

PROVINCIAL COORDINATION CENTRE

Spring Flooding Situation Overview – May 21, 2006 at 2100 hrs

GENERAL OVERVIEW

A low pressure system moved into the province overnight Friday, May 19, 2006, continuing into Saturday, May 20, 2006, bringing cooler temperatures and showers. Snowmelt runoff into rivers has slowed throughout potential flood risk areas. Significant rainfall was recorded Saturday afternoon in many areas of the Central Interior and Kootenays, driving river levels higher and increasing flooding issues. Water levels are rising along the Kettle River and the Granby River at Grand Forks.

The Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC) in Victoria has now been activated to Level 3 (24 hour operation). The Southeast Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre (PREOC) in Nelson is now also operating at Level 3. The Central PREOC in Kamloops continues to operate at Level 2.

WEATHER FORECAST

OUTLOOK: A low pressure system in the upper atmosphere will likely remain off the south coast, gradually weakening by Tuesday, May 23, 2006, through Thursday, May 25, 2006. The system is expected to bring a mix of clouds, scattered showers, and isolated thundershowers over the next four days as it moves in a south-westerly direction. Temperatures are projected to be slightly cooler than seasonal norms.

SOUTHEAST PREOC (Nelson)

REGIONAL DISTRICT EAST KOOTENAY Emergency Operations Centre, Cranbrook.

Invermere - The drinking water supply has been interrupted for approximately 200 to 250 homes, affecting 500 people in the Timber Ridge subdivision of Invermere.

REGIONAL DISTRICT KOOTENAY BOUNDARY Emergency Operations Centre, Grand Forks.

Grand Forks - Forty homes are currently on an evacuation alert, and are being closely monitored for flooding risks. A 20-person Ministry of Forest fire unit crew has been assisting with sandbagging approximately 10,000 sandbags.

Greenwood (on Boundary Creek west of Grand Forks) – A dike breach was reported along Boundary Creek. Sandbagging efforts were successful in containing the breach.

Rock Creek (Hwy 33 between Castlegar & Osoyoos) – The local government continues to monitor 6 homes in the area for potential flooding issues. Sandbagging is underway.

VILLAGE OF FRUITVALE Emergency Operations Centre, Fruitvale

Fruitvale - The Province is helping to protect water supplies by providing generators for backup wells.

Kelly Creek (East of Trail) – The local government is monitoring one home for potential flooding issues.

REGIONAL DISTRICT CENTRAL KOOTENAY Emergency Operations Centre, Nelson.

The Declaration of a Local State of Emergency continues for the Regional District of Central Kootenay.

Passmore - Fifty-three homes have been ordered to evacuate the flood risk area, and an additional 98 homes have been placed on an evacuation alert. The Province deployed two 20-person Ministry of Forest fire unit crews, and two 3-person Initial Attack teams to assist with sandbagging. A number of Search & Rescue volunteers assisted with notifying local residents of evacuation orders and alerts. Emergency Social Services also provided assistance to a number of voluntary evacuees.

Glade – The Province is assisting 90 homes with drinking water resources, and is working with local government and the Interior Health Authority to establish an alternate drinking supply for the community.

Salmo – The Province deployed 10,000 sandbags to Salmo to reinforce a dyke along Erie Creek.

CENTRAL PREOC

The Central PREOC in Kamloops continues to operate at Level 2. No emergency operations centres are active at this time. Minor flooding has been experienced in some areas. A number of boil water advisories are in place in the Shuswap and Okanagan areas.

SUMMARY

Water levels on the Kettle River and Grandby River in Grand Forks began to climb significantly at noon on Sunday, May 21, 2006. The levels are expected to increase significantly until late evening, or early Monday morning. Environment Canada is forecasting showers throughout the rest of the week, which will maintain high water levels in identified flood risk areas. A High Streamflow Advisory remains in effect for the North Thompson River. Cooler temperatures have significantly slowed snow melt. Rainfall amounts will determine whether streams rise or fall over the remainder of the weekend.

The Province has deployed 235,000 sandbags to approximately 20 communities in the South Okanagan and South Kootenay areas.

The Province deployed 66 Ministry of Forest emergency responders to assist with sandbagging efforts.

A number of other volunteer and provincial staff emergency responders have been deployed to assist communities throughout areas of the province affected by flooding issues.

A total of 53 homes are on evacuation order in the southern interior of the province, and a further 138 homes are on evacuation alert.

DEFINITIONS

1. Rivers & Streams

A **High Streamflow Advisory** means that river levels are rising or expected to rise rapidly, but that no major flooding is expected. Minor flooding in low-lying areas is possible.

A **Flood Watch** means that river levels are rising and will approach or may exceed the riverbank. Flooding of areas adjacent to affected rivers may occur.

A **Flood Warning** means that river levels have exceeded the riverbank or will exceed the riverbank imminently, and that flooding of areas adjacent to the rivers affected will result.

2. Evacuations

Evacuation Notice: people are pre-warned about potential flooding activity that may lead to an alert being put in place.

Evacuation alert: people are warned of imminent threat to life and property, and are asked to be ready to leave on short notice. Be prepared for worsening conditions. An Evacuation Alert can be upgraded to an Evacuation Order at any

time. There is no minimum time required between the two notices. Evacuation Orders can be issued at any time.

Evacuation order: people must leave the area immediately. Evacuation Orders are delivered door to door by RCMP and volunteers. If you hear of an Evacuation Order for your area, you should not wait to be contacted in this way. You should leave immediately.

Evacuation rescinded: residents will be notified that they may return to their homes when the danger has passed.