

Spring Runoff Advisory

Issued at: 11:30 AM, April 28, 2003

Issued by: River Forecast Centre

Spring Runoff Advisory for South and Central Alberta

A Spring Runoff Advisory has been issued for small streams, creeks and rivers originating in foothills and plains regions of the Bow, Red Deer and North Saskatchewan basins, and the northern part of the Oldman basin. The region is between Edmonton and Calgary west of Highway 36 and between Calgary and Fort Macleod, west of Highway 2.

Over the weekend, up to 150 mm of precipitation fell in these regions, with the heaviest precipitation falling west of Highway 2. Although much of this fell as snow, the early stages of the storm were marked by rainfall, which wetted the soils, increasing runoff production when the snow melts. With a return to warmer temperatures forecast for the rest of this week, 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 some low-lying areas is likely as meltwater makes its way into the drainage system.

A *Spring Runoff Advisory* means that stream levels are rising or expected to rise due to snowmelt and no major flooding 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.

The **High Streamflow Advisory** remains in effect for the following streams and their tributaries:

In the North Saskatchewan River Basin:

- Ram River
- Clearwater River

In the Red Deer River Basin:

- Red Deer River
- James River

In the Bow River Basin:

- Highwood River
- Sheep River
- Elbow River
- Kananaskis River

Although these streams have peaked in response to the rainfall over the weekend, they will be experiencing additional rises due to melt of the snow which fell in the same event.

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