

PO Box 186, Bella Coola, BC VOT 1CO

Telephone 250-799-5291 Fax 250-799-5750

The CCRD has initiated a level one Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) which means that we are monitoring the weather events. For after hours emergency communications, please contact us at (250) 982-0062.

Alerts for: Central Coast – coastal sections

Warnings 5:02 AM PDT Wednesday 28 October 2020

Rainfall warning in effect for:

A long episode of heavy rain continues.

A Pacific front has stalled over the central coast and is expected to remain over the area today and Thursday morning. The front will move northward on Thursday as a low pressure system approaches. Another brief period of heavy rain will potentially occur Thursday night as the low moves inland.

So far, at Bella Coola near 70 mm of rain has fallen and near 100 mm has fallen over some coastal areas. Rain, at times heavy, will continue through Thursday morning. Total rainfall amounts for the system will likely reach near 250 mm over the coast and about 150 mm inland.

Heavy downpours can cause flash floods and water pooling on roads. Localized flooding in low-lying areas is possible. Don't approach washouts near rivers, creeks and culverts.

Please continue to monitor alerts and forecasts issued by Environment Canada. To report severe weather, send an email to BCstorm@canada.ca or tweet reports using #BCStorm. https://weather.gc.ca/warnings/report e.html?bc48

Flood Warnings and Advisories

Flood Watch – Central Coast (MAINTAINED)
High Streamflow Advisory – North Coast (ENDED)
ISSUED: 10:30 AM October 28, 2020

The River Forecast Centre is maintaining a Flood Watch for:

 Central Coast including Bella Coola River and tributaries, Kingcome River, Owikeeno/Rivers Inlet and surrounding areas

The River Forecast Centre is ending a High Streamflow Advisory for:



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North Coast including watersheds around Prince Rupert, Kitimat and surrounding areas

A slow-moving frontal system is currently sweeping across the Central Coast. A first wave of precipitation fell on Monday and Tuesday, with rainfall totals in the 60-70 mm range being observed in the Bella Coola Valley and 15-40 mm observed in the North Coast.

The system has stalled over the Central Coast, bringing a second wave of rainfall today through Thursday. Precipitation for the remainder of this storm on Wednesday and Thursday is forecast to be in the 80-150 mm range, with the heaviest rainfall focused on the outer coast regions of the Central Coast (e.g. Ocean Falls, Bella Bella) and inland areas from the Bella Coola Valley south to the Kingcome River. Freezing levels are expected to be in the 2000-2500m range today and dip down to 1500m by Friday. Snowmelt observed at Automated Snow Weather Stations has been in the 10-20 mm range, and it is expected that most low and mid-elevation snow has melted and further runoff contributions from rain-on-snow are not expected.

Rivers have risen rapidly due to rainfall. In the North Coast, rivers have peaked and have now subsided. With limited additional rainfall forecast for the North Coast, rivers are expected to continue to improve. On the Central Coast, river levels are high and at or near peak levels as a result of the first wave of rainfall yesterday. Rivers may experience a brief levelling or improvement in advance of rises that are anticipated from the second wave of rainfall today and Thursday. Flows are expected to continue to rise late on Wednesday and into Thursday. Current rainfall forecasts indicate on-going risks of flooding in the Bella Coola Valley, Owikeeno/Wannock River and Kingcome River into Thursday.

The public is advised to stay clear of the fast-flowing rivers and potentially unstable riverbanks during the high-streamflow period.

The River Forecast Centre continues to monitor the conditions and provides updates as conditions warrant. http://bcrfc.env.gov.bc.ca/warnings/advisories/flood 120.htm

Please phone CCRD during regular office hours from 8:30 am to noon and 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at (250) 799-5291 and after hours at (250) 982-0062 if needing assistance.

Courtney E. Kirk