Ministry of Water, Land and Natural Resource Operations

UPDATE: Flood Watch – Eastern Vancouver Island (UPGRADE)
High Streamflow Advisory – Southern Vancouver Island (NEW), Northern Vancouver Island, Western Vancouver Island, Central Vancouver Island

Issued: 2026-11-25 11:00 PCT

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

- Eastern Vancouver Island

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

- Southern Vancouver Island (NEW)
- Northern Vancouver Island
- Western Vancouver Island
- Central Vancouver Island

Weather Synopsis:

A series of strong frontal systems is impacting Vancouver Island with heavy winds and precipitation. The final potent storm in this series is expected to arrive on Wednesday and bring moderate to heavy precipitation into Thursday. Additional amounts of precipitation in the order of 50 to 90 mm are expected for northern, western and central regions, and 30 to 60 mm for eastern regions. Observed precipitation amounts since yesterday generally on the order of 60 to 120 mm have been observed across Vancouver Island. Freezing levels are expected to remain elevated (1500 to 2000 m) through Thursday before lowering later on Thursday.

River Conditions:
Rivers have been rising rapidly since yesterday. Several monitored streams on eastern Vancouver Island from Courtenay to Campbell River are flowing at 2-year to 10-year return period flows, while areas south of Courtenay are currently below 2-year flows. There remains uncertainty in rainfall amounts over the next 24 hours. Hydrological modelling is indicating the potential for flows into tomorrow in the 2-year to 10-year range, with high end precipitation scenarios indicating the potential for 20-year flows, or higher, particularly on eastern Vancouver Island from Bowser to Campbell River.

Seasonably warm temperatures accompanying the storm may generate rain-on-snow, amplifying runoff and flows. Significant storms earlier in the month have contributed to

saturated soils and higher flows, increasing the potential for rapid runoff and flow response during this next storm.

Current king tides and storm surge could exacerbate high water levels at the mouths of rivers, particularly on the eastern side of Vancouver Island.

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.

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.