

April 19, 2022



Alberta Rivers and Parks River Forecast Centre Update

Highlights and What is Expected Next:

- AEP conducted an observation flight of the Athabasca and Clearwater Rivers on April 18
- There has been significant melting between the upstream extent of AEP's flight (~155 km upstream of Fort McMurray) and Fort McMurray. The ice jams that were present previously have shortened or melted out.
- The ice at the Town of Athabasca has started to breakup and move downstream. So far this hasn't been accompanied by large water level changes.

Ice Conditions:

- There are currently six small ice jams in the ~155 kms of river upstream of Fort McMurray. They range in length from 0.5 to 1.7 kms, and are the result of local ice shifting, and appear to be actively melting in place
- We have not yet seen these ice jams release to form larger ice jams
- The ice near Fort McMurray is deteriorating, and there are sections of open water downstream of town
 - *This reduces the risk of flooding at Fort McMurray because it weakens the ice making it more likely that ice runs will push through the Fort McMurray area instead of stopping and forming an ice jam*
- The ice on the Clearwater River has shifted in large sheets near the mouth of the Hangingstone River
- There is still a significant amount of ice on the Athabasca River upstream of Fort McMurray
 - *We are watching this ice as it melts and deteriorates*
- Downstream of Fort McMurray the ice is melting, and several open leads have developed, but the ice has not significantly shifted or cleared downstream of the Clearwater.
 - *Deteriorated and shifted ice downstream of the Clearwater is less likely to allow ice jams to form than strong intact ice.*

Water Levels:

- Water levels on the Athabasca River remain steady.
- Water levels between Fort McMurray and the area near mouth of the House River (~155 km upstream of Fort McMurray) are generally low, and the river banks and bars are not submerged

Weather Conditions:

- Today's weather forecast is now calling for a quicker warm-up than the forecast predicted yesterday. However, overnight temperatures are still forecast to be below freezing and temperatures are seasonal for this time of year.
- With several open sections on the river, the darker water will absorb the sun's heat and melt the river ice.

Current Advisory:

- **The Ice Advisory for the breakup of the Athabasca River from the Town of Athabasca to Fort McKay remains in place**

This is a routine advisory and there are no immediate threats to Athabasca, Fort McMurray, Fort McKay, or Fort Chipewyan at this time.



Visit rivers.ab.ca for full reports and more photos



Intact but deteriorated ice cover on the Athabasca River (flow from right to left) at km 278.5 (at Willow Island). Photo taken April 18, 2022. Photo courtesy AEP.



Intact ice cover on the Athabasca River (shown on the right, flow from top to the right) and Clearwater River (shown on the left, flow from the left to right) at km 293 (downtown Fort McMurray). Photo taken April 18, 2022, courtesy AEP.



Intermittent ice cover on the Athabasca River (flow from right to left) at km 335 (Crooked Rapids). Photo taken April 18, 2022. Photo courtesy of AEP.



Open water on the Athabasca River (flow from top-right to bottom-left) at km 395. Photo taken April 18, 2022.. Photo courtesy of AEP.



Stay away from the river banks and watch River Breakup safely on the LIVE River Breakup Camera at Water Treatment Plant, south of the bridge, facing downstream (north).

Photo: April 19, 2022 – 0830hr

[Watch live by clicking here](#)



River BREAKUP

Regional Emergency Coordination Centre (RECC) Update

Download the Alertable App



Alertable is your one-stop app for AEA messaging as well as locally generated messaging.

If there is an emergency in our region, this is the first place you will hear about it.

Getting too many notifications?

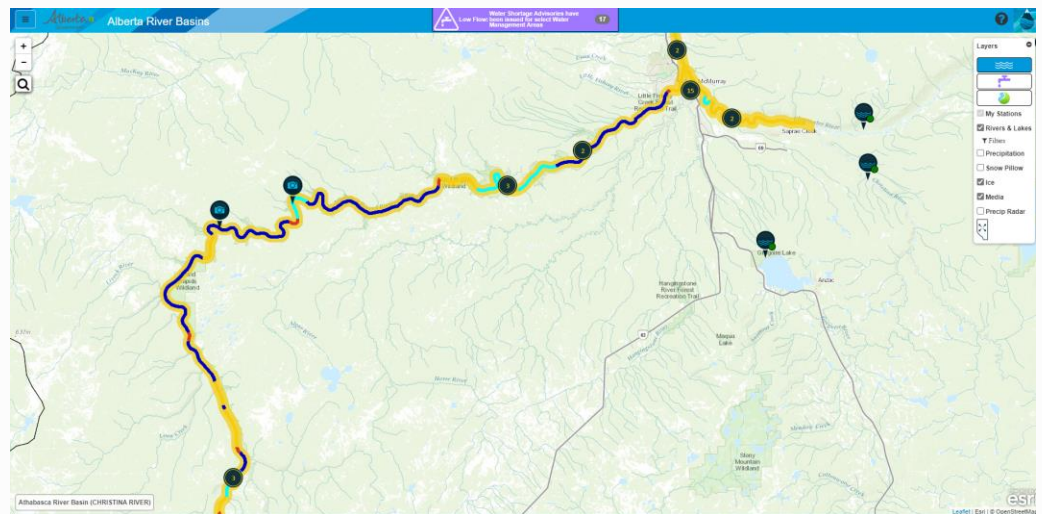
You can customize the app to only receive advisory notifications about topics you are interested in. You cannot turn off critical alerts. Set your preferences under "advanced settings"



7 Day Forecast for Wood Buffalo, AB

[Wood Buffalo, Alberta 7 Day Weather Forecast - The Weather Network](#)

Wed 04/20	Thu 04/21	Fri 04/22	Sat 04/23	Sun 04/24	Mon 04/25	Tue 04/26
Mainly sunny	Mainly sunny	Cloudy with sunny breaks	Chance of a shower	A mix of sun and clouds	Scattered flurries	A mix of sun and clouds
3°	7°	6°	8°	9°	5°	10°



Helpful Links:

[Vulnerable Persons Registry - rmwb.ca](#)

[Alertable - Emergency Alerts](#)

[Flood Mitigation - Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo \(rmwb.ca\)](#)

[Be prepared and stay alert as river breakup approaches - rmwb.ca](#)

[Wildfire Season has begun! NEW! Wildfire Status Dashboard](#)

Do you know someone who may need assistance evacuating during an emergency?



For more information, visit [rmwb.ca/VPR](#) or call PULSE 780-743-7000

Emergency Management, Regional Emergency Services

9909 Franklin Avenue, Fort McMurray, Alberta, Canada T9H 2K4 [rmwb.ca](#)

