

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

UPDATE: Flood Warning – Coquihalla (UPGRADED), Chilliwack River (UPGRADED), Lower Fraser tributaries (UPGRADED), Sumas River and Sumas Prairie (MAINTAINED)

Flood Watch – South Coast (MAINTAINED)

ISSUED: 7:45 AM December 1, 2021

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

- **Coquihalla River**
- **Chilliwack River, and tributaries**
- **Lower Fraser Valley, including Kanaka Creek, areas near Haney, areas around Hope, and other tributaries**

The River Forecast Centre is **maintaining** a **Flood Warning** for:

- **Sumas River including Sumas Prairie and surround area**

The River Forecast Centre is **maintaining** a **Flood Watch** for the **South Coast** including:

- **Sea-to-Sky including areas around Squamish, Whistler and Pemberton**
- **Sunshine Coast**
- **Howe Sound**
- **North Shore Mountains**
- **Lower Mainland**

The third in a series of atmospheric rivers has arrived to British Columbia. The initial pulse of the system on Tuesday was relatively cool. The automated snow weather station (ASWS) located for Chilliwack River (1D17P – 1621m elevation) accumulated nearly 40mm of snow water equivalent on Tuesday. Overnight the temperatures at this site increased from below freezing to +6.5°C. Snow has switched to rainfall and the Chilliwack ASWS has melted an additional 30 mm of snow water equivalent since midnight. The Palisade Lake ASWS station (3A09P – Elevation 900m) located in the North Shore mountains has melted 92mm of snow water equivalent since Tuesday morning. Heavy rainfall is expected to continue with additional

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totals of up to 50 mm in the Fraser Valley expected by this evening and 20 to 40 mm additional for areas in the Sea-to-Sky corridor and the North Shore mountains. Rivers are beginning to respond and rise rapidly. Kanaka Creek near Webster Corners (08MH076) has surpassed 133 m³/s and is above a 20-year flow. Chilliwack River above Slesse Creek (08MH103) is currently at 371 m³/s (between 10-year and 20-year flow) and rising rapidly. The Coquihalla River above Alexander Creek (08MF068) is rising rapidly and the last measurement at 7:05AM was 328 m³/s (between 2-year and 5-year flow). It is expected to surpass the recent peak of approximately 400 m³/s that occurred on Monday within in the next few hours.

Rivers will continue to rise Wednesday, with peak flows expected late-Wednesday and into Thursday. Conditions are dynamic and changing rapidly. Stay tuned for further updates as needed.

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

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 [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.