 1-800-550-4997.

### **Provincial Response Activity:**

A toll-free provincial flood information line is operating from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m daily. The number is: 1-888-350-6070.

Provincial government staff are monitoring river levels, and together with local government officials and First Nations bands are reviewing potential threats to the public, infrastructure and the environment.

The Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre in Victoria is activated.

Provincial regional emergency operation centres in Terrace, Prince George, Kamloops, Nelson and Surrey are activated. Staffing is being increased in the provincial centres at Prince George, Terrace and Surrey.

The province's logistical preparations include sandbags, sandbag filling machines, and other flood fighting materials. Nearly 4 million sandbags have been distributed to local authorities. Approximately 290,000 sandbags have been shipped in the last 24 hours to meet local government requests throughout the province. Ministry of Forests firefighting crews are being used for sandbagging operations in support of local governments.

An Agriculture Notice -- Livestock Relocation Phase 2 and 3 was issued June 2 by the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General and Ministry of Agriculture and Lands.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Lands has an emergency operations centre in Abbotsford. It is providing flood awareness information and guidance on managing livestock in preparation for flooding.

For more information on the relocation of cattle and emergency preparedness planning, dairy farmers are asked to call the BC Milk Producers Flood Line at 1-877-859-6140 or click [here](#). For more general information on agricultural emergency preparedness, farmers are asked to contact the MEOC in Abbotsford toll free at 1-888-221-7141

### **Local Authority Response Activity**

An ***Evacuation Alert*** means residents may be asked to leave their homes on very short notice. Residents should prepare by organizing an emergency supply kit with necessary medications, personal toiletries, change of clothing and personal and family documents.

An ***Evacuation Order*** means there is an imminent risk and residents must leave the area immediately. Local police or RCMP enforce the order.

Local Authority	EOC Status	Local State of Emergency	# on Evacuation Alert	# on Evacuation Order	Web Site URL
<b>NORTHEAST</b>					
Prince George	Activated	Y	approx. 70 homes	approx. 10 homes	<a href="http://www.city.pg.bc.ca">www.city.pg.bc.ca</a>
Fraser-Fort George Regional District	Activated	Y	approx. 60 homes		<a href="http://www.rdffg.bc.ca">www.rdffg.bc.ca</a>
Peace River Regional District	Activated	N			<a href="http://www.peacriverrd.bc.ca/home.php">www.peacriverrd.bc.ca/home.php</a>
Quesnel	Activated	N			<a href="http://www.city.quesnel.bc.ca">www.city.quesnel.bc.ca</a>
Cariboo Regional District	Activated	N			<a href="http://www.cariboord.bc.ca/">http://www.cariboord.bc.ca/</a>
Central Coast Regional District	Activated	N			<a href="http://centralcoastbc.com/">http://centralcoastbc.com/</a>
Village of McBride	Activated	N			<a href="http://mcbride.ca/">http://mcbride.ca/</a>
<b>NORTHWEST</b>					
Town of Smithers	Activated	Y		approx. 6 homes	<a href="http://www.town.smithers.bc.ca/">www.town.smithers.bc.ca/</a>
Bulkley- Nechako Regional District	Activated	Y		approx. 25 homes	<a href="http://www.rdbn.bc.ca">www.rdbn.bc.ca</a>
Houston	Activated	N			<a href="http://www.houston.ca">www.houston.ca</a>
Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine	Activated	Y	approx. 210 homes	approx. 50 homes	<a href="http://www.rdks.bc.ca/">http://www.rdks.bc.ca/</a>
Terrace	Activated	Y	approx. 10 homes		<a href="http://www.city.terrace.bc.ca/">http://www.city.terrace.bc.ca/</a>
Nisga'a Lisims	Activated	N			<a href="http://www.nisgaalisims.ca/">http://www.nisgaalisims.ca/</a>
<b>SOUTHWEST</b>					
Fraser Valley Regional District	Activated	N			<a href="http://www.fvrd.bc.ca">www.fvrd.bc.ca</a>
Maple Ridge	Activated	N	approx. 30 homes		<a href="http://www.mapleridge.ca/">www.mapleridge.ca/</a>
Mission	Activated	N			<a href="http://www.city.mission.bc.ca">www.city.mission.bc.ca</a>
Abbotsford	Activated	N			<a href="http://www.abbotsford.ca">www.abbotsford.ca</a>
Squamish - Lillooet Regional District	Activated	N			<a href="http://www.slrd.bc.ca">http://www.slrd.bc.ca</a>
Langley	Activated	N	approx. 305 homes		<a href="http://www.township.langley.bc.ca">www.township.langley.bc.ca</a>
Kent-Harrison	Activated	N			
City of Chilliwack	Activated	N	approx. 40 homes		<a href="http://www.gov.chilliwack.bc.ca">www.gov.chilliwack.bc.ca</a>
City of Coquitlam	Activated	N			<a href="http://www.coquitlam.ca">http://www.coquitlam.ca</a>
District of Hope	Activated	N			<a href="http://www.hope.ca/">http://www.hope.ca/</a>
<b>CENTRAL</b>					
Thompson- Nicola Regional District	Activated	N			<a href="http://www.tnrd.bc.ca/">http://www.tnrd.bc.ca/</a>
Kamloops	Activated	N			<a href="http://www.kamloops.ca">http://www.kamloops.ca</a>
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>					
Columbia Shuswap Regional District	Activated	Y	Approx 12 homes	Anderson Rd	<a href="http://www.csrld.bc.ca/">http://www.csrld.bc.ca/</a>
Town of Golden	Activated	Y		Anderson Rd	
For more information on First Nations community updates, please visit: <a href="http://www.fness.bc.ca">www.fness.bc.ca</a>					

Click [here](#) for municipality contact information.

## **Public Information - Flood Preparedness and Response**

The Provincial Flood Information Line

- 1-888-350-6070

On the web, visit: [www.pep.bc.ca](http://www.pep.bc.ca)

### *Other Telephone Numbers*

In an emergency,

- dial 9-1-1

For local non-emergency information,

- contact your local government authority. Find contact numbers in the blue pages of the telephone book

For public health information, contact your regional health authority,

- Northern Health Authority, 1-888-766-6358
- Fraser Health Authority, 1-877-935-5669

For agriculture sector information, contact the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands:

- 1-888-221-7141