

HIGHWAY 8

INFORMATION & UPDATES



Ministry of
Transportation
and Infrastructure

Infrastructure update prepared for residents
For December 2022

Current Status

As of November 9, 2022, Highway 8 between Merritt and Spences Bridge is open to all vehicle traffic. While the highway remains a construction zone, drivers should expect delays and plan their travel around the current conditions. Currently, it takes about 60 minutes to travel along Highway 8, between Merritt and Spences Bridge. Updated highway information is available on DriveBC.



Highway 8 Closure Protocol

Should Highway 1 or Highway 5 close in the future, Highway 8 will not be used as a detour as it is an active construction zone. Protocol to redirect traffic away from Highway 8 will prevent secondary closures and impacts on local residents. Residents will continue to have access to Highway 8.

Messaging on available detour routes will be made available via message signs, DriveBC.ca and social media.

Check TranBC's Current Road Advisories for detailed information about highway travel disruptions during emergency situations.

Winter Road Maintenance

Safety on highways and roads is the Ministry's top priority. Amidst the ongoing repair work on Highway 8, winter road maintenance will continue as normal. Highway 8's road maintenance contractor, Yellowhead Road & Bridge Ltd. (YRB), regularly monitors the area and applies traction control (salt and sand) on the roads during winter conditions. YRB also provides up-to-date information on DriveBC when there are changes in the highway's conditions, especially when storms are forecasted in the area.

BC highways are classified as A, B, C, D, E and F, and are maintained in that order. Highway 8 is classified as "Class B," the second highest classification, meaning that it will be prioritized above lower classification roads for road clearing. Visit TranBC's Winter Maintenance Classification page for more details.

Drivers should be extra cautious on Highway 8 during the holiday season, since many travelers may not be aware of how the highway has changed in the past year.



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

Potholes

During the winter months, it is common to see potholes form in both pavement and gravel. This is caused by a freeze-thaw cycle (melted snow and water re-freezing). This pattern causes the surface materials to expand, then contract, leading to the formation of cracks and potholes.

Crews will be working diligently to address potholes before they expand. However, sometimes the potholes can grow in size before crews are able to identify their locations. If you notice any potholes along Highway 8, please contact Yellowhead Road and Bridge Ltd. so crews can quickly repair the road.



If you notice any unreported hazards or issues (such as potholes or faulty lights) on Highway 8, please contact:

Yellowhead Road & Bridge (Nicola) Ltd.
Emergency/Toll Free: 1-888-899-9854

Highway 8 Signage

Drivers will see a variety of signage related to the ongoing repair works along Highway 8. Please obey all posted signage and be extra diligent driving in active construction zones.

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.

Examples of Signage Along Highway 8



"Winter tires required"



"No passing"



"Pavement ends ahead"



Site 10D (Nov-17-2022)

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.