

PECC FLOODING SITUATION REPORT MAY 21, 2006 13:00

General Overview

A low pressure system moved into the province overnight on Friday bringing cooler temperatures and showers. While snowmelt runoff has slowed throughout the at-risk areas, significant rainfall was recorded Saturday afternoon in many areas of the Central Interior and Kootenays. This has driven river levels higher and increased flooding to the already impacted areas. Additional evacuations resulted in Passmore due to rising waters on the Slocan River. Water quality issues have arisen in Glade because of a breach in the community's water reservoir. Interior Health and local officials are working alongside the province to assess water quality and establish an alternate water supply for residents.

Weather Forecast for Kootenay Districts and southern BC interior

- Small and medium river levels in the Southern Interior and South Okanagan are expected to remain high through the remainder of today. The B.C. River Forecast Centre is reporting that several rivers in the west Kootenays will remain at flood stage.
- Light rain is expected to begin in the Grand Forks and Upper Kettle area late tonight or early tomorrow.
- Environment Canada is forecasting showers to continue throughout next week, which will maintain high water levels in identified flood risk areas. A high stream advisory continues for the North Thompson River.
- Cooler temperatures have significantly slowed snow melt, however, rainfall amounts will determine whether streams rise or fall over the next several days.

Southeast Region

Southeast Regional PREOC is activated to Level 3 (24 hour operation) working in support of local governments and other agencies including the Interior Health Authority.

There are four Emergency Operation Centres operating in the region and located at:

1. Grand Forks (jointly established between the City of Grand Forks and the Kootenay Boundary Regional District)
2. Nelson (established by the Regional District of Central Kootenay)
3. Fruitvale (established by the Fruitvale Municipality)
4. Cranbrook (established by the Regional District of East Kootenay)

SLOCAN RIVER - Passmore

- Currently there are 50 residences on evacuation order and 375 homes on alert.
- Two 20-person Ministry of Forests unit crews and two 3-person Initial Attack crews were deployed to assist the local government with sandbagging.
- A number of Search & Rescue volunteers are on the ground in the Passmore area assisting with notifying local residents of evacuation orders and alerts.
- Emergency Social Services has provided assistance to a number of voluntary evacuees in the Passmore area. Several of those people have decided to stay with friends and family.

GRANBY RIVER, KETTLE RIVER - Grand Forks

- 41 homes in Grand Forks are being closely monitored for potential risk. One person has voluntarily evacuated and is staying with friends.
- A road has been flooded and closed north of the town.
- The Province has deployed one 20-person Ministry of Forests unit crew to assist with sandbagging in the area.
- Action is being undertaken to protect sewer system infrastructure from possible flood damage.

GREENWOOD

- Current information is that a dike breach has been reported along Boundary Creek at Greenwood.

- One home is being monitored for possible flood risk.
- One Ministry of Forests unit crew was deployed to the area, but has now been reassigned to Grand Forks.

GLADE (north of Castlegar)

- There is a breach in the community water system reservoir, affecting drinking water for approximately 90 homes.
- Health officials are assessing water quality, and the province is assisting the community with establishing a temporary water supply.

OTHER AREAS

- Kelly Creek (near Fruitvale) has one home at risk of flooding and one home flooded.
- Proctor Creek & Sandy Creek (East of Nelson) also has one home at risk of flooding.
- Midway Area has six homes at risk of flooding.
- Fruitvale's water treatment plant was threatened and a boil water advisory has been issued.
- Eagle Creek (Columbia Shuswap Regional District) there's one home being closely monitored for potential risk.
- Mica Creek (North of Revelstoke) reports a landslide caused closure of Highway 23 to Mica Village.

Outlook

Rivers and streams continued to rise overnight and into the morning in many areas of Okanagan and West Kootenays due to Saturday afternoon's heavy rains. Widespread flooding problems may continue in the West Kootenays throughout the weekend.