



May 15, 2008

## Play it Safe Around Rivers & Streams

With the arrival of warm summer temperatures expected for this Victoria Day long weekend, the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George is reminding area residents to play it safe around rivers and streams.

The warmer weather could lead to an increase in water levels in the rivers and streams throughout the region. Rivers and streams are naturally unpredictable, but a sudden rise in water levels can create added risks. Rising waters can lead to unstable banks, an increase in debris in the water and fast flowing undercurrents.

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George encourages people to enjoy the long weekend, but exercise caution when nearing rivers and streams.

It's important to understand the risks and be prepared for any emergency. People living near a river or stream can take some precautions to reduce the risk associated with a flood.

- Prepare personal emergency supply kits for your home, car and work (plan for at least a three-day supply of food and water for each family member)
- Have a grab-and-go kit ready if you have to leave your home quickly
- Keep important papers in watertight containers and have a record of your valuables in a safe place
- If flooding is likely in your area, pay attention to the local media for information
- Watch for warning signs: increase in height and intensity of water flows, mudslides, debris in creeks, colour changes in water or leaning trees
- Know that banks of rivers and streams may be unstable and dangerous
- Teach your children about flood safety
- Consider arrangements for your pets and any livestock

For more information, including how to assemble a 72 Hour Emergency Kit, please visit the Regional District of Fraser Fort George's website at [www.rdffg.bc.ca](http://www.rdffg.bc.ca)

-30-

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