

River Breakup Advisory for Athabasca River from the Town of Athabasca to Fort McMurray

Alberta Environment has issued a **River Breakup Advisory** for the Athabasca River between the Town of Athabasca and Fort McMurray. Although river breakup may not occur for another week or so, river ice conditions and water levels can change rapidly.

Conditions for river breakup are developing on the Athabasca River. The predicted warm weather forecast will advance conditions for river breakup. Snowmelt is causing water levels in the Athabasca River and its tributaries to rise.

Every year at breakup there is potential for ice jam formation and flooding along the Athabasca and Clearwater rivers. An analysis of the current conditions suggests that there is an average level of risk for ice jam and flooding at this time.

Detailed current information regarding river ice breakup in Fort McMurray is available from the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo through their website at <http://www.woodbuffalo.ab.ca> or from a recorded message on their telephone hotline (780) 799-8000.

Additional information from Alberta Environment is available at <http://environment.alberta.ca/forecasting/ForecastersComments/index.html> and at <http://environment.alberta.ca/forecasting/RiverIce/index.html>

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