

BC Environment

River Forecast Centre

Flood Watch:

14Jan2010 10:00AM

- **Central and East Vancouver Island, including:**
 - **Port Alberni area**
 - **Cowichan River**
 - **Koksilah River**
 - **Chemainus River**
 - **Nanaimo River**
 - **Englishman River**
 - **Oyster River**
 - **Tsolum River**
 - **Browns River**
 - **And other creeks and streams in these areas**

The Ministry of Environment is issuing a **Flood Watch** for Central and East Vancouver Island. A warm and wet, sub-tropically-fed storm system moved onto Vancouver Island this morning, and is expected to bring heavy rain (100-150 mm) to the West and Central Island, and lesser amounts (approximately 60 mm) to the East island. Environment Canada has a Rainfall Warning in place for West and Central Vancouver Island (along with Metro Vancouver, Howe Sound, Sunshine Coast and the Fraser Valley north shore). The heaviest period of rainfall is forecast to occur from late this afternoon or early evening, through to Friday morning. In addition, the freezing elevation will be rising today to 1600-2000 metres, which will result in accelerated snowmelt throughout mountainous parts of the island.

This storm system follows a comparable storm that occurred from late Sunday to early Tuesday, which resulted in flooding in some areas. Rivers, lakes and reservoirs are all high from the earlier storm. Rivers will begin rising this afternoon, and are expected to rise rapidly overnight, before peaking Friday afternoon,

The high flow from the East Vancouver Island rivers will correspond with the high tide near 7AM Friday morning, likely resulting in flooding along tidally-influenced sections of the above-noted rivers. There is potential for significant high flows on the above-noted rivers, along with small creeks and streams throughout Vancouver Island, including in the Alberni valley and Cowichan valley areas.

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.

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The River Forecast Centre will provide an update by 4PM today

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