



City of Maple Ridge
News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For further information, contact:
Fred Armstrong at 604-467-7452
farmstrong@mapleridge.ca

May 17, 2018 Update: Maple Ridge Response to Fraser River Freshet

Maple Ridge, BC: High Stream Flow Advisory for the Fraser River issued by the BC River Forecast Centre remains in effect. Here is a link to the Flood Warnings and Advisories website bcrcfc.env.gov.bc.ca/warnings/advisories/flood_034.htm.

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 webpage at 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 receive alerts directly to their email or smartphone we encourage them to go to 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 (facebook.com/yourmapleridge) and Twitter ([@yourmapleridge](https://twitter.com/yourmapleridge)).

Flood Advisory issued on Wharf Street

First Responders delivered 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. That Advisory remains in effect.

Citizens were 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 delivered 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. In addition, a sandbagging depot was established 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, and they can be reached by phone at 604-836-9274.

The residents in this area will be given an Evacuation Alert Package if the Fraser River reaches levels set out in the City's response plan.

General information

There was a higher than average snow accumulation in the interior of BC this past winter. The recent warm weather has resulted in a rapid melt of the snow pack and flood conditions throughout British Columbia.

Emergency Info BC has been sharing updates on the flooding situation throughout BC. Their alerts are being posted at emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca/.

The BC River Forecast Centre has also been posting flood warnings and advisories for communities throughout BC at www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/water/drought-flooding-dikes-dams/river-forecast-centre.

The level of the Fraser River has continued to rise near to the levels projected by the BC River Forecast Centre. They continue to monitor data from the interior and modify projections for the upcoming week. That information is being shared with local governments and First Nations along the Fraser River.

Thus far the Fraser River levels are below the conditions that we saw in June of 2012, however the forecast models show that, based on weather conditions (warm temperatures or rain), that similar levels to the 2012 Freshet may be reached by the end of the Victoria Day weekend.

Local Impacts

The City is conducting daily dyke inspections.

The City of Maple Ridge, on behalf of emergency responders and area residents, request 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.

Warning signs have been posted at Emily Mohun Park located on the Fraser River side of Wharf Street in Hammond due to the high water levels.

On Friday, May 11, as a precaution, the boat ramp on the Haney Wharf was closed to the public until the conditions return to normal. The main area of the wharf remains open at this time.

What's Next?

The City's EOC will be active during the weekend monitoring river conditions and impacts in the community.

The BC River Forecast Centre provides local governments with regular updates which the City participates in.

Here is a link to the information that has been prepared by our Emergency Program team to assist people in personal preparedness; mapleridge.ca/1201

Thank You

Thank you for taking the time to review this information. Please share this link with your friends and neighbours. We will continue to share updates as new information becomes available.