

# Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

## High Streamflow Advisory – Vancouver Island, South Coast, Lower Mainland

Issued: 4:50 PM December 24, 2023

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

- **Vancouver Island**
- **South Coast including the Sunshine Coast, Howe Sound, North Shore Mountains**
- **Lower Mainland including the North Shore Mountains, Fraser Valley and surrounding tributaries**

### Weather Synopsis:

An atmospheric river is expected to bring moderate to heavy precipitation to coastal British Columbia beginning on Monday. Current forecasts indicate that the storm will be centered on western and northern Vancouver Island, with likely spill over into southern and eastern Vancouver Island. It is possible that heavy precipitation will extend farther inland, up Howe Sound and across the Lower Mainland.

### River Conditions:

River levels are expected to rise quickly beginning on Monday night in areas receiving the brunt of the storm, with flows likely peaking Tuesday into Wednesday depending on the timing of the heaviest rainfall and the size and location of affected river systems. Current forecasts suggest that flows will be highest for North and West Vancouver Island, the North Shore Mountains, and the Lower Fraser Valley; however, nearby areas may also be affected if higher than forecasted rainfall occurs.

Uncertainty remains high about the specific storm track and rainfall amounts, as well as the significance of rain-on-snow inputs. 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. Snowmelt and 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.

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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.