

**PROVINCIAL EMERGENCY COORDINATION CENTRE
FLOODING SITUATION OVERVIEW
March 12, 2007 17:00 Hrs**

OVERVIEW

A subtropical rain storm struck the South Coast, Vancouver Island and the Interior bringing high temperatures and heavy precipitation. There was widespread local flooding yesterday in the Lower Mainland and southern Interior creating some mudslides, rock slides and potential for avalanche danger.

The heavy rainfall has now ended and most small streams have reached their peak and water levels are dropping. However, warm temperatures and residual run-off from rain and melting snow are still creating some flood concerns.

RESPONSE STATUS

The River Forecast Centre (Ministry of Environment) is monitoring the situation and providing updates as necessary.

The Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC) (in Victoria) and five Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centres (PREOCs) -- in Southwest (Surrey), Central (Kamloops), Northeast (Terrace), Southeast (Nelson) and Vancouver Island (Victoria) -- are activated to support local governments.

The following local governments activated Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs): Port Coquitlam, Coquitlam, Langley, Maple Ridge, the Fraser Valley Regional District, and the Kootenay Boundary Regional District. Hope Emergency Social Services volunteers are assisting displaced Boston Bar people.

Rainfall warnings have been discontinued as the precipitation has moved eastward and southward out of the province.

IMPACTS

A number of provincial roads are closed in the Lower Mainland and southern Interior and a number of local roads are closed in the Lower Mainland. TransCanada Highway (Highway 1) is closed in four locations:

- Jackass Mt-Boston Bar – two rock slides
- Rosedale to Hope – mudslide
- Rodgers Pass – avalanche danger
- East of Golden – mudslides and avalanche danger

Southwest:

Fraser Valley Regional District - 4-8 homes have been impacted and families are displaced

Surrey – 7 people displaced

Boston Bar – isolated due to landslide. 6 people have been displaced

Vancouver Island

Duncan – 11 nearby First Nations people displaced
Port Renfrew – 2 families displaced

Central

Lytton – drinking water unavailable to 12-15 users in a nearby trailer park due to a landslide

Southeast

Ainsworth – drinking water unavailable to 13 users due to a landslide

Northeast

Quesnel – A large ice pack has mobilized on the Cottonwood River near Quesnel and has jammed near the bridge on Highway 97 creating a significant back water. Ministry of Transportation roads maintenance crews and Cariboo Regional District personnel are on site. One home is heavily impacted by ice and flood waters and 3 other homes are threatened. A helicopter overflight and site assessment will be done of the area by Ministry of Environment staff.

OUTLOOK

Most small streams have reached their peaks and water levels are dropping. Rivers which continue to be a flood concern include the Coldwater River near Merritt, and the Chilliwack River along Chilliwack Lake Road.

Warm temperatures continue in the southern part of the province and there is the potential for more landslides, mudflows and activity. The situation should begin to stabilize as colder and drier weather conditions displace subtropical air mass later today. Freezing temperatures are expected overnight throughout the interior of the province.

CURRENT INFORMATION

Monitoring continues as does the readiness to respond in areas of need.

.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Flood Warnings and Watch

Ministry of Environment – River Forecast Centre

http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/rfc/river_forecast/advisories_current.htm

Road Closures

Ministry of Transportation – Drive BC

<http://www.drivebc.ca>

Weather Forecast

Environment Canada

http://www.weatheroffice.ec.gc/canada_e.html