

BC Environment

River Forecast Centre

Flood Watch: 02DEC2007 1:00PM

- **Howe Sound**
- **Greater Vancouver**
- **Lower Fraser valley**
- **Vancouver Island (south and central)**

A major "Pineapple Express" type frontal storm is forecast to push onto the South Coast this evening, producing very heavy rain throughout the above-noted areas. Environment Canada has released "High Rainfall Warnings" for Greater Vancouver, Howe Sound and the western Fraser valley, and is expected to release further warnings as the system develops today, tonight and tomorrow. These areas are currently experiencing cold temperatures and snow (or mixed snow/rain), resulting from "arctic outflow". However, when the warm and wet Pacific frontal system arrives on the South Coast overnight, temperatures will rise rapidly and heavy rain will begin. The freezing elevation expected to rise to near 2500 metres on Monday. The heavy rain is expected to last for at least a 20-24 hour period, from late tonight and through to approximately Monday midnight or Tuesday morning.

The rapid rise in freezing elevation will result in significant snowmelt from South Coast mountains concurrent with the heavy rain. The combination of heavy rain and snowmelt will result in rapidly-rising river levels, beginning Monday morning, and lasting through to at least Tuesday. High streamflows will be widespread, on all rivers in these areas (except the Fraser River). Flooding may occur, depending on local rainfall conditions. Areas of concern include:

- Vancouver North Shore (West Vancouver, North Vancouver) and Coquitlam, Maple Ridge, Mission
- Western Fraser valley (Nicomekl River, Chilliwack River, Slesse Creek)
- Howe Sound (including the Sea-To-Sky highway corridor)
- Central and South Vancouver Island (Gold, Zeballos, Salmon, Englishman, Nanaimo, Chemainus & Cowichan rivers; Port Alberni area; Victoria – Port Renfrew corridor)

For these areas, water levels on small streams will begin to rise rapidly early Monday morning, with the onset of the heavy rain and higher temperatures. Larger rivers will rise to high levels by Monday night and into Tuesday.

The River Forecast Centre will further information and warnings as conditions warrant.

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.