

BC Environment

River Forecast Centre

High Streamflow Advisory:

28Oct2009, 12:30PM

North Coast, Central Coast

(including Bella Coola, Kitimat, Terrace, Stewart)

A very warm and wet, sub-tropically-fed storm system is approaching the BC North Coast and Central Coast, and will bring heavy rain to the Stewart, Terrace, Kitimat and Bella Coola areas, beginning overnight tonight. River levels in these areas are expected to rise rapidly once the system arrives, and flooding on some rivers in these areas is possible by Friday.

A Rainfall Warning was released by Environment Canada this morning, for coastal and inland sections of the North Coast. Further warnings are anticipated as the storm progresses. The storm system has ingested copious amounts of moisture from Tropical Storm Neki. It is expected to bring heavy rainfall magnitudes (100-150+ mm) and intensities (5-10+ mm/hr) to affected areas over 24-36 hours, with the heaviest amounts from early Thursday to late Friday. Vancouver Island and the South Coast will receive rainfall from this system, but current forecasts indicate the amounts will likely be below warning thresholds.

The Coast Mountains in the Central Coast area currently have 40-80 mm of snow on the ground at 1500 metres elevation. The arrival of the warm front overnight tonight will see the freezing elevation rise to near 3000 metres, staying elevated until Friday PM. We anticipate that most or all of the snow currently on the ground will have melted by Friday, adding that water to stream flow.

There is potential for high flows on the Bella Coola and Saloomt rivers, and other rivers in the Bella Coola valley; Owikeno River (First Nation community downstream of Owikeno Lake); Kitimat River and Hirsch Creek (near Kitimat); Kalum River (Dutch Valley) near Terrace, Bear River at Stewart, and others.

The River Forecast Centre will provide an update by noon Thursday, or earlier if conditions warrant.

A **High Streamflow Advisory** means that river levels are rising or expected to rise rapidly, but that no major flooding is expected. 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.