

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

Flood Warning – Cowichan River, Koksilah River

Flood Watch – Southern Vancouver Island

High Streamflow Advisory – West Vancouver Island, East Vancouver Island, Central Vancouver Island

UPDATE: 4:30AM November 15, 2021

The River Forecast Centre is **upgrading to a Flood Warning** for:

- **Cowichan River**
- **Koksilah River**

The River Forecast Centre is **upgrading or maintaining a Flood Watch** for:

- **South Vancouver Island (other tributaries) (NEW)**
- **Englishman River**

The River Forecast Centre is **maintaining a High Streamflow Advisory** for:

- **Central Vancouver Island including tributaries around Port Alberni**
- **South Vancouver Island**
- **West Vancouver Island**
- **East Vancouver Island**

A significant atmospheric river has made landfall across southern coastal regions of British Columbia. Observed rainfall amounts since Saturday have been in the 120-270mm range across Southern Vancouver Island and 60-175mm across Western, Central and Eastern Vancouver Island.

Environment and Climate Change Canada have continued rainfall warnings in effect across the region. Additional heavy rainfall is expected throughout the region overnight and is expected to taper off around Monday afternoon.

Temperatures have been rising, with temperatures in the 5-7°C range being observed at automated snow weather stations across the region. Snowmelt is being observed at mid-elevations and is expected to add additional runoff to rivers.

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Rivers have risen rapidly from rainfall since yesterday. Current conditions include:

- Englishman River near Parksville (Water Survey of Canada gauge 08HB002) is flowing at 174 m³/s and rising. Peak flows later today may reach up to 280 m³/s
- Cowichan River near Duncan (08HA011) is flowing at 510 m³/s (approaching a 20-year return period flow) and rising at 30 m³/s. Additional rises are expected through the day on Monday
- Koksilah River at Cowichan Station (08HA003) is currently flowing at 335 m³/s (approaching a 20-year flow). Additional rises are expected through Monday morning

Details of the COFFEE and CLEVER Model forecasts can be found at:

http://bcRFC.env.gov.bc.ca/fallfloods/map_coffee.html, and

http://bcRFC.env.gov.bc.ca/freshet/map_clever.html

The public is advised to stay clear of the fast-flowing rivers and potentially unstable riverbanks during the high-streamflow period.

The [River Forecast Centre](#) continues to monitor the conditions and will provide updates as conditions warrant.

BC River Forecast Centre

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A **High Streamflow Advisory** means that river levels are rising or expected to rise rapidly, but that no major flooding is expected. Minor flooding in low-lying areas is possible.

A **Flood Watch** means that river levels are rising and will approach or may exceed bankfull. Flooding of areas adjacent to affected rivers may occur.

A **Flood Warning** means that river levels have exceeded bankfull or will exceed bankfull imminently, and that flooding of areas adjacent to the rivers affected will result.