

# News Release

For Immediate Release

November 22, 2017 @ 1630 hrs

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## High Streamflow Advisory – Vancouver Island

The River Forecast Centre has **issued High Streamflow Advisories** for **Central Vancouver Island** including Sproat River, Somass River and tributaries and areas around Port Alberni.

A storm cycle is expected to impact Vancouver Island over the Tuesday to Thursday period. Heavy rainfall is expected, particularly over the Tuesday to Wednesday period. Rainfall totals are forecasted to be in the 100-150 mm range, with the potential for higher amounts where upslope conditions occur, and lower amounts along the eastern slopes of Vancouver Island. Temperatures are expected to rise sharply through Tuesday, with freezing levels approaching 3000m. Snowmelt is expected to contribute to river runoff during this storm event.

River levels are expected to rise through Tuesday, with peak levels expected on Wednesday or potentially into Thursday. Current modelling is indicating the potential for rivers to reach up to approximately 2-year return period flows, or similar levels that were experienced last weekend. On the Somass River, flows are currently forecasted to reach up to 5-year return period levels, or higher than was experienced this past weekend (e.g. similar levels to the November 2016 event). High tides and a moderate storm surge are expected through the week, particularly on Thursday, and may exacerbate river levels at river outlets.

The River Forecast Centre - <http://bcRFC.env.gov.bc.ca/warnings/index.htm> will continue to monitor conditions and update this advisory as conditions warrant.

The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) encourages all property owners adjacent to and in low lying areas to take appropriate measures to protect their property and to make an emergency plan in the event any possible flooding occurs.

Self-serve sandbag stations are available for residents at:

- **Beaver Creek Fire Hall**, 6038 Beaver Creek Road. Sand and a skid of sandbags are next to the side of the building in the parking lot.
- **Sproat Lake Fire Hall**, 7667 Pacific Rim Hwy Sand and a skid of sandbags are next to the side of the building in the parking lot.
- **Port Alberni Public Works Yard**, 4150 6th Avenue. Sand and sandbags are located in the parking lot adjacent to 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

These supplies are accessible anytime. Residents should bring their own shovels and be prepared to fill the bags.

Officials continue to monitor weather patterns and water levels of local creeks, streams and lakes. The public is cautioned to stay clear of rivers during rain events due to quickly flowing water and potentially unstable riverbanks.

There are a number of safety tips for the public during periods of heavy rain and high streamflows:

- Avoid small creeks and rivers as their channels tend to be narrow and can fill up quickly. Also, eroded banks result in unstable ground so keep children and pets away from stream banks.
- Watch for changing conditions, particularly if you live in low-lying areas or near waterways.
- Drive carefully. Never try to drive through floodwater. If a car stalls in floodwater, get out quickly and move to higher ground. If you are planning to travel, follow current highway conditions and any road closures. Check Drive BC at [www.drivebc.ca](http://www.drivebc.ca)
- Ensure that you have a battery-powered radio in working order, with spare batteries, to listen to instructions from local emergency officials.
- It is a good idea to organize your individual and family emergency kit. It should contain important documents, prescription medication, a flashlight and first aid kit.

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