

PROVINCIAL COORDINATION CENTRE

Spring Flooding Situation Overview – May 22, 2006 at 2000 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 Granby 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 1 (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 and a number of communities have suggested water restrictions. Residents are being asked to contact their local health authority and listen to local media for information to determine the safety and limitations to water use in their areas.

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

Significant rainfall is forecast until midnight or early Tuesday morning with the highest amount of rainfall in the Kootenay, Boundary and Columbia areas, encompassing all three watersheds. The weather system moving into Wednesday could contain warmer temperatures that could accelerate snowmelt that with rain, could add to rising river water levels. If these areas receive significant precipitation as they did on Saturday, water levels could reach or exceed previous high levels of the past few days.

SOUTHEAST PREOC (Nelson)

REGIONAL DISTRICT EAST KOOTENAY

Emergency Operations Centre located in Cranbrook.

Timber Ridge – The water supply system is operational again. Some residents were supplied bottled water by the regional district. All residents in the area are under a boil water notice.

REGIONAL DISTRICT KOOTENAY BOUNDARY

Emergency Operations Centre, located in Grand Forks.

*** Declaration of State of Local Emergency is in effect by the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary AND a Declaration of State of Local Emergency is in effect by the City of Grand Forks.*

Grand Forks - Areas of specific concern are Johnson Flats adjacent to the City of Grand Forks boundary. The province is providing a geo-tech to help assess the stability of the Johnson Flats berm. An evacuation alert is in effect for 40 homes in the Grand Forks area. An Emergency Social Services reception centre has been opened and one family has voluntarily evacuated.

VILLAGE OF FRUITVALE

Emergency Operations Centre located in Fruitvale.

Fruitvale - Primary water system is contaminated. Water is currently being drawn from backup wells. Generators have been provided for backup power.

REGIONAL DISTRICT CENTRAL KOOTENAY

Emergency Operations Centre located in Nelson.

*** Declaration of State of Local Emergency in effect for the Regional District of Central Kootenay.*

Passmore - 53 homes have been ordered to evacuate the flood risk area, there are a total of 113 under alert.

Glade – The water reservoir for the community of glade has been damaged and drinking water for the community is being provided by an alternate reservoir.

CENTRAL PREOC

The Central PREOC in Kamloops continues to operate at Level 1. No emergency operations centres are active at this time. Minor flooding has been experienced in some areas.

SOUTHEAST PREOC (Nelson)

REGIONAL DISTRICT EAST KOOTENAY

Emergency Operations Centre located in Cranbrook.

The Timber Ridge water supply system is operational again. Some residents were supplied bottled water by the regional district. All residents in the area are under a boil water notice.

OTHER

The communities of Greenwood, Rock Creek, Kelly Creek and Salmo continue to be monitored closely by local and provincial emergency managers for potential flood risk escalations.

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.