



MEDIA RELEASE

**REGIONAL DISTRICT
of Fraser-Fort George**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, Friday, May 16, 2008

PRINCE GEORGE, BC - Yesterday evening the Dore River experienced a debris flow resulting from an avalanche earlier in the day which had blocked the upper river valley. The snow slide had a damming effect resulting in a sudden release of water which had enough energy to carry rocks and logs down the river channel to the lower reaches of the Dore. Local residents were aware of the situation early in the evening and with the assistance of local emergency management personnel were able to warn others in advance of the debris torrent allowing residents to take precautionary measures. As a result no injuries or property damage occurred.

An assessment flight earlier this morning revealed that the river has now tunneled under the avalanche and is flowing freely. All other major slide paths in the upper Dore tributaries have discharged and pose no additional avalanche threats to the river channel at this time. It is expected that over the next while the snow bridge will collapse and create small steam surges, but nothing of significance.

Although the risk at this time is thought to be low, residents of the Dore River settlement area around Highway 16, and others living in similar steep mountain river and creek valleys, are encouraged to take precautionary steps to protect themselves, their family and property from debris torrents and water surges. Recommended actions include:

- moving vehicles, equipment and farm implements to higher ground;
- making arrangements for pets and livestock to be moved to safe locations;
- gathering important papers in water-tight containers and move valuables to alternate locations; and
- preparing a 72-hour personal survival kit for you and your family.

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George's Emergency Operations Centre is open and will provide resources and/or assistance to residents regarding flood awareness and preparedness.

The public is asked to visit the RDIFFG website www.rdffg.bc.ca for updated flood information or to call our Emergency Operations Centre directly at 1-250-960-4475.

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For further information please contact:

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