

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

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

A ground observation located the Peace River ice front at km 401.2 on March 14 at 12:20 MST. This location is 5.2 km downstream of the Highway 2 bridge in the Town of Peace River. Given the above seasonal temperatures this winter and spring, the ice cover is receding and deteriorating much earlier than average. With slightly above seasonal temperatures forecast for this week, the Peace River ice front is expected to continue its steady retreat. As breakup occurs, water and ice levels in the Peace River can fluctuate rapidly.

Water levels in the Smoky River basin remain low, and the snowpack in the basin is below average. Breakup on the Smoky and Little Smoky rivers has not 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.

