



Public Information Update
Possible Higher-Than-Average Flows Predicted for Atnarko, Dean and Bella
Coola Rivers
May 4, 2018 - 6:30pm

The [River Forecast Centre](#) is continuing to monitor conditions in the Central Coast Regional District including the Dean River, Bella Coola River and Atnarko River. However, at this time, there are no flood warnings or high stream advisories in the Central Coast Regional District (as of May 04, 2018 at 6:00pm). Some predictive models indicate higher than average flows for the Atnarko, Bella Coola and Dean Rivers into early next week. These forecast models are estimates only and may change. Those living in high flood prone areas may never-the-less wish to do some preplanning. Members of the Bella Coola Valley Inter-Agency Emergency Council have met to discuss the models and some precautionary steps among various agencies are underway.

If a warning or advisory is issued, the following terms are used:

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

Flood Watch: River levels are rising and will approach or may exceed bankfull. Flooding of areas adjacent to affected rivers may occur.

- Flood Warning: River levels have exceeded bankfull or will exceed bankfull imminently, and that flooding of areas adjacent to the rivers affected will result.

With the potential for flooding in the Central Coast Regional District, residents need to be vigilant with their safety.

Individuals are advised to stay away from floodwaters. If you come upon a fast-flowing stream where water is above your ankles, stop, turn around and go the other way, as just over 15 centimetres (six inches) of swiftly moving water can sweep you off your feet. Never underestimate the swiftness of the water. High stream flows are unpredictable. Even though the surface water may be smooth, the water could be moving very fast. If you have to walk in water, wherever possible, walk where the water is not moving. Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you.

Never attempt to drive or walk in flood water. About 61 centimetres (two feet) of rushing water can carry away most vehicles, including SUVs and pickup trucks.

For up-to-date information on flood-related evacuation alerts and orders, visit: www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca or follow on Twitter: www.twitter.com/EmergencyInfoBC.

PreparedBC is British Columbia's one-stop shop for disaster readiness information. For tips on how to prepare an emergency plan and what to include in an emergency kit, visit PreparedBC: www.gov.bc.ca/PreparedBC.

Flood prevention tips can be found here: <http://ow.ly/E2JV30bttgr>.

The PreparedBC Flood Information for Homeowners and Home Buyers guide: <http://ow.ly/t4lg30bttjr>.

River Forecast Centre: <http://bcrcfc.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.

The Central Coast Regional District Emergency Notices can be found at: <http://www.ccrd-bc.ca/news/?action=category&ncid=1>.