

HIGHWAY 8 INFORMATION & UPDATES



Ministry of
Transportation
and Infrastructure

Infrastructure update prepared for residents
For the week of September 12 to September 18, 2022

Progress Report

No. of Sites	18 Temp. Repairs Complete	11 Work Underway	1 Planned Work
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Temporary repairs on Highway 8 have been completed at 18 locations. Construction is in progress on another 6 sites, and an additional 5 debris flow sites. Work is being planned for the near future at one remaining site.

Recent Debris Flows on Highway 8

On August 23, 2022, the Highway 8 corridor was hit with heavy precipitation that caused 5 debris flows along a 2.4km section between Dot Ranch Road and FX Ranch Road (approximately 29km west of Mamit Junction). The debris flows were located in an area previously affected by the Lytton Creek wildfire. Wildfire-stricken areas are more susceptible to debris flows due to the hydrophobic quality of burnt soil. Rainfall cannot be easily absorbed into the soil and pools on the surface, increasing the risk and severity of these events.

The debris and damage to the highway closed Highway 8 at this location for two days. There is still single-lane alternating traffic along this section of the corridor. The debris flows impacted power poles which left residences further west without power. The Highway 8 Team is currently continuing emergency repairs to restore Highway 8 to two-lane traffic at these locations.

The debris flows also damaged Dot Ranch Road, a local road located downhill from Highway 8. Repairs at this site are underway. These repairs provide a detour route around some of the debris flow sites on Highway 8, allowing emergency works to continue while maintaining public access. Please refer to DriveBC for the latest updates.



29.1km west of Mamit Junction (Aug-24-2022)



28.1km west of Mamit Junction (Aug-24-2022)

Extreme weather events, including the November flooding event and the August debris flows, have caused significant impacts to the area's farming and agriculture community. Over 20 hectares of agricultural lands was permanently lost last November. The Highway 8 Team created access as quickly as possible to transport feed to animals that had to be left on farms following the flooding. More recently, an additional 23 hectares were damaged by the August debris flows, resulting in the loss of this year's crops. Together, the 43 hectares of damaged agricultural lands represent 20% of the total agricultural lands along the Highway 8 corridor.



The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure publishes these newsletters for residents bi-weekly.
See digital copies and the latest updates at: gov.bc.ca/highway8recovery

Directory

Highway 8 Team at the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI)

- General enquiries: 250-378-1452 or highway8.information@gov.bc.ca
- Jennifer Fraser, Executive Project Director
- Shawn Clough, Project Director
- Jonathan Melvin, Project Manager
- Dawn Drummond, Director, Indigenous Relations, Southern Interior Region
- Brad Bushill, Thompson Nicola District, Operations Manager

Merritt Support Centre

- #102-1700 Garcia St (Railyard Mall) Merritt, B.C. V1K 1B8
- 1-877-655-0341
- returnhome@merritt.ca

Emergency Management BC

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

Ministry of Forests, Cascades District

- forests.cascadesdistrictoffice@gov.bc.ca
- 250-378-8400

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)

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

Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD)

Emergency Operations Centre

- 250-377-7188 or 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

Preserving fish and other wildlife habitats are top priorities for the Highway 8 team. To date, thousands of fish have been salvaged at repair sites along Highway 8.

Fish salvaging is the process of using nets or traps to transfer fish from an isolated portion of the river back to the main channel. This process is used during the Highway 8 reinstatement works when construction of emergency/temporary access requires isolating a portion of the Nicola River.



Site 15- Salvaged Fish (Aug-30-2022)



Site 15- Fish Salvage (Aug-30-2022)



Site 5- Salvaged Largescale Sucker (Aug-22-2022)

When the debris flows occurred on August 23, a side channel near Site 14 was cut off from its water supply. As a result of the debris and high heat in the corridor, the side channel's water level was quickly dropping. Crews refilled the pool with fresh water to ensure that they had enough time to collect and relocate the stranded fish. Over 3,000 fish were salvaged, most being Longnose Dace, and were relocated to safe habitats.



Site 14- Re-watering and Fish Salvage (Aug-25-2022)

For general enquiries, please email highway8.information@gov.bc.ca or call 250-378-1452.
We aim to reply within 24 hours. Thank you for your patience.



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