

*April 20, 2022*



### Alberta Rivers and Parks River Forecast Centre Update

**Ice Jam Watch Advisory Issued – April 20, 2022 1530h**  
**River Breakup may occur in next nine to twelve hours**

The River Forecast Centre (RFC) has issued an Ice Jam Watch for the Athabasca River from upstream of Fort McMurray to downstream of Fort McKay. River conditions are favourable for forming ice jams, which may raise water levels and cause flooding in low lying areas of Fort McMurray.

#### Current Conditions and Impacts:

- Warmer weather is accelerating the breakup of the Athabasca River
- An ice run passed AEP's remote camera located on the Athabasca River above House River at approximately 10:00 MDT on April 20. The camera is approximately 150 km upstream of Fort McMurray.
- There is limited intact ice cover between House River and Fort McMurray that could stop the ice run. Therefore, the ice run will likely push through to Fort McMurray, where it could stop against the intact ice in Fort McMurray, forming an ice jam and raising water levels quickly
- If the ice run does not stop between the House River and Fort McMurray, it will pass the Crooked Rapids remote camera and water level monitoring station between 12-1am MDT and is expected to arrive in Fort McMurray between 2-5am on April 21
- The ice run appears moderate in size and could raise water levels by 3.75 m. This water level rise may flood low lying areas in Fort McMurray.
- Whether the ice run will stop and form an ice jam before it gets to, or in Fort McMurray is highly uncertain
- In the event an ice jam forms in Fort McMurray, the potential magnitude of water level increases also have high uncertainty but are not expected to flood downtown Fort McMurray

#### Further Actions:

- The advisory and ice report will be updated this evening, following the observation flight.
- The RFC is in contact with staff from the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo and other downstream stakeholders.
- Current Advisories, Ice Observation Reports, Forecaster's Comments, river flows, and river levels are on the Environment and Parks River Basins webpage: <https://rivers.alberta.ca>.



Visit [rivers.ab.ca](http://rivers.ab.ca) for full reports and more photos



Deteriorated ice cover on the Athabasca River above House River at 1000h April 20, 2022. Photo courtesy AEP.



Ice run on the Athabasca River above House River at 1100h April 20, 2022. Photo courtesy AEP.



Open water on the Athabasca River above House River at 1200h April 20, 2022. Photo courtesy AEP.



Partial ice cover on the Athabasca River by Hwy 63 bridge at 1430h April 20, 2022. Photo courtesy RES.



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 20, 2022 – 1430h

[Watch live by clicking here](#)

Emergency Management, Regional Emergency Services

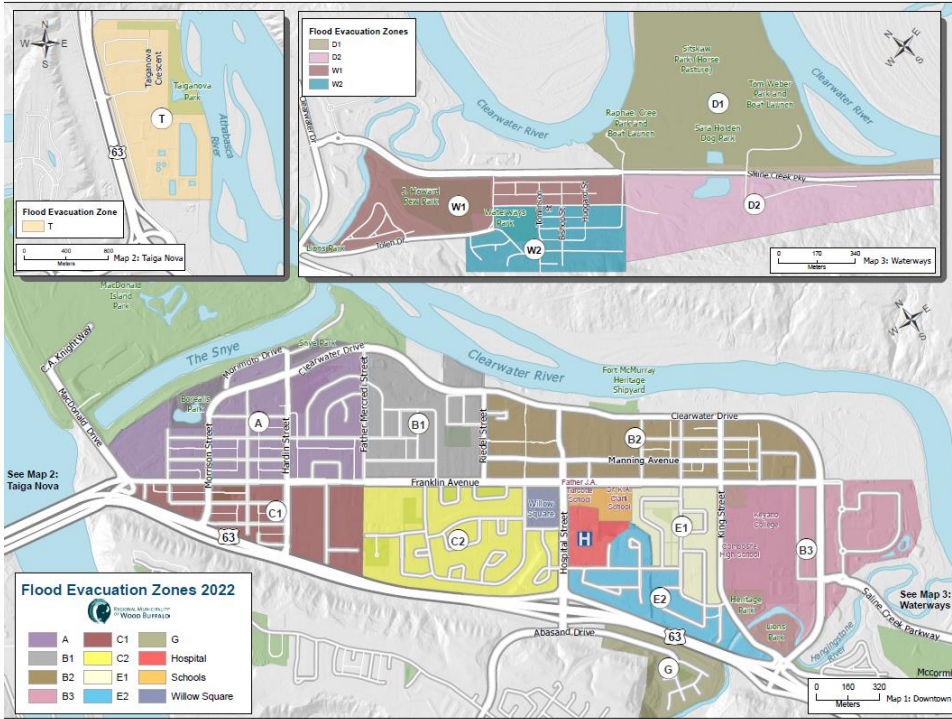
9909 Franklin Avenue, Fort McMurray, Alberta, Canada T9H 2K4 [rmwb.ca](http://rmwb.ca)





# River BREAKUP

## Regional Emergency Coordination Centre (RECC) Update



### Just in case... know your updated evacuation zone

Based on lessons learned in the 2020 Flood, the evacuation zone map has been modified.

### Just in case... know your Community Emergency Management Plan (CEMP)

There are plans developed for each community in the RMWB. The zones most likely to be impacted during River Breakup are:

- [Lower Townsite](#)
- [Waterways and Grayling Terrace](#)
- [Draper](#)

### 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.

### 36 Hour Forecast for Wood Buffalo, AB

Wood Buffalo, Alberta 36-Hour Weather Forecast - The Weather Network

Wed Evening	Wed Overnight	Thu Morning	Thu Afternoon	Thu Evening	Thu Overnight
Mainly sunny	Partly cloudy	A mix of sun and clouds	A mix of sun and clouds	Mainly sunny	Partly cloudy
1°	-7°	-4°	9°	5°	-4°

### 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](#)

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



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

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

