

April 23, 2022 1300h



Alberta Rivers and Parks River Forecast Centre Update

Ice Jam Watch remains in place – Issued April 20, 2022

Ice Jam downstream of Fort McMurray continues to shrink

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

Highlights and What is Expected Next:

- AEP conducted an ice observation flight today from 08:00 to 09:30 MDT
- The ice jam that formed in Fort McMurray yesterday is still in place. It has shifted and melted since yesterday and is now 7.3 km long
 - It has melted 4.6 km since yesterday afternoon
 - *The forecasted warm and sunny weather over the next few days is expected to continue to melt the ice jam*
- The Clearwater River is breaking up and melting
 - As the ice shifts and moves, water levels on the Clearwater River can rise or fall rapidly and without notice
 - *This is a normal breakup process and doesn't pose a flooding risk to Fort McMurray.*
- Water levels have dropped more than 1.3 m since their peak on April 21
- There may still be ice jams far upstream (~200 km) of Fort McMurray. Our next observation of these will be tomorrow, when we are expecting a satellite image to be taken (which we will receive late in the evening)
 - *If these ice jams release, the ice will flow towards Fort McMurray, but it is expected to be significantly melted and broken by the time it arrives.*
- The Athabasca River is clear through Fort McKay
- More satellite photos will be posted on the Rivers app as they become available

The next Community Update will be circulated tomorrow.

Why isn't River Breakup declared yet? While it's true the river "breaks" when ice begins moving through town, River Breakup is not declared until the risk of flooding has passed.



River BREAKUP

Regional Emergency Coordination Centre (RECC) Update



Ice jam toe (downstream end) of the 7.3 km long ice jam on the Athabasca River near Fort McMurray. Flow is from bottom to top. Photo taken April 23, 2022.



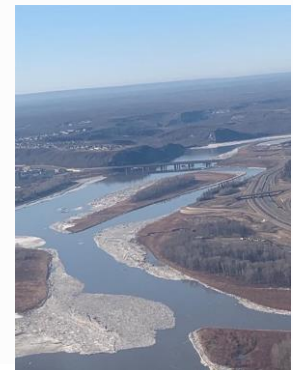
Ice jam head (upstream end) of the 7.3 km long ice jam on the Athabasca River near Fort McMurray. Flow is from top to bottom. Photo taken April 23, 2022 courtesy AEP



Ice "plug" at the mouth of the Clearwater River (top, flowing from top to bottom), where it meets the Athabasca River (bottom, flow right to left). The remnant ice on the Athabasca River is holding this ice in place. Photo taken April 23, 2022 courtesy AEP.



Clearwater River at Draper showing some ice remaining in the bends. Photo taken on April 23, 2022



Athabasca River at Hwy 63 Bridge, facing North. Photo taken on April 23, 2022

36 Hour Forecast for Wood Buffalo, AB

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

Sat Afternoon	Sat Evening	Sat Overnight	Sun Morning	Sun Afternoon	Sun Evening
Mainly sunny	A mix of sun and clouds	Partly cloudy	A mix of sun and clouds	Mainly sunny	Mainly sunny
14°	9°	-1°	1°	12°	8°

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

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