

**PROVINCIAL EMERGENCY COORDINATION CENTRE
FLOODING SITUATION OVERVIEW
January 2, 2007 15:00 Hrs**

OVERVIEW

A significant rain event began impacting Vancouver Island yesterday afternoon. Environment Canada issued a Heavy Rainfall Warning for west and central Vancouver Island yesterday and extended that to the Howe Sound and the North Shore of Greater Vancouver last night.

The Ministry of Environment River Forecast Centre issued a High Stream Flow Advisory last night and at-risk communities were advised through the Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) of the potential for flooding.

Today Environment Canada revised the forecast and included South Vancouver Island and the Fraser Valley in the Heavy Rainfall Warning area.

The River Forecast Centre revised its High Stream Flow Advisory today to a "Flood Watch" for eastern Vancouver Island for the area from Cowichan River (Duncan) to Englishman River (Parksville).

RESPONSE STATUS

The Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC) in Victoria and two Provincial Regional Emergency Coordination Centres (PREOCs) in Southwest (Surrey) and Vancouver Island (Victoria) are activated to support local governments.

Local government Emergency Operation Centres (EOCs) are activated in the Fraser Valley Regional District and in the District of Maple Ridge.

SITUATION

Minor flooding is being reported throughout the area of southern Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland at this time.

Vancouver Island:

The Cowichan River at Duncan has reached the 2-year return period flood stage and is continuing to rise. One home has been evacuated.

The Englishman River at Parksville is flooding in the estuary due to high flows and high tides. Estimates are that 20 people are being evacuated by Search and Rescue volunteers, from a trailer park.

A one-lane road washout has occurred between Gold River and Tahsis near the Conuma River Bridge.

Local minor flooding is also reported around smaller streams in Greater Victoria.

Southwest:

Local flooding is reported around small streams in Surrey.

Maple Ridge reports that as many as 10 homes may be impacted by over bank flows along the Alouette River. Some other flooding of side roads is also reported.

The Fraser Valley Regional District is monitoring flows along the Chilliwack River and is dealing with reported flooding in the Hatzic Valley.

OUTLOOK

The Heavy Rainfall Warning has been ended for all of Vancouver Island and Greater Vancouver. It continues in place for the central and eastern Fraser Valley. The Flood Watch remains in effect for east Vancouver Island.

Larger rivers on east Vancouver Island should continue to rise into the early evening today and then should begin to decline. The Cowichan River at Duncan is expected to continue to rise through to midday tomorrow as the water releases more slowly through Cowichan Lake.

It is currently expected that most flooding issues on Vancouver Island will begin to improve by late this evening. The current forecast from the River Forecast Centre does not anticipate major river flooding in the eastern Fraser Valley.

Some local minor flooding is expected to continue this afternoon and this evening on south and east Vancouver Island and in the Fraser Valley.

The Ministry of Transportation, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, and First Nations' Emergency Services Society have been advised of flooding issues and all local government Emergency Program Coordinators are receiving River Forecast Centre notifications.

CURRENT INFORMATION

Flood Warnings and Watch

Ministry of Environment – River Forecast Centre

http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/rfc/river_forecast/advisories_current.htm

Road Closures
Ministry of Transportation – Drive BC
<http://www.drivebc.ca>

Weather Forecast
Environment Canada
http://www.weatheroffice.ec.gc/canada_e.html