



City of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 18, 2018 #18-24

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May 18, 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: http://bcrfc.env.gov.bc.ca/warnings/advisories/flood_037.htm.

The City of Maple Ridge's Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) remains at Level 1 and are closely monitoring conditions along the river. 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 get these 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).

Flood Advisory issued on Wharf Street

The Flood Advisory remains in effect for approximately 55 properties on Fraser River side of the Wharf Street dyke in the Hammond neighbourhood.

Sand and sandbags remain available at 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 is open to the public from 8:00 am until 6:00 pm daily. The address is 23549 Lougheed Highway in 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 level continues to rise.

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 <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/water/drought-flooding-dikes-dams/river-forecast-centre>.

The Fraser River is projected to continue rising until Monday, May 21 at or near the levels that were seen in June of 2012. River levels are forecast to level off for the balance of the week and the BC River Forecast Centre has indicated that the levels could rise again next weekend.

The BC River Forecast Centre warns that the projections could change if there are high temperatures or significant rainfall during the next few days. They will be updating their models over the next week to assist local government with flood planning.

Local Impacts

The City is conducting daily dyke inspections. No issues have been identified as part of these inspections.

On Friday, May 18, 2018 a road closure was put in place at 144 Avenue east of 224 Street due to water overtopping the road. It will remain closed until water levels recede.

Warning signs were posted at Emily Mohun Park on Thursday, May 17, 2018. This park is located on the Fraser River side of Wharf Street in the Hammond neighbourhood. We are asking residents to respect the warning signs and stay clear of the river.

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.

Hammond Cedar and other businesses located on the Fraser River have implemented their flood response plans.

The City of Maple Ridge, on behalf of the emergency responders and area residents, is once again sharing the 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.

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.

Our Emergency Program team has prepared information to assist residents in personal preparedness and that information can be found here mapleridge.ca/1201.

Thank You

We would like to thank citizens who have been sharing information and offering to assist their neighbours who are in the 'Flood Notice' area. Please continue to share this information with your friends and family and use the opportunity to talk with your family about emergency planning.