

April 21, 2022 2030h



### Alberta Rivers and Parks River Forecast Centre Update

**Ice Jam Watch remains in place – Issued April 20, 2022**  
**Ice Run now downstream of Fort McMurray**

The River Forecast Centre (RFC) issued an Ice Jam Watch for the Athabasca River from upstream of Fort McMurray to downstream of Fort McKay yesterday.

#### Highlights and What is Expected Next:

- AEP conducted an ice observation flight today from 16:00 to 18:00
- Ice runs flowing in from upstream broke up the Athabasca River ice starting last evening at ~20:30 MDT, and continuing until the early afternoon today
- The ice runs were completely stopped and formed an ice jam by 13:30 MDT today
  - The toe (leading edge) of the ice jam was located at km 283 (near the aggregate pit, 12 km downstream of Fort McMurray) and the head (tailing edge) was located at the Highway 63 bridges at Fort McMurray.
  - The jam was 12 km long this afternoon, and was melting from the upstream end
  - Athabasca River ice was pushed ~1.5 kms up the Clearwater from the mouth
- Water levels rose ~2 m during the ice runs and the formation of the ice jam
  - Water levels remain low
- We expect there are still ice jams upstream of Fort McMurray, but not closer than 200 km upstream.
  - If these ice jams release, the resulting ice runs will melt significantly before making it to Fort McMurray, and are not expected to pose a flood risk for Fort McMurray
  - AEP will be monitoring our Athabasca River above House River gauge (~150 km upstream of Fort McMurray) tonight for signs or more incoming ice
- The weather is expected to be warm and sunny for the next several days, which will help to melt out the ice jam
  - Once the ice jam has melted past the Clearwater River mouth, the ice jam flood risk to downtown Fort McMurray diminishes significantly
- The Clearwater River ice is still largely intact
  - When the ice on the Clearwater River breaks up, it may cause rapid fluctuations in water level, and small ice accumulations may form in the bends.
  - This ice movement is normal, and does not pose a risk of flooding downtown Fort McMurray.

### 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.

Ensure you enable “Other Weather” under settings to receive River Breakup updates.

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

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



# River BREAKUP

## Regional Emergency Coordination Centre (RECC) Update



Intact ice cover on the Athabasca River (flow from right to left) at Fort McKay (at km 239). Photo taken April 21, 2022 courtesy AEP



Intermittent ice cover on the Clearwater River (flow from bottom to top) at km 3. Photo taken April 21, 2022 courtesy AEP



Intact ice cover on the Clearwater River (flow from bottom to top) at km 15. Photo taken April 21, 2022 courtesy AEP



Ice jam at the confluence of the Athabasca River (flow from right to left) and the Clearwater River (flow from top-right to bottom) at Fort McMurray (at km 293). Photo taken April 21, 2022 courtesy AEP

### 36 Hour Forecast for Wood Buffalo, AB

[Wood Buffalo, Alberta 36-Hour Weather Forecast - The Weather Network](#)

Thu Overnight	Fri Morning	Fri Afternoon	Fri Evening	Fri Overnight	Sat Morning
Partly cloudy	Mainly sunny	Mainly sunny	Chance of a shower	Partly cloudy	Chance of a shower
-2°	1°	13°	10°	-3°	1°

#### Helpful Links:

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

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

Emergency Management, Regional Emergency Services

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

