

Ministry of Forests

Flood Watch – Englishman River and South Vancouver Island **Issued: 14:00 December 23, 2022**

The River Forecast Centre is **issuing** a **Flood Watch** for:

- **Englishman River**
- **South Vancouver Island**

A significant rainfall pattern is moving across the southern coast of B.C. this Saturday (tomorrow) into early next week. The snowstorm during this past week has incurred significant snow accumulation on Vancouver Island, increasing snow water equivalent seasonal totals to about 190-200 mm at higher elevations. Moreover, heavy warmer rain falling on the snowpacks may cause large volumes of snowmelt, which would induce extra flooding risks to the stream systems in south Vancouver Island.

The current hydrologic modeling indicates that the streamflow in the Englishman River is expected to exceed 150 m³/s on Saturday (tomorrow) or Sunday. Streamflows at several other hydrometric stations on south Vancouver Island may also rise to or over the 5-year return period levels this weekend into early next week. Details of forecasts from the hydrologic models can be found at the following links:

The COFFEE Model 5-day forecast: http://bcrcfc.env.gov.bc.ca/fallfloods/map_coffee.html

The CLEVER Model 10-day forecast: http://bcrcfc.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.

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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.

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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.