

BC Environment

River Forecast Centre

High Streamflow Advisory ENDED:

06Nov2009, 11:00AM

Lower Mainland, Lower Fraser valley, Howe Sound

The period of heavy rainfall associated the passage of a warm front yesterday has largely ended. Environment Canada has ended the Rainfall Warning for Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley – West, but has continued the warning for Howe Sound and Fraser Valley – East. A further 20-40 mm of rain is expected today. The freezing elevation has fallen sharply and is now below 1,000 metres. The system is now producing snow accumulations above about 1,000 metres elevation.

Rivers throughout Howe Sound, Metro Vancouver North Shore areas, and the western Fraser River (excepting the Fraser River) (and portions of Vancouver Island) rose yesterday and peaked overnight. The larger rivers for which we have water level information (Elaho, Squamish, Seymour, Coquitlam, Stave, Chilliwack) are all falling. Because of the low freezing elevation and snowfall occurring above 1,000 metres, further significant increases in river levels are not anticipated today or tomorrow. There remains some potential for localized over-bank flow on small valley bottom creeks throughout the area, depending on local rainfall over the next few days.

The outlook for the next few days is continued unsettled weather, with periods of rain through the weekend, and potential for heavier rain again on Monday.

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.