

FLOOD REPORT FOR MANITOBA

April 11, 2020

Flood Warning*:

- **The Red River, from Emerson to the Red River Floodway Inlet Control Structure**
- **The Red River from PTH 4 to Netley Creek**

Flood Watch*:

- **The Red River, from Lockport to PTH 4 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.
- A flood warning is in place for the Red River from Emerson to the Red River Floodway inlet, just south of the City of Winnipeg and from PTH 4 to Netley Creek as the Red River is spilling its banks in most of these areas.
- A flood watch is in place for the Red River from Lockport to PTH 4 due to potential of some overland flooding in low lying areas due to ice jamming.
- Water levels on most of the main stem of the Red River continue to rise. The peak date at Emerson is anticipated between April 15 and 18 and is expected to reach the Red River Floodway between April 19 and 23. 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 17 and April 20.
- Between Emerson and St. Jean, the upper range of the forecast is close to 2006 spring levels, whereas areas north of St. Jean are between 2006 and 2019 spring levels. 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.
- Some roads are beginning to be impacted by high water levels. For detours and a complete list road closures please call 511 or visit www.manitoba511.ca.
 - Sections of PR 320, north of PTH 4, are closed or limited to local traffic.
 - Sections of PR 204 and PR 212 are closed, from the Selkirk Bridge to beyond the junction of the two highways.
- 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

- Temperatures in most of southern Manitoba are expected to remain cooler through most of next week.
- There are no significant storms forecasted for southern Manitoba for the next 10 days.

Red River Basin

- Water levels on most of the main stem of the Red River continue to rise. This morning's current water levels and the latest forecast information are summarized below. Between Emerson and St. Jean, the upper range of the forecast is close to 2006 spring levels, whereas areas north of St. Jean are between 2006 and 2019 spring levels. An updated forecast will be posted online later today at https://gov.mb.ca/mit/floodinfo/#forecasts_reports.

	Today's level	Forecasted peak	
		Level	Date
Emerson	785.2 feet (239.33 m)	788.7 – 789.7 feet (240.4 – 240.7 m)	April 15-18
Letellier	781.5 feet (238.20 m)	783.5 – 784.5 feet (238.8 – 239.1 m)	April 15-19
St. Jean	775.5 feet (236.37 m)	779.2 – 780.5 feet (237.5 – 237.9 m)	April 16-20
Morris – PTH 23	771.1 feet (235.03 m)	775.9 – 777.6 feet (236.5 – 237 m)	April 17-21
Ste. Agathe	763.0 feet (232.56 m)	767.7 – 769.4 feet (234 – 234.5 m)	April 18-22
St. Adolphe	757.1 feet (230.76 m)	763.1 – 764.8 feet (232.6 – 233.1 m)	April 19-23
Above Floodway Inlet	755.3 feet (230.22 m)	760.2 – 762.1 feet (231.7 – 232.30 m)	April 19-23

Note: water levels at Emerson and Ste Agathe will differ from those posted on the Water Survey of Canada website because different vertical datums are in use. For conversion information please see the most recent flood sheet.

- Manitoba Infrastructure will endeavour to keep PTH 75 open for as long as possible but portions of the highway on the north side of Morris could close early next week as water levels rise on the Red River.
- The high Red River water levels are causing water to back-up on the Roseau River. St. Mary's Road, south of PR 246, will be closed over the weekend and a number of residents are expected to be evacuated by the municipality.
- Partial dike closures at Emerson on both the Noyes and West Lynne dikes were implemented yesterday, both diked areas remain accessible by road. Preparations for a closure of the CN Railway at Emerson will also occur over the weekend. Partial closures at Letellier, St Jean, Morris and St. Adolphe may be required 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 most ring dike communities. Flood response teams are observing recommended public health mitigation measures for COVID-19.

- The gates at the Red River Floodway inlet control structure were operated for the first time this season on Friday evening. The Red River Floodway is being operated under Rule 1, reducing water levels in Winnipeg while maintaining water levels upstream of the inlet control structure at or just below natural. Flow in the Floodway channel was 9,430 cfs (267 cms) this morning.
- The current water level at James Ave is 18.72 feet (5.71 m). As ice continues to break up and move through the city ice runs and ice pile-ups are causing fluctuations in water levels. 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 17 and April 20.
- Ice continues to move further downstream on the lower Red River, causing pile-ups and water level fluctuations along the river.

Assiniboine River Basin

- Some water monitoring stations on the upper Assiniboine River appear to be ice affected as ice moves and sections of the river open up. There are reports of minor ice pile-up on some bridges.
- The water level on the Shellmouth Dam Reservoir is stable 1,395.3 feet (425.29 m). Inflow increased to 362 cfs (10 cms) and the outflow is 25 cfs (0.7 cms). The Shellmouth Reservoir Regulation Liaison Committee will continue to meet regularly to review basin conditions and dam operations.
- Flows on the Assiniboine River are tracking near the lower decile forecast, water is expected to largely stay within banks at most locations, with a risk of overland flooding on low lying agricultural land. Peaks on the river are expected at the following times:
 - Upstream of St. Lazare peaked or near peak
 - Between St. Lazare and Miniota April 10 to 13
 - Between Miniota and Brandon April 11 to 16
 - Between Brandon and Portage April 13 to 17
- The Portage Diversion is being operated to limit flows on the lower Assiniboine River to less than 5,000 cfs (142 cms) to minimize the risk of ice jamming. Flow down the diversion channel is currently at 3,411 cfs (97 cms) and flow on the lower Assiniboine River is 3,281 cfs (93 cms). A large ice run into the Portage Diversion Reservoir resulted in a temporary spike in diversion channel flow last night.

Interlake Region

- Water levels on most rivers and creeks in the Interlake are declining and remain within bankfull capacity. In the last 24 hours, water levels have dropped by 0.5 feet (0.15 m) on the Icelandic River at Riverton, 0.8 feet (0.24 m) on the Fisher River near Hodgson, and 0.3 feet (0.09 m) on the Fisher River near Dallas.

Parkland 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.
- Most of the snow has melted from agricultural lands but significant snow pack is reported in the Duck, Riding, and Porcupine mountains. No problems are anticipated as runoff begins to pickup.

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**

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

Flood Watch: A flood 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 flood watch or flood warning.