BC Environment
River Forecast Centre

High Streamflow Advisory: 05Nov2009, 11:00AM

Lower Mainland, Lower Fraser valley, Howe Sound

The South Coast appears to be targeted for some wet weather over the next few days. A warm and wet front moved onto the South Coast this morning, and began bringing heavy rain this morning to west Vancouver Island. Periods of heavy rain are expected to begin this morning in Howe Sound, Metro Vancouver (particularly the North Shore Mountains – West Vancouver, North Vancouver, Coquitlam, Maple Ridge), and then extending into the Fraser valley (including Chilliwack) this afternoon). A Rainfall Warning was released by Environment Canada earlier today, with a forecast of 80-100 mm of rain in Howe Sound and Metro Vancouver today, with up to 60 mm in the Fraser valley. There is potential for short periods (4-6 hours) of very intense rain (10+ mm/hr) from this system. The rain may ease somewhat overnight, but then is expected to pick up again Friday morning and lasting through to early Saturday.

The freezing elevation will jump up to above 2000 metres today with the passage of the warm front, but is expected to drop to below 1000 metres by later Friday as a cold front pushes through. The precipitation on Friday afternoon and evening will likely be occurring as snow in the North Shore and Howe Sound Mountains, with rain continuing on areas below about 1000 metres elevation.

Rivers throughout Howe Sound, Metro Vancouver North Shore areas, and the western Fraser River (excepting the Fraser River) will rise today and Friday, and possibly into Saturday morning. Flooding on larger rivers (Chilliwack, Coquitlam, Alouette, etc.) is not expected. However, there is potential for extensive, localized over-bank flow on small creeks throughout the area

The River Forecast Centre will provide an update Friday morning, 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.