



Deep Roots
Greater Heights

District of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Update: Maple Ridge Freshet Activities for Monday, June 25, 2012

The BC River Forecast Centre is maintaining a High Streamflow Advisory for the Lower Fraser River. Here are the key points of the advisory released at 1:00 pm on Monday, June 25, 2012:

- As of this morning, the Fraser River at Hope (08MF005) is flowing at approximately 11,000 cubic metres per second (m³/s), and has dropped from a peak of approximately 11,900 m³/s on Friday. The Fraser River at Mission (08MH024) is currently at 6.25 metres, down from a peak of 6.48 metres over the weekend.
- Heavy rainfall and rapid snowmelt occurred over the weekend, particularly in the Thompson River Basin (a major tributary to the Lower Fraser River) and to a lesser extent the Upper Fraser River. Typically it takes six days for water from rain and snowmelt in these headwaters to travel down to the Lower Fraser Valley. Due to heavier rain across the Fraser River tributaries, another pulse of water is expected to travel downstream through this week. While there will be slight drops in river levels along the Lower Fraser River this week, an additional rise is expected over the Friday to Monday (June 29, 2012, to July 2, 2012) period next week. Current forecasts are estimating the flows to be in the range of 11,000-12,500 m³/s at Hope, and a height of approximately 6.0 to 6.6 metres at the Mission Gauge. This forecast will be revised through the week as more detail on the river response of the major tributaries of the Fraser River (North Thompson, South Thompson, Upper Fraser) is known.

For daily updates of five day forecasts of water levels and timing of daily peak levels for various locations down the Lower Fraser River, see the River Forecast Centre website:

http://bcrcfc.env.gov.bc.ca/bulletins/Freshet2012/WL_Prediction.pdf

The River Forecast Centre will continue to monitor conditions and will provide updates as conditions warrant.

MAPLE RIDGE OVERALL

The District of Maple Ridge remains activated at Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Level 1 and is closely monitoring conditions along the river, localized weather impacts and conducting twice daily dyke inspections. The EOC will remain active and staff will be meeting daily until river levels have receded to safe levels.

The latest information from the BC River Forecast Centre and Environment Canada can be found on our website, mapleridge.ca, through the 'Flood Watch on the Fraser' link. We will post updates on the District's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/yourmapleridge and you can also follow us on Twitter @yourmapleridge. We will be using the hashtag #FraserMR for local updates.

The Operations Centre telephone lines will be open, as usual, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday to Friday. Calls received after hours will be routed to appropriate staff members who are on-call. **The Operations Centre telephone number is 604-463-9581.**

WHARF STREET

There is no change in the situation for this part of the community. As noted in previous updates, on the evening of Friday, June 22, 2012, as a precautionary measure, 43 properties on the unprotected section of Wharf Street in the Hammond neighbourhood were given an 'Evacuation Alert' in accordance with the District's Flood Management Plan.

District staff continue to monitor the water levels and respond to enquiries from the residents in this area. We ask that people who do not live in this area avoid the area and respect the privacy of the residents.

KANAKA STREET (just north of the Lougheed Highway)

The Kanaka Creek Estuary still has large volumes of water, and local rainfall has kept levels high in this part of the community. We will continue to monitor levels in this area. While the Fraser River is dropping, water levels may remain relatively unchanged in this specific area due to the outflow from Kanaka Creek.

224 STREET NORTH OF 136 AVENUE

There is some standing water on 224 Street north of 136 Avenue. District Operations staff are monitoring the road conditions in this area at this time.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Dyke patrols are being conducted twice a day and detailed water measurements continue to enhance the mapping and elevations along the Fraser River.

The public space at the Haney Wharf remains open, however, the boat mooring ramp remains closed due to the high river levels and fast flowing water. Inspections are being conducted daily. Over the weekend members of the public were observed climbing over the railing onto the boat ramps, ignoring the posted closure signs. Water levels on the Fraser River and tributaries remain very high and water flows are fast. The District strongly recommends that the public exercise extreme caution when in the vicinity of 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.

The sandbagging depot at Albion Flats Landscaping Supply, will resume their normal business hours (Monday to Friday from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm, Saturday from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm and Sunday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm). The depot is located at 23549 Lougheed Highway, Maple Ridge, telephone: 604-477-1971. If conditions change, notification of extended hours will be provided as required.

A photo gallery of the conditions around the community has been posted on the District's Facebook page at facebook.com/yourmapleridge.