

Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

UPDATE: Flood Watch - North Vancouver Island, Central Vancouver Island, West Vancouver Island (MAINTAINED)

High Streamflow Advisory - Englishman River (DOWNGRADED), South Vancouver Island, East Vancouver Island, South Coast, Lower Mainland (MAINTAINED)

Issued: 12:00 PM December 26, 2023

The River Forecast Centre is advising the following currently in effect:

Flood Watch

- North Vancouver Island (MAINTAINED)
- Central Vancouver Island (MAINTAINED)
- West Vancouver Island (MAINTAINED)

High Streamflow Advisory

- Englishman River (DOWNGRADED)
- South Vancouver Island (MAINTAINED)
- East Vancouver Island (MAINTAINED)
- South Coast including Sunshine Coast, Howe Sound, North Shore Mountains (MAINTAINED)
- Lower Mainland including Metro Vancouver and Fraser Valley (MAINTAINED)

Weather Synopsis:

Active weather continues over the B.C. coast following moderate to heavy precipitation from an atmospheric river on December 25-26. Although precipitation is expected to briefly taper off on December 26, a subsequent chain of storms is set to arrive in the evening and continue over the next several days. Precipitation totals for the upcoming events are generally expected to be much less than the initial storm but additional precipitation from these storms will generate further runoff.

River Conditions:

Following the initial storm at the beginning of the week, many rivers have reached peak levels and are now receding. However, elevated flows are expected to persist through the week, and

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rivers remain susceptible to rapid changes and potential flooding with additional runoff inputs from the upcoming storms.

Localized high flows may be possible throughout the region, with additional sensitivity due to freezing levels and additional snowmelt runoff and high short-duration rainfall intensities. If temperatures are slightly warmer than forecast, snowmelt and rain-on-snow may provide substantial additional contributions to runoff. Minor flooding in low-lying areas is possible. Heavy runoff may cause pooling and localized flooding in areas with poor drainage (i.e., where stream channels and drainage structures are impacted by snow, ice, or debris).

The [River Forecast Centre](#) continues to monitor the conditions and will provide updates as conditions warrant.

Fast-flowing rivers pose increased risk to life safety. Be alert to road conditions, check [DriveBC](#) for current conditions, and do not drive through flooded areas. For information on how to prepare for flood hazards, visit [PreparedBC](#).

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. Fast-flowing bodies of water increase risk to life safety. 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.