



Overview

Heavy snowfall followed by a warming trend and rainfall has triggered a Flood Watch for Howe Sound, Greater Vancouver, Lower Fraser Valley, and south and central Vancouver Island from the Ministry of Environment. Environment Canada issued high rainfall warnings for these same areas. Substantial heavy rain across the southern half of the province has sent many small and medium sized streams and rivers to flood stage. The heaviest impacts thus far are on Central and Southern Vancouver Island, the Sea to Sky corridor and the North side of the Fraser Valley.

Vancouver Island has taken the brunt of the storm event, with 150 to 300 mm of rainfall on top of 100 mm of snow melt water, driving many of the east side rivers to flood stage. Rain continued all day Monday and into the early hours of this morning. Power outages, transportation issues and flooding continue to cause problems across a wide area of the Vancouver Island Region at this time.

In the Howe Sound area, a debris flow threat on Charles Creek resulted in the evacuation of 11 homes late yesterday.

PREOC conference calls for the Vancouver Island and Southwest Region local governments and agencies will continue this morning and this afternoon.

Impacts

Vancouver Island Region

- Some land slippage on Saltspring Island is being assessed for potential risk to residence.
- 17 First Nations families are evacuated in the Cowichan River area due to flooding.
- Some local flooding in the Nanaimo area. The Regional District of Nanaimo is assisting First Nations in Nanoose area; FNESS and INAC are aware. Some evacuations have occurred in low lying areas in the Nanaimo River estuary.
- A number of residents along the Englishman River are evacuated.
- City of North Cowichan has issued a boil water advisory.
- Roads flooded or damaged include:
 - Cowichan Bay Road at Cowichan Bay
 - Island Highway from Duncan to Lake Cowichan turnoff
 - Head Bay Road between Tahsis and Gold River
 - West Shawnigan Lake Road
- PREOC activated, contact being maintained with local governments to assess possible requests for support.
- Local government and agency conference call scheduled for 11:00 today

South West Region

- District of Maple Ridge: One home damaged, 2 others at risk from sewer backup. Log jam on Alouette River has been removed
- Evacuation Order issued by Metro Vancouver Regional District for 11 homes along Charles Creek due to debris flow risk
- Heavy snowfall in Boston Bar area causing problems with emergency vehicle access.
- TCH #1 through Fraser Canyon and Duffy Lake Road remain closed.
- Southwest PReOC Activated, conference calls held with local governments for updates.
- Local government and agency conference call scheduled for 10:00 today

Central Region

- Regional office in contact with local government regarding High Stream flow Advisory for Merritt and Princeton areas.
- Rivers throughout the region are rising this morning but remain well below flood stage
- Transportation issues continue across this region as a result of heavy snow and avalanche risks.

PECC

- PECC is activated, coordinating requests for subject matter experts.
- CCG meeting held at 1300hrs yesterday.

Outlook

The River Forecast Centre is maintaining "Flood Warning" notices for a number of rivers on Vancouver Island. These include, the Cowichan, the Koksilah, the Englishman, the Nanaimo, the Chemainus and the Gold Rivers on Vancouver Island. Also on the Lower Mainland, the Stave River continues under a "Flood Warning" while a large number of rivers from Howe Sound to Hope remain under a "Flood Watch".

The worst of the weather appears to have passed into the interior of the province this morning. Warm temperatures continue in most areas of the coast but rainfall has been substantially reduced in the past few hours. It is expected that most Vancouver Island and Lower Mainland rivers will peak sometime today as long as no significant rainfall occurs.

Provincial and local government staff are continuing to monitor the situation across the southern half of the province as the storm continues to track eastward.