Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

High Streamflow Advisory – Southern Vancouver Island

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

- Southern Vancouver Island

Weather Synopsis:

Following a series of atmospheric rivers last week, another round of storm systems is impacting southwest BC. The heaviest rain is forecast for other regions of Vancouver Island, however there is the potential for moderate to heavy rain to spillover into watersheds in southern areas. Weather modelling is forecasting the potential for 40 to 120 mm of rainfall through Thursday at Lake Cowichan, and 30 to 60 mm at Duncan.

River Conditions:
Rivers are expected to rapidly rise through Tuesday and Wednesday, with peak flow forecast Wednesday or into Thursday morning. Hydrologic modelling is forecasting flows up to a 2-year level, with the potential for flow up to 5-year levels in localized areas. While flooding is not anticipated in this region, there may be increased flood hazard through the week if the weather pattern shifts from what is currently forecasted.

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.