Ministry of Water, Land and Natural Resource Operations

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

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

- Central Vancouver Island (UPGRADE)
- Eastern Vancouver Island

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

- Southern Vancouver Island
- Northern Vancouver Island
- Western Vancouver Island

Weather Synopsis:

The final strong storm system of the week is impacting Vancouver Island, with Wednesday precipitation totals ranging from 35 to 200 mm across the island and additional precipitation expected through the day on Thursday. After significant snowfall accumulated in mountains earlier this week, lower and mid-elevation snow is melting rapidly with automated snow weather station 3B23P Jump Creek (at 1,160 m elevation) melting 60 mm of snow water equivalent (SWE) since yesterday.

River Conditions:
Rivers have risen rapidly from the heavy precipitation and the added input of rain-on-snow at mid-elevations. In Central Vancouver Island, Ash River is approaching a 10-year flow and continues to rise. Other nearby rivers like Sproat River and Somass River are expected to continue rising through Thursday. Gauged systems on Eastern Vancouver Island from Courtenay to Campbell River are high, with several rivers currently flowing at or above the 5-year to 10-year return period range. River levels are expected to remain elevated at least through Thursday morning, potentially longer for lake-fed systems.

Significant storms earlier in the month contributed to saturated soils and higher flows, increasing the potential for rapid runoff and flow response during this storm.

Current king tides and storm surge could exacerbate high water levels at the mouths of rivers.

Actions:

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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.