

Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

Flood Watch – Nicola, Coldwater, Spius

Issued: 12:00 PM February 20, 2025

The River Forecast Centre is issuing a Flood Watch for:

- Nicola River
- Coldwater River
- Spius Creek

Weather Synopsis:

The region has experienced cold temperatures since early February. Temperatures over the first two weeks of the month reached 10-17°C below normal in the Merritt area. Temperatures have been steadily rising this week and are forecasted to rise to daily highs in the 10-12°C range over the weekend in Merritt, with overnight lows remaining above 0°C. Warming is expected to be accompanied with rainfall, with 5-15 mm forecasted for valley bottom elevations, and higher amounts of precipitation (rain and/or snow) over higher terrain.

River Conditions:

Winter fluctuations in temperature from extreme lows to extreme high and rainfall have historically led to mid-season ice jam flooding in the Nicola, Coldwater and Spius systems. A similar weather pattern is being set up into this weekend, and a period of increased hazard for ice jam flooding is anticipated into this weekend and early next week.

Ice-jamming conditions can change rapidly and are difficult to predict. Fast-flowing rivers pose increased risk to life safety.

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.

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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.