

River Ice Advisory for the Peace River at the Town of Peace River

Alberta Environment and Parks has issued a **River Ice Advisory** in advance of breakup on the Peace River at the Town of Peace River.

A ground observation located the Peace River ice front at km 370 on March 28 at 7:25 MST. This location is near the Shaftesbury Ferry, and 25 km upstream of the Town of Peace River. With the above seasonal temperatures for much of the winter, the ice cover is receding approximately 1.5 weeks earlier than average. Based on this observation and the current seasonal weather forecast, the ice front is expected to melt and recede through the Town of Peace River late this week or over the coming weekend. As breakup occurs, water and ice levels in the Peace River can fluctuate rapidly.

Water levels in the Smoky River basin are approximately average, and have risen over the weekend in response to increasing snowmelt. The snowpack in the basin is much below average. The ice cover on the Smoky and Little Smoky rivers remain intact. Deterioration of the ice cover on these rivers has not yet impacted the ice conditions or water levels on the Peace River.

For more information about local flood response, residents should contact their local municipality and ask their primary emergency preparedness contact. Information is also available on the Town of Peace River website <http://peacriver.ca>.

Additional information including reports, observation maps and satellite images, is available from Alberta Environment and Parks at: <http://www.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 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.

