



## Flood Watch Maintained

Residents are reminded that the River Forecast Centre continues to maintain a flood watch for the Bella Coola River and Tributaries, as per the notification below.

Please call CCRD at 250-982-0062 (24 hours) to report any public safety concerns due to river rise or bank erosion and a request will be made for BC Government officials to conduct a safety assessment. Residents are encouraged to provide photographs which will be used to support any request to the provincial government for riverbank public safety assessments.

**The River Forecast Centre advises the public to stay clear of the fast-flowing rivers and potentially unstable riverbanks during the high-streamflow period. As such, residents are discouraged from attempting their own site assessment for safety.**

### **Flood Watch – Central Coast (MAINTAINED)**

**ISSUED: 1:45 PM October 29, 2020**

The River Forecast Centre is **maintaining** a **Flood Watch** for:

- **Central Coast including Bella Coola River and tributaries, Kingcome River, Owikeeno/Rivers Inlet and surrounding areas**

A series of rainfall events are impacting the Central Coast. Rainfall totals since Tuesday have been in the 75-175mm range throughout the region. A lull in rainfall rates overnight has led to some easing of river rises, particularly in smaller tributary rivers, however larger rivers, including the Bella Coola River, Wannock River and Owikeeno Lake and Kingcome River, remain high. Additional moderate rainfall is expected through Thursday and into Friday, with an additional 20-50 mm or more of precipitation being forecasted. Rivers are expected to remain high as this additional rain falls and works through the river systems. Rises in rivers above current levels is possible on the Bella Coola River and Kingcome River, and likely to occur on Owikeeno Lake and the Wannock River. Once rainfall has eased on Friday, river conditions are expected to stabilize into the weekend.

The public is advised to stay clear of the fast-flowing rivers and potentially unstable riverbanks during the high-streamflow period.

The River Forecast Centre continues to monitor the conditions and provides updates as conditions warrant.

Contact for Media Relations, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development:  
Tel: 250 213-8172.

### **General guidance for flood resiliency:**

Residents in affected **areas** should take precautions to ensure personal safety, including developing a household plan, putting together emergency kits, connecting with neighbours and learning about the local government emergency response plan for their area. As well, British Columbians can take the following steps:

**1. Protect your home:**

The public is advised to prepare for possible flooding of low-lying areas by moving equipment and other assets from these areas to higher ground, where possible. Clear perimeter drains, eavestroughs and gutters. Sandbags also help and can be made available through your local government.

**2. Create grab-and-go bags:**

Assemble an individual grab-and-go bag for each member of your household with the essentials they'll need if you're asked to evacuate.

**3. Recognize the danger signs:**

If you live near a waterway, a change in water colour or rapid change in water level (especially a drop) could indicate a problem upstream. Call your local fire, police or public works department immediately if you suspect something out of the ordinary.

If you face a threatening flood situation, park vehicles away from streams and waterways, move electrical appliances to upper floors and make sure to anchor fuel supplies. Listen to local officials if you are asked to evacuate. In the event of flooding, here are some tips about what to avoid:

**Steer clear of river shorelines:**

Keep away from river edges and shorelines. During periods of high flow, river banks may be unstable and more prone to sudden collapse. Stay well away and keep young children and pets away from the banks of fast-flowing streams and flooded areas or bridges.

**Do not drive through flood water:**

Never attempt to drive or walk in flood water. Just six inches of fast-moving water can knock over an adult. Two feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles, including SUVs and pick-up trucks.

**Landslide risk:**

Heavy rain and snowmelt may contribute to landslides and dangerous debris in creeks and waterways. Be safe and don't go down to watch the rushing water. If you notice trees beginning to lean or bend near your home, or cracks developing in the hillside, consult an engineer or contact local authorities.

British Columbians can find more details in the new Flood Preparedness Guide released by PreparedBC. The guide contains useful information that will help British Columbians better protect themselves and their homes and understand what to do if their home or community is at risk of flooding.

The Flood Preparedness Guide is available online here: [www.preparedbc.ca/floods](http://www.preparedbc.ca/floods)

For tips on how to prepare grab-and-go bags visit: [www.preparedbc.ca/emergencykit](http://www.preparedbc.ca/emergencykit)

For information on evacuation alerts and orders, visit: [www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca](http://www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca) or follow on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/EmergencyInfoBC](https://twitter.com/EmergencyInfoBC)

River Forecast Centre link: <http://bcrfc.env.gov.bc.ca/>

Floodwaters can quickly wash out roads and bridges. Be prepared and plan an alternative route. For the latest road conditions, visit: [www.drivebc.ca](http://www.drivebc.ca)