

FLOODING SITUATION REPORT MAY 20, 2006 2000 hrs

General Overview

A low pressure system moved into the province overnight, bringing cooler temperatures and showers. Snowmelt runoff slowed throughout risk areas as a result. Small streams and rivers are expected to peak May 20, 2006. Larger rivers such as the North and South Thompson, the Slocan, and the Moyie may continue to rise over the next two days. Light to moderate rains fell throughout the morning in several areas of the Central Interior, and high water levels will remain in many areas throughout the east and west Kootenays.

The Regional District of Central Kootenay issued an evacuation order for 24 homes in the Passmore area along the Slocan River (West of Nelson), and an evacuation alert was issued for an additional 399 homes. The Province also deployed a 20-person Ministry of Forests Fire Crew to assist with sandbagging, in addition to two 3-person crews.

The Ministry of Environment issued a flood watch beginning May 18, 2006, which has continued through May 20, 2006 for the following areas:

- West Kootenay and East Kootenay
- Boundary
- Columbia
- Okanagan
- South Thompson
- Kettle River and Granby River at Grand Forks

A high stream flow advisory was issued for the North Thompson on Friday, May 19, 2006, which continues as of May 20, 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 TEAMS members and PEP staff to provide technical, logistical and operational support to local governments and First Nations.

Forecast hydrologists from the Ministry of Environment are monitoring water levels and supporting PREOCs in providing timely advice to local governments for use in flood planning. The Province distributed 160,000 sandbags to 16 locations in the Kootenay Region to fill local government requests.

Weather Forecast for Kootenay Districts and southern BC interior

The 5-day weather forecast for the Kootenays and Central Interior is calling for cooler temperatures and occasional light showers. Environment Canada is not forecasting any heavy rain over the next five days. The cooler temperatures will reduce snowmelt runoff throughout the weekend.

Central Region

- The Central Region PREOC is activated at a level 2.

- Eagle River – One home is being monitored for potential risk. The Eagle River continues to drop as of the morning of May 20, 2006.
- Sugar Lake Dam, east of Vernon, will reach full pool on Monday, May 22. Higher flows will occur downstream of the dam once full pool is reached.

Southeast Region

The Southeast Regional PREOC is activated at a level 2.

SLOCAN RIVER - Passmore

- Passmore area along the Slocan River (West of Nelson) - 24 homes are on evacuation order; 399 on evacuation alert.
- 11 people are being provided accommodation by Emergency Social Services. Flooding problems continue in this area, and there is no anticipated time for re-occupancy of the homes.
- A 20-person Ministry of Forests unit crew was deployed to the Passmore area to assist the local government with sandbagging, in addition to two 3-person crews.

GRANBY RIVER, KETTLE RIVER - Grand Forks

- The joint Emergency Operation Centre (EOC), City of Grand Forks & Kootenay Boundary Regional District was activated May 19, 2006.
- 41 homes are being closely monitored for potential risk. The Kettle River levels continue to drop as of the morning of May 20, 2006.
- 1 person voluntarily evacuated.
- The sewer system infrastructure is being protected against the possibility of flood damage. A local government advisory also went out to Grand Forks residents to reduce usage of the municipal systems.

OTHER AREAS

- Kelly Creek (near Fruitvale) – two homes are being closely monitored for potential risk, sandbagging is in place.
- Fruitvale – A water treatment plant is being protected against the possibility of flood damage, and a boil-water advisory has been issued.
- Proctor Creek & Sandy Creek (East of Nelson) - one home is being closely monitored for potential risk, sandbagging is in place.
- Midway Area - 6 homes are being closely monitored for potential risk. River levels began dropping the morning of May 20, 2006.

Outlook

Cooler temperatures are expected to continue throughout the weekend. Snowmelt runoff is being reduced as a result of the cooler temperatures. Water levels in the small streams and rivers began peaking the morning of May 20, 2006. Larger rivers such as the Moyie, the Slocan, the North Thompson and the South Thompson, may continue to rise for the next two days. Flooding issues are likely to be ongoing for low-lying areas along the Slocan River near Passmore, at least through to the morning of May 21, 2006. The North Thompson River at Kamloops is expected to reach a peak late Sunday or Monday. Kamloops has a network of protective dikes, and the City is not expected to experience any problems from the high water.