

**PROVINCIAL EMERGENCY COORDINATION CENTRE
FLOODING SITUATION OVERVIEW
March 13, 2007 13:00 Hrs**

OVERVIEW

A subtropical rain storm struck the South Coast, Vancouver Island and the Interior bringing high temperatures and heavy precipitation. The storm system has moved out of BC and been replaced by much cooler and more seasonal weather.

A number of Lower Mainland areas experienced flooding problems and there were numerous landslides and debris flows in the Interior

As previously indicated, there is always the residual risk of further landslides, etc. from heavy rain, and late yesterday slides and debris torrents occurred in the Kootenays.

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. Provincial work is centred on damage assessment and helping local government with solutions to local problems.

IMPACTS

The TransCanada Highway (Highway 1) continues to be closed at several locations. Ministry of Transportation expects that mudslides near Rosedale will take several days to clean-up. A number of areas in the Interior are also experiencing road closures due to slides and flooding.

Southwest:

Approximately 170 homes are estimated to be impacted by flooding as a result of creeks spilling their banks or local drainage problems. Some area roads were impacted, but water levels continue to recede.

The major impacts in the southwest have been the closure of Highway 1 near Rosedale and near Boston Bar. Repair and clean-up is estimated to take several days.

Vancouver Island

Flood waters continue to drop. No significant impacts reported.

Central

A landslide near Lytton cut power and destroyed the drinking water system for 12-15 users in a trailer park. Local government continues to work with the community to address the issue.

Southeast

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

Nelson – Little Slokan Road, west of Nelson, was closed overnight due to a debris torrent and one home was evacuated as a safety precaution. The Ministries of Environment and Transportation conducted an assessment today; the slide area appears stable at this time.

Hamilton Creek – a debris torrent impacted Highway 3A near Balfour and impacted a store and marina.

Northeast

Quesnel – A large ice pack mobilized on the Cottonwood River near Quesnel jamming near the bridge on Highway 97 creating a significant back water. Recent assessments have determined that water levels are dropping. Monitoring is continuing, but there are no immediate concerns for public safety.

OUTLOOK

As expected cooler weather has moved across the province, reducing run-off and causing water levels to drop in streams and rivers.

The Coldwater River near Merritt remains under a High Water advisory; but all other Warnings have been discontinued.

CURRENT INFORMATION

Monitoring and damage assessment continue.

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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.ca/canada_e.html