

Ministry of Forests

Central Update

Flood Watch – Shuswap, Bonaparte River, North Thompson (UPGRADE), South Thompson (UPGRADE), Okanagan (UPGRADE)

High Streamflow Advisory –Similkameen, Nicola, Thompson River (NEW)

Issued: 5:00 PM May 21, 2023

The River Forecast Centre is updating the following:

Flood Watch

- Shuswap River
- Bonaparte River
- Cache Creek, Deadman River and other nearby tributaries (NEW)
- North Thompson River including tributaries around Barriere, Clearwater, Blue River and surrounding areas
- South Thompson River and including tributaries around Chase, Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc, Splatsin, Salmon Arm, Salmon River, Sicamous, Enderby and surrounding areas and surrounding areas (UPGRADED)
- Okanagan including Mission Creek and tributaries around Syilx Territory, Vernon, Kelowna, Penticton and surrounding areas

High Streamflow Advisory

- Similkameen, including the Ashnola River, Tulameen River, Lower Similkameen and other tributaries
- Nicola River and tributaries including Guichon Creek, Spius Creek, Coldwater River and surrounding areas including Upper Nicola and Lower Nicola
- Thompson River downstream of Kamloops Lake (NEW)

Weather Synopsis:

The high-pressure ridge that brought very hot temperatures to the region has broken down and weather conditions have transitioned to more unsettled patterns. Multiple thunderstorm watches and warnings have been issued by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)

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over the past couple days. On Monday, convective precipitation is expected to continue with 15-25 mm precipitation possible through the region. The upcoming weather pattern is similar to thunderstorms that caused flooding on Mission Creek near Kelowna in June 2022.

ECCC issued a Special Weather Statement on Sunday, May 21 at 11:00am PDT, indicating that heavy rainfall is expected on Tuesday, May 23 over much of the North Thompson, South Thompson and Bonaparte River watersheds. Light rain will begin Monday before becoming heavier on Tuesday. Rainfall totals could range from 20-40 mm, with higher amounts expected on east-facing mountain slopes.

River Conditions:

In higher elevation fed watersheds, rivers have reached relatively high levels for this time of year due to accelerated snowmelt runoff from this past week.

River flows continue to rise on the South Thompson River and tributaries (Adams River, Seymour River, Shuswap River), and are expected to continue leading up to potential moderate to heavy rainfall on Tuesday.

On the Shuswap River, flows are expected to continue to rise. The Shuswap River at Enderby (08LC002) is currently flowing at 424 m³/s (nearing 5-year flow).

The North Thompson River has leveled off at approximately 2,090 m³/s at the Water Survey of Canada gauge (08LB064) at McLure from the recent heat. Additional rises are possible in the upcoming week with moderate to heavy rainfall forecast for Tuesday in the North Thompson headwaters.

The Bonaparte River remains high but continues to see on-going declines in flow. The headwaters of the Bonaparte are at risk for the upcoming precipitation.

The Thompson River near Spences Bridge (08LF051) is flowing at 2,850 m³/s (2-year flow) and continuing to rise.

The public is advised:

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

Understand the risks and get prepared by visiting www.PreparedBC.ca/floods.

For emergency information and related resources, go to: 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.