

April 24, 2022 1400h – **River Breakup Declared**



Alberta Rivers and Parks River Forecast Centre Update

Ice Jam Watch lifted for Fort McMurray

River Breakup Ice Advisory remains in place for downstream communities

Highlights and What is Expected Next:

- AEP conducted an ice observation flight today from 09:00 to 10:30 MDT
- The Clearwater River is now largely broken up, and a small ice jam remains at the mouth. There is likely still ice further upstream on the Clearwater and Christina Rivers.
 - *This breakup doesn't pose a flooding risk, but may cause water levels to change rapidly, and ice may still move around on the Clearwater until the reaches further upstream are entirely melted.*
- The ice jam that formed in Fort McMurray on April 21 is still in place.
 - The ice jam is now 4.5 km long, having melted 2.8 km since yesterday morning.
 - The head (upstream end) of the ice jam is located along Parsons Creek Aggregates, and is actively melting.
 - The warm and sunny weather will continue to melt the jam in place
- The ice run that passed by the Athabasca River above House River gauge last night, was located between Grand Rapids and Crooked Rapids this morning (~105 km upstream of Fort McMurray)
 - It is very melted, broken up, and moving slowly
 - *This observation gives us confidence that any additional ice from upstream will indeed be heavily melted and broken up before it reaches Fort McMurray, therefore upstream ice is no longer a flooding risk for Fort McMurray.*
- We will continue to monitor our cameras and satellite imagery to observe whether the ice jams observed upstream of the House River mouth on April 20 are completely melted or released.
 - We expect to have a very clear satellite image of today's conditions by tomorrow morning.
- We will be ending on-site operations in Fort McMurray this afternoon, and today's flight was our final observation flight
 - We will continue to monitor gauges, cameras, and satellite imagery until the ice upstream is confirmed to be completely melted
 - We will continue to post observation maps when clear satellite imagery is available for areas downstream of Fort McMurray to the Peace-Athabasca Delta
- This is the final Community Update for the 2022 River Breakup event

River Breakup has now been declared in Fort McMurray. While the risk of flooding has been minimized, there is still ice on the river and shorelines. Continue to use caution around the riverbanks.



River BREAKUP

Regional Emergency Coordination Centre (RECC) Update



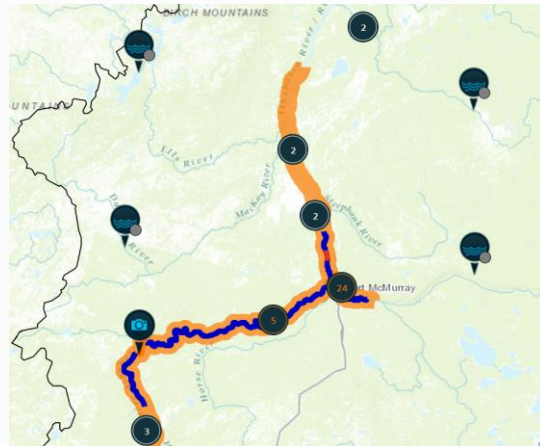
Ice jam toe of the 4.5 km ice jam on the Athabasca River near Fort McMurray (flow from right to left) at km 281. Photo taken April 24, 2022, courtesy AEP.



Ice jam head of the 4.5 km ice jam on the Athabasca River near Fort McMurray (flow from left to right) at km 285.5. Photo taken April 24, 2022, courtesy AEP.



Heavily melted ice run on the Athabasca River (flow from left to right) at km 402. Photo taken April 24, 2022, courtesy AEP.



Ice Advisories and updated photos are available on rivers.alberta.ca. We would like to acknowledge the exceptional work of the AEP River Forecasters for their open communication and collaboration with the RMWB Emergency Management Branch.

36 Hour Forecast for Wood Buffalo, AB

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

Sun Afternoon	Sun Evening	Sun Overnight	Mon Morning	Mon Afternoon	Mon Evening
Mainly sunny	Sunny	Mainly clear	Mainly sunny	Mainly sunny	Mainly sunny
10°	6°	-3°	-1°	9°	6°

Helpful Links:

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

Emergency Management, Regional Emergency Services

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