

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Its been another hot day across the southern interior of the province. As expected the mountain snowpacks are continuing to melt at a rapid rate, driving streams and rivers to higher levels than yesterday. River Forecast Centre (RFC) is now anticipating that some rivers in the southern interior could reach 25 year return period flows by Monday evening or Tuesday. A few new incidents have been reported today but there are still no significant flooding issues to report on. Local governments and agencies have been responding as needed and the Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centres (PREOC) have been supporting as required. Flood notifications, preparations and conference calls held earlier in the week have allowed the local governments and agencies to be fully prepared heading into this holiday weekend.

Due to the volume of calls and the potential risks from rising waters, PREOC's in the Southwest, Southeast and Central are currently being staffed at level 1 as is the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC). PREOC's are making community contact calls and are following up on active incidents with the Emergency Program Coordinators and provincial agencies to get further details. PREOC's will continue with community and agency coordination calls tomorrow.

River Forecast Centre has increased the number of rivers under Flood Watch to 13. There are no unmet community needs at this point however a couple of incidents have not been fully assessed. A PECC conference call was held at 16:00 today for the provincial agencies and the PREOC's to exchange information. The next PECC conference call be held tomorrow at 11:30.

SUMMARY OF NEW INCIDENTS

- washout near Inchuk Forest Road southeast of Pemberton, possible impacts to holiday campers and FN communities, still under investigation
- high water in low lying areas near Grand Forks, community is sandbagging near traditional problem areas
- landslide on Highway 40 east of Goldbridge, east-west traffic cut-off, road will be closed at least until Monday evening
- Highway 1 in Rodgers Pass closed by a mud slide

OUTLOOK

Cooler weather has moved into the northern interior and upper Fraser River today and as well as along the outer coast. Snowmelt in the Cariboo and Upper Fraser regions should begin to slow tonight and the smaller streams in those regions river could peak tonight or tomorrow. The southern interior remains warm today but is expected to see cooler temperatures tomorrow. River levels will likely continue to rise in the southern interior through tomorrow and into Tuesday for the larger rivers. High water and overbank flows are reported along a number of streams and rivers today but thus far no significant impacts are being reported. By late this evening or tomorrow morning it is expected that flood waters could reach some homes along some of the steams and rivers which are currently under Flood Watch.

For the next 24 hours the areas of concern are:

- the Granby and Kettle Rivers, in rural areas of Grand Forks
- the Similkameen and Tulameen Rivers near Princeton
- the Salmon River south of Salmon Arm
- the Eagle River near Malakwa
- small streams in the North Thompson River
- the Coldwater and Nicola Rivers near Merritt

As the current warm weather moves out of the province a frontal rain event will move across the province beginning sometime on Monday. At this time the rain amounts are not expected to be significant, however it will bear watching. The River Forecast Centre will continue to monitor the changing weather and revise the forecasts as necessary.