

Ministry of Natural Resource Operations

BC River Forecast Centre

UPDATE: Vancouver Island - 24Dec2010 5:30PM

Flood Warning:

- Quinsam River (Campbell River)
- Tsolum River (Courtenay)

Flood Watch:

- Central Vancouver Island

High Streamflow Advisory:

- South Vancouver Island

The BC River Forecast Centre is maintaining the Flood Warning on the Tsolum and Quinsam rivers, the Flood Watch for other rivers on central Vancouver Island, and the High Streamflow Advisory for south Vancouver Island. Environment Canada has maintained Rainfall Warnings for inland and east Vancouver Island with up to 25 mm of additional precipitation forecast tonight.

Precipitation totals in the Courtenay/Campbell River area over the past 40 hours include 138 mm in the Quinsam drainage, 203 mm at the MOT Road Weather station at North Courtenay, and 232 mm at the Cruickshank River (WSC 08HB074). Rainfall rates have eased since this morning, but in some areas are still continuing at 4-6 mm/hour.

The Quinsam River near Campbell River (WSC 08HD005) has exceeded the previously recorded peak flow in 32 years of record. The most recent water level reading is 2.97 m. The Tsolum River below Murex Creek (WSC 08HB089) plateaued mid-afternoon, and the rate of rise on the Tsolum River near Courtenay (WSC 08HB011) further downstream has decreased this afternoon. The most recent water level is 4.4 m, which is estimated to be a 100-year return period flow of $276 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$.

On other parts of the central island, rainfall has eased and some rivers on the central island have also peaked and started to decline (Salmon, Oyster and Browns rivers). On the south island, some rivers are continuing to rise (Englishman, Nanaimo, Chemainus and Cowichan rivers). However, they are all currently below levels of concern.

Environment Canada is forecasting rainfall to ease overnight. The Quinsam River is continuing to rise and will peak tonight when the weather system moves eastward. The water level on the Tsolum River near Courtenay is will also level off around early evening. Other rivers on the south island are also expected to peak later tonight as rainfall eases.

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 continue to monitor conditions and will provide an update Saturday morning or earlier if conditions warrant.

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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.