



# River Breakup Advisory

Issued at: 1:30 PM, April 17, 2003  
by: River Forecast Centre

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## River Breakup Advisory for Peace River downstream of the Town of Peace River

Alberta Environment has issued a **River Breakup Advisory** for the Peace River downstream of the Town of Peace River.

The thermal breakup ice front location at 9:40 AM today was 56 kilometres downstream (north) of the Highway 2 Bridge at the Town of Peace River. This is about 2 kilometres upstream of the confluence of the Whitemud River with the Peace River. The rate of thermal recession of the ice cover has increased to 13.4 kilometres per day.

Snowmelt runoff has caused increased flows in all of the tributaries to the Peace River, especially in the Smoky River. The increased flow caused the level of the Peace River to rise 1.8 metres since last Tuesday, peaking at an elevation of 314.0 metres at 3:30 AM today. The level has since decreased to Elevation 313.6 metres, which is 6.9 metres below the top of dikes in the Town of Peace River. There is no perceived threat to the Town of Peace River.

The increasing flows and river levels may cause the existing thermal breakup, where the ice on the river melts in place, to switch to a dynamic type of breakup. Dynamic breakup is faster than thermal breakup and includes downstream movement of large, thick pieces of ice, and possible ice jamming. It is not possible to predict whether or not ice jams will form. However, should ice jams form, the river level increase associated with them may be several metres. Locations which may be affected if the breakup turns dynamic include Sunny Valley; Notikewin Park, Carcajou, Tompkin's Landing and Fort Vermilion.

**With the onset of warmer Spring temperatures, ice breakup will occur in Alberta's rivers. This may result in the formation of ice jams, but not always. The location and occurrence of ice jams, and possible associated flooding, are very unpredictable. Local authorities are advised to monitor the ice covers and water levels in the rivers in their communities.**

Alberta Environment is monitoring the situation collaboratively with B.C. Hydro and the Municipal Government of the Town of Peace River. This advisory is in effect for 7 days and will be updated if there is any change in conditions.