Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

High Streamflow Advisory - South Coast; Central Coast; Northern Vancouver Island; Western Vancouver Island; Central Vancouver Island

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

- South Coast
- Central Coast
- Northern Vancouver Island
- Western Vancouver Island
- Central Vancouver Island

Weather Synopsis:

A series of atmospheric rivers are forecast to impact the BC Coast over the remainder of the week through to next week. The first of these storms is expected to make landfall later today (Thursday) and extend into tomorrow, with heaviest rainfall amounts forecasted for north and west Vancouver Island and the Central Coast. Environment and Climate Change Canada have rainfall warnings in effect with forecasted rainfall amounts of 100 to 130 mm, and up to 175 mm locally or over higher terrain.

A second round of precipitation is expected later Saturday and into Sunday, with the potential for a spread in areas which receive the heaviest rainfall. A third storm starting later Monday may usher in a more prolonged period of rainfall across the BC coast through next week.

River Conditions:
Rivers are expected to rise rapidly in response to rainfall, with peak flows from the first storm expected on Friday. Rivers may experience short reprieves in levels in between storms, however potential for high flows should be expected throughout the remainder of the week, through the weekend, and into next week. Cumulative rainfall and increasing ground saturation may play a role in enhanced streamflow over the weekend and next week. Additional runoff may also come from melt of shallow snowpacks, particularly for Vancouver Island and the South Coast on Friday and Saturday where rising freezing levels are anticipated.

Current hydrologic modelling is indicating the potential for flows to reach 2-year to 5-year flows, which can contribute to localized flooding impacts.

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.

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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.