

Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

UPDATE: Flood Warning – Coquitlam River (UPGRADE), West Vancouver Island
Flood Watch Central Coast, South Coast, Lower Fraser Tributaries, Vancouver Island
High Streamflow Advisory – North Coast, Interior Mountains
Issued: 11:15 AM October 19, 2024

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

- Coquitlam River (UPGRADE)
- West Vancouver Island including rivers around Tofino, Bamfield and Port Renfrew and surrounding areas

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

- Central Coast including the Kingcome River and Owikeeno River
- South Coast including the Sunshine Coast, Howe Sound, Sea-to-Sky and tributaries around Sechelt, Squamish, Whistler and surrounding areas
- Lower Fraser Tributaries including the Lillooet River and rivers around Pemberton, Metro-Vancouver, Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley
- Vancouver Island (except West Vancouver Island)

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

- North Coast including tributaries around Stewart, Gingolx, Laxgalts'ap, Gitlaxt'aamiks (New Aiyansh), Prince Rupert, and other coastal communities
- Interior Mountains including tributary rivers in the West Kootenay (NEW), Upper Fraser, North Thompson, South Thompson, Cariboo Mountains, and Upper Columbia

Weather Synopsis:

A system of atmospheric rivers is impacting coastal British Columbia. Total rainfall amounts observed since yesterday have ranged from 70mm to 280mm on West Vancouver Island, 40mm to 90mm elsewhere on Vancouver Island, 20mm to 60mm on the Central Coast, 50mm to 140mm in the Howe Sound and North Shore Mountains and 20mm to 60mm in other areas of the South Coast and Lower Mainland.

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At higher elevation some of the precipitation has fallen as snow and is expected to melt later on Saturday as warming temperatures and rising freezing levels contribute to rain-on-snow.

Rain is expected to persist through Saturday into Sunday across the region, with the potential for a slight easing later Saturday before another period of heavier rain occurs overnight and on Sunday morning. Weather forecasts continue to focus the heaviest rainfall towards the south-west corner of Vancouver Island and across to Howe Sound, North Shore Mountains, and Fraser Valley. Continued heavy rain can be expected in these areas. Continued moderate to heavy rain is forecast for adjacent regions.

In the Interior ranges of British Columbia, a mix of higher elevation snow and lower elevation rain is expected to continue Saturday.

River Conditions:

Rapid rises in river levels were experienced on Friday and overnight into Saturday. As of Saturday morning (11:00AM) the highest flows have been concentrated around western Vancouver Island, with observed streamflow reaching the 2-year to above a 20-year flow in rivers in the region. Other areas have observed streamflow conditions in the 2-year flow level and below.

On-going hazards for high flows and potential flooding are expected to persist on Saturday and into Sunday. The hazards are most pronounced on West Vancouver Island and into Howe Sound, the North Shore Mountains and Fraser Valley. Adjacent areas continue to have the potential for flooding during this period, particularly if the atmospheric river stalls or if spillover occurs from regions with the highest forecast rainfall.

Fast-flowing rivers pose increased risk to life safety. The [River Forecast Centre](#) continues to monitor the conditions and will provide updates as conditions warrant.

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.

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