

# Ministry of Forests

Flood Warning – Whiteman Creek, Lower Thompson (Cache Creek)

Flood Watch – Similkameen, Okanagan, Salmon

High Streamflow Advisory – Nicola, Shuswap tributaries, North Thompson (NEW), South Thompson (NEW)

Issued: 1:45 PM May 5, 2023

The River Forecast Centre is issuing or maintaining the following:

## Flood Warning

- Whiteman Creek
- Lower Thompson Region including Cache Creek, Deadman River, Criss Creek, Bonaparte River and surrounding areas around Cache Creek and Skeetchestn

## Flood Watch

- Similkameen, including the Ashnola River, Tulameen River and other tributaries
- Okanagan including Mission Creek and tributaries around Vernon, Kelowna, Penticton and surrounding areas
- Salmon River including areas around Falkland and Salmon Arm

## High Streamflow Advisory

- Nicola River and tributaries including Guichon Creek, Spius Creek, Coldwater River and surrounding areas including Upper Nicola and Lower Nicola
- Shuswap Region including tributaries around Splatsin, Salmon Arm, Sicamous, Enderby and surrounding areas
- North Thompson River including tributaries around Barriere, Clearwater, Blue River and surrounding areas (NEW)
- South Thompson River including tributaries around Chase and surrounding areas (NEW)

Weather Synopsis:

The long period of hot weather has ended. A trough of low pressure is moving into B.C. today and Saturday, bringing the potential for rainfall in the region, and cooling temperatures.

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There is uncertainty on the location and severity of potential rainfall over the next two days (Friday and Saturday), with current forecasts indicating the potential for significant amounts of precipitation (15-35+ mm) in areas. Embedded convective activity is expected to accompany this rainfall and may lead to localized areas with more intense precipitation.

## River Conditions:

Rapid snowmelt has been observed throughout the region in response to the extended period of heat. Rivers have been rising in response to elevated snowmelt runoff.

Flows in areas around the Bonaparte River below Cache Creek (Water Survey of Canada gauge 08LF002), Arrowstone Creek Near the Mouth (08LF099), Deadman River above Criss Creek (08LF027), and Criss Creek near Savona (08LF007) are currently in the 5-year to above the 20-year range; flooding is possible in these rivers and in similar ungauged rivers near to these areas.

Water levels are high on the Whiteman Creek above Bouleau Creek (08NM174) and make return period estimates difficult, but flows are likely in excess of 10-year to 20-year flows. The Salmon River at Falkland (08LE020) is exceeding the 10-year flow. Current flows in the Okanagan region are approaching the 2-year flow in most areas, with some rivers reaching 2-year to 5-year flows.

The Coldwater River and Guichon Creek are flowing at 2-year flows. Smaller tributaries in the North Thompson River and South Thompson River are nearing 2-year flows.

With moderate to heavy rainfall forecast for Friday and Saturday, significant flood hazard will be present throughout the region. Severe flooding is possible in areas that receive high rainfall amounts (e.g. in excess of 40 mm). In areas where rainfall is heavy, river levels will rise rapidly and much quicker than the past week's snowmelt increases. Peak river levels are expected on Saturday and Sunday.

## The public is advised:

River levels are rising or expected to rise rapidly. Being near these riverbanks, creeks and fast-flowing bodies of water is dangerous:

- Stay clear of fast-flowing rivers and potentially unstable riverbanks
- Avoid recreational activities such as fishing, swimming, boating or hiking near high streamflow rivers or streams

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- Remember, high streamflow can easily trap strong swimmers, increasing risk of drowning

Understand the risks and get prepared by visiting [www.PreparedBC/floods](http://www.PreparedBC/floods).

For emergency information and related resources, go to: [www.EmergencyInfoBC.ca](http://www.EmergencyInfoBC.ca)

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

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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. Fast-flowing bodies of water increase risk to life safety. 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.