



# City of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Update: Maple Ridge Response to Fraser River Freshet**

**Maple Ridge, BC:** The BC River Forecast Centre has issued a High Stream Flow Advisory for the Fraser River. As a precaution, the City of Maple Ridge has activated the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) to Level 1 and is closely monitoring conditions along the river and conducting daily dyke inspections. The EOC will be active and meeting daily until the river levels have receded.

The City of Maple Ridge has set up a web page at [mapleridge.ca/1893](http://mapleridge.ca/1893) to provide updates on the situation in our community and any actions that are being undertaken as part of our Freshet Response Plan. If citizens would like to get these alerts directly to their email or smartphone we encourage them to go to [mapleridge.ca](http://mapleridge.ca) and use the 'Notify Me' link to subscribe to the 'Fraser River Alerts' which is part of the Alert Centre menu.

The City of Maple Ridge will also post links to the updates on our social media sites on Facebook (/yourmapleridge) and Twitter (@yourmapleridge).

## **Flood Advisory Issued on Wharf Street**

First responders will be delivering flood advisories to approximately 50 homes and businesses located on the Fraser River side of Wharf Street which serves as the dyke for the Hammond neighbourhood. Citizens are being provided with information on protecting their homes prepared by the Province, flood preparation materials from Fortis BC and BC Hydro, information on sandbagging and general information on personal preparedness in an emergency.

City staff will be delivering sand and sandbags to the west end of Wharf Street under the Golden Ears Bridge for the use of residents in the 'Flood Advisory' area.

The residents in this area will be given an Evacuation Alert Package if the Fraser River level exceeds 6.5 meters at the Mission gauge in accordance with the City of Maple Ridge Flood Plan.

### **Sandbagging Depot Established**

As a precaution the City of Maple Ridge has established a sandbag depot for citizens who have been issued a 'Flood Advisory' notification letter.

The depot is located at 'Albion's Bradley's One Stop Landscape and Garden Supplies' and will be open to the public from 8:00 am until 6:00 pm daily. The address is 23549 Lougheed Highway, Maple Ridge, Phone: 604-836-9274.

### **Other issues**

The dock at the Haney Wharf has been closed to the public due to the high flow rates and water levels. City staff will continue to monitor the river levels to determine when it is safe to reopen the dock.

The City of Maple Ridge, on behalf of the emergency responders and area residents, requests that people do not come into the foreshore area along the Fraser River unless you have specific business there.

Water levels on the Fraser River and tributaries are very high and water flows are fast. Exercise extreme caution if you are near the river. We also recommend that people stay off the Fraser River for recreation purposes. If you need to be on the river for work, please ensure that you are wearing appropriate safety equipment and use extreme caution.