

## 2021.11.15 QP EMBC Flooding - DRAFT

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From: Maley, Madeline L EMBC:EX  
To: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>, Richards, Tara R EMBC:EX  
<Tara.Richards@gov.bc.ca>, Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: November 15, 2021 11:09:52 AM PST  
Attachments: 2021.11.15 QP EMBC Flooding - DRAFT.docx  
TRAN can provide more of an update

# Flooding

## Highlights:

- Over the weekend, BC experienced very heavy rain, localized flooding, and landslides in the Southwest and Central regions of the province.
- As of this morning, five highways were closed (#s 1, 3, 5, 7, and 11) and Princeton and Merritt have declared local states of emergency with evacuation orders in place.

## Main message:

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- Our province has been hit hard over the last few months – wildfires, heat, and now flooding.
- I am thinking about all of the people who have been impacted by this severe weather – we are working with all of our partners to open up roads and get people to safety.
- I want to acknowledge and thank all the people in search and rescue, the police and firefighters, and local governments who have been working throughout the weekend to respond to this storm.
- To those in Merritt and Princeton, we are working with local governments in Kelowna and Kamloops to set up supports as needed.
- Our government is here to support the people of British Columbia and we will continue to support local governments in responding.

## How about people who are trapped in their cars?

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- Being stuck on a highway in your car is a very scary thing.
- I want to assure people that search and rescue experts are on location and assessing the need and ability to get to folks who need help.
- The teams are looking at the possibility of air rescue, while also factoring in the challenge of high winds.
- The conditions are dynamic and our officials will continue to work to keep people safe.

#### **Officials in the US were told to sandbag on Saturday. Why no warnings in the Fraser Valley?**

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- This situation was an unpredictable one and officials were working with local government to make decisions in real time.
- Rainfall and high stream warning were issued by Environment Canada to alert the public and first nation and local governments to take the appropriate actions
- EMBC hosted coordination calls over the weekend to support first nation and local government actions
- EMCB social media provide preparedness information or flooding
- WHAT MORE CAN WE SAY?

### Should highways have been closed earlier?

- This situation was an unpredictable one and officials were working with local government to make decisions in real time.
- The River Forecast Centre was issuing warnings to local governments throughout the day yesterday
- Road conditions are updated regularly by DRIVEBC to alert drivers of hazards and conditions
- DO WE HAVE MORE DETAILS?

### Why doesn't BC have a proper public alerting system?

- ~~We are prioritizing the expansion of the Alert Ready system in BC as communities across the province face more extreme weather events.~~
- ~~We are committed to finding the right solution to expand our provincial alerting program.~~
- First Nations and local authorities provide emergency notifications to their residents for all hazards and the Province amplifies these Orders and Alerts.
- We currently use Alert Ready's broadcast alerts for tsunami warnings, Amber Alerts and civil emergency events and EMBC has begun work to implement a pilot for the 2022 wildfire season.

## REQUEST: Weather Update

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From: Maley, Madeline L EMBC:EX  
To: Richards, Tara R EMBC:EX <Tara.Richards@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: November 15, 2021 2:01:34 PM PST

ECCC weather update:

- A massive atmospheric river has been bringing heavy rain and to southern BC for nearly 48hours
  - In some places, the average monthly amount of November rain has fallen in 24-36hours
  - Hope had its all time 24hour rainiest day on record with 174mm yesterday alone
- The rain event will end today but bring gusty winds this afternoon and/or this evening for the
  - South Coast
  - SW interior
  - South Coast
  - Interior
  - NW and W, 50 gusting 70km/h
  - Interior: South 50 gusting 70 km/h shifting to NW 50 g 70 this evening
- Plummeting freezing levels may lead to local ice and snow on roads as temperature drop to freezing in valley bottoms over the next two days
  - Winter storm/snowfall warnings are in effect for
    - Interior mountain passes (Roger's and Kicking Horse Passes)
    - Kinbasket and Yellowhead Hwy near Tete Jaune Cache to AB border
    - The Coquihalla as rain changes to snow tonight
  - There are rainfall warnings for
    - Fraser Canyon
    - West Columbia
    - Arrow Slocan
    - Kootenay Lake
    - Elk Valley
- Overview of warnings and Special Weather Statements in effect can be found here:  
[https://weather.gc.ca/warnings/index\\_e.html?prov=bc](https://weather.gc.ca/warnings/index_e.html?prov=bc)

Madeline L. Maley (she/her)  
Assistant Deputy Minister Regional Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Phone: 250 704-3046 | Cell: s.17  
**24 Hour Emergency Reporting: 1-800-663-3456**  
Follow EMBC at [@EmergencyInfoBC](#) and [@PreparedBC](#)  
Follow the OFC at [@BC\\_FireSafety](#) and [@BCFireSafety](#)

*With gratitude, acknowledging I am working on the traditional territory of Tk'emlups Te Secwepemc people*

## RE: REQUEST: Weather Update

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From: Maley, Madeline L EMBC:EX  
To: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: November 15, 2021 2:01:38 PM PST  
tx

Madeline L. Maley (she/her)  
Assistant Deputy Minister Regional Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Phone: 250 704-3046 | Cell: s.17

**24 Hour Emergency Reporting: 1-800-663-3456**

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**From:** Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** November 15, 2021 1:30 PM  
**To:** Maley, Madeline L EMBC:EX <Madeline.Maley@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: REQUEST: Weather Update

ECCC weather update:

- A massive atmospheric river has been bringing heavy rain and to southern BC for nearly 48hours
  - In some places, the average monthly amount of November rain has fallen in 24-36hours
  - Hope had its all time 24hour rainiest day on record with 174mm yesterday alone
- The rain event will end today but bring gusty winds this afternoon and/or this evening for the
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    - Elk Valley
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[https://weather.gc.ca/warnings/index\\_e.html?prov=bc](https://weather.gc.ca/warnings/index_e.html?prov=bc)

**Brendan Ralfs** | Director, Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: s.17  
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

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**From:** Maley, Madeline L EMBC:EX <Madeline.Maley@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** November 15, 2021 10:31 AM  
**To:** Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** REQUEST: Weather Update

Can you get a weather update and send to Tara – Lori W is looking for one - thanks

Madeline L. Maley (she/her)

Assistant Deputy Minister Regional Operations

Emergency Management BC

Phone: 250 704-3046 | Cell: **s.17**

**24 Hour Emergency Reporting: 1-800-663-3456**

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*With gratitude, acknowledging I am working on the traditional territory of Tk'emlups Te Secwepemc people*

## RE: GCPE Media Request: Interview & Alert Ready: due at 230pm

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From: Maley, Madeline L EMBC:EX  
To: Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX <Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Nichols, Alisha EMBC:EX <Alisha.Nichols@gov.bc.ca>, Bosworth, Gemma EMBC:EX <Gemma.Bosworth@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: November 15, 2021 2:27:16 PM PST  
approved

Madeline L. Maley (she/her)  
Assistant Deputy Minister Regional Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
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**From:** Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX <Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** November 15, 2021 1:03 PM  
**To:** Maley, Madeline L EMBC:EX <Madeline.Maley@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Nichols, Alisha EMBC:EX <Alisha.Nichols@gov.bc.ca>; Bosworth, Gemma EMBC:EX <Gemma.Bosworth@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** GCPE Media Request: Interview & Alert Ready: due at 230pm

Hi Madeline,

Media request for your review please. Approved by Brendan and Chrissy. Most of this messaging is from the approved Alert Ready QA.

Thank you,  
Aimee

### Reporter

Julia Lipscombe, Producer  
CBC Radio Vancouver  
[Julia.Lipscombe@cbc.ca](mailto:Julia.Lipscombe@cbc.ca)  
s.22

### Deadline ASAP

### Request

Hoping to speak with someone from Emergency Management BC about the current flooding and mudslides. Ideally we'd book a live interview with our host, Stephen Quinn, tomorrow at 7:10 a.m. It would be seven min over the phone.

Also have two questions:

Was BC's emergency alert system employed anywhere in the province ahead of this weather system?  
If not, why?

### Recommendation

- No, the Alert Ready system hasn't been used during the current event.
- The public alerting system is currently only used in B.C. for tsunami notifications, AMBER Alerts, and policing incident alerts.



- We're looking at how alerting for other hazards might be integrated.
- Given the increasing threats our communities are facing due primarily to climate change, it's clear the Province needs to expand the Broadcast Intrusive Alerts through the Alert Ready system in B.C.

## RE: For review: GCPE Media Request: Alert Ready: due at 2pm

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From: Maley, Madeline L EMBC:EX  
To: Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX <Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca>, Chandler, Alex EMBC:EX <Alex.Chandler@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Nichols, Alisha EMBC:EX <Alisha.Nichols@gov.bc.ca>, Bosworth, Gemma EMBC:EX <Gemma.Bosworth@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: November 16, 2021 1:56:27 PM PST  
approved

Madeline L. Maley (she/her)  
Assistant Deputy Minister Regional Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Phone: 250 704-3046 | Cell: s.17  
**24 Hour Emergency Reporting: 1-800-663-3456**  
Follow EMBC at @EmergencyInfoBC and @PreparedBC  
Follow the OFC at @BC\_FireSafety and @BCFireSafety

*With gratitude, acknowledging I am working on the traditional territory of Tk'emlups Te Secwepemc people*

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**From:** Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX <Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** November 16, 2021 12:38 PM  
**To:** Maley, Madeline L EMBC:EX <Madeline.Maley@gov.bc.ca>; Chandler, Alex EMBC:EX <Alex.Chandler@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Nichols, Alisha EMBC:EX <Alisha.Nichols@gov.bc.ca>; Bosworth, Gemma EMBC:EX <Gemma.Bosworth@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** For review: GCPE Media Request: Alert Ready: due at 2pm

Hi Madeline and Alex,

Media request for your review please. Approved by Brendan and Chrissy.

Thank you,  
Aimee

### Reporter

Colin Freeze, Reporter  
Globe and Mail - BC Bureau  
[cfreeze@globeandmail.com](mailto:cfreeze@globeandmail.com)  
s.22 c: s.22

**Deadline** Tuesday, November 16, 4:30PM

### Request

I'm following up from a line of question we began this summer. Would it be possible to interview officials at EMBC such as Pader Branch today ? Or could you respond to the following questions by end of day ?

Q1. In 2016 submissions to a federal regulator (below) EMBC explicitly said it needed "Alert Ready" access to warn BC residents about flooding events. Yet statistics show that BC continues to have never used the system for any kind of warning. Why is this?

Q2. In July, EMBC officials said in the aftermath of devastating heat and fires they wanted to look at using the Alert Ready system more widely. Yet the alert count remains zero and there is no discernible progress from a public standpoint. Given this can you say whether any progress has been made at all on the promised capabilities? See link <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/british-columbia/article-bc-pledges-to-use-alert-ready-system-for-more-natural-disasters/>

## Recommendation

- We are prioritizing the expansion of the Alert Ready system in BC as communities across the province face more extreme weather events, primarily due to climate change.
- We are committed to finding the right solution to expand our provincial alerting program.
- First Nations and local authorities provide emergency notifications to their residents for all hazards and the Province amplifies these Orders and Alerts.
- We currently use Alert Ready's broadcast alerts for tsunami warnings, Amber Alerts and civil emergency events and EMBC has begun work to implement a pilot for the 2022 wildfire season.

## EMBC Regional Operations\_ Nov 17 2021

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From: Maley, Madeline L EMBC:EX <Madeline.Maley@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Richards, Tara R EMBC:EX <Tara.Richards@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Nichols, Alisha EMBC:EX <Alisha.Nichols@gov.bc.ca>, Stonnell, Jennifer EMBC:EX <Jennifer.Stonnell@gov.bc.ca>, Fraser, Agnes EMBC:EX <Agnes.Fraser@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: November 17, 2021 11:58:29 AM PST  
Attachments: EMBC Regional Operations\_ Nov 17 2021.docx  
Tara

This will be our template aiming to get to MO by 10 am

M

# Emergency Management BC REGIONAL OPERATIONS UPDATE

Nov 17, 2021

Information current as of Nov 17, 07:00

## Atmospheric Event Update

- EMBC Activation Summary: 4 (PECC, CTL, SWE, VIC)

## Band Council Resolutions, SOLE, Order & Alert Changes

	As of Nov 17, 0700	Overnight
<b>Band Council resolutions</b>	1	
<b>States of local emergency</b>	13	
<b>Evacuation orders</b>	26	
Approx. properties on order	5,918	
Approx. people on alert	17,775	
<b>Evacuation alerts</b>	13	
Approx. properties on alert	3,632	
Approx. people on alert	5,199	

### NOTES:

- Properties numbers are approximate – some areas with regional districts do not provide property totals and orders and alerts from First Nations Communities generally not provide property counts.

## Overnight Updates

### Sumas Prairie – Abbotsford

- The City of Abbotsford has issued an urgent notice for all residents remaining in the Sumas Prairie area to evacuate the area immediately.
- The Barrowtown pump station is in danger of succumbing to flood waters, and if it does the areas that have not yet been flooded will be inundated.
- Regional SAR teams are staging personnel and equipment to respond by ground, boat, and air as required to evacuate residents from the area the morning of Nov 17.

## Situation Overview

- The storm blocked, damaged, and impacted multiple roadways, causing widespread road closures, and stranding multiple motorists.
- Travelers have 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. BC Wildfire Service is working to move resources by air to support the relief efforts.
- 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

Wednesday: Will remain dry provincially

## Warnings and Advisories

Winter Storm Warning: Haines Road – Haines Junction to Pleasant Camp, and South Klondike Highway - Carcross to White Pass.

Snowfall Warning: North Coast – inland sections.

Flood warning: Lower Nicola River from Merritt to Spences Bridge, Sumas River and areas around the US Border, and Coldwater River.

Flood watch: Fraser Valley including surrounding tributaries, Fraser Canyon tributaries including tributaries around Hope.

High streamflow advisory: Similkameen River, Tulameen River and tributaries, Chemainus River, Englishman River, Cowichan River, Koksilah River, Coquihalla River and Chilliwack River.

## Orders and Alerts

### CENTRAL REGION

Cook's Ferry Indian Band

- BCR declared due to flooding.
- An Evacuation Order issued for IR 1 & 4.
- An Evacuation Alert issued for the remainder of the community.

Nooaitch Indian Band

- An Evacuation Order issued for IR 10.

#### Lower Similkameen Indian Band

- BCR declared due to flooding.
- Evacuation Alert issued for IR 7, 8, Similkameen IR No2, Alexis IR No9, Ashnola IR 10
- Issued an Evacuation Order for Alexis Indian Reserve No 3, Similkameen Indian Reserve No 2, Chopaka Indian Reserve No 7&8 and Chopaka Rd North Susap Creek.

#### City of Merritt

- SOLE declared due to flooding.
- An evacuation order issued for the City of Merritt in its entirety.

#### Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

- SOLE declared for EAs H and G due to flooding.
- SOLE declared for EA B due to flooding.
- An Evacuation Order issued for 74 addresses in EA "G, B, and H" due to flooding.

#### Town of Princeton

- SOLE declared due to flooding.
- 3 Evacuation Orders issued for 228 properties along the Tulameen River.
- 2 Evacuation Alerts for 209 properties.

#### Village of Keremeos

- An Evacuation Alert for properties within the Village of Keremeos has been rescinded.

#### Thompson-Nicola Regional District

- SOLE declared for EA N due to flooding.
- An Evacuation Alert issued for EAs "I, M, and N."
- An Evacuation Order issued for 53 properties.
- An Evacuation Order has been issued for 37 properties within EA "I"

### **SOUTHEAST REGION**

#### Regional District of East Kootenay

- SOLE declared for EA "A" due to flooding.
- An Evacuation Alert issued for 11 properties in EA "A".

## **SOUTHWEST REGION**

### **Fraser Valley Regional District**

- SOLE declared due to flooding and mudslides.
- An Evacuation Order issued for 53730 Bridal Falls Road (Camperland RV Resort & Cabins).
- An Evacuation Order issued for 4 properties on Auchenway Road in EA "E".
- City of Abbotsford
- An Evacuation Alert issued for Clayburn Area: Clayburn Village and surrounding area.
- An Evacuation Alert issued for Eagle Mountain Areas: Cranberry Court, Briarwood Place, Doneagle Place.
- An Evacuation Alert issued for Ten Oaks: Mount Blanchard Court, Mount Blanchard Drive and Old Clayburn Road.
- An Evacuation Alert issued for Sumas Prairie: Westside of Whatcom Road, East of Huntington Village, Southside of Vye Road.
- An Evacuation Alert issued for Straiton Areas: Dawson Road East of Sumas Mountain Road, Southern rail line to the West, Whatcom Road to the East, Highway 1 to the North, United States border to the South.
- An Evacuation Alert issues for Matsqui Village.
- An Evacuation Order issued for a portion of the Sumas Prairie.
- An Evacuation Order issued for 7 addresses on Straiton Road.

### **District of Kent**

- SOLE declared due to flooding.
- An Evacuation Order for 59 residents south of 6500 block of Rockwell Drive.

### **Squamish-Lillooet Regional District**

- An Evacuation Alert issued for 34 properties in EA "D" has been rescinded.

### **Village of Harrison Hot Springs**

- SOLE declared due to flooding.

### **City of Langley**

- An Evacuation Order for 1 property on 264th Street.

### **City of Chilliwack**

- SOLE declared for 47000 block of Yale Road and 47000 block of Chartwell Drive.
- An Evacuation Order issued for 7 properties from Boundary Road to Browne Road, and all of Majuba Hill and 4 properties on Yale Road and 3 properties on Chartwell Drive.
- An Evacuation Alert issued for Yarrow, from Boundary Road to Browne Road, and from the Vedder River to Majuba Hill Road.



## **VANCOUVER ISLAND and CENTRAL COAST REGION**

### **Cowichan Valley Regional District**

- SOLE declared for the entirety of the Regional District including the City of Duncan and local First Nations communities.
- An Evacuation Order for 6 properties in the Allenby Road area.
- Evacuation of the Meadow Glen apartment building due to flooding on Canada Ave.

### **Regional District of Nanaimo**

- SOLE declared for EAs "A & G".
- An Evacuation Order issued for the Cedar Grove campsite.
- An Evacuation Order for an RV site on Martindale Road.
- An Evacuation Order for 29 addresses in the Riverside Road area.
- Evacuation Order rescinded for 246 Riverbend Road, 3506 Island Hwy West, Waters Road in EA G.
- Evacuation Order rescinded for Portions of Wilkinson Road, Alice Road and Riverside Road in EA A.

## **Emergency Support Services**

- 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.
- Reception Centres active: approximately 20 (including: Abbotsford, Agassiz, Chilliwack, Cowichan Valley Regional District, Hope, Kelowna, Kamloops, Regional District Okanagan Similkameen/Penticton, Salmon Arm)
  - Many communities are providing mutual aid as host communities.
  - Some may be informal centres not seeking provincial support.

## **Transportation**

- MOTI anticipates Highways 1,3, and 7 may be restored this week.
- CP Rail lines damaged through Fraser Valley. No short-term impact to Lower Mainland critical supplies. One train caught in debris flow east/north of Spuzzum; no injuries.

## **Closures**

- Highway 1 (Malahat) Will be closed overnight from 7pm until 6am until Nov 22.
- Highway 1 (East of Golden)
- Highway 1 (Agassiz – Spences Bridge)
- Highway 3 (Sunshine Valley)
- Highway 5 (Hope – Merritt)
- Highway 7 (Maple Ridge – Hope)
- Highway 8 (Merritt – Spences Bridge)
- Highway 11 (US border – Vye Road, Abbotsford)
- Highway 99 (Pemberton to Lillooet)

## **Utilities**

### BC Hydro

- Restored service to 56,000 customers overnight Nov 17.
- Remaining outages: 13,000 in Thompson-Shuswap and Okanagan, 1,000 North Fraser
- Limited access is delaying restoration for remaining clients.
- Hope: Weather mitigation in progress, anticipate stable power for Hope Nov 17.

### Dams:

- Receding inflows at all LML and Sea-to-Sky sites.
- Flows peaked Nov 15. 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 fire department on scene.
- Halfmoon Bay distribution pressure line is exposed
- A main distribution line at Princeton is impacted with up to 1,200 customers possibly affected
- Distribution line at Merritt is impacts 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