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Issued by: River Engineering Team, Water Management Operations

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## River Breakup Advisory for Athabasca River between Town of Athabasca and 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 two, river ice conditions and water levels can change rapidly.

Conditions for river breakup are developing on the Athabasca River. Snowmelt is causing water levels for smaller rivers such as the House River to rise. The predicted warm weather forecast will advance conditions for river breakup.

During breakup this year, it is expected that water levels on the Athabasca River will be higher than normal. There is also an increased possibility of ice jam formation and possible flooding along the Athabasca and Clearwater rivers. The increased risk is caused by the above average snow packs in the region and the unusually late onset of warmer spring temperatures.

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://www3.gov.ab.ca/env/water/ws/ForecastersComments>

**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 14 days and will be updated if there is any change in conditions.