

Upgrade: Flood warning – Lake Laberge

July 2, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

A flood warning is being issued for:

- Lake Laberge

Current water level on Lake Laberge rose approximately 10 centimeters in the past 24 hours and is above the level expected to occur once every 20 years on average. Lake Laberge is expected to exceed the 2007 peak water level as early as July 5. The current water level is 627.03 meters above sea level. The peak water level in 2007 was 627.28 meters above sea level. Water levels are likely to remain elevated for some time as Lake Laberge typically peaks in late summer.

Recent above-average temperatures have accelerated melting of the remaining high elevation snowpack in the Southern Lakes including Kusawa Lake and the headwaters of the Takhini River. A precipitation event over the Takhini River basin on June 29 and 30 resulted in a rapid water level rise on the Takhini River. Combined with continued increases in flow from upstream, this has caused the rate of water level rise in Lake Laberge to increase. The Takhini River is currently stable but remains sensitive to precipitation.

Continued above seasonal temperatures are forecast for the next seven days and will keep rates of melt of the remaining snowpack high. As the snowpack depletes, water level rise is expected to slow, assuming minimal precipitation. However, the amount and timing of precipitation events will influence the timing and severity of the peak water level on Lake Laberge over the coming weeks.

Flood prone property owners are advised to have a plan in place in the event of a flood. See Yukon.ca for more information. We will continue to monitor conditions and will provide updates as conditions change.

Advisory and warning levels

High streamflow or water advisory means that river or lake 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 means that river or lake levels are rising and will approach or may exceed bankfull or flood stage. Flooding of areas adjacent to affected rivers and lakes may occur.

Flood warning means that river or lake levels have exceeded or will exceed bankfull or flood stage imminently, and that flooding of areas adjacent to the rivers and lakes affected will result.

Contact

For media enquiries:

For media enquiries: Echo Ross, Public Information Officer: 867-335-9145 or flooding@yukon.ca

For flood response: Yukon Emergency Measures Organization: 867-667-5220 or EMO.yukon@yukon.ca