

HIGHWAY 8 INFORMATION & UPDATES

November 2023



Ministry of
Transportation
and Infrastructure

For general enquiries, call 250-378-1452
or email highway8.information@gov.bc.ca

The November 2021 Atmospheric River caused damage at 25 sections of Highway 8. More than seven kilometres of Highway 8 were completely lost, and the highway was closed between Merritt and Spences Bridge.

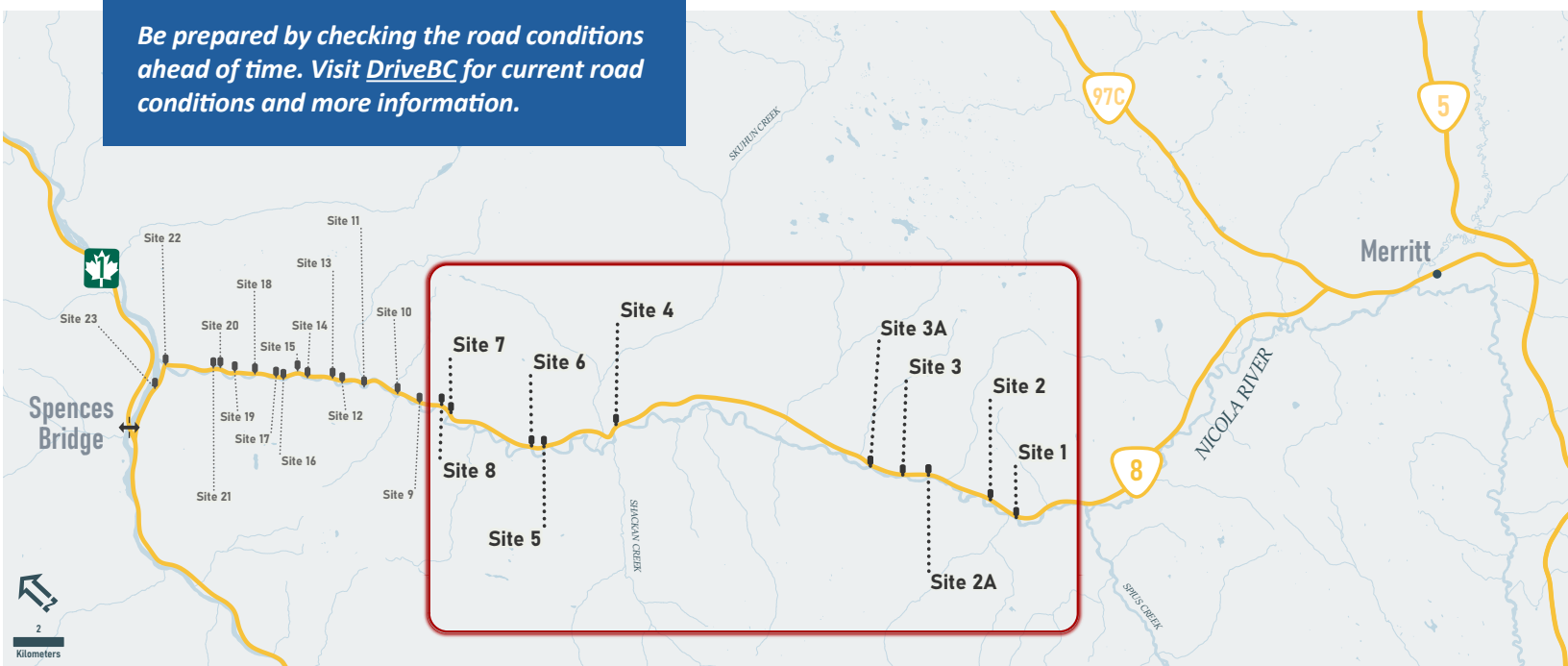
The highway reopened in November 2022 after temporary repairs were completed. However, several sections remain in a gravel surface condition with reduced speed zones. Work continues to plan permanent repairs at damaged sites on Highway 8.

DESIGN & INVESTIGATION WORK

The Highway 8 team has begun design and investigation work for the first section of damaged sites, Sites 1-8 (shown on the map below), which are the easternmost sites located between 16 and 45 kilometres east of Spences Bridge. Residents and drivers may notice crews working along this section of the Highway 8 corridor while they conduct geotechnical investigations to gather information about site conditions that will support designs for permanent repairs. Please be prepared for and obey traffic control personnel and signage, including construction zone speed zones, as crews undertake this work.

The construction of permanent repairs at these first sites, which will include upgrading the gravel surfaces to paved asphalt, is anticipated to start in Spring 2024. Planning is underway for permanent repairs at the remaining sites. Stay tuned for updates as timelines are confirmed.

Be prepared by checking the road conditions ahead of time. Visit [DriveBC](https://drivebc.ca) for current road conditions and more information.



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



Environmental Restoration at Site 3, 22.1 KM west of Mamit Junction (October 2022)

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure works with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Indigenous communities to enhance fish habitats and offset the impacts of highway construction work. On Highway 8, priority has been placed on restoring off-channel habitat that was lost in the Nicola River during the November 2021 flooding event. Off-channel areas, which are smaller bodies of water connected to the larger channel, are calmer and have lower flows than the main channel of the Nicola River. These areas provide habitat for juvenile fish. One of the ways off-channel habitat is being created is by excavating small creek-like channels on the flat gravel bars that were caused by the flooding.

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is working with local Indigenous communities to identify sites that are a priority for developing fish habitats and streamside riparian planting. The Ministry anticipates that the development of the environmental restoration sites will begin in 2024.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In September, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and the Ministry of Forests met with residents in the Highway 8 corridor. This gave community members the opportunity to learn more about the work planned for the highway recovery and in response to the Lytton Creek Wildfire.

If you have questions about the highway recovery work, you can reach out to the Highway 8 team at highway8.information@gov.bc.ca.

The Highway 8 Team

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We aim to reply within 24 hours.
Thank you for your patience.

