

Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

UPDATE: Flood Warning – Chilcotin River from Hanceville to Fraser River, Fraser River from Chilcotin River to Big Bar

Flood Watch – Fraser River from Big Bar to Hope

High Streamflow Advisory – Fraser River downstream of Hope

Issued: 6:30 PM August 6, 2024

Note: The Chilcotin landslide and dam breach is a rapidly changing situation. Please check [EmergencyInfoBC](#) for information on current evacuation alerts and orders. Additional information can be found on the [Chilcotin River Landslide Information Portal](#).

The River Forecast Centre is maintaining current advisory levels overnight on August 6 as the flow of water and debris from behind the dam continues to move downstream. Advisory levels will be reassessed on August 7.

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

- Chilcotin River from Hanceville to confluence with Fraser River
- Fraser River from Chilcotin River confluence to Big Bar

The River Forecast Centre is maintaining a **Flood Watch** for:

- Fraser River from Big Bar downstream to Hope

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

- Fraser River downstream of Hope

Synopsis:

Late in the evening of July 30, 2024, a large landslide occurred on the Chilcotin River about 30 kilometres upstream of the Fraser River confluence, causing a complete blockage of the river's flow. The landslide site is roughly 22 kilometres upstream from the Farwell Canyon Bridge/Forest Service Road.

At about 9:00 AM on August 5, flow started to move over (overtop) the surface of the landslide and enter the river channel downstream. In the hours since overtopping began, the main pulse of water and debris has moved from the Chilcotin River into the Fraser River and has been traveling downstream.

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As of 6:30 PM on August 6, flows on the Chilcotin River and the Fraser River downstream from the Chilcotin River confluence through Lillooet have begun to recede. Peak flows measured by Water Survey of Canada gauges at Big Bar and Lillooet (Texas Creek) were below typical freshet levels (i.e., the typical spring snowmelt-driven peak flows).

At Hope, the Fraser River began rising at 9:30 AM on August 6 and is expected to peak near midnight on August 6. Based on observations from the upstream stations, the peak flow at Hope is expected to be well below typical freshet levels. However, the rate of rise of the river is much faster than the rate that would typically occur in freshet.

In addition to increased river flows and water levels, significant quantities of debris and sediment continue to be mobilized as water continues to move through the landslide material. The leading main pulse of debris was observed in the Fraser River near Lytton around noon on August 6. Staff are actively observing the main pulse of debris as it moves downstream.

Continued vigilance and safety are important, as hazards related to unpredictable patterns of water level changes and increased debris loads persist.

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

For information on how to prepare for flood hazards, visit [PreparedBC](#).

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. 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.