

# BC Environment

## River Forecast Centre

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### Flood Watch: Liard River (Lower Post)

**Issued: 29May2009 11:00AM**

The BC River Forecast Centre is issuing **Flood Watch** for the Liard River in North-East British Columbia, including the community of Lower Post.

The Liard River basin received very heavy snowfall over the winter, with the peak snowpack measured at 150% of normal on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Cool weather throughout much of May resulted in subdued snowmelt. Temperatures near seasonal normals over the past week have increased snowmelt, causing the Liard River to rise steadily. The Liard River at Lower Crossing is currently at a discharge near 4400 cubic metres per second (m<sup>3</sup>/s). Overbank flow and localized flooding on the Liard River begins when the discharge is approaching 5200 m<sup>3</sup>/s. Based on current rate-of-rise, the Liard River will be at or near bankfull by early Sunday (May 31).

Temperatures have cooled in the Liard yesterday and today, which will ease snowmelt rates slightly. However, a significant frontal system is forecast to bring heavy rain into the north-east portion of British Columbia, and the Liard basin, today, tomorrow and possibly Sunday. Rainfall amounts of 20-40 mm over 48 hours are possible, with the highest amounts on east-facing upslope areas. Following the frontal rain, temperatures are forecast to rise on Monday (June 1), and are expected to remain well above normal (23-25 degrees in the Liard) throughout next week. This will accelerate snowmelt rapidly.

The Liard River at Lower Post may reach flood stage by Sunday. The water level may moderate slightly with the cool two days, and depending on the specifics of the rainfall. However, with the notable warming next week, snowmelt will accelerate and the Liard River is expected to rise above flood stage.

The River Forecast Centre will provide an update Saturday AM.

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

A **Flood Watch** means that river levels are rising and will approach or may exceed bankfull. Flooding of areas adjacent to affected rivers may occur.

A **Flood Warning** means that river levels have exceeded bankfull or will exceed bankfull imminently, and that flooding of areas adjacent to the rivers affected will result.