



# River Breakup Advisory

Issued at: 10:30 AM, April 21, 2003

Issued by: River Engineering and Water Monitoring Section

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## **River Breakup Advisory for Athabasca River between Town of Athabasca and City of Fort McMurray**

Alberta Environment has issued an updated **River Breakup Advisory** for the Athabasca River between the Town of Athabasca and the City of Fort McMurray. The ice breakup of the Athabasca River is expected over the next few days.

Snowmelt in the Lower Athabasca River basin is substantially complete. Crooked Rapids Monitoring Station was staffed on April 17, 2003. On April 21 at 08:15 an ice movement with increased water levels was reported. At the Town of Athabasca water levels continue to rise with some local movement of the ice cover.

Water levels at Fort McMurray cannot be predicted. The elevation of the Athabasca River at Fort McMurray was 2.75 m at 8:30am MDT today, which is about 2.75 m below the flood stage.

The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo maintains a telephone hotline with current information on a recorded message at 780-799-8000.

**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 river levels closely along the Athabasca River. This advisory is in effect for 7 days and will be updated if there is any change in conditions.

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