

# Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre

## Spring Freshet – Information Report

June 8, 2007 1330 hours

It is extremely important to be prepared for emergencies. Assemble and keep an emergency kit with enough supplies to support you and your family for at least 72 hours.

### Changes to Flood Advisories and Warnings

- Slokan River (Passmore) ADVISORY **ended** June 8 at 0715 hrs
- Illecillewaet River (Greenly) ADVISORY **ended** June 8 at 0715 hrs

### B.C. Overview (estimates)

- 1,400 homes under evacuation ALERT
  - Majority in Kitimat/Stikine RD, Langley, Maple Ridge and Shxw'ow'hamel
- 140 homes under evacuation ORDER

### First Nations

- Whispering Pines/Clinton Indian Band **rescinded** evacuation order

### Local Authority Response Activity

An **Evacuation Alert** means residents may be asked to leave their homes on very short notice. Residents should prepare by organizing an emergency supply kit with necessary medications, personal toiletries, change of clothing and personal and family documents.

An **Evacuation Order** means there is an imminent risk and residents must leave the area immediately. Local police or RCMP enforce the order.

Local Authority	EOC Status	Local State of Emergency	# on Evacuation Alert	# on Evacuation Order	Web Site URL
<b>NORTHEAST</b>					
Prince George	Activated	Y	approx. 70 homes	approx. 9 homes	<a href="http://www.city.pg.bc.ca">www.city.pg.bc.ca</a>
Fraser-Fort George Regional District	Activated	Y	approx. 60 homes		<a href="http://www.rdffg.bc.ca">www.rdffg.bc.ca</a>
Peace River RD	Activated	N			<a href="http://www.peacriverrd.bc.ca/home.php">www.peacriverrd.bc.ca/home.php</a>
Quesnel	Activated	N			<a href="http://www.city.quesnel.bc.ca">www.city.quesnel.bc.ca</a>
Cariboo Regional District	Activated	N			<a href="http://www.cariboord.bc.ca/">http://www.cariboord.bc.ca/</a>
Central Coast RD	Activated	N			<a href="http://centralcoastbc.com/">http://centralcoastbc.com/</a>
Village of McBride	Activated	N			<a href="http://mcbride.ca/">http://mcbride.ca/</a>
<b>First Nations in Northeast region</b>					
North South Shelley (Fort George IR 2)			43 homes		
Kwadacha			Y		
<b>NORTHWEST</b>					
Town of Smithers	Activated	Y		7 homes	<a href="http://www.town.smithers.bc.ca/">www.town.smithers.bc.ca/</a>
Bulkley- Nechako Regional District	Activated	Y		25 homes	<a href="http://www.rdbn.bc.ca">www.rdbn.bc.ca</a>
Houston	Activated	N			<a href="http://www.houston.ca">www.houston.ca</a>
Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine	Activated	Y	500 homes	approx. 50 homes	<a href="http://www.rdks.bc.ca/">http://www.rdks.bc.ca/</a>
Terrace	Activated	Y	10 homes		<a href="http://www.city.terrace.bc.ca/">http://www.city.terrace.bc.ca/</a>

<b>First Nations in Northwest region</b>					
Nisga'a Lisims	Activated	N			<a href="http://www.nisgaalisims.ca/">http://www.nisgaalisims.ca/</a>
Kispiox Village			approx. 4 homes		
Glen Vowell, Kitsumkalum Lakalzap, Lower Post			Y		
<b>SOUTHWEST</b>					
Fraser Valley Regional District	Activated	N			<a href="http://www.fvrd.bc.ca">www.fvrd.bc.ca</a>
Maple Ridge	Activated	N	approx. 40 homes		<a href="http://www.mapleridge.ca/">www.mapleridge.ca/</a>
Mission	Activated	N			<a href="http://www.city.mission.bc.ca">www.city.mission.bc.ca</a>
Abbotsford	Activated	N	Approx 35 homes		<a href="http://www.abbotsford.ca">www.abbotsford.ca</a>
Squamish - Lillooet Regional District	Activated	N			<a href="http://www.slrd.bc.ca">http://www.slrd.bc.ca</a>
Langley	Activated	N	approx. 400 homes		<a href="http://www.township.langley.bc.ca">www.township.langley.bc.ca</a>
Kent-Harrison	Activated	N			
City of Chilliwack	Activated	N	approx. 40 homes		<a href="http://www.gov.chilliwack.bc.ca">www.gov.chilliwack.bc.ca</a>
City of Coquitlam	Activated	N			<a href="http://www.coquitlam.ca">http://www.coquitlam.ca</a>
District of Hope	Activated	N			<a href="http://www.hope.ca/">http://www.hope.ca/</a>
<b>First Nations in Southwest region</b>					
Shxy'ow'hamel			Y	4 homes	
Skwah, Skwxway, Kwantlen, Katzie			Y		
Mount Currie (Lil'wat)			Y	16 homes	
<b>CENTRAL</b>					
Thompson- Nicola Regional District	Activated	N			<a href="http://www.tnrd.bc.ca/">http://www.tnrd.bc.ca/</a>
Kamloops	Activated	N			<a href="http://www.kamloops.ca">http://www.kamloops.ca</a>
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>					
Columbia Shuswap Regional District	Activated	Y		approx. 16 homes (Anderson Rd).	<a href="http://www.csrld.bc.ca/">http://www.csrld.bc.ca/</a>
Town of Golden	Activated	Y			

For more information on First Nations community updates, please visit: [www.fness.bc.ca](http://www.fness.bc.ca)

Click [here](#) for municipality contact information.

### **Conditions Overview**

Cooler temperatures and reduced rainfall have allowed river levels to stabilize in most areas of the province. Water levels on the Slocan and Illecillewaet rivers receded from their mid-week peaks late yesterday, cancelling high streamflow advisories.

Flooding in the Northeast and Northwest is expected continue into next week. New flooding issues have developed near Golden and along the Liard River at Lower Post.

Unsettled weather is forecast for Sunday and Monday as a low-pressure system moves across the province. The Skeena and Bulkley Valley areas are expected to receive light rain, with between 10 and 15 mm forecast for the Bulkley Valley. The south coast is expected to receive up to 35 mm of rainfall beginning Saturday.

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 bankfull. Flooding of areas adjacent to affected rivers may occur.

A **Flood Warning** means that river levels have exceeded bankfull or will exceed bankfull imminently, and that flooding of areas adjacent to the rivers affected will result.

### **Northeast Region**

A **Flood Warning** is in effect for the Upper Fraser River (McBride, Prince George, Quesnel and other locations along the Fraser River). River levels in the Upper Fraser River have begun to recede but remain above flood stage. The Upper Fraser is expected to stay above flood stage through the weekend and into next week.

The Upper Fraser River at Prince George is above flood stage.

A **Flood Warning** is in effect for the Liard River.

Unsettled weather is predicted to continue for the rest of the week, with near or slightly below normal day-time temperatures, and periods of rain.

A **High Streamflow Advisory** is in effect for the Southern Peace River. River levels are expected to continue to rise over the next several days.

### **Northwest Region**

A **Flood Warning** is in effect for the Skeena River. The rate of rise has slowed but the river may continue to rise very slowly for the next day or two, as snowmelt continues adding water. Flooding is occurring along unprotected sections of the Skeena valley, near Terrace and in other communities along the Skeena.

A **Flood Warning** is in effect for the Bulkley and Telkwa rivers.

The Skeena and Bulkley Rivers continue to run at well above flood stage and remain at or near their peak flows.

A **Flood Warning** is in effect for the Nass River. Flooding is anticipated in unprotected sections of the Nass Valley. The Nass River peaked at noon on Tuesday and is now receding.

A **High Streamflow Advisory** is in effect for the Nechacko River.

The potential for higher water flows remains on the Skeena, Bulkley and Nass rivers, depending on the weather and the volume of snowmelt.

### **Central Region**

A **High Streamflow Advisory** is now in effect for the North Thompson River upstream of Kamloops. (Birch Island, Clearwater, McLure). It is expected that the North Thompson River will remain close to current levels through the weekend and into next week.

### **Southeast Region**

A **Flood Warning** is in effect for the Columbia River (Golden).

A **High Streamflow Advisory** is in effect for the Kicking Horse River (Golden).

The Slokan and Lardeau Rivers continue to recede.

### **Southwest Region**

A **High Streamflow Advisory** is in effect for the Lower Fraser River, encompassing the area between Hope and the ocean. The lower Fraser is expected to peak Saturday through Monday. The greatest risk factor for greater volume in the next two weeks is a widespread rain storm event of 30 to 60 mm, which is not forecast.

Flooding is anticipated to occur in areas unprotected by dikes.

The flood risk season for the Lower Fraser will not be over before the end of June.

A **High Streamflow Advisory** is in effect for the Lillooet River (Pemberton/Mt Currie).

### **River Level Situation and Forecast:**

Click [here](#) for latest detailed forecast and commentary.

Click [here](#) to view up-to-date information from the River Forecast Centre website.

Click [here](#) to view real-time B.C. river level monitoring station readings.

### **Weather Forecast:**

Click [here](#) to view the Environment Canada Weather Office forecasts.

### **Public Health Advisories:**

Click [here](#) to view public health information provided by the B.C. Ministry of Health.

### **Highway Conditions:**

Highway 16 is closed in both directions between rock slide 37 kilometres east of Terrace and flooded area 48 kilometres east of Terrace. An alternate route between Terrace and Kitwanga via Cranberry Forest service road is available with scheduled 30 minute openings in alternating directions every 2 hours.

Nisga'a Highway is closed in both directions from Gitwinksihlkw (Canyon City) to Greenville due to flooding and shoulder erosion.

Highway 51 is closed in both directions 20 kilometres east of Telegraph Creek due to wash out.

Usk ferry service is still suspended.

CN Rail line is closed from Smithers to Prince Rupert (along Highway 16 corridor). Shames Flat portion of the railroad track has washed away due to water erosion.

For the most up-to-date information on this situation and others, visit [www.drivebc.ca](http://www.drivebc.ca) or call toll-free 1-800-550-4997.

## **Provincial Response Activity:**

A toll-free provincial flood information line is operating from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m daily. The number is: 1-888-350-6070.

Provincial government staff are monitoring river levels, and together with local government officials and First Nations bands are reviewing potential threats to the public, infrastructure and the environment.

The Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre in Victoria is activated.

Provincial regional emergency operation centres in Terrace, Prince George, Kamloops, Nelson and Surrey are activated. Staffing is being increased in the provincial centres at Prince George, Terrace and Surrey.

The province's logistical preparations include sandbags, sandbag filling machines, and other flood fighting materials. Nearly four million sandbags have been distributed to local authorities. Approximately 466,000 sandbags have been shipped since June 6<sup>th</sup> to meet local government requests throughout the province. Ministry of Forests firefighting crews are being used for sandbagging operations in support of local governments.

An Agriculture Notice -- Livestock Relocation Phase 2 and 3 was issued June 2 by the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General and Ministry of Agriculture and Lands.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Lands has an emergency operations centre in Abbotsford. It is providing flood awareness information and guidance on managing livestock in preparation for flooding.

For more information on the relocation of cattle and emergency preparedness planning, dairy farmers are asked to call the BC Milk Producers Flood Line at 1-877-859-6140 or click [here](#). For more general information on agricultural emergency preparedness, farmers are asked to contact the MEOC in Abbotsford toll free at 1-888-221-7141

## **Public Information - Flood Preparedness and Response**

The Provincial Flood Information Line

- 1-888-350-6070

On the web, visit: [www.pep.bc.ca](http://www.pep.bc.ca)

### *Other Telephone Numbers*

In an emergency,

- dial 9-1-1

For local non-emergency information,

- contact your local government authority. Find contact numbers in the blue pages of the telephone book

For public health information, contact your regional health authority,

- Northern Health Authority, 1-888-766-6358
- Fraser Health Authority, 1-877-935-5669

For agriculture sector information, contact the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands:

- 1-888-221-7141