



High Water Safety Bulletin

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Issued at: Friday, February 18, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.

Issued by: Alec M Scott, P.Eng.
Water & Planning Manager

To: ABCA Municipal Flood Coordinators

Message: Flows to increase today but recede with cooler weekend temperatures

Temperatures are expected to drop through the day today to below freezing by tomorrow.

Temperatures should remain below freezing through most of next week.

Water levels in streams and rivers are now rising quickly as a result of snow melt. However, lack of rainfall during the past two days will prevent flows and water levels from reaching levels experienced during the thaw in early January. Flows are expected to peak over night or by mid day tomorrow in larger watercourses.

While flows are not expected to reach significant flooding levels, there is the potential for some minor flooding of low lying areas where smaller streams are blocked with snow. The flows may also cause some ice movement. Therefore, between now and Sunday, there is the potential for some ice jamming to occur in traditional ice jam locations such as the Port Franks area. Municipal staff and residents in these areas should monitor river conditions and be prepared in case ice jams form.

Municipal staff should also monitor known problem areas on secondary roads for ponding water where roadside snowbanks block usual drainage systems.

Water levels are expected to remain high throughout the weekend. The return of freezing conditions on Friday evening will create dangerous icy conditions along river banks. Parents are reminded to keep children and pets away from lakes and watercourses during the next few days. Slippery and unstable streambanks and extremely cold water temperatures will create additional hazards.

The Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority will be monitoring watershed conditions and will provide an update of conditions if required.

Update: As required.

Contact: Alec M Scott, Water & Planning Manager at 519-235-2610 or by pager at **519-931-0078**

Confirmation of receipt of this message:

Confirmation is NOT REQUIRED

Mode of Confirmation:
by Fax or Phone

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- End of Message -

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Types of Flood Messages

- **High Water Safety Bulletin**

Issued to alert municipalities that the potential for flooding is being assessed and remind the public that rivers, streams and ponds may be unsafe for recreational or other activity.

- **Flood Advisory**
- **Flood Warning**

Issued when the potential for flooding exists in specific municipalities.

Issued after a flood forecast has been made which indicates that significant flooding is imminent or occurring in specific flood damage centres.