

**MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC  
BRIEFING NOTE FOR DECISION**

**TO:** Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General

**ISSUE: Canadian Red Cross - 2021 Extreme Weather and Flooding Response and Recovery Supports**

**BACKGROUND:**

In July 2021, the Province committed to matching donations from individuals collected through the Canadian Red Cross' (CRC) Wildfire 2021 Appeal until December 31, 2021. Emergency Management BC (EMBC) and the CRC have worked to direct residual funds from prior wildfire grants and this donation matching contribution towards the immediate and longer-term needs of those impacted by the 2021 wildfires through supports including case management, debris removal for the uninsured, and housing supports.

On November 17, 2021, the CRC announced an appeal for donations to support those impacted by BC 2021 Floods and Extreme Weather. Rather than commit to donation matching this campaign it is recommended the Province provide a grant to the CRC to provide for the immediate delivery of supports to those impacted by this event.

**DISCUSSION:**

- The CRC has initiated their appeal for BC 2021 Floods and Extreme Weather which will in time secure funds to support the needs of those impacted.
- This appeal however will not provide the CRC with immediate resources to deploy programming to meet unmet needs.
- The CRC has the capacity to assist the province with the delivery of extreme weather and flooding related supports which could include direct financial assistance and case management services to help address the needs of individuals such as:
  - re-entry support,
  - support to self recovery,
  - clean-up and debris removal,
  - repairs to uninsured private property
  - mental health and psychosocial supports
  - other needs as identified by the Province and CRC
- Following the 2018 flooding, the CRC also supported the recovery of impacted small businesses (registered in BC with fewer than 50 employees or owned by someone who is self-employed without any paid help) and non-profit organizations.

- The CRC has confirmed it will be able to surge up its capacity to support the delivery of such initiatives (i.e. case management capacity).
- EMBC envisions working with the CRC as needs are better understood to define the specific supports and programs to be delivered to ensure they complement and do not duplicate provincial programming.
- Consistent with prior agreements, the CRC will be eligible to recover all direct, operational, programmatic, and support service costs incurred to carry out activities included in the contribution agreement including, but not limited to, personnel costs, programs costs, subcontractor costs, logistics, travel expenses, and project equipment and inventory.
- In addition, the CRC will apply a 15% administrative charge to allow for the cost recovery associated with indirect costs associated with program delivery.
- The proposed grant can be funded through the statutory spending authority provided for under the *Emergency Program Act*.

#### **INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:**

- Programming delivered by the CRC on behalf of the Province supports all impacted individuals including First Nations.

#### **OPTIONS:**

##### **OPTION 1: Recommended**

- Request Treasury Board approval to provide the CRC with a contribution of up to \$20M in the 2020/21 fiscal year funded by the *Emergency Program Act* statutory spending authority in support of 2021 flood-related programming. Funding to be advanced in instalments based on expenditures for requested programming.

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**OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:**

- FIN

**DECISION APPROVED** / NOT APPROVED

**DATE:**

Option 1



Mike Farnworth, Minister  
Public Safety and Solicitor General

November 18, 2021

Date

**PREPARED BY:**

Alex Chandler  
EFO and ADM  
Emergency Management BC

**REVIEWED BY:**

	Initials	Date
DM		
ADM/EFO	AC	11-17-2021

**Attachment(s)**

N/A



**PECC ACTIVATION DAY NO. 2**

**NOVEMBER 16, 2021**

**Hazard(s): Atmospheric River Storm**

**Operational Period: November 16, 2021, 08:30 hrs to Closing**

**Next Sitrep will be issued: November 17, 2021**

**Primary PECC E-mail:** [s.17](#)

**Primary PECC Phone: 778-698-8617**

**Information current as of Nov 16, 2021 at 17:00h**

**\*New information is noted in blue font**

**Note:** Information contained in this situation report is for operational purposes only. The contained information is not meant for external dissemination. If you wish to use information contained herein for release, you must clear it with the PECC Director.

**PROVINCIAL SITUATION**

The EMBC Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC) activated today in support of three Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centres (PREOCs) and the impacts of the atmospheric river storm event that resulted in multiple flooding, landslide, mudslide, power outage and other incidents and human consequence impacts across the BC southern coastal and interior regions.

The storm damaged, blocked, and impacted multiple roadways, causing widespread road closures and stranding hundreds of motorists overnight on Nov. 14, 2021. Rescue efforts have continued throughout Nov. 16, 2021, and many stranded motorists have now been able to seek shelter and appropriate supports in nearby communities. However, several communities and First Nations remain isolated, and efforts are ongoing to provide accommodation and support. MOTI anticipates Highways 1,3, and 7 may be restored this week.

Travelers have also found themselves stranded in many areas of the province and the Province is following up to support them. Currently, in Hope 1,100 stranded travelers are receiving local support, with 900 of those in group lodgings. BCWS is working to move resources by air to support the relief efforts

Many First Nations and Local Authority communities have seen widespread flooding and power outages which have led to roadway closures, infrastructure impacts, evacuation orders and evacuation alerts. Current estimates suggest that there are approximately 17,775 people evacuated due to impacts from this storm event in BC, with 5,918 properties on Evacuation Order, and 3,632 properties on Evacuation Alert.

As a result of the severe weather events this week, EMBC has approved Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) for flooding in the Vancouver Island & Central Coast, Southwest, and Central regions of the province, including all First Nations communities, electoral areas, and municipalities within these areas.

**WEATHER OUTLOOK AND ALERTS**

This morning was largely dry, with a ridge of high pressure over the interior, bringing largely cold and dry conditions. This afternoon, mainly dry conditions were also expected, with only the Northwest mountain range seeing increasing cloud and precipitation ahead of an advancing warm front.

On Wednesday, it will remain dry provincially as the core of the high-pressure retreats into Alberta, but a secondary ridge still extends into the Columbias, maintaining clear conditions with gradually moderating temperatures.

Many of the weather watches and warnings in effect yesterday have now been rescinded by Environment Canada, with snowfall warnings and winter storm warnings remaining only for northern coastal BC.

### **RIVER FORECAST CENTRE (RFC) WATCHES AND WARNINGS**

Flow reductions are anticipated overnight tonight and for the remainder of the week.

#### **EMBC Central Region**

RFC is maintaining a Flood Warning for:

- Lower Nicola River
- Coldwater River

And has downgraded Flood Warnings to Flood Watches for:

- Similkameen River
- Tulameen River and tributaries

#### **EMBC Southwest Region**

RFC is maintaining Flood Warnings for:

- Coquihalla River
- Sumas River and areas around the US Border

And has maintained the following Flood Watches for:

- Fraser Canyon tributaries, including tributaries around Hope
- Fraser Valley

#### **EMBC Vancouver Island Central Region**

RFC has downgraded to High Streamflow Advisories for:

- Chemainus
- Englishman River
- Cowichan River
- Koksilah River

## HUMAN CONSEQUENCE IMPACTS

### PROVINCIAL SUMMARY

The following numbers reflect documents related to recent storm events, not pre-existing events, and should be considered approximate only.

	CTL	NWE	NEA	SEA	SWE	VIC	Totals
Band Council Resolutions	1						1
States of Local Emergency	7				4	2	13
Evacuation Orders	10				12	4	26
Properties on Order	3,290				2,581	47	5,918
Population on Order	9,750				7,803	222	17,775
Evacuation Alerts	7			1	5		13
Properties on Alert	3,368			10	254		3,632
Population on Alert	4,479			-	720		5,199

### EMERGENCY SUPPORT SERVICES (ESS)

- The Provincial ESS Call Centre is receiving a consistently high call volume and have extended their hours of operation.
- Commercial accommodation in Kamloops is limited and only those on Order are receiving commercial accommodation.
- Kelowna has some capacity and buses are transporting people from Kamloops to Kelowna if they need accommodation support.
- ESS HQ Staff are working to support Abbotsford who is seeking personnel support at their Reception and Group Lodging sites. Abbotsford is also engaged with Samaritan's Purse to support.

The total number of active ESS Reception Centres is reported to be approximately 20 (many of these communities are providing mutual aid as host communities) and some may be informal centres not seeking provincial support.

Known communities hosting Reception Centres include:

- Kamloops

- Kelowna
- Abbotsford
- Chilliwack
- Hope
- Agassiz
- Regional District Okanagan Similkameen/Penticton
- Salmon Arm
- Cowichan Valley Regional District

Reception Centre locations are posted publicly on Emergency Info BC.

## FLOOD IMPACTS

### INFRASTRUCTURE & TRANSPORTATION

- Highway Closures:
  - Highway 1 (Agassiz – Spences Bridge)
  - Highway 3 (Sunshine Valley)
  - Highway 5 (Hope – Merritt)
  - Highway 7 (Maple Ridge – Hope)
  - Highway 8 (Merritt to Spences Bridge).
  - Highway 11 (US border – Vye Road, Abbotsford).
  - Further emergency supports are being planned for the Hope community and travellers stranded there for Nov. 16, 2021.
- CP Rail lines damaged through Fraser Valley
  - Understand no short-term impact to Lower Mainland critical supplies.
  - One train caught in Debris flow east/north of Spuzzum.
  - No injuries. Empty, no releases.
- Reports are being investigated of further mud and landslides events impacting District of Kent, Highway 1, and Abbotsford
- There have been multiple additional road closures throughout the day in the SWE, CTL and VIC regions, with impacts continuing in numerous locations across all 3 regions.
- For a complete list of highway and road closures, including ferry disruptions due to flooding, see [DriveBC](#).

### UTILITIES/ TELECOMMUNICATIONS

- BC Hydro
  - Restored service to 56k customers overnight.
  - Remaining: 13k in Thompson-Shuswap and Okanagan, 1k North Fraser
  - Limited access is delaying restoration for remaining clients.
  - Hope: Weather mitigation in progress, anticipate stable power for Hope today.
- Dams:
  - Receding inflows at all LML and Sea-to-Sky sites.
  - Flows peaked 15th Nov. Flows are not significant to river levels.
  - Walheach Dam continues to use spillway.
- Fortis BC:
  - Sunshine Coast at Roberts Creek distribution line and intermediate pressure line exposed in creek. Hydro line de-energized and FD on scene.
  - Halfmoon Bay distribution pressure line is exposed



- A main distribution line at Princeton is impacted with up to 1200 customers possibly affected
- Distribution line at Merritt is impacted but the full extent cannot be confirmed due to current high-water levels
- Fraser Valley distribution line service in a farmer's field near Seabird Island is leaking and being isolated
- Telecommunications:
  - Bell cellular voice/data outages in the Fraser Valley and Northern Vancouver

## CROSS-MINISTRY AND AGENCY UPDATES

### HEALTH

- Power outages and road closures are impacting staffing and critical supply lines to health facilities and Long-Term Care and Assisted Living sites, particularly in the Hope area. Work is underway to supply relief physicians and pharmaceuticals to Hope Medical Centre, despite lack of road access.

### SAR BRANCH

The EMBC SAR Unit is activated in support of the evacuations due to floods.

**High Level SAR Activation Summary:** November 14/21 1300 – Nov. 16/21 1300:

- 37 SAR Incident(s) with 290 Public Safety Lifeline Volunteers (PSLVs) responded
- 21 Civil Emergency Response(s) with 266 PSLVs responded

#### SWE SAR Group Updates:

##### Hope

- Team is isolated due to road closures
- Team is rested

##### Chilliwack

- Working on clearing people from the Sumas prairie using boats and rafts
- Team is also isolated due to road closures

##### Coquitlam

- Team not directly affected by flooding
- Regional HET's team working with CFVSAR on the Sumas Prairie

##### South Fraser

- Team is rested and not directly affected by local flooding
- Mutual aid help to Central Fraser Valley SAR

##### Kent Harrison

- Team is isolated due to road closures. Only connection is with Chilliwack
- SAR trucks were caught behind a landslide but since then Rescue truck was recovered and other truck was left behind for transport to deliver evac notices

##### Central Fraser Valley

- Directly impacted by the flooding (Sumas prairie)
- Conducting evacuations on the Sumas Prairie

##### Mission

- Did a rescue of 6 subjects in their area due to road wash out
- Mutual aid help to CFVSAR for evacuation of the Sumas prairie

#### Ridge Meadows

- Team not directly affected by the flooding
- Team has the capability to provide mutual aid

#### CTL SAR Group Updates:

##### Princeton

- Team was exhausted as of November 15, Penticton provided coverage
- Community has been impacted by flooding waters. SAR Hall has been used for operations

##### Nicola Valley

- Municipality under Evacuation Order
- Response capacity is reduced, but no request for replacement
- Unable to deploy out of area, minimal resources available

##### Kamloops

- High operation temp November 11 – 15 created fatigue
- Response truck has been recovered

##### Vernon

- Winch is unavailable with no ETA of return
- Low in SAR Managers

### PROVINCIAL REGIONAL UPDATES

#### CENTRAL REGION (CTL)

**CTL PREOC** has activated in response to flooding.

#### KEY CTL REGIONAL INFORMATION

Total Active Alerts: 9

Total Orders: 14

Total States of Local Emergency: 5

Total Band Council Resolutions: 3

#### FIRST NATIONS

- Coldwater First Nation
  - Band Council Resolution.
  - IR #2 has been isolated and is without water and power.
- Cook's Ferry Indian Band
  - Band Council Resolution.
  - One Alert for for IRs #2, 3, 4A, 4B, 4C, 5, 5A, 6, 8, 8A, 9, 10, 11, 11A, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 & 22.
  - Two Orders for #1 and IR#7.
- Lower Similkameen Indian Band
  - Band Council Resolution.
  - Chopaka bridges have been compromised and are closed in both directions.
  - One Alert for Chopaka IR #7/8; Similkameen IR #2, Alexis IR #9, Ashnola IR #10.
- Lytton First Nation
  - Community is without power.
  - Water system currently not operational.
- Nicomen Indian Band

- Bridge has been washed out
- **Nooaitch First Nation**
  - Band Council Resolution.
  - Two bridges washed out.
  - Community is isolated.
- **Shakan First Nation**
  - Band Council Resolution Declared
  - Evacuation Order issued for IR# 11
- **Skuppah Indian Band**
  - George Rd washout has caused there to be no access to the water treatment plant.
  - IR #4 water intake has been washed out.
  - Currently relying on the remaining water supply in their reservoir.

#### **LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

- **City of Merritt**
  - State of Local Emergency Declared.
  - Evacuation Order Issued: Entire Community (approx. 7800 people), due to failure of sewage treatment plant (unsanitary conditions).
  - The wastewater treatment plant is down, with no estimated date for bringing it online
  - The water system is contaminated as a result of a well malfunction and the City has turned the water off.
  - Middlesboro Bridge has collapsed.
- **Columbia Shuswap Regional District**
  - Activated the EOC to a level one on November 15, 2021 in response to flooding and sandbag requests.
- **Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen**
  - EOC Activated
  - RDOS EAB – 1 Alert for low-lying properties along the Similkameen River. 1 order for 4 properties on Chopaka Road.
  - RDOS EAG – 1 Alert for low-lying properties along the Similkameen River, 1 order for properties Schedule 1.
  - RDOS EAH – 1 Alert for low-lying properties along the Similkameen River, 2 orders for the community of Coalmont.
  - RDOS – Keremeos – One Alert for low-lying properties along the Similkameen River within the Village of Keremeos.
- **Thompson Nicola Regional District**
  - TNRD – Nicola - Reports of stranded residents at risk along Highway 8. RCMP requested to assist with wellness checks and determine if evacuation is required.
  - TNRD – One Alert issued for the following Electoral Areas:
    - Electoral Area “I” (Blue Sky Country)
    - Electoral Area “M” (Beautiful Nicola Valley – North)
    - Electoral Area “N” (Beautiful Nicola Valley – South)
  - TNRD – Brookmere – 2 Orders for 51 properties in Brookmere and 2 properties in EAN.
- **Town of Princeton**
  - EOC Activated
  - State of Local Emergency declared.
  - 3 Evacuation Order Issued: Properties along the Tulameen River.

- 2 Evacuation Alerts Issued: Properties along the Similkameen & Tulameen Rivers.

## SOUTHWEST REGION (SWE)

**SWE PREOC** activated today in response to flooding.

### KEY SWE REGIONAL INFORMATION

Total Active Alerts: 10

Total Orders: 10

Total States of Local Emergency: 5

Total Band Council Resolutions: 0

### FIRST NATIONS

- Chawathil First Nation
  - EOC activated for flooding. 1 home is flooding and material is sliding off of bluffs around the community
- Kwikwetlem First Nation
  - EOC activated for flooding.
  - Put on flood alert from BC Hydro Dams.
- Leq'á:mel First Nation
- Lower SStl'at'l'imx (LSTC)
  - Approximately 60 households are without power in Samahquam and Skatin.
  - LSTC has spoken to FLNRO, BC Hydro, and Lizzie Bay/IRM to coordinate efforts to restore power and access. FLNRO and BC Hydro will have assessment crews out first thing 2021NOV16 to begin the repair/reconnection of power lines and routes
  - In-SHUCK-ch FSR - Road access to north to Pemberton has not been established for all communities.
- Matsqui First Nation
  - Band Council Resolution
  - Requested sandbags and sand due to localized flooding on IR 2 and IR 4.
- Peters First Nation
  - EOC activated due to flooding.
- Seabird Island
  - EOC activated for flooding.
- Shsw'ow'hamel First Nation
  - EOC activated for flooding.
- Skawahlook First Nation
  - EOC activated for flooding.
- Soowahlie First Nation:
  - EOC activated for flooding.
  - Currently no power or water due to flooding activity.
- Squamish First Nation:
  - EOC activated for flooding.
- Sts'ailes First Nation:
  - Currently 2 flooded houses and 1 mobile home with water underneath. Community is currently out of sandbags.
- Sumas First Nation

- EOC activated for flooding

## **LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

- **City of Abbotsford**
  - **State of Local Emergency declared**
  - 2 Evacuation Orders Issued
    - Straiton Road (22 Homes)
    - Sumas Prairie including the area bordered by: Sumas Mountain, DeLair Road and Old Yale Road to the North, The USA Border to the South, Chilliwack City border to the East, The Ridge West of Railway Road to the West (1119 Homes)
  - 8 Evacuation Alerts Issued
    - Sumas Prairie: The Southern Rail Line to the West, Whatcom Road to the East, Highway 1 to the North, United States Border to the South (1700 Homes).
    - for Matsqui Village: Grace Road North to the Matsqui Slough (12 Homes).
    - Clayburn Area: Clayburn Village and surrounding area (30 Homes).
    - Eagle Mountain Areas: Cranberry Court, Briarwood Place, Doneagle Place (12 - 15 Homes).
    - Ten Oaks: Mount Blanchard Court, Mount Blanchard Drive and Old Clayburn Road (30 Homes).
    - Sumas Prairie: Westside of Whatcom Road, East of Huntington Village, Southside of Vye Road; Westside of Sumas Way to West of Riverside Road, East of Sumas River Dike to Boundary Road (140 Homes).
- **Bowen Island**
  - EOC activated due to flooding
- **City of Chilliwack**
  - 1 Alert for Yarrow, from Boundary Road to Browne Road, and from the Vedder River to Majuba Hill Road.
  - 2 Orders, Yarrow, from Boundary Road to Browne Road, and all of Majuba Hill and 4 properties on Yale Road and 3 properties on Chartwell Drive.
- **Delta - EOC Activated in response to issues related to flooding and high winds**
- **Fraser Valley Regional District**
  - **State of Local Emergency Declared**
  - 1 Alert for Chilliwack River Valley, FVRD Electoral Area "E" for 7 properties on Obyrne Road.
  - 5 Orders:
    - FVRD EA "B" for 3 properties on Fish Camp Road and 5 properties on Othello Road.
    - FVRD EA "D" for 1 property on Bridal Falls Road (24 people).
    - FVRD EA "E" for 4 properties on Auchenway Road.
    - FVRD EA "E" for 13 properties on Chilliwack Lake Road and 8 properties on Wilson Road.
    - FVRD EA "H" for 17 properties on Lakeshore Drive.
- **Village of Harrison Hot Springs – EOC activated due to flooding in the Miami Slough.**
- **Town of Hope**
  - Access from all Highways (1,3,5) cut off.
  - Significant power outages for much of the day (w/hospital on generator)
  - Currently no food in town due to no power. Stores/restaurants closed.
  - Meal flown in via helicopter 2021NOV16 and provided by Salvation Army.

- Delta
  - EOC Activated in response to issues related to flooding and high winds.
  - Working to mitigate localized flooding and support critical infrastructure (drainage stations).
  - Working to restore communications (internal and external) to full capacity.
- District of Hope
- District of Kent
  - 1 Orders for Rockwell Drive, Rockwell Lane, Rockwell Place, Pirates Lane, Thunderbird Crescent, and Dogwood Lane (6 homes).
- City of Langley – EOC activated
  - Rainfall caused widespread flooding on public and private property, as well as parks and trails, and sewer lift stations.
  - Multiple roads impacted due to flooding.
- Maple Ridge- EOC activated
- Metro Vancouver- EOC activated
- Mission - EOC activated
  - Two residences on King Avenue are isolated due to complete road wash out.
  - Planning/preparing to open RC in Mission if required to support ESS flood response if required.
- New Westminster – EOC activated.
- Pemberton – EOC activated.
  - The neighbourhoods of the Peaks, Pioneer Junction, the Trailer Park on Hwy 99, the Industrial Park and One Mile Lake area have all have experienced substantial flooding.
  - A sandbag station has been set up at Municipal Hall.
- Pitt Meadows
  - Determining flood spill conditions and possible scenarios from the Alouette Dam
  - Notification to some properties along the Alouette/Pitt Rivers.
- Port Coquitlam - EOC activated.
- Squamish Lillooet Regional District – EOC activated.
- Sunshine Coast Regional District – EOC activated.
  - Stormwater flooding and erosion has impacted public services (drinking water, fire flows, roads, transit, wastewater treatment, parks) in 35+ locations, regionally. Fortis reports exposed gas line at Stephens Road and Lower Road and are preparing for re-routing and/or shutoff.
- Surrey – EOC Activated.

## **VANCOUVER ISLAND AND CENTRAL COAST REGION (VIC)**

**VIC PREOC** activated today in response to flooding.

### **KEY VIR REGIONAL INFORMATION**

Total Active Alerts: 1

Total Orders: 4

Total States of Local Emergency: 4

Total Band Council Resolutions: 0

### **FIRST NATIONS**

- Halalt First Nation:
  - Band Council Resolution.
  - Flooding for 10 homes due to a watermain break and overland flooding.
- Snuneymuxw First Nation:
  - Evacuation Order Issued.
  - 25 evacuees (approximate).
- Penelakut First Nation:
  - 50 evacuees (approximate.)
- Cowichan Tribes:
  - Evacuation Order Issued.
  - 120 evacuees (approximate).
  - SAR doing door to door notifications. Evacuation orders and alerts in place.
- Pauquachin First Nation
  - Evacuation Order Issued

#### **LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

- Cowichan Valley Regional District:
  - Major flooding event taking place in the Cowichan region due to heavy rainfall over the past 48 hours - Multiple road closures (incl. highway), restricting areas throughout the region, including within the boundaries of the Municipality of North Cowichan.
  - SOLE was issued at 1100 hrs on 2021-11-15 - 4 Evacuation Orders in effect - incl. CVRD, Cowichan Tribes, Halalt and Penelakut First Nations.
- Nanaimo Regional District:
  - States of Local Emergency in place.
  - 1 Evacuation Orders remains, 2 orders rescinded: Nanaimo River and Cedar Grove/Riverside/Waters Road.
- Capital Regional District
  - EOC Activated. Highway 1 in both directions reduced to single, alternating route on Malahat. Some localized power outages throughout the CRD. Water service in Fulford Harbour area down for 21 households.
- District of Sooke
  - EOC Activated.
- District of Highlands
  - EOC Activated.
- City of Langford
  - EOC Activated.
  - 20+ properties on alert.
- Central Saanich
  - EOC activated
  - Localized flooding throughout the district. Supporting Public Works with the Brentwood Bay area, liaising with Saanich Peninsula Hospital with resources as needed and status update.

#### **Key Internet Links:**

**Avalanche Canada Weather Forecast** [Drying out at last \(avalanche.ca\)](http://avalanche.ca)

**Emergency Info BC**

<https://www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca>

**BC Hydro Outage Map** <https://www.bchydro.com/power-outages/app/outage-map.html>

**BC River Forecast Centre**

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/water/drought-flooding-dikes-dams/river-forecast-centre>

**Drive BC**

<https://www.drivebc.ca/mobile/events/index.html>

**Information about Disaster Financial Assistance is available on the DFA web site at**

<http://www.gov.bc.ca/disasterfinancialassistance>

**Environment Canada** [British Columbia - Weather Conditions and Forecast by Locations - Environment Canada](#)

**APPROVED BY:**

Janet Adams  
PECC Deputy Director

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**PECC ACTIVATION DAY NO. 1**

**NOVEMBER 15, 2021**

**Hazard(s): Atmospheric River Storm**

**Operational Period: November 15, 2021, 08:30 hrs to Closing**

**Next Sitrep will be issued: November 16, 2021**

**Primary PECC E-mail: [pecc@embc.ca](#)**

**Primary PECC Phone: 778-698-8617**

**Information current as of Nov 15, 2021 at 17:00h**

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**PROVINCIAL SITUATION**

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The storm has damaged, blocked, and impacted multiple roadways, causing widespread road closures and stranding hundreds of motorists overnight on Nov. 14, 2021. Rescue efforts have continued throughout Nov. 15, 2021, and reports indicated all stranded motorists have now been able to seek shelter and appropriate supports in nearby communities.

First Nations and Local Authority communities have seen widespread flooding and power outages which have led to roadway closures, infrastructure impacts, evacuation orders and evacuation alerts. The situation is dynamic and full, accurate situational awareness remains challenging, but current estimates suggest that provincially there are over 524 properties on Evacuation Order, 315 properties on Evacuation Alert and then an additional 7,800 people on Evacuation Order in the Town of Merritt because of the storm.

As a result of the severe weather events this week, EMBC has approved Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) for flooding in the Vancouver Island & Central Coast, Southwest, and Central regions of the province, including all First Nations communities, electoral areas, and municipalities within these areas.

**WEATHER OUTLOOK AND ALERTS**

A significant atmospheric river has made landfall across southern coastal regions of British Columbia. Observed rainfall amounts since yesterday have been in the 50-185 mm range across the Coquihalla, upper Coldwater and Tulameen River watersheds. Temperatures have been rising, with temperatures in the 5-7°C range being observed at automated snow weather stations across the region. Snowmelt is being observed at mid-elevations and is adding additional runoff to rivers. Rivers have risen rapidly, with

further rain in the forecast through today, Monday, November 15th (turning to snow at higher elevations).

While the weather picture calmed somewhat over the day, weather warnings continue for much of the southeastern part of the province tonight, including both rainfall and snow warnings. More information available on current warnings available from [Environment Canada](#).

## **RIVER FORECAST CENTRE (RFC) WATCHES AND WARNINGS**

### **EMBC Central Region**

RFC is upgrading or maintaining a Flood Warning for:

- Lower Nicola River
- Similkameen River
- Tulameen River and tributaries
- Coldwater River

### **EMBC Southwest Region**

RFC is upgrading or maintaining a Flood Warning for:

- Coquihalla River
- Sumas River and areas around the US Border

RFC is upgrading to or maintaining a Flood Watch for:

- Sea-to-Sky
- Howe Sound
- North Shore Mountains Fraser Valley including surrounding tributaries
- Fraser Canyon tributaries, including tributaries around Hope
- Chilliwack River

RFC is maintaining a High Streamflow Advisory for:

- Sunshine Coast
- Metro Vancouver

### **EMBC Vancouver Island & Central Coast Region**

RFC is upgrading or maintaining a Flood Warning for:

- Englishman River (NEW)
- Cowichan River
- Koksilah River

## **HUMAN CONSEQUENCE IMPACTS**

### **EMERGENCY SUPPORT SERVICES (ESS)**

Due to the widespread and dynamic nature of the extreme atmospheric river event, exact reporting of ESS activity across all regions and communities remains challenging, and the information below will likely be amended as greater reporting accuracy is achieved.

The total number of active ESS Reception Centres is reported to be approximately 20 (many of these communities are providing mutual aid as host communities)

Communities hosting Reception Centres include:

- Kamloops
- Kelowna

- Abbotsford
- Chilliwack
- Hope
- Agassiz
- Regional District Okanagan Similkameen/Penticton
- Salmon Arm

#### Additional Information

- The Provincial ESS Call Centre is receiving high call volume and has extended their hours until 18:00h tonight
- Availability of commercial accommodation in Kamloops is low and the city is experiencing up to 5-hour wait times at their Reception Centre to provide supports.
- Kelowna has accommodation capacity for additional evacuees.

### FLOOD IMPACTS

#### INFRASTRUCTURE & TRANSPORTATION

- Highway Closures:
  - Highway 1 (Agassiz – Spences Bridge)
  - Highway 3 (Sunshine Valley)
  - Highway 5 (Hope – Merritt)
  - Highway 7 (Maple Ridge – Hope)
  - Highway 11 (US border – Vye Road, Abbotsford)
- Stranded Motorists Incident – Highway 7 near Agassiz - SWE
  - Two vehicles and a semi-truck went over an embankment due to mudslide.
  - Approximately 80 vehicles were stranded overnight on the roadway.
  - Agassiz Fire Department, Hope SAR and HUSAR Taskforce #1 responded to assist people trapped in their vehicles
  - The Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (JRCC) supported the response with 3 Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) Cormorant helicopters
  - Reports suggest over 270 people were rescued from site and up to 5 patients were transferred to hospital
- Stranded Motorists Incident - Hwy 99 near Lillooet - SWE
  - At least 3 slides were identified in the 30km area south of Lillooet
  - 42 vehicles and 65 people were stranded at the location
  - Ground Search and Rescue teams assisted the response
  - Reports indicate all motorists were rescued
  - Information was limited due to a lack of cell coverage in the area
- Stranded Motorists Incident – Hwy 1 near Haig - SWE
  - Approximately 200 vehicles were stranded on Hwy 1 by landslides in the Haig area
  - Rescue efforts were slowed by the need to de-energize nearby powerlines
  - After de-energization had occurred, an egress path to Hope was cleared
  - As of the evening of Nov. 15, 2021, all motorists are reported to have arrived in Hope
  - Further emergency supports are being planned for the Hope community and travellers stranded there for Nov. 16, 2021
- Train Derailment (2 Cars) - Mile 80 Yale – DGIR Code 1 - SWE
  - Cause unknown, but suspected to be due to rain
  - No dangerous goods; dry materials only
  - No reports of injuries or waterways impacted

- Reports are being investigated of further mud and landslides events impacting District of Kent, Highway 1, and Abbotsford
- There have been multiple additional road closures throughout the day in the SWE, CTL and VIC regions, with impacts continuing in numerous locations across all 3 regions.
- For a complete list of highway and road closures, including ferry disruptions due to flooding, see [DriveBC](#).

#### UTILITIES/ TELECOMMUNICATIONS

- Fortis BC:
  - Sunshine Coast at Roberts Creek distribution line and intermediate pressure line exposed in creek. Hydro line de-energized and FD on scene.
  - Halfmoon Bay distribution pressure line is exposed
  - A main distribution line at Princeton is impacted with up to 1200 customers possibly affected
  - Distribution line at Merritt is impacted but the full extent cannot be confirmed due to current high-water levels
  - Fraser Valley distribution line service in a farmer's field near Seabird Island is leaking and being isolated
- Telecommunications:
  - Bell cellular voice/data outages in the Fraser Valley and Northern Vancouver

#### CROSS-MINISTRY AND AGENCY UPDATES

#### HEALTH

- Due to the sewage and water shutdowns in Merritt, Interior Health is planning the evacuation of the Merritt hospital, as well as several other health facilities in the area, including Long-Term-Care and Assisted Living sites.
- Power outages and road closures are impacting staffing and critical supply lines to health facilities and Long-Term Care and Assisted Living sites, particularly in the Hope area.
- Some vaccine clinics in VCH/PHC have been canceled due to weather conditions and travel issues.
- Planning underway to prepare for the impacts of expected wind and power outages in the Island and south-coast areas overnight.

#### PROVINCIAL REGIONAL UPDATES

#### CENTRAL REGION (CTL)

**CTL PREOC** has activated in response to flooding.

Due to the widespread and dynamic nature of the extreme atmospheric river event, exact reporting of community impacts remains challenging, and the information below will likely be amended as greater reporting accuracy is achieved.

#### **FIRST NATIONS**

- Coldwater First Nation
  - Band Council Resolution Declared
  - Evacuation Order Issued: 3 Properties
- Shakan First Nation

- Band Council Resolution Declared
- Evacuation Order Issued: Approximately 70 people
- Evacuation Alert Issued
- Nooaitch First Nation
  - Band Council Resolution Declared
  - Evacuation Order Issued: Approximately 100 people

#### **LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

- City of Merritt
  - State of Local Emergency Declared
  - Evacuation Order Issued: Entire Community (Approx. 7800 people)
  - Due to failure of sewage treatment plant (unsanitary conditions)
  - Significant ESS supports being provided in Kamloops & Kelowna
  -
- Columbia Shuswap Regional District
  - State of Local Emergency Declared
- Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
  - EOC Activated
  - State of Local Emergency Declared
  - Evacuation Order Issued: 24 Properties
- Thompson Nicola Regional District
  - Evacuation Alerts Declared
    - Electoral Area “I” (Blue Sky Country)
    - Electoral Area “M” (Beautiful Nicola Valley – North)
    - Electoral Area “N” (Beautiful Nicola Valley – South)
- Tulameen
  - EOC Activated
- Town of Princeton
  - EOC Activated
  - State of Local Emergency Declared
  - Evacuation Order Issued: Properties along the Tulameen River
  - Evacuation Alert Issued: Properties along the Similkameen & Tulameen Rivers
- Salmon Arm District
  - EOC Activated

#### **ESS Reception Centres:**

- Regional District Central Okanagan: Kelowna – Parkinson Activity Centre
- City of Kamloops: McArthur Island Sport and Event Centre
- Regional District Okanagan Similkameen: Penticton - Bus Barn

### **SOUTHWEST REGION (SWE)**

#### **SWE PREOC activated in response to flooding**

Due to the widespread and dynamic nature of the extreme atmospheric river event, exact reporting of community impacts remains challenging, and the information below will likely be amended as greater reporting accuracy is achieved.

#### **FIRST NATIONS**

- Chawathil First Nation
- Kwikwetlem First Nation
  - Put on flood alert from BC Hydro Dams.
- Leq'á:mel First Nation
- Matsqui First Nation
  - Band Council Resolution Declared
- Peters First Nation
- Skawahlook First Nation

#### **LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

- City of Abbotsford
  - State of Local Emergency Declared
  - 3 Evacuation Orders Issued
  - 7 Evacuation Alerts Issued
- Bowen Island
- Burnaby
- City of Chilliwack
- Fraser Valley Regional District
  - State of Local Emergency Declared
  - 4 Evacuation Orders Issued
  - 3 Evacuation Alerts Issued
- Town of Hope
  - Access from all Highways (1,3,5) cut off
  - Significant power outages for much of the day (w/hospital on generator)
  - Many motorists stranded in community
  - Report of restoration of power late day
- District of Kent
  - State of Local Emergency Declared
- City of Langley
- Mission
- New Westminster
- Pemberton
- Pitt Meadows
- Port Coquitlam
- Richmond
- Squamish Lillooet Regional District
- Squamish District
- Sunshine Coast Regional District

#### **ESS Reception Centres:**

- Abbotsford: Abbotsford Recreation Centre
- Agassiz: Agassiz Agricultural Hall
- Chilliwack: Chilliwack Secondary School
- Hope: Grace Baptist Church and Hope Secondary School

### **VANCOUVER ISLAND AND CENTRAL COAST REGION (VIC)**

**VIC PREOC** activated in response to flooding

## **FIRST NATIONS**

- Halalt First Nation:
  - 150 evacuees
  - Band Council Resolution Declared
  - Evacuation Order Issued
- Snuneymuxw First Nation:
  - Band Council Resolution Declared
  - Evacuation Order Issued
  - 25 evacuees (approximate)
- Penelakut First Nation:
  - Evacuation Order Issued
  - 50 evacuees (approximate)
- Cowichan Tribes:
  - Evacuation Order Issued
  - 120 evacuees (approximate)
- Pauquachin First Nation
  - Evacuation Order Issued

## **LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

- Cowichan Valley Regional District:
  - State of Local Emergency Declared (applying to Cowichan Tribes, Halalt First Nation, Penelakut Tribe, Cowichan Valley Regional District, Municipality of North Cowichan and City of Duncan)
  - Evacuation Order Issued (City of Duncan)
  - 2 ESS reception centres open
  - SOLE in place
- Nanaimo Regional District:
  - 3 States of Local Emergency in place
    - Parts of Electoral Area A
    - Parts of Electoral Area G: Pathfinder Resort
    - Parts of Electoral Area G: Cedar Grove Campsite
  - 3 Evacuation Orders Issued
    - Englishman River
    - Nanaimo River
    - Little Qualicum
- Capital Regional District
  - EOC Activated
- District of Sooke
  - EOC Activated
- District of Highlands
  - EOC Activated
- City of Langford
  - EOC Activated
  - Evacuation Alert Issued

- 20+ properties on alert
- Central Saanich
  - EOC activated

**ESS Reception Centres:**

- Cowichan Valley Regional District (2 Reception Centres)
- Nanaimo ESS taking on a tele-registration support role for Halalt FN
- Oceanside EMO ESS is going to support first 72 hrs in Parksville



## Key Internet Links:

**Avalanche Canada Weather Forecast** [Drying out at last \(avalanche.ca\)](http://avalanche.ca)

### Emergency Info BC

<https://www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca>

**BC Hydro Outage Map** <https://www.bchydro.com/power-outages/app/outage-map.html>

### BC River Forecast Centre

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/water/drought-flooding-dikes-dams/river-forecast-centre>

### Drive BC

<https://www.drivebc.ca/mobile/events/index.html>

**Information about Disaster Financial Assistance is available on the DFA web site at**

<http://www.gov.bc.ca/disasterfinancialassistance>

**Environment Canada** [British Columbia - Weather Conditions and Forecast by Locations - Environment Canada](http://www.ec.gc.ca/bc-weather-conditions-forecast)

## APPROVED BY:

Brendan Ralfs  
PECC Director

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