



HEALTH & SAFETY NOTICE

Number 3

Mines Health, Safety and Enforcement Division: Mine.Safety@gov.bc.ca

April 2021

SPRING RUN-OFF AT BC MINES

The spring season in British Columbia brings the potential for flooding to many areas across the province. Spring flooding has the potential to cause significant impacts to mines and the immediate surrounding areas. As of April 1, 2021, the overall snowpack indices for BC is 113% of normal. However, some areas like the Northwest, are considerably higher at 200% of normal. To find current information for your region on changing snow conditions, please refer to the link below for the BC River Forecast Centre website:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/water/drought-flooding-dikes-dams/river-forecast-centre>

During the spring run-off, extreme events are possible, especially when combined with heavy rainfalls. High water and debris flows can cause significant erosion, impacting the integrity of TSF embankments, waste dump slope stability and other infrastructure on site. Failure of any of these areas may cause significant environmental impact as well as putting personnel at risk of serious injury.

Good water management practices and vigilant monitoring of changing conditions is critical during this period. Mine Managers must ensure all staff are aware, trained and prepared to respond adequately. It is vital to ensure all action plans are identified and captured in the mine's emergency response plan (MERP). If a mine is at serious risk of being impacted by these conditions, contingency resources, such as pumps and hoses, in addition to any other equipment which may be required, should be available and ready to deploy on short notice.

If a serious incident occurs at the mine site, or if there is the potential of a serious incident occurring which may cause injury to personnel or other significant damage to property and/or the environment, it must be reported to the ministry by calling the Mine Incident toll-free number at 1-888-348-0299 or by email to MineIncidents@gov.bc.ca