

Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre

Spring Freshet – Information Report

June 11, 2007 1300 hours

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

Conditions Overview

Light and scattered rain was recorded in the lower Fraser Valley and Interior last night. Temperatures are forecast to remain cool for the short term, with moderate precipitation forecast for the next few days.

Most rivers have peaked, and are slowly starting to recede, including the Bulkley River at Smithers, Quick and Houston. However, the risk of flooding has not subsided.

After dropping two-to-three metres Tuesday, the Nass and Skeena rivers are rising again. Substantial snow volumes remain in local watersheds, posing another high-flow risk if temperatures significantly increase.

The Nechako River is also rising, and currently sits at its highest water level this spring. A **High Streamflow Advisory** has been upgraded to a **Flood Watch** at Vanderhoof and Isle Pierre.

Boil Water Advisories

- Boil Water Advisory issued for Valemont and Village of McBride.
- Boil Water Advisory issued by Northern Health affecting approximately 100 homes in the areas of Braun's Island, Old Remo and New Remo near Terrace.

B.C. Overview Evacuation ALERTS/ORDERS (estimates only)

- 1,187 homes remain under evacuation ALERT
- 66 homes remain under evacuation ORDER

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 |
|--------------------------------------|------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|
| NORTHEAST | | | | | |
| Prince George | Activated | Y | | approx. 10 homes | www.city.pg.bc.ca |
| Fraser-Fort George Regional District | Activated | Y | | | www.rdffg.bc.ca |
| Peace River RD | Activated | N | | | www.peacriverrd.bc.ca/home.php |
| Quesnel | Activated | N | | | www.city.quesnel.bc.ca |
| Cariboo Regional District | Activated | N | | | http://www.cariboord.bc.ca/ |
| Central Coast RD | Activated | N | | | http://centralcoastbc.com/ |
| Village of McBride | Activated | N | | | http://mcbride.ca/ |

| Local Authority | EOC Status | Local State of Emergency | # on Evacuation Alert | # on Evacuation Order | Web Site URL |
|--|------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|
| First Nations in Northeast region | | | | | |
| Lheidli T'enneh | | | | | |
| Kwadacha | | | Y | | |
| NORTHWEST | | | | | |
| Town of Smithers | Activated | Y | | approx. 8 homes | www.town.smithers.bc.ca/ |
| Telkwa | Activated | | | | |
| Hazelton | Activated | | | | |
| Bulkley- Nechako Regional District | Activated | Y | approx. 42 homes | approx. 26 homes | www.rdbn.bc.ca |
| Houston | Activated | N | | | www.houston.ca |
| Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine | Activated | Y | approx. 260 homes | | http://www.rdks.bc.ca/ |
| Terrace | Activated | Y | approx. 176 homes | | http://www.city.terrace.bc.ca/ |
| First Nations in Northwest region | | | | | |
| Nisga'a Lisims | Activated | N | | | http://www.nisgaalisims.ca/ |
| Nisga'a – Kispiox | | | approx. 4 homes | | |
| Lakalzap | | | Y | | |
| Glen Vowell, Kitsumkalum, Lower Post | | | Y | | |
| SOUTHWEST | | | | | |
| Fraser Valley Regional District | Activated | N | approx 62 homes | | www.fvrd.bc.ca |
| Maple Ridge | Activated | N | approx. 49 homes | | www.mapleridge.ca/ |
| Mission | Activated | N | | | www.city.mission.bc.ca |
| Abbotsford | Activated | N | approx. 34 homes | | www.abbotsford.ca |
| Squamish - Lillooet Regional District | Activated | N | | | http://www.slrd.bc.ca |
| Langley | Activated | N | approx. 305 homes | | www.township.langley.bc.ca |
| Kent-Harrison | Activated | N | | | |
| City of Chilliwack | Activated | N | approx. 40 homes | | www.gov.chilliwack.bc.ca |
| City of Coquitlam | Activated | N | | | http://www.coquitlam.ca |
| District of Hope | Activated | N | approx. 66 homes | | http://www.hope.ca/ |
| New Westminster | Activated | | | | |
| Greater Vancouver | Activated | | | | |
| Delta | Activated | | | | |
| Burnaby | Activated | | | | |
| Pitt Meadows | Activated | | | | |
| First Nations in Southwest region | | | | | |
| Kwantlen, Katzie | | | Y | | |
| Scowlitz | | | approx 4 homes | | |
| Leqa:mel | | | approx 52 homes | | |
| Skhxway | | | approx 31 homes | | |

| Local Authority | EOC Status | Local State of Emergency | # on Evacuation Alert | # on Evacuation Order | Web Site URL |
|------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Shxy'ow'hamel | | | Y | approx 4 homes | |
| Skwah | | | approx. 62 homes | | |
| Mount Currie (Lil'wat) | | Y | Y | approx. 16 homes | |
| In-SHUCK-ch/ Lower Stl'at'imx | | | Y | | |
| SOUTHEAST | | | | | |
| Columbia Shuswap Regional District | Closed | Y | | 2 homes | http://www.csr.bc.ca/ |

For more information on First Nations community updates, please visit: www.fness.bc.ca

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

Flood Advisories, Watches and Warnings

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.

Overview:

Four rivers continue to have **Flood Warnings**: Bulkley River, Telkwa River, Liard River and Columbia River at Donald.

Five rivers are on **Flood Watch**: Skeena River, Nass River, Moberly River, Finlay River and Nechako River at Vanderhoof and Isle Pierre.

High Streamflow Advisories are in place for: Fraser River at South Fort George, Hope and Mission.

NORTHEAST REGION

A **High Streamflow Advisory** is in effect for the Upper Fraser River (McBride, South Fort George). The Fraser River at Prince George has peaked and is continuing to decline. It is expected to drop below flood stage sometime today.

A **Flood Warning** remains in effect for the Liard River at Lower Crossing.

A **Flood Watch** is in place for the Nechako River at Vanderhoof and Isle Pierre.

A **Flood Watch** remains in effect for the Moberly River which is starting to decline.

A **Flood Watch** is in effect for the southern Peace River. River levels have risen significantly due to high rates of snowmelt and heavy rain.

A **Flood Watch** remains in effect for the Finlay River which is beginning to recede.

A **High Streamflow Advisory** is in place for the Fraser River at Fort George.

NORTHWEST REGION

A **Flood Watch** is in effect for the Skeena River at Usk (near Terrace).

A **Flood Warning** remains in effect for the Bulkley River at Quick.

A **Flood Watch** is in effect on the Nass River above Shumal Creek.

A **Flood Warning** remains in effect for the Telkwa River.

SOUTHEAST REGION

A **Flood Warning** remains in effect for the Columbia River at Donald.

SOUTHWEST REGION

A **High Streamflow Advisory** is in effect for the Fraser River at Hope and Mission.

The water level continues to hover around 6.0 metre mark at the Mission gauge, but is expected to fall slightly through the middle of the week.

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.

Transportation Conditions:

For the most up-to-date information on this situation and others, visit www.drivebc.ca or call toll-free 1-800-550-4997.

Highway 16 west is open to single-lane alternating traffic between Terrace and Prince Rupert operating with some occasional 20-minute delays.

Hwy 16 has re-opened in both directions east of Terrace between the hours of 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. Motorists can expect some delays. Cranberry Forest Service Road is an alternate route.

The Nisga'a Highway is open to two-lane traffic.

CN Rail service has re-opened east of Terrace. The link to Prince Rupert is anticipated to re-open tomorrow when repairs at Shames Flats are completed.

Ferry service at Usk, Little Fort, McLure, Big Bar and Lytton has been suspended.

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 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 and Surrey are activated.

The province's logistical preparations include sandbags, sandbag filling machines, and other flood fighting materials. More than four million sandbags have been distributed to local authorities.

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.

Public Information - Flood Preparedness and Response

The Provincial Flood Information Line

- 1-888-350-6070

On the web, visit: 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