

Ministry of Forests

UPDATE: Flood Watch – West Vancouver Island (NEW), Central Vancouver Island (NEW), East Vancouver Island (NEW), Englishman River and South Vancouver Island

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

- **West Vancouver Island (NEW)**
- **Central Vancouver Island (NEW)**
- **East Vancouver Island (NEW)**
- **Englishman River**
- **South Vancouver Island**

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

- **North Vancouver Island**

A significant rainfall pattern is moving across the southern coast of B.C today and into early next week. Rainfall amounts in the 15-45 mm range for South and East Vancouver Island and in the 60-100mm range for Central and West Vancouver Island have been observed over the past 24 hours. Snowmelt is occurring at lower elevations.

River levels have started to experience accelerated rising in most areas, and in particular in areas of South Vancouver Island and West Vancouver Island. Continued heavy rain is anticipated through today, with rainfall warnings from Environment and Climate Change Canada in effect.

Streamflow in the 2-year to 5-year range is anticipated in rivers throughout the region, however higher flows are possible. Low lying flooding is expected and may extend to overbank flooding of floodplains in areas. Snowmelt at lower elevations is also anticipated to cause pooling and flooding in areas with poor drainage or where drainage structures are impacted by snow and ice. Rising streamflow is expected through Saturday and in areas overnight to Sunday.

Additional rainfall on Sunday through Tuesday may lead to on-going high flows and persistent flood hazards into next week.

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Details of forecasts from the hydrologic models can be found at the following links:

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

The CLEVER Model 10-day forecast: 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.

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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.