

BC Environment

River Forecast Centre

Update – Flood Warning: North Vancouver Island 25Sep2010 8:30AM

The BC River Forecast Centre is upgrading the High Streamflow Advisory for North Vancouver Island to a Flood Warning.

The intense frontal system stalled over the Central Coast and northern Vancouver Island overnight. Heavy rainfall has been recorded at the Artlish MoFR Fire Weather station on North Vancouver Island over the last 12 hours (16 mm/hour) with 24 hour totals exceeding 229 mm, and 264 mm at the WSC hydrometric gauge on Pugh Creek (08HF012). The heavy rain is expected to continue until the front resumes moving southward Saturday afternoon, with Environment Canada forecasting an additional 50-70 mm of precipitation today.

In response to the heavy rainfall, rivers on the north Island have risen overnight, with the Pugh Creek hydrometric station recording a water level of 6.05 m as of 05:00, which exceeds a 10-year return period of 6.01 m. There are reports of localized flooding in Port Hardy. The Salmon River near Sayward (08HD006) has risen sharply overnight to a level of 4.8 m as of 05:00, but is still below warning levels.

The River Forecast Centre will continue to monitor conditions and will provide an update this afternoon 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.