



Spring Runoff Advisory

Issued at: 1:15 PM, April 17, 2003

Issued by: Flow Forecasting

Spring Runoff Advisory for Northwestern Alberta

A Spring Runoff Advisory has been issued for all small streams, creeks and rivers originating in plains areas of the Peace River, Grande Prairie, Lesser Slave Lake and Barrhead regions. Runoff conditions are especially high in the High Prairie region. The major rivers in these regions (Athabasca, Peace, and Smoky Rivers) are too large to be directly affected by plains runoff, however the increase in flows may lift and break river ice covers, causing dynamic ice breakup and the possibility of ice jamming.

Above-average snowpack exists in these areas, and on April 1 the water equivalent of the snowpack was measured, ranging from 100 to 130 millimetres. Warm, sunny days alternating with days with showers are forecast through the weekend, both of which will cause the snowpack to melt. Runoff from the snowmelt will cause increases in streamflows and there is potential that some streams in these areas may experience high water levels. No major flooding is expected, however, localized flooding in low-lying areas is possible. This morning overland flooding was reported in Girouxville, with snowmelt runoff backing up behind dykes not able to reach the local stream.

<p>A <i>Spring Runoff Advisory</i> means that stream levels are rising or expected to rise due to snowmelt and <u>no major flooding</u> is expected. Minor flooding in low-lying areas is possible. Anyone situated close to the streams affected (property owners and the general public) is advised to be cautious of the rising levels.</p>

Alberta Environment is monitoring river levels closely for streams throughout Alberta. This advisory will be updated if the situation changes.

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