

Ministry of Forests

Flood Watch – Lillooet River (UPGRADED)

High Streamflow Advisory – Sea-to-Sky (NEW)

Issued: 10:30AM July 27, 2022

The River Forecast Centre is **upgrading** to a **Flood Watch** for the Lillooet River, including:

- **Pemberton**
- **Lillooet Lake**
- **Lillooet River and tributaries**

The River Forecast Centre is **issuing** a **High Streamflow Advisory** for:

- **Squamish River, including tributaries such as the Elaho River**
- **Sea-to-Sky rivers and creeks, especially glacially influenced**

A province wide heat wave is in effect. Pemberton reached 37.1°C on Monday and 39.1°C on Tuesday (+5.1°C higher than yesterday's Environment and Climate Change Canada's (ECCC) forecast for Tuesday). Overnight low temperatures remained at 14.4°C on Tuesday morning and 15.1°C on Wednesday morning. The Lillooet River watershed is comprised of unmonitored very high elevation snow and glacial contributions which can delay peak flows into the summer months. The recent hot weather is significantly melting high elevation snow and glaciers in the region. The Lillooet River near Pemberton (08MG005) hydrometric station rose overnight to 578 m³/s as of 6:30am this morning – an increase of about 75 m³/s from the previous day's melt-related peak. The river has reached above a 2-year return period flow (564 m³/s) at Pemberton.

Hot weather remains in the forecast for the upcoming week. Current Pemberton ECCC Weather Forecast Max/Min are as follows; Wednesday: 35°C/16°C, Thursday: 35°C/13°C, Friday: 34°C/13°C, Saturday: 33°C/13°C, Sunday: 32°C/16°C. The Lillooet River is expected to continue rising this week and could reach above a 5-year return period flow (709 m³/s) or higher at Pemberton. The upcoming flows will be the highest recorded flows for late-July since measurements began on the Lillooet River near Pemberton in 1914.

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Other rivers and creeks in the Sea-to-Sky region with high elevation snow and glacier contribution are experiencing significant rises due to the heat wave. The Squamish River near Brackendale is currently flowing at 742 m³/s (slightly above a 1-year return period flow). Flows are expected to continue rising but are unlikely to reach 2-year return period flow (1,350 m³/s) levels in the upcoming days. Although rivers and creeks in the Sea-to-Sky are unlikely to reach peak flood levels experienced typically from rain and rain-on-snow events in the fall, the upcoming flows are expected to be highest experienced in late July. Extreme caution should be taken for those travelling to the backcountry during the current heat event.

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.

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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.