

HIGHWAY 8 INFORMATION & UPDATES



Ministry of
Transportation
and Infrastructure

Infrastructure update prepared for residents
For the week of December 20 to 24, 2021



Latest information

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure publishes these newsletters weekly. We have now also published aerial footage of the damage to Highway 8. Watch the video and see the latest at

<https://www.tranbc.ca/current-travel-advisories/>



Work in progress

Opening plans

- Our team continues to repair five sites between the N'kwala Recreation Site and the Shackan Indian Reserve, and two sites at Spences Bridge. Environmental and First Nations cultural monitors are working at all locations.

Site updates

- We have made significant progress at Curnow Bridge, improving safety and service access.
- We will begin work at Rattlesnake Bridge soon. We estimate that we will have emergency and construction access in late December, with work continuing to provide temporary repairs into early January.

Opening service roads

- FLNRORD is leading the opening of the Skuhun and Manning Forest Service Roads. We are targeting to open these roads on December 21, 2021, to facilitate access to and from residences. A checkpoint and pass system is now under development. We will share more information in the following newsletter.
- These service roads are targeted for use beginning December 21 by highway and utilities repair teams only.



Curnow Bridge



Near Chief Anthony Joe Bridge



21km east of Spences Bridge

Highway 8 closure remains in effect

Highway 8 remains closed between Merritt and Spences Bridge.

Our team has identified 23 sites of significant damage along a 45km section of Highway 8.

Repair work is significant and will take time. We are working as quickly and safely as we can. Thank you for your patience.

For the latest information on highway closures and conditions, visit [DriveBC.ca](https://www.drivebc.ca).

Directory

Highway 8 General Enquiries

- highway8.information@gov.bc.ca
- 250-378-1452

Highway 8 Team

- Jennifer Fraser, Executive Project Director, MOTI
- Shawn Clough, Project Director, MOTI
- Jonathan Melvin, Project Manager
- Dawn Drummond, Director, Indigenous Relations, Southern Interior Region, MOTI
- Brad Bushill, Thompson Nicola District, Operations Manager, MOTI

Emergency Management BC

- 1-833-376-2452 (daily 7:30am to 5:00pm)
- www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD), Cascades District:

- forests.cascadesdistrictoffice@gov.bc.ca
- 1-800-665-1511

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) BC Office

- 604-775-5100 (Monday to Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm)

Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) - Emergency Operations Centre

- 250-377-7188
- 1-866-377-7188
- emergency@tnrd.ca

Disaster Financial Assistance

- DFA@gov.bc.ca
- 1-888-257-4777
- <https://www2.gov.bc.ca>

Canadian Red Cross

- 1-800-863-6582 (daily 8:00am to 8:00pm)
- www.registration.redcross.ca



Fish and wildlife protection

Our teams are taking care to protect fish and reptiles in work areas. On one site 21km east of Spences Bridge, we are creating temporary dams along the worksite, allowing fish to gather for recovery every morning. Near Rattlesnake Bridge, we are surveying where bats and reptiles might be in the area before blasting rocks we will use to repair the highway. This will ensure we source materials without disturbing wildlife.

Important resident information

When will the evacuation orders be lifted?

There are multiple authorities along the affected parts of the Highway 8 corridor, including the Cooks Ferry and Shackan bands (members of the Nlaka'pamux First Nation) and properties that are part of the Thompson-Nicola Regional District. Each authority will manage the Evacuation Orders in their respective areas. Going forward, these orders will be adjusted on a case-by-case basis based on the restoration of access and services to different areas, and whether they are safe for people to return to. Communities will work and communicate with each other to ensure security is aware of anticipated access and travel changes.

What if I need to get feed for my animals?

Please reach out to the Ministry of Agriculture for information about livestock. Call 1-888-221-7141 for assistance.

Why don't we have a re-open date for Highway 8?

Right now, we are working to provide temporary access wherever possible. The team is responding to sites along the highway that are in areas with steep terrain, significant geotechnical risk and high archeological potential. These challenges require the development of designs and procedures to mitigate these risks so work can proceed safely.