

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Cooler weather has moved across the northern interior of the province and snowmelt is beginning to slow across that region. Cooler weather is also beginning to move into the southern interior, however temperatures in the south will continue to be above normal today.

After a very warm day yesterday across southern BC, a number of streams and rivers are at or above bank full conditions and are some are now beginning to flood into the farm land and low lying areas of the floodplains. There were 2 new incidents overnight and they were of a fairly minor nature. It appears now that some of the small creeks and rivers in the interior are close to their peak levels for this event. Some may have run out of snow and some are likely responding the cooler temperatures and the reduced snowmelt. Sandbagging is occurring at 3 or 4 locations this morning in the Kootenays and Central Interior however the impacts continue to be relatively minor.

Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centres (PREOC) 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.

SUMMARY OF NEW INCIDENTS

- Birkenhead River overflowed its banks last night near Mt. Currie and water flowed across Highway 99. Highway 99 remains flooded over a 1 km stretch near Mt. Currie, but traffic is still able to pass
- Kitchener Creek near Creston has overflowed its banks this morning and the local government and residents are sandbagging to protect a mobile home park. Ministry of Environment (MOE) flood assessor is working with the local government to develop a response plan

OUTLOOK

Cooler weather has moved into most areas of the province this morning. As well a frontal rain system is now beginning to bring light rain to a number of areas. The cooler weather will reduce the rate of snowmelt and that effect is already beginning show up as reduce runoff in the northern regions. In the southern interior some creeks and rivers are also beginning to show signs of reduced runoff.

Some areas which were of concern yesterday appear to be less of concern today. The Coldwater and Nicola Rivers near Merritt appear to be close to peaking and the Salmon River south of Salmon Arm appears to be heading for a peak in the next 12 hours. The rate of rise on the Eagle River and the Granby and Kettle Rivers also appears to be slowing. Many of the creeks in the Okanagan Valley appear to have reached their peaks yesterday.

The bigger rivers will likely be heading towards peaks over the next 2 days. The Fraser River upstream of Prince George, Similkameen River and Kettle River will all likely be heading towards peaks in the next few days. The River Forecast Centre (RFC) has issued a High Streamflow Advisory for the Fraser River at Prince George. The Fraser River at South Fort George could hit its first flood alert level sometime tonight or tomorrow but should not rise much beyond that point. The other river that is still being watched is the North Thompson River which continues to show a fairly steady rise on the mainstem and major tributaries.

With the cooler weather moving across the province, snowmelt will slow and water levels will begin to drop. The primary concern now will be rainfall as a broad frontal rain system moves over the province. The RFC will continue to revise forecasts as new information is received.