

Provincial Spring Runoff Advisory

For the first time this year temperatures across the province are forecast to be at or above normal seasonal values for an extended period. Starting on Saturday, daytime temperatures are forecast to be in the low double digits, changing to mid to high double digits on Sunday and Monday and returning to normal for the remainder of next week.

The very cool spring we have experienced to date has meant that for many rural areas of the province the above average snow pack accumulated over the winter has not had the opportunity to melt slowly. A slow melt is typical with normal, gradually warming, air temperatures.

A rapid melt caused by the quick change to normal temperatures combined with last week's precipitation and high soil moisture conditions may cause localized overland flooding as the water makes its way into streams. In low-lying areas where water does not have a direct route to stream channels localized ponding can be expected. Over the next several days water levels will rise in the smaller creeks with a possibility of flooding in adjacent low-lying areas. No significant water level rises are expected in the major rivers. The northeast corner and extreme southern plains are not expected to be severely impacted as there is less snow remaining on the ground, compared to other areas.

Anyone who is situated close to the creeks affected, or in areas that have experienced overland flooding in the past, is advised to be cautious of rising water levels over the long-weekend.

Alberta Environment is monitoring river levels closely throughout Alberta. This advisory will be updated if the situation changes and will remain in effect until Thursday April 28, 2011 unless otherwise noted.

Information in addition to this advisory may be found at:

<http://www.environment.alberta.ca/forecasting/forecasterscomments>

<http://www.environment.alberta.ca/apps/basins>

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