

Provincial Spring Runoff Advisory

Over the coming days, temperatures in central and southern Alberta are expected to rise to normal or above normal seasonal values. During this time, daytime temperatures are expected to be well into the double digits, with overnight temperatures remaining above freezing.

The generally cool spring conditions to date, combined with the late spring snowfalls in the central region of the province have resulted in an above average snowpack that has not experienced normal melt conditions. Typical snow melt in Alberta occurs with gradually warming air temperatures, as opposed to the sudden increases in temperatures that are expected over the next few days.

A rapid melt caused by the quick change to warmer temperatures, combined with above average snowpack may cause localized overland flooding as the water makes its way into streams. The rise in temperatures, and subsequent snowmelt, is expected to primarily affect the following areas: Grande Prairie east to Cold Lake, extending south to Edmonton, as well as the Battle River basin, located southeast of Edmonton. 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.

Water levels may approach or exceed top of bank levels on the Little Paddle River, and on the Paddle River upstream of the Town of Barrhead, as water levels in these rivers are currently high. No significant water level rises are expected in other major rivers.

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

Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development is monitoring river levels closely throughout Alberta. This advisory will be updated if the situation changes and will remain in effect for 7 days, 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>