

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

BC River Forecast Centre (<http://bcrfc.env.gov.bc.ca/>)

UPDATE: High Streamflow Advisory – Lower Fraser River

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The BC River Forecast Centre is **maintaining a High Streamflow Advisory** for:

- **Lower Fraser River**

As of this afternoon, the Fraser River at Hope (08MF005) is flowing at approximately 11,100 m³/s, and is rising. The Fraser River at Mission (08MH024) is currently at 6.15 m and has begun to rise.

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 in the Upper Fraser River basin. Typically it takes 6 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. A rise in river levels is expected over the next few days, and levels are expected to reach their peak levels over the late-Thursday to Saturday period at Hope and the Friday to Sunday period around Mission and downstream. Current forecasts are estimating the flows to be in the range of 11,200-11,600 m³/s at Hope, and a height of approximately 6.3-6.4 m at the Mission gauge. This is slightly below levels that were observed last weekend.

Once the pulse of water has passed, levels are expected to recede towards the end of the weekend, and into next week. Unless additional severe weather (extreme heat or heavy rainfall in the Upper Fraser basin) occurs, river levels are expected to drop through the remainder of the freshet season.

For daily updates of 5-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://bcrfc.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.

A **High Streamflow Advisory** means that river levels are rising or expected to rise rapidly, but that no major flooding is expected. Minor flooding in low-lying areas is possible.

A **Flood Watch** means that river levels are rising and will approach or may exceed bankfull. Flooding of areas adjacent to affected rivers may occur.

A **Flood Warning** means that river levels have exceeded bankfull or will exceed bankfull imminently, and that flooding of areas adjacent to the rivers affected will result.