

# Ministry of Forests

High Streamflow Advisory – South Coast and Lower Fraser Region (Lillooet River and surrounding tributaries)

Issued: 9:00 AM May 16, 2023

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

- Lower Fraser River tributaries, including the Lillooet River, Birkenhead River, tributaries flowing into the Fraser Canyon, and surrounding areas
- South Coast including the Squamish River and tributaries around Squamish and Whistler

Weather Synopsis:

Environment and Climate Change Canada has issued a Special Weather Statement for the region, indicating that the south B.C. coast is experiencing unseasonably hot weather.

Temperatures are forecast to be hot throughout the week, with daytime highs 10 to 15 degrees Celsius above seasonal values and overnight lows will be 5 to 10 degrees normal. Hot temperatures are forecasted to last through the week with temperatures in the upper 20's to 30°C.

River Conditions:

Streamflow in the mountainous regions of south-west British Columbia have been rising due to accelerated snowmelt since the weekend. Rising river levels are anticipated into the coming weekend (May 20-21), with flows forecast to potentially reach the 2-year to 5-year return period level over this week. Specific rivers of concern include the Squamish River, Lillooet River, Birkenhead River, Harrison River and surround areas.

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

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During a High Streamflow Advisory, conditions can change quickly. Understand the risks and get prepared by visiting [www.PreparedBC/floods](http://www.PreparedBC/floods)

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. 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.