

Ministry of Forests

UPDATE: Flood Watch – Howe Sound, North Shore, Metro Vancouver, Fraser Valley

High Streamflow Advisory – South Coast

Issued: 11:45 AM December 24, 2022

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

- **Howe Sound**
- **North Shore Mountains**
- **Metro Vancouver**
- **Fraser Valley**

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

- **South Coast (other areas not noted above) including the Sunshine Coast and surrounding tributaries**

A significant rainfall pattern is moving across the southern coast of B.C today and into early next week. Rainfall amounts in the 25-70 mm range has been observed over the South Coast over the past 24 hours. Snowmelt is occurring at lower elevations.

River levels have started to experience accelerated rising in most areas. Continued heavy rain is anticipated through today, with winter storm warnings in effect from Environment and Climate Change Canada.

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.

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

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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.