

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

Flood Watch – Chilliwack River (UPGRADED), Englishman River High Streamflow Advisory – South Coast and Vancouver Island UPDATE: 11:45AM November 14, 2021

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

- **Chilliwack River (NEW)**
- **Englishman River**

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

- **Fraser Canyon tributaries, including tributaries around Hope**
- **Central Vancouver Island including tributaries around Port Alberni**
- **Howe Sound**
- **Sunshine Coast**
- **Sea-to-Sky**
- **North Shore Mountains**
- **Metro Vancouver**
- **Fraser Valley including the Chilliwack River and surrounding tributaries**
- **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 yesterday have been in the 50-75mm range through Howe Sound, North Shore Mountains, and Sunshine Coast; 30-50mm in the Fraser Valley – East, Fraser Canyon and areas around Hope and Harrison Lake; 40-115mm around Southern Vancouver Island; 20-40 mm around Eastern Vancouver Island; 80-130mm around Western Vancouver Island.

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Environment and Climate Change Canada have continued rainfall warnings in effect across the region. Forecasted rainfall on Sunday through Monday is expected to be in the 50-75 mm range across East and South Vancouver Island; up to 100mm across Western and Inland Vancouver Island; up to 75mm around Metro Vancouver; up to 100mm across North Shore Mountains and western Fraser Valley around Abbotsford; up to 150mm across Howe Sound and eastern Fraser Valley around Chilliwack to Hope; and up to 80mm across areas of the Fraser Canyon.

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.

Rivers have risen rapidly from rainfall since yesterday. Additional rises are expected through Sunday in response to forecasted rainfall today, and ease on Monday as the heaviest rainfall passes. Current modelling is indicating the potential for flows in the 2-year to 5-year range. On the Englishman River, flows are already high and additional rainfall forecasted for today is indicating the potential for the river to reach or exceed flood stage (approximately 280 m³/s at the Water Survey of Canada gauge 08HB002 Englishman River near Parksville). Flows on the Chilliwack River above Slesse Creek (08MH103) have reached 260 m³/s (5-year flow) and are expected to continue to rise throughout Sunday.

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.

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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.