Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

Flood Watch - South Coast; Northern Vancouver Island; Western Vancouver Island; Central Vancouver Island; East Vancouver Island; Central Coast - Kingcome; Fraser Valley-North

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

- South Coast (including Howe Sound, North Shore Mountains, Sea-to-Sky)
- Northern Vancouver Island
- Western Vancouver Island
- Central Vancouver Island
- East Vancouver Island
- Central Coast - Kingcome and surrounding areas
- Fraser Valley-North

Weather Synopsis:

Following a series of atmospheric rivers last week, another round of storm systems is expected to impact the BC coast starting on Tuesday. The heaviest rain is forecast for Tuesday and Wednesday, with lingering rainfall continuing through the rest of the week. Current weather modelling is indicating the potential for the heaviest rainfall to occur on west and north Vancouver Island, and areas of the South Coast including Howe Sound, Sea-to-Sky, North Shore Mountains and extended east to the north side of the Fraser Valley. Temperatures are expected to be warm through Wednesday, with the potential for additional snowmelt from shallow snowpacks in higher terrain of the region.

River Conditions:
Rivers are expected to rise rapidly in response to rainfall. Hydrologic modelling is forecasting the potential for flows in the 5-year to 10-year range, or higher, in areas. Given uncertainty in storm characteristics for heaviest rainfall intensity this level of flows is possible throughout the warning region. Smaller rivers and tributaries are particularly sensitive to flashy flows and rapid deterioration of river conditions. Cumulative rainfall across Tuesday and Wednesday may also play a role in rising flows in larger rivers and areas with lake-influence, such as the Sproat and Somass River.

On eastern Vancouver Island, high rainfall amounts are a lower-likelihood scenario, however possible. High tides and storm surge may increase flood vulnerability near the mouths of rivers on eastern Vancouver Island, particularly on Wednesday.

Actions:
Heavy rain and high streamflow bring increased risk for unstable banks, river erosion, submerged roads, swift water hazards, flooding and landslides. Stay clear of the banks of swift

running rivers and never drive across flooded roads, bridges or river crossings. At this time of year leaves can clog storm drains and impact urban drainage. Keep storm drains clear.

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.

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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.