

FLOOD REPORT FOR MANITOBA

April 9, 2020

High Water Warning*: - **The Red River, from Emerson to the Red River Floodway Inlet Control Structure**
- **Sturgeon Creek**

High Water Watch*: - **The Red River, from Lockport to Netley Creek due to ice movement**

Summary

- All flow and water level information is based on data available at 7:00 am. Morning Conditions reports, with current water level data, are available on the department's website, and flood sheets with updated forecast information will be posted at https://gov.mb.ca/mit/floodinfo/#forecasts_reports.
- It is expected that most of the snow in southern Manitoba, and the USA portion of the Red and Souris River basins is now melted and that snow in the Assiniboine River basin will melt by tomorrow.
- A high water warning remains issued for the Red River from Emerson to the Red River Floodway Inlet Control Structure, just south of the City of Winnipeg as the Red River has started to spill or is near spilling its banks at Emerson, Letellier, St. Jean, Morris, and Ste. Agathe.
- A high water watch remains issued for the Red River from Lockport to Netley Creek due to the potential of some overland flooding in low lying areas due to ice jamming. Water levels will continue fluctuate as ice breaks up and moves downstream.
- Flows and levels on the Red River north of Emerson are predicted to be at the upper range of the forecasted flows and levels. Between Emerson and Letellier, the upper range of the forecast is close to 2006 spring levels, whereas areas north of Letellier are between 2006 and 2019 spring levels. Flood sheets with forecasted flows and water levels are available online at https://gov.mb.ca/mit/floodinfo/#forecasts_reports.
- Water levels are beginning to rise more quickly on the Red River, and the peak date at Emerson is now anticipated between April 15 and 18 and is expected to reach the Red River Floodway between April 19 and 24. With the operation of the Floodway, the Red River level in Winnipeg at James Avenue is expected to peak between 19.0 feet and 19.5 feet between April 13 and April 19.
- Any questions or concerns about flood mitigation should be directed first to the municipal authority. Questions about forecasts, water levels, provincial waterways, or provincial water control infrastructure can be directed to 204-945-1165 or by email to floodinfo@gov.mb.ca.

Weather

- It is expected that most of the snow in southern Manitoba, and the USA portion of the Red and Souris River basins is now melted and that snow in the Assiniboine River basin will melt by tomorrow.
- There are no significant storms in the short-term forecast.

Red River Basin

- Due to the warming temperatures, water levels on most of the main stem of the Red River continue to rise at a quicker rate. Readings at individual stations may be affected by ice on the river as some sections of the river begin to open up. Over the last 24 hours the water level rose by 2.7 feet (0.82 m) at Emerson, 2.0 feet (0.61 m) at Letellier, 2.3 feet (0.70 m) at St. Jean, 2.3 feet (0.70 m) at Morris, 1.4 feet (0.43 m) at Ste. Agathe, and 0.6 feet (0.18 m) at St. Adolphe.
- Flows and levels on the Red River north of Emerson are predicted to be at the upper range of the forecasted flows and levels. Between Emerson and Letellier, the upper range of the forecast is close to 2006 spring levels, whereas areas north of Letellier are between 2006 and 2019 spring levels. Manual flow measurements to verify current flow estimates will be conducted over the coming days along the Red River in Manitoba as the ice begins to clear out. Conditions will continue to be monitored and the latest forecast information for the Red River is available online at https://gov.mb.ca/mit/floodinfo/#forecasts_reports.
- A high water warning remains issued for the Red River from Emerson to the Red River Floodway Inlet Control Structure, just south of the City of Winnipeg as the Red River has started to spill or is near spilling its banks at Emerson, Letellier, St. Jean, Morris, and Ste. Agathe.
- A high water watch remains issued for the Red River from Lockport to Netley Creek due to the potential of some overland flooding in low lying areas due to ice jamming. Water levels will continue to fluctuate as ice breaks up and moves downstream.
- Water levels are beginning to rise more quickly on the Red River, and the peak date at Emerson is now anticipated between April 15 and 18 and is expected to reach the Red River Floodway between April 19 and 24. With the operation of the Floodway, the Red River level in Winnipeg at James Avenue is expected to peak between 19.0 feet and 19.5 feet between April 13 and April 19.
- Manitoba Infrastructure will endeavour to keep PTH 75 open for as long as possible but portions of the highway may need to be closed as water levels rise on the Red River.
- Partial dike closures at Emerson on both the Noyes and West Lynne dikes will be implemented tomorrow. Both diked areas will remain accessible by road after the partial closures. Additional closures may be required in communities along the Red River as water levels begin rising toward the upper range of the forecast.
- Manitoba Infrastructure has prepared and positioned flood fighting equipment such as pumps and water-filled barriers into areas of potential concern. Pumping operations are

underway at some ring dike communities. Flood response teams are observing recommended public health mitigation measures for COVID-19.

- Water from the Red River continues to flow naturally into the Floodway channel. The gates at the Red River Floodway inlet control structure are expected to be operated this evening, once ice conditions permit. The current water level at James Ave is 16.9 feet (5.15 m), a rise of 0.4 feet (0.12 m) over the last 24 hours.
- Ice continues to pile-up on the lower Red River between Lockport and Selkirk causing high water levels. Sections of PR 320, north of PTH 4, are closed or limited to local traffic because of these high water levels. Sections of PR 204, between the Selkirk Bridge and PR 212, were closed yesterday evening. A list of complete road closures and current conditions are available online at www.manitoba511.ca
- Some Red River tributaries continue to respond to the warmer temperatures and snowmelt whereas some areas are seeing runoff beginning to slow. Over the last 24 hours the water level rose by 2.3 feet (0.70 m) on the Aux Marais River at Letellier and 1.6 feet (0.49 m) on the Seine River near Prairie Grove, and declined by 2.6 feet (0.79 m) on Deadhorse Creek near Rosenfeld and 1.5 feet (0.46 m) on the Manning Canal near Ile des Chenes.

Assiniboine River Basin

- Some water monitoring stations on the upper Assiniboine River appear to be ice affected as sections of the river begin to open up.
- It is expected that most of the snow in the Assiniboine River basin will melt by tomorrow causing water levels to rise more quickly on the Assiniboine River. An updated forecast with information for the Assiniboine River will be available online this afternoon https://gov.mb.ca/mit/floodinfo/#forecasts_reports. The Assiniboine River is expected to largely stay within banks at most locations, with a risk of overland flooding on low lying agricultural land.
- The water level on the Shellmouth Dam Reservoir remained stable at 1,395.4 feet (425.32 m); outflows remain at 800 cfs (23 cms) and inflow increased to 330 cfs (9 cms). The Shellmouth Reservoir Regulation Liaison Committee will meet today to discuss operating scenarios.
- The Portage Diversion is being operated to limit flows on the lower Assiniboine River to minimize ice jamming. Flow down the channel has increased and is currently at 900 cfs (25 cms). The current operation is being done in anticipation of later operation to manage ice and limit flow on the Lower Assiniboine to less than 5,000 cfs (142 cms).

Souris River

- Water levels on most sections of the Souris River have peaked or are nearing peak. The river remains well within bankfull capacity.

Eastern Region

- Water levels on rivers and creeks in the eastern region have peaked or are nearing peak. All rivers and creeks are reported within bankfull capacity.

- Over the last 24 hours the water level decreased by 1.7 feet (0.52 m) on the Brokenhead River at Beausejour and by 1.2 feet (0.37 m) on Devils Creek near Libau.

Interlake Region

- Water levels on some rivers and creeks in the Interlake continue to rise but remain within bankfull capacity. Over the last 24 hours the water level rose by 1.2 feet (0.37 m) on the Icelandic River near Riverton and by 1.0 feet (0.30 m) on the Fisher River at Hodgson.
- Ice cover continues to break up along upstream areas of the Fisher and Icelandic Rivers, but remains intact on downstream sections.

Parkland Region

- Due to colder temperatures in the region, water levels on some rivers and creeks in the Parkland Region are seeing minor increases while others are seeing decreases, all remain within bankfull capacity.

Manitoba Lakes

- Generally, significant or full ice cover is reported on all major Manitoba lakes and there are no concerns with ice movement at this time.
- The water levels on Manitoba's major lakes are relatively stable and within normal or desirable ranges. Lake levels will be posted later today at https://gov.mb.ca/mit/floodinfo/#forecasts_reports.

***Definitions**

High Water Warning: A warning is issued when river or lake levels are exceeding or are expected to be exceeding flood stage within the next 24 hours.

High Water Watch: A watch is issued when river or lake levels are approaching and likely to reach flood stage, but likely not within the next 24 hours.

High Water Advisory: A high water advisory is issued when a heavy storm or high flows are expected and may cause water levels to rise, but not necessarily reach flood stage. A high water advisory can be an early indicator for conditions that may develop into a watch or warning.