

# Southeast Alberta Flood Management

## FACTS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Your municipality is the best source of information during an emergency.

The River Forecast Centre and other provincial government teams work closely with municipalities, providing information to help them develop emergency response plans that best meet the needs of their communities.

This means that, in many cases, the municipality will have more detailed information for residents than the River Forecast Centre.

### Flood Management

Recently, the Government of Alberta announced \$1.2 million in funding for flood management for southeast Alberta.

This includes \$1 million in funding to assist the region with emergency preparedness efforts and \$200,000 in additional funds for flood risk mapping in the region.

Government is also working with municipalities to ensure they have the resources to handle a potential flood. In response to the recent snowmelt-related flooding, government took the following actions:

- Sent field staff to the impacted areas to supply information and work with the local authorities;
- Arranged for flood mitigation equipment, including a portable flood control system, sandbags and a sandbagging machines for use in the region;
- Committed 12 staff resources to the southeast for flood preparation and response with additional resources will be added as required.

Government is also:

- Developing a deployment plan for flood mitigation resources;

- Working with Medicine Hat and Cypress County to develop a plan to mitigate against future floods;
- Advising local authorities and landowners on the process for emergency notification to deal with debris and ice removal.

### Debris Removal

As a result of the June 2010 floods, Alberta Environment recognized the immediate need for landowners to clean up debris and established an expedited debris removal process.

In many cases, landowners and local authorities may remove debris without formal authorization from Alberta Environment.

However, depending on the location and nature of the removal, Alberta Environment may need information from the landowner to confirm that no authorization is required.

Landowners planning to remove debris should contact Alberta Environment prior to conducting work to ensure they do not require authorization.

### River Forecasting

Alberta Environment continually monitors flow rates for rivers and creeks across the province. Based on conditions, we forecast for ice jams, low flows and peak flows.

We gather weather information for long- and short-term forecasts from our partners in Alberta Sustainable Resource Development and Environment Canada for river forecasting purposes.

Alberta Environment's website contains information on water flow and levels, precipitation, Forecaster's Comments, the weekly Cypress Hills Report, debris removal, advisories and warnings, Water Supply Outlook, daily updates on the situation in southeast Alberta, and more.

For more information, visit <http://environment.alberta.ca/>.

To contact the River Forecast Centre call 780-427-6278 (outside Edmonton dial 310-0000).

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