
FLOOD WARNING Fort Frances District

NEWS

Friday, June 20, 2014 12:00pm

The Ministry of Natural Resources – Fort Frances District is reminding area residents that the **Flood Warning is in still effect** for the Atikokan, Fort Frances, and Rainy River areas.

Recent rainfall has resulted in very high inflow conditions throughout all watersheds within the District, including the Seine River, Atikokan River, Rainy Lake, and Lake of the Woods. Water levels in Rainy Lake and the Rainy River are expected to rise and the weather forecast is showing the potential for further rainfall accumulations for the area. Given the volume of water upstream in the system further impacts are likely. MNR is closely monitoring the weather and developing watershed conditions.

Public Safety

Extreme caution is advised:

- Around any fast moving creeks and rivers;
- On area lakes due to the potential for submerged hazards and floating debris; and
- On all forest access roads due to the potential for water on roads, washouts and heavy rutting.

The public should avoid travelling on unfamiliar roads or crossing any submerged roads as there may be a risk to traveler safety. Barricades are erected at roads where known washouts or dangerous driving conditions have been observed. The MNR, Resolute Forest Products and Rainy Lake Tribal Resource Management Inc. are monitoring forest resource access roads in the area to identify hazards.

Dams and Waterways

On controlled water systems within the District, MNR is currently managing water control structures, in partnership with operators, to mitigate impacts and minimize flows into Rainy Lake. We share information and monitor current water levels on non-MNR controlled systems through interaction with the International Rainy – Lake of the Woods Watershed Board.

Protection of Infrastructure and Emergency Assistance

MNR is ready to respond to protect and repair crown roads, bridges and infrastructure impacted by flooding. We are also working closely with Unincorporated, First Nations, and Municipal Emergency response partners to provide information/ assistance and resources as we are able. To date MNR has provided personnel and resources (including over 75,000 sandbags) to unincorporated area fire departments, Municipalities and First Nations communities.

Individual property owners are encouraged to continue to purchase sand bags from local suppliers to protect their shoreline property, or contact their local fire department or emergency response organizations where local supplies have been exhausted and where an emergency situation is imminent

Shoreline structures (e.g. sheds, pumphouses, boathouses, saunas etc) are often used as storage facilities for substances that may be harmful to the lake. **Residents should remove any potential contaminants** (e.g. gas, oil, pesticides, chemicals etc) from these areas and take measures to ensure they do not contaminate the lake ecosystem.

Weather Situation/Forecast

An active low pressure system in northwest Ontario brought with it rainfall amounts ranging from 10 mm – 170 + mm throughout the Rainy River / Fort Frances / Atikokan areas between June 11 -16th. Rainfall is expected to begin later today, and continue for the next few days; rainfall amounts of **20 - 40 mm** (cumulative) are expected.

Further updates will be issued as appropriate. Listen to local media for updates or call 511 for road closure information.

Resources

The latest information lake levels, dam settings, and basin flows can be found online at http://www.ijc.org/en_/RLWWB

Contact Information

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