

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

UPGRADED – Flood Warning – Lower Nicola River

Flood Warning – Similkameen River, Tulameen River, Coldwater River

UPDATE: 11:30 AM November 15, 2021

The River Forecast Centre is **upgrading a Flood Warning** for:

- **Lower Nicola River**

The River Forecast Centre is **maintaining Flood Warnings** for:

- **Similkameen River**
- **Tulameen River and tributaries**
- **Coldwater River**

A significant atmospheric river has made landfall across southern coastal regions of British Columbia. Observed rainfall amounts since yesterday have been in the 50-185 mm range across the Coquihalla, upper Coldwater and Tulameen River watersheds. Temperatures have been rising, with temperatures in the 5-7°C range being observed at automated snow weather stations across the region. Snowmelt is being observed at mid-elevations and is adding additional runoff to rivers. Rivers have risen rapidly today, with further rain in the forecast through today, Monday November 15th (turning to snow at higher elevations). Current conditions include:

- Tulameen River at Princeton (Water Survey of Canada gauge 08NL024) has peaked early this morning (Nov 15) and is currently at 3.811 m on the gauge. This is beyond the flow estimate range for this station is estimated to be beyond a 50-100 year return period flow
- Coldwater River at Merritt (08LG010) is at 3.48 m gauge height. This is beyond the flow estimate range for this station and is estimated to be beyond a 50-100 year return period flow. Continued rises are possible through Monday, though the rate of increase has slowed.
- Similkameen River at Hedley (08NL038) is flowing at 972 m³/s (approaching a 50-100 year flow) and has begun to peak. Additional rises are possible through Monday afternoon.

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- Nicola River near Spences Bridge (08LG006) is flowing at 376 m³/s (near a 50 year flow) and rising rapidly. Additional rises are expected into the afternoon or later Monday and may reach or exceed 400 m³/s.

The public is advised to stay clear of the fast-flowing rivers and potentially unstable riverbanks during the high-streamflow period.

The [River Forecast Centre](#) continues to monitor the conditions and will provide updates as conditions warrant.

BC River Forecast Centre

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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.