

January 06, 2009

For Immediate Release:

**A High Streamflow Advisory has been issued for Howe Sound
Bringing Heavy Rainfall to Squamish Watershed**

Squamish, BC - The District of Squamish experienced heavy rainfall today as a warm and wet sub tropical frontal system arrived on the South Coast overnight. Environment Canada's forecast is for heavier rain to begin this evening and to persist through Wednesday and into early Thursday. A Rainfall Warning was issued early this morning for Howe Sound. Rainfall could amount to 100-150 mm for the area over the next 48 hours. The extended forecast is for continued rain for the next 5-7 days.

The magnitude for the forecast rainfall combined with the duration of the snowmelt will result in significant increases in river levels throughout Squamish and the Sea-to-Sky corridor.

The District of Squamish urges residents to stay away from riverbanks and streams as water levels are rising and banks are eroding.

District crews are patrolling flood hotspots and clearing blocked culverts, ditches and drainage paths. Residents are encouraged to check culverts and ditches in front of their properties to ensure they are clear of snow and ice so accumulating water can drain. If you are unable to clear a blockage, please call the Operations Department of the District of Squamish.

District crews have been working 24 hours a day removing snow and will continue to work around the clock to facilitate drainage.

Squamish is working towards being a Disaster Resilient Community. We encourage residents to be prepared and to mitigate risk by being ready for this weather event and all unplanned emergencies. Please check the websites listed below for help in getting prepared.

www.pep.bc.ca

www.squamishemergencyprogram.org

www.redcross.ca

www.publicsafety.gc.ca

www.getprepared.ca

The District of Squamish will be closely monitoring this weather event and provide additional updates as they develop.

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