

PROVINCIAL COORDINATION CENTRE

Spring Flooding Situation Overview – May 19, 2006 at 2000 hrs

General Overview

Above-average temperatures in B.C.'s southern interior have caused unusual snow melt, leading to a rapid rise in rivers and creeks over the past week. The current weather forecast calls for rainfall in the area, which may increase the risk of flooding over the next two days. Local governments are monitoring the situation closely, particularly in areas where some minor flooding has already occurred.

The Central Kootenay Regional District has declared a State of Local Emergency as a result of local flooding, and has activated a joint Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) in Nelson. The City of Grand Forks and Kootenay Boundary Regional District have activated a joint EOC in Grand Forks. The City of Cranbrook has also activated an EOC.

The Ministry of Environment issued a flood watch on Thursday, May 18, 2006, which continued Friday, May 18, 2006, for the following areas:

West Kootenay and East Kootenay

Boundary

Columbia

Okanagan

South Thompson

Kettle River and Granby River at Grand Forks

The Ministry of Environment issued a high stream flow advisory for the North Thompson River at 1345 hrs on May 19, 2006.

The Central Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre (PREOC) in Kamloops, the Southeast PREOC in Nelson, and the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC) in Victoria are activated with Temporary Emergency Assignment Management System (T.E.A.M.S.) members, and Provincial Emergency Program staff to provide technical, logistical and operational support to local governments and First Nations.

Forecast hydrologists from the Ministry of Environment and the PECC are monitoring water levels, and are communicating with PREOCs to provide timely advice to local governments for use in flood planning. The province has made sandbags available to those communities that request them from the provincial stockpile, with 160,000 sandbags shipped to 16 locations in the Kootenay Region to-date.

4-Day Weather Forecast for Kootenay Districts and Southern BC Interior

Hot temperatures experienced May 19, 2006, are expected to cool down to seasonal averages over the next three days. Showers and thunder storms are predicted in most areas by Saturday night into Sunday, with heavy rains in some areas by Monday.

Central Region

The Central Region PREOC is activated.

- Eagle River – One home is being monitored.

Southeast Region

The Southeast Regional PREOC is activated.

- Passmore – 5 homes are under voluntary evacuation, with 9 of the voluntary evacuees registering at Emergency Social Services in the Passmore Firehall.
 - Little Slocan Bridge is threatened by flood waters, possibly leading to the isolation of 50 homes from outside access. Sandbagging is underway to protect homes.
 - Slocan Valley Road is expected to flood over by late evening, likely isolating 40 homes from outside access.
- Grand Forks – The joint EOC between Grand Forks & the Kootenay Boundary Regional District is activated.
 - 23 homes are threatened by rising water levels, with none flooded.
 - Almond Park Mobile Home Park is experiencing flooding issues.
- Kelly Creek – One home is threatened, and one is home experiencing flooding issues. Sandbagging is underway.
- Proctor Creek & Sandy Creek - One home is threatened, with sandbagging underway.
- Midway Area - 6 homes are being threatened by rising water levels.

Outlook

The current weather forecast calls for cooler temperatures with showers or thunder showers over the weekend. River levels are expected to continue to rise in the East & West Kootenays, at least through to Saturday evening as a result. Depending on the amount of rain over the weekend, river levels may continue to rise beyond Saturday. The B.C. Environment River Forecast Centre has issued a high flow advisory for the North Thompson River for Monday or Tuesday. Water levels on the North Thompson River and its tributaries are expected to continue rising throughout the weekend and into early next week. Flooding issues are anticipated to continue through most of the weekend.