

## PROVINCIAL COORDINATION CENTRE

### Spring Flooding Situation Overview – May 22, 2006 at 1530 hrs

#### GENERAL OVERVIEW

Streams and rivers in the Kootenay and Boundary region are running well above flood stage. Most peaked overnight and are holding at high levels this morning. The Kettle River at Ferry has hit the third highest recorded flood level in more than 70 years of record keeping. Both it and Grandby River peaked on Sunday and are being closely monitored. A High Streamflow Advisory continues for the North Thompson River.

Environment Canada is forecasting heavy rainfall this evening and showers throughout the rest of the week, which could drive water levels higher where river basins are already saturated from snowmelt runoff, and previous rainfalls.

There are three Declarations of State of Local Emergency in place:

Regional Districts of Central Kootenay	May 19, 2006	10:52
Regional District of Kootenay/Boundary	May 21, 2006	20:29
City of Grand Forks	May 21, 2006	20:29

An Evacuation Order from the Regional District of Central Kootenay remains in effect for 53 homes in the Passmore area, with an additional 113 homes on Evacuation Alert. An evacuation alert also stands in the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary for 40 homes in the Grand Forks area.

- The Southeast Provincial Regional Emergency Operation Centre (PREOC) in Nelson is activated to Level 3 (24 hour operation).
- The Central PREOC in Kamloops is activated to Level 2 (16 hour operation).
- The Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre in Victoria is activated to Level 3 (24 hour operation).

There are dozens of ministry members deployed to support provincial operations and local government Emergency Operation Centres (EOC). Over a quarter million sandbags have been distributed by the province to 21 communities, and approximately 70 Ministry of Forests fire unit crew members are assisting with sandbagging. Another 20 fire unit crew members are on standby. Several members of the Public Safety lifeline voluntary groups are also engaged. This includes 2 Mobile Support Teams (MST) Emergency Social Services and local Search and Rescue groups.

The Province is helping communities protect drinking water resources potentially impacted by flooding issues. Please see the “Definitions” section for the differences between types of water advisories.

The Interior Health Authority has issued a boil water notice for:

- Glade.
- Timber Ridge subdivision of Invermere.
- Windell Irrigation District.

The Interior Health Authority has issued a water quality advisory in effect for:

- City of Nelson.
- Beaver Valley/Fruitvale- conserve water
- Greenwood- conserve water

If, through taste, colour or odour, you suspect that your drinking water has been contaminated, purify it before drinking by boiling, or adding purification tablets, or chlorinating it with a bleaching compound.

If the bleach is used, add one or two drops per litre and allow to stand for 30 minutes before drinking.

Water levels can rise quickly without warning. Stay alert if you are in a flood-prone area. Stay tuned to local media for the latest information updates.

## **WEATHER FORECAST**

Temperatures throughout the Kootenay Boundary region are near seasonal normals. Periods of rain and/or thundershowers are in the forecast for today and occasional showers are forecast for Tuesday through the remainder of the week. Environment Canada has issued a "Rainfall Warning" for the Columbia, Boundary, Kootenay and Arrow/Slocan Lake area for Monday and Tuesday. Rainfall amounts to 15-25 mm are also forecast for the areas.

## **SOUTHEAST PREOC (Nelson)**

### **REGIONAL DISTRICT EAST KOOTENAY**

*Emergency Operations Centre located in 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, located in Grand Forks.*

**Grand Forks** - Forty homes are currently on an evacuation alert, and are being closely monitored for flooding risks. One person has voluntarily evacuated. Kettle River peaked at midnight, after rising 21 cm from noon Sunday. From midnight to 3:30AM the water level receded 4.5 cm. The Granby River peaked in mid afternoon Sunday and receded 26 cm from its peak. Ministry of Forest fire unit crews assisted with 10,000 sandbags. Additionally, the municipal sewer system is under stress as it tries to handle the extra runoff of the flood waters and residents have been asked to minimize waste water generation.

**Greenwood (on Boundary Creek west of Grand Forks)** – A dike breach was reported along Boundary Creek yesterday and 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 efforts continue.

### **VILLAGE OF FRUITVALE**

*Emergency Operations Centre located in Fruitvale.*

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

**Kelly Creek (East of Trail)** – The local government continues to monitor one home for flood risk.

### **REGIONAL DISTRICT CENTRAL KOOTENAY**

*Emergency Operations Centre located in Nelson.*

- A Local State of Emergency continues for Regional District of Central Kootenay.

**Passmore** - Fifty-three homes have been ordered to evacuate the flood risk area, and an additional 113 homes have been placed on an evacuation alert. The Province deployed 46 MOF unit crew members 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. High flows continued along the Slocan River continued overnight.

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.

## **DEFINITIONS**

### **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.

### **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.

## **3. Water Advisories**

**Boil Water Notice** – Used in situations in which the public health threat posed by the water supply system is significant and the nature of the threat is one that can be effectively addressed through boiling of the water.

**Water Quality Advisory** – A water quality advisory is used in situations in which the public health threat posed by the water system is modest, and actions can be taken to reduce risks through means other than requiring a Boil Water Notice.