

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 17, 2023 #23-30

For further information, contact:
Stephan Drolet at 604-463-3053
sdrolet@mapleridge.ca

Warm Weather Accelerates Snow Melt in Fraser River System

Maple Ridge, B.C: The BC River Forecast Centre has issued a High Streamflow Advisory for the Fraser River. This means that river levels are rising or expected to rise rapidly.

People are advised to:

- Stay clear of fast-flowing rivers, creeks and potentially unstable riverbanks.
- Avoid recreational activities such as fishing, swimming, boating or hiking near high streamflow rivers or streams as there is an increased risk of drowning.
- Keep pets and small children close to you at all times.

The Fraser River is rising in response to accelerated snowmelt due to hot temperatures over the weekend and the river is expected to continue to rise throughout this week. Environment and Climate Change Canada has issued a Special Weather Statement indicating that unseasonably hot weather is occurring across the region.

During a High Streamflow Advisory, conditions can change quickly. The River Forecast Centre continues to monitor the conditions and provides updates at gov.bc.ca/riverforecast.

Be Prepared for Freshet Season

The City of Maple Ridge is monitoring the freshet situation (the annual snow melt into the Fraser River basin) and proactively taking steps to prepare for the safety of residents and businesses should flooding occur as a result of persistent high temperatures and other factors.

The City's response plan includes:

- Daily monitoring of weather forecasts and river levels;
- Patrolling, inspecting and maintaining dikes and pump stations;
- Preparing and disseminating flooding and flood preparedness information to the public;
- Liaising with other government and utility organizations;
- Developing contingency plans; and
- Updating the City's evacuation plan as necessary.

The City is proactively sending a letter and an information sheet (see attached) to 2,200 properties in the Fraser River floodplain with information on flood preparedness. Residents are being advised to review their family needs, make appropriate preparations and develop an emergency plan.

If there is an imminent risk of flooding, regular updates will be provided via the City's Alert Maple Ridge system, website and social media channels. Residents are encouraged to register or download the Alert Maple Ridge app at mapleridge.ca/alert which will be used to send out emergency alerts if the need arises.

For more information:

A variety of flood preparedness resources including a map of the Fraser River flood plain are available at mapleridge.ca/flood and PreparedBC/floods.

General emergency preparedness resources can be found at mapleridge.ca/ep.

-30-

Background:

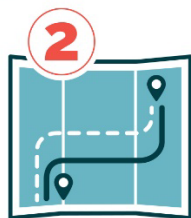


HOW TO PREPARE



KNOW THE RISKS

Each of us has a responsibility to protect our homes and families where possible. As you live in a flood plain, by planning ahead and taking precautions, you can minimize damage to your home and keep your family safe. Check local forecasts and consider the conditions, especially if you are planning to enjoy the trails and river systems.



MAKE A PLAN

- In the event of an emergency, residents may be advised by the City to evacuate their homes for safety. You should keep your vehicles fuel tanks full.
- Have a plan on where to go, what to take, and how to keep in touch with family.
- Check with an insurance agent on flood insurance for your home and business.
- Ensure roof gutters are clear and storm drains are free of debris such as leaves.
- Remove, secure or move any hazardous materials to a place of safety



PREPARE AN EMERGENCY KIT

Prepare to be self-sufficient for 72 hours and up to a week. Include important documents, water, non-perishable food, flashlights, first aid and essential items for babies, pets and family members with special needs. Visit getprepared.gc.ca for a full list of items to include or mapleridge.ca/ep to help you prepare for any emergency.

STAY INFORMED



mapleridge.ca



WHAT TO DO



DURING FLOODING

- Avoid getting close to fast moving water as banks may erode without warning.
- Never drive through moving water, even if you are familiar with the road. A vehicle can be swept away in as little as 12 inches of water.
- Plan an alternate route
- Keep a close eye on children and pets as they may not see the danger.
- Monitor the local media and have flashlights on hand in case the power goes out.



AFTER FLOODING

- Even though the rain has stopped, waterways may still pose a risk. Be cautious until you are certain of the conditions.
- If you have suffered from flood damage, contact your insurance company.
- Watch for damaged power or gas lines, foundation cracks or other damage. Parts of your home may be collapsed or damaged.
- Approach entrances carefully.
- Do not use water that could be contaminated to wash dishes, brush teeth, prepare food, wash hands, make ice or make baby formula

STAY INFORMED

For more information on evacuation orders, routes, emergency shelters, and procedures:

Sign up for Alert Maple Ridge at mapleridge.ca/alert to receive notifications by text, phone or email for emergencies like fires, floods, storms and other hazards in the community. The Voyent Alert app was rolled out last year and we've rebranded the service to Alert Maple Ridge (powered by Voyent Alert).



ALERT

MAPLE RIDGE

SIGN UP NOW
to get emergency & other notifications on your phone.

ALERT MAPLE RIDGE is powered by **VOYENT ALERT!** to send emergency & other notifications to residents. It's convenient and easy to use. Sign up at MAPLERIDGE.CA/ALERT



RESOURCES



Follow the City on social media @yourmapleridge   

- Flood /emergency info - mapleridge.ca/flood or mapleridge.ca/ep
- After hours emergency line - 604-463-9581
- Emergency BC: www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca
- BC River Forecast Centre: gov.bc.ca/riverforecast
- Public Safety Canada getprepared.ca