



# 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](mailto:farmstrong@mapleridge.ca)

## May 19, 2018 Update: Maple Ridge Response to Fraser River Freshet

**Maple Ridge, BC:** The BC River Forecast Centre will be issuing a Flood Watch for areas not protected by dykes in the Lower Fraser River.

Water levels are now expected to peak in the next 24 hours below levels seen in 2012. The Fraser River will remain at a high level over the next week and a second peak flow may occur next weekend depending on weather conditions in the Fraser River system. The BC River Forecast Centre will provide updates to their models throughout the week.

You can access the most up-to-date alerts here [bcrfc.env.gov.bc.ca/warnings/index.htm](http://bcrfc.env.gov.bc.ca/warnings/index.htm)

The City of Maple Ridge's Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) remains at Level 1 and we are monitoring conditions closely 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](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 receive these alerts directly to their email or smartphone we encourage you to go to [mapleridge.ca](http://mapleridge.ca) and use 'Notify Me' module to subscribe to the 'Fraser River Alerts' which is part of the Alert Centre.

The City of Maple Ridge will also post links to the updates on our social media sites on Facebook ([facebook.com/yourmapleridge](https://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 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 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**

Emergency Info BC will continue to post updates on the flooding situation throughout BC. Their alerts are being posted at [emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca/](http://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](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/water/drought-flooding-dikes-dams/river-forecast-centre).

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**

No change in conditions for May 19, 2018.

The next online update will be posted on Monday, May 21, 2018 unless there is a significant change in conditions.

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](http://mapleridge.ca/1201)

### **Thank You**

Thank you for reading these daily updates and sharing the information with family and friends.