

**PROVINCIAL EMERGENCY COORDINATION CENTRE
FLOODING SITUATION OVERVIEW
November 15, 2006 21:00Hrs**

OVERVIEW

An intense frontal system will continue to affect the south coast spreading heavy rain and strong winds this evening. Southeast winds of 70-120 km/hr have shifted to west or northwest 60-90 km/hr for portions of the south coast. The main band of heavy rain has moved away from the region. However, a further 10-15 mm of rain is expected this evening for Howe Sound and eastern sections of the Lower Fraser Valley, including Chilliwack and Hope

The heavy precipitation and strong winds are forecast to ease this evening as the frontal system continues to move inland.

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.

Emergency Operation Centres (EOCs) are activated in Lions Bay and Maple Ridge and a combined West Vancouver and North Vancouver EOC is activated.

A Reception Centre is activated at the West Vancouver Seniors Centre evacuees. And a reception centre is activated in Qualicum Beach to manage evacuees from Coombs.

Port Alberni has opened a comfort centre for those affected by flooding.

SITUATION

Southwest:

There are approximately 5,000 homes without power.

Approximately 40 evacuees remain out of their homes in West Vancouver.

Water in the Cleveland Dam in West Vancouver has risen significantly, but the river has adequate capacity and the situation is expected to improve.

BC Hydro reports 5,000 residences of Horseshoe Bay will be out of power for approximately 24 hours and the Village of Lions Bay will be out of power for approximately two days.

Approximately 100 people have been evacuated between Horseshoe Bay and Lions Bay due to the risk of trees impacting homes and other storm-related incidents.

Squamish has reported flooding in downtown areas and sandbagging is underway.

In the Fraser Valley Regional District, local flooding has been reported at Siddle Creek, with six homes impacted. There are no evacuations.

Vancouver Island:

A "Flood Warning" was issued at 14:40 today by the Ministry of Environment River Forecast Centre, for the Cowichan, Englishman, Chemainus, Tsolum and Gold Rivers.

Approximately 30 people remain evacuated from a trailer park in Coombs,

The road from Gold River to Muchalat Inlet remains closed. As do numerous other roads in Port Alberni, Tahsis and Port Renfrew.

A large area of Port Alberni remains without power and phone service due to high winds and falling trees, and BC Hydro estimates four hours for the return of power to core areas. Approximately 400 homes are impacted by flooding.

Gold River is isolated due to access restrictions, and a damage assessment is scheduled for the morning to look at reconstruction needs.

Interior:

Strong winds associated with a frontal system have diminished over the Fraser Canyon and South Thompson areas this evening. Strong southerly winds over south Okanagan are expected to diminish later this evening.

Additionally, moist air associated with this system is bringing heavy rain to the West Kootenay Fraser Canyon Nicola areas and snow to northern sections of the central interior. The snow over northern sections of the central interior, at times, may be mixed with rain and is likely end overnight in many areas. Additional snowfall amounts of up to 10 cm are forecast before it tapers off.

OUTLOOK

Environment Canada is forecasting the storm front to continue to move inland this evening and winds are expected to diminish.

Events on Vancouver Island and in the Greater Vancouver area are expected to continue over the next several hours.

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