



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

PO Box 3001 | Grand Bay-Westfield | NB | E5K 4V3
emo@towngbw.ca

River Watch 2019 Update

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

The St. John and Nerepis river levels continue to slowly decrease. Forecasting indicates levels will continue to decrease slowly, falling below flood stage on Sunday.

While decreasing levels is good news, residents need to continue to use caution. While not forecasted to do so, water levels can change.

The water flooding our area is no longer just river water. It now contains a number of contaminants. Residents should avoid wading through it without appropriate protective gear. If you handle items which have been exposed to floodwater, wash your hands thoroughly afterward.

Do **NOT** allow your children or pets to wade in the floodwater.

Children must be supervised in areas of flood zones to ensure they do not come into contact with or are playing near the water.

Property owners must register with the Disaster Financial Assistance program to be eligible for assistance. Report all damages as soon as possible to 1-888-298-8555 or online [here](#).

Clean-up and Recovery:

Planning by Town staff and contractors for clean-up is well underway. This will include a door to door survey of those requiring clean-up as well as a debris pick up operation. The clean-up process will not be able to begin until water levels fall below flood stage, and it can be reasonably assured they will not rise again.

Residents are advised that, once it is safe to return to their homes, it is important that all contaminated items (furniture, flooring, insulation, drywall, etc.) are removed from the home as soon as possible. These items can be moved outside in preparation for the coming debris pick-up.

Sandbags which have come into contact with flood water are considered contaminated and need to be disposed of. The debris pick up currently being scheduled will include disposal of sandbags.

Well Water:

Residents whose wells may have been compromised, especially if flood water was over the well cap, are warned not to consume their water until tested. Flood water can be heavily contaminated with sewage and other pollutants. It can cause sickness and infections. Information on how to disinfect and restore wells can be found [here](#).

Service New Brunswick (SNB) will provide well water testing free of charge for flood impacted residents.

Wells cannot be tested for at least 10 days after flood waters have receded.



Residents are reminded the burning of debris, including flood debris, is strictly prohibited in the Town.

Water Distribution and Red Cross Clean-Up Kits:

The Emergency Operations Centre for Grand Bay-Westfield in conjunction with the NB Regional Emergency Operations Centre has bottled drinking water available for those whose wells may be contaminated due to flooding.

Each household can pick up 2 cases or 48 bottles at a time.

Red Cross clean-up kits are also available at the distribution centre.

The distribution centre is open to all flood impacted residents in the Grand Bay-Westfield area, including Local Service Districts.

The distribution location is the River Valley Community Center (Arena) located at 709 River Valley Drive. Please use the back lower entrance (Zamboni door, River Valley Drive).

Distribution hours are 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., 7 days a week. Beginning on Monday May 6th these hours will be extended to include Tuesday and Thursday evenings until 7 p.m. and Saturdays and Sunday s will change to 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Evacuations:

Voluntary evacuations of residents in affected areas, especially those who will be isolated from help are still encouraged.

Residents who have evacuated and have not done so already are asked to contact the Emergency Operations Centre at 343-0974 or by email at emo@towngbw.ca to register.

The Canadian Red Cross can be contacted at 1-800-863-9597 for evacuation assistance.

Roads and Traffic:

Work to remove the buildup on Nerepis Road and Brandy Point Road is beginning Wednesday May 1. Motorists can expect delays during the removal process.

Road Closures:

Riverside Park;
Brittain Road at Nerepis Road end;
Shannon Road.

Despite receding flood waters, it is too soon to reopen closed roads. Each road must be assessed for structural integrity and damage prior to reopening. This cannot be completed until flood waters are well below road levels.

The Town has engineers at the ready and will perform the inspections and clear roads for reopening. This will be done as soon as possible.

When you circumvent closed road signs, you not only risk a significant fine, but you also risk injury to yourself or damage to your vehicle.

Sewerage System Impacts

The Town sewerage system lagoon remains unimpacted and, based on forecasting, should remain as such. Main sewerage lines are flowing; however, it is possible for some individual lines from a single home to the main line to be impacted and prevent sewerage from passing from the house to the main line. The same effect is possible on septic fields. If you are experiencing issues the only option is to discontinue use of water.

Residents who do not have functioning sewerage systems are encouraged to evacuate.

Safety

Residents requiring assistance can call the Emergency Operations Centre at 343-0974.

Residents are reminded to avoid flooded areas and to obey all barricades and road closures.

Please secure any items on your property that could float away or cause environmental hazards.

NB Power can be contacted at 1-800-663-6272 to disconnect power to prevent electrical hazards.

Stay connected – to ensure you receive all updates regarding flooding please:

- Visit <http://www.town.grandbay-westfield.nb.ca> and click on the emergency management icon.
- Email emo@towngbw.ca and indicate that you would like to be added to the email distribution list.
- Follow us on Facebook ([facebook.com/gbwvfr](https://www.facebook.com/gbwvfr)) and on twitter [@towngbw.ca](https://twitter.com/towngbw.ca)
- If you do not have access to email or internet, you can call 343-0974 and register for alternate methods.