

Forecaster's Comments

Tuesday, January 16, 2018 - 01:18 PM

Weather Conditions

Alberta experienced no significant precipitation was experienced over the weekend. The weather is clear this week for southern and central Alberta. Light flurries are forecast in the north of the province towards the end of the week and over the weekend. Depending on temperatures, the western slopes of the Rockies may see some precipitation falling as rain or snow overnight tonight.

It's back to warm town for the Province of Alberta this week! Temperatures across the province are well above seasonal, and are expected to continue warming up until mid-week. Daily highs of above zero are forecast as far north as Peace River. They are forecast to warm up to around seasonal over the weekend, and are expected to jump to balmy levels next week. Central and southern Alberta may even have overnight lows above zero tonight and on Wednesday. Temperatures are expected to start to cool towards the end of the week.

Alberta Environment and Parks is in close contact with weather forecasting agencies, including Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and Environment Canada. Detailed weather forecasts and current weather information are available from:

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry:

<http://wildfire.alberta.ca/wildfire-status/fire-weather/forecasts-observations/default.aspx>

Environment Canada:

http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca/canada_e.html

River Conditions

Cold temperatures late last week have rapidly advanced the ice cover on the Peace River. The Peace River froze up through the Town of Peace River on Friday, and the ice front is was located approximately 65 km upstream of the Town this morning. Warm temperatures this week may destabilize the recently formed ice cover, and consolidations of the existing cover are possible. Peace River Ice Observation Reports can be viewed on the [Alberta River Basins](#) webpage.

Ice covers are in place on many rivers across the province. Newly formed ice covers are not very strong and travelling on them is not recommended. Normal ice processes and temperature changes can destabilize ice covers and cause rapid changes in water levels. Anyone taking part in activities near rivers should be aware of changing conditions.

Ice affects watercourses, making streamflow measurements inaccurate. As a result, many streamflow stations are shut down for the winter season and will resume operation in the spring. For those stations remaining active through the winter, please note that only water level data will be available online.

River conditions across the province will continue to be monitored and advisories will be issued as required.

Preliminary Flow Data

Real-time precipitation and river data are available at:

<https://rivers.alberta.ca/>

All flow data posted on the AEP website is provisional and preliminary. Environment Canada's Water Survey of Canada is the official owner of this information and as such it is part of their mandate to validate the flow values and publish the finalized maximum instantaneous peak discharge and daily discharge values for all locations in Canada on their website - <http://www.ec.gc.ca/rhc-wsc/default.asp> . The validation of this data does not commence until the end of each calendar year.

Extreme caution should be taken when referring to the data posted to the AEP website - there is a disclaimer at the top of each data table outlining the need for caution. This is particularly true for large flow events when the gauge is affected by debris, damage, sediment in the river, re-alignment of the main river channel and over bank flow which cannot be measured.

Flood Hazard Identification Program

The potential for flooding exists along all streams and lakes in Alberta.

Flooding can cause damage to property, hardship to people and in extreme events, loss of life. To assist Albertans in mitigating potential flood losses, Alberta Environment and Parks manages the production of flood hazard studies and mapping under the provincial [Flood Hazard Identification Program](#).

[Flood Hazard Mapping](#) - Explore final flood hazard maps using GIS.

[Flood Hazard Studies](#) - Learn about final flood hazards in your community.

[Draft Flood Hazard Studies](#) - Review draft flood hazard studies.

Water Supply Report

Water Supply Outlooks are published incrementally as new data analyses are available. The most recent Water Supply Outlook is now available at:

<http://www.environment.alberta.ca/forecasting/WaterSupply/index.html>

Precipitation data and maps for the Water Supply Report are published monthly at:

<http://www.environment.alberta.ca/forecasting/reports/index.html>

