



Overview

Heavy snowfall in advance of heavy rainfall lead to widespread flooding, power outages and transportation issues across southern British Columbia over the past 3 days.

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. Voluntary evacuations have occurred in a number of areas on Vancouver Island and power outages continue.

In the Howe Sound area, a debris flow threat on Charles Creek resulted in the evacuation of 11 homes late yesterday. A number of other areas reported minor flooding.

Heavy snowfall, flooding, avalanche risks and washouts have resulted in the closure of a number of provincial and local roads over the past few days.

PREOC conference calls for the Vancouver Island and Southwest Region local governments and agencies continued today.

Impacts

Vancouver Island Region

The situation across Vancouver Island continues to improve this afternoon. Heavy rainfall has been reduced to occasional showers and river levels are generally beginning to recede. BC Hydro is making significant progress restoring power to impacted communities and Ministry of Transportation has most roads back in service.

- Minor slope stability issues on Saltspring Island have been resolved
- 17 First Nations families (50 people) continue to be evacuated in the Cowichan River area due to flooding of homes and access roads.
- 110 homes in the Cedar area of the Nanaimo River estuary are impacted by flooding of access roads and some flooding of homes. Search and Rescue volunteers from Nanaimo SAR assisted with the evacuation of 51 residents.
- 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 - closed due to flooding
 - Head Bay Road between Tahsis and Gold River - open, some flooding damage
 - West Shawnigan Lake Road - open some erosion of shoulder
- PREOC activated to Level 1.

South West Region

The situation in the Southwest Region continues to improve. River levels are receding this afternoon. The weather continues to improve as well and MOT crews are making significant progress with highway closures.

- District of Maple Ridge: One home damaged, 2 others at risk from sewer backup. Log jam on Alouette River has been removed
- An Evacuation Order was issued by Metro Vancouver Regional District for 11 homes along Charles Creek due to debris flow risks. An assessment of the debris flow potential was completed this afternoon and the Evacuation Order has now been rescinded.
- Boston Bar on Highway #1 was isolated due to avalanche risks. An emergency access to the community has now been opened by Ministry of Transportation. Community needs are being addressed this afternoon.
- The Duffy Lake Road remains closed between Pemberton and Lillooet.
- Southwest PREOC Activated to Level 1. Daily conference calls continue with local governments and agencies.

Central Region

- PEP Regional office is in contact with local governments regarding High Stream flow Advisory for Merritt and Princeton areas.
- MOE and local governments are watching local ice jam issues on some of the interior rivers.
- Rivers throughout the region are rising 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 was held at 1400hrs today.

Outlook

The situation is generally improving across southern BC this afternoon and this is expected to continue throughout the day tomorrow.

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". Rivers levels in all areas continue to recede this afternoon and should continue to recede into tomorrow, however many rivers on Vancouver Island are still above flood stage.

Weather conditions are improving this afternoon. Light showers will persist in the lower mainland for the remainder of today. Weather forecasts are indicating a cooler and dryer day tomorrow.

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.

The next situation report will be issued at 15:00 Wednesday, Dec 5.