

HIGHWAY 8

INFORMATION & UPDATES



Ministry of
Transportation
and Infrastructure

Infrastructure update prepared for residents
For November 9, 2022

Progress Report

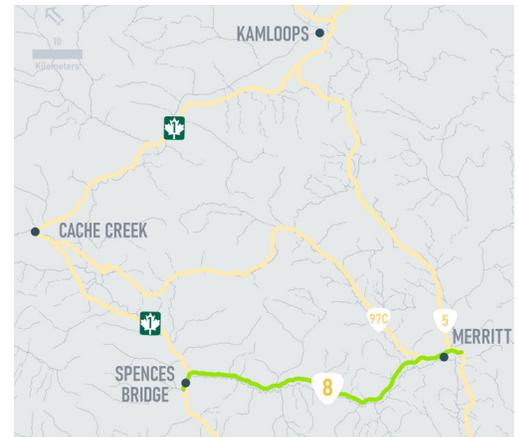
No. of Sites
30
Temp. Repairs
Complete

Temporary repairs are complete at all 30 locations.

Highway 8 Reopening

Thanks to the work of dedicated crews on Highway 8 following the November 2021 Atmospheric River Event flooding, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is pleased to announce that temporary repairs have been completed, and Highway 8 is now open after an almost year-long closure.

Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Rob Fleming officially reopened the highway at an event in Merritt on November 9th.



Highway 8 Current State



Site 5 (Nov-01-2022)



Site 19 (Oct-24-2022)

After extensive repairs, Highway 8 looks different than it used to. Along with reduced speed limits, some sections have different surface materials, including stretches of gravel road. This makes Highway 8 unsuitable for motorcycles for the time being.

Additionally, Highway 8 remains an active construction zone. Crews are continuing to install roadside barriers, place riprap to armour the road embankment, and produce rock for repairs along the corridor. Construction will lead to delays and intermittent closures. Drivers are strongly encouraged to check the status of Highway 8 on [DriveBC](https://drivebc.ca) prior to making travel plans.



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 (EMBC)

- 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

Ministry of Agriculture and Food (AF)

- 1-888-332-3352
- AgriRecovery@gov.bc.ca

Winter Driving



As of October 1, BC Designated Winter Tire and Chain Routes are in effect. On Highway 8, drivers are required by law to have winter tires (snowflake or M+S symbol) on their vehicle until March 31.

With different surface materials (pavement and gravel) drivers will need to be extra diligent during winter weather and storms, as conditions may vary on different surfaces. Please obey all traffic signage, check the conditions before you go, and keep an emergency kit in your car.

Please note that Highway 8 is still a construction zone and therefore would not be a viable detour route for high volumes of traffic from Highway 1 (Trans-Canada) or Highway 5 (Coquihalla), if either were to experience a closure. In either event, Highway 8 would be closed for non-resident use.

Environmental Restoration



Site 3 (Oct-30-2022)

To support fish habitat restoration along the highway's corridor after the November 2021 flooding, the Highway 8 Environmental team has included natural feature enhancements adjacent to the Site 3 highway repairs. These enhancements include deepening of the off-channel area, adding large woody debris and boulders to promote fish habitat, and planting cottonwood or willow stakes to support riparian vegetation regrowth.

The team will continue monitoring the enhancements at this site for fish presence and vegetation growth to help inform future opportunities adjacent to highway works.