



High streamflow advisory – Yukon River

July 5, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.

A high streamflow advisory is being issued for:

- Yukon River at Whitehorse

Currently, flow on the Yukon River at Whitehorse is at historically high levels and rising. Record snowmelt-driven inputs to the Southern Lakes have resulted in rapidly rising lake levels and increased flows on the Yukon River between Marsh Lake and Lake Laberge. Water velocities through Miles Canyon and downstream of the Whitehorse dam are high with dangerous currents. The high water levels are resulting in increased erosion along riverbanks and debris in the river.

Rates of water level rise are slowing in the Southern Lakes and all three lakes rose less than 7 centimeters in the past 24 hours. This indicates that inflows to the lakes are decreasing as the high elevation snowpack is depleted. However, with water levels in the Southern Lakes continuing to rise and typically peaking in late summer, flows and water levels on the Yukon River at Whitehorse will continue increasing and are expected to remain elevated for some time. The amount and timing of precipitation events will likely determine the peak water level in the Southern Lakes, also influencing peak flows and water levels on the Yukon River at Whitehorse.

The public is advised to stay clear of the fast-flowing rivers and potentially unstable riverbanks during this high-streamflow period. River users should be equipped to handle strong flows and underwater currents, as well as increased debris in the river. 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

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