

Ice Jam Watch for the Athabasca River: Town of Athabasca to Fort McMurray

Alberta Environment and Parks has issued an Ice Jam Watch for river ice breakup on the Athabasca River from the Town of Athabasca to Fort McMurray.

The Athabasca River ice cover has broken up between the Town of Athabasca and Fort McMurray. The resulting ice run passed through Fort McMurray and has come to a stop downstream of town (formed a jam). Water levels have risen in response to the accumulation of ice, and may change rapidly with little or no warning. The situation is being closely monitored by provincial and local authorities.

As ice jams release, new ones may form in other locations downstream. Rapid fluctuations in water levels may be experienced. Anyone taking part in activities near rivers should be aware of changing conditions.

Every year at breakup there is potential for ice jam formation and flooding along the Athabasca and Clearwater Rivers at Fort McMurray. Analysis of the current conditions suggests that there is a normal level of risk for ice jams and flooding along the Athabasca and Clearwater Rivers at Fort McMurray.

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

Additional information is available from Alberta Environment and Parks: <http://www.environment.alberta.ca/apps/basins/default.aspx> and the Alberta Rivers app for iOS and Android.

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 unpredictable. Local authorities are advised to monitor the ice covers and water levels in the rivers in their communities.

This advisory is in effect for 7 days and will be updated if there is any change in conditions.

