

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Cooler weather continues across the province today. Heavy rain was reported late yesterday and overnight in the parts of the middle and upper Fraser River watersheds. As a result the water levels on the Fraser River at South Fort George are now projected to go well over the first flood alert levels. There is currently a Flood Warning posted for the Fraser River at Prince George and 11 homes are on Evacuation Alert. The City of Prince George is currently drafting a Declaration of State of Local Emergency in anticipation of the need for evacuations.

Over the rest of the province, cooler weather and no rain has resulted in declining water levels on the small and medium sized streams and rivers. Some of the larger rivers continue to rise slowly as the snowmelt and rainfall runoff continues to work its way through the system.

The Northeast Provincial Regional Emergency Coordination Centre (PREOC) and the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC) are currently activated at level 2 (08:00 to 20:00 hrs) in response to the increase flood risk in Prince George. The remaining PREOC's are staffed during regular work hours. The City of Prince George has activated its EOC and the Regional District of Fraser Fort George is closely monitoring flooding issues in the region.

SUMMARY OF NEW INCIDENTS

- increased flood risk in the City of Prince George, Fraser River continuing to rise
- new flooding along the Fraser River in Quesnel

High Stream Flow and Flood Watch advisories remain in effect across a wide area of the southern half of the province. These notices can be viewed on the River Forecast Centre (RFC) website.

OUTLOOK

Heavy rain overnight in parts of the middle and upper Fraser River watersheds has sent the streams and rivers in the region to higher levels today. The RFC is now indicating the Fraser River at South Fort George will reach 9.9 metres over the next 2 days which is slightly higher than the level reached during the Spring 2007 freshet. There continues to be a risk of further rainfall in these areas today.

Should that occur, rivers levels could go higher. The outlook for the City of Prince George, the City of Quesnel and areas upstream along the Fraser River is for increasing water levels for the remainder of today and throughout tomorrow. It is anticipated the City of Prince George will order an evacuation of 10 to 15 homes sometime this afternoon along the Fraser River.

Across the rest of the province, cool weather has greatly reduced the snowmelt. As well there has been no significant amount of rain over the past 24 hours and water levels are beginning to decline. Again, any amount of rain in any of the watersheds could result in high flows, however no significant rain is in the forecast at this time. The outlook for areas of the province outside of the middle and upper Fraser River regions is for water levels to continue to decline. The exceptions to this are the major rivers such as the North Thompson, the South Thompson and Fraser River in the lower mainland which will continue to rise for a few more days. The RFC is currently forecasting the Fraser River at Mission to reach 5.7 to 5.8 metres on Sunday as the snowmelt and rainfall runoff works through the system.

The current weather forecast is showing that cooler weather will continue for one more day across the province. There are rain showers in the forecast for some regions but no significant rain other than in the Liard River Basin in the far north. Warmer weather will return to the province on Saturday and Sunday but temperatures are expected to be lower than those experienced last weekend. This forecast is favourable for a general reduction in the flood risk across the province looking forward 2 to 5 days, however there remains considerable uncertainty in the rainfall forecast.