



Public Notice

Hay River Breakup Update

Saturday May 7th, 2022 – 11:30am

Last update provided was May 6th, 2022 at 5pm.

Following an Evacuation Alert Friday evening, an Evacuation Order for Vale Island, including the West Channel area, was issued at 2am Saturday, May 7th. The order remains in place. **Any residents still on the island are advised to evacuate** with breakup conditions still occurring. The majority of the river ice is still yet to pass through the community and precipitation warnings in place for Northern Alberta and the South Slave regions will worsen conditions. Some localized flooding has been reported in the areas of West Channel / West Point First Nations area, northeast areas of the East Channel, and at Paradise Gardens. The risk of more flooding is high.

Water levels and flow rates throughout the entire Hay River basin are very high. Levels at the Hay River border, Steen River, and other areas of the Hay River are peaking and at near historic levels for this period similar to 2021. The Chinchaga River is increasing in levels. The Great Slave Lake is continuing to rise with over a 20cm increase reported over the last 7 days.

Precipitation forecast for the weekend in Northern Alberta and the Hay River community is extremely high with between 50-70mm forecasted for Hay River. 24mm of rain fell in Hay River between midnight and 7am today. A snowfall warning is in place. Precipitation is stressing the breakup conditions as well as contributing to high levels of surface water in the community.

The majority of river ice is still to pass through Hay River with ice still past the border. Local ice jams are occurring in both West and East Channels. Emergency officials will be flying the river this weekend to get a complete survey of ice scheduled to pass through over the anticipated next few days.

The registration and evacuation centre has been activated at the Hay River Community Centre. Vale Island and West Channel residents are asked to register in person at the Community Centre or through the electronic form at www.hayriver.com/breakup or by phone at 833-699-0188. Accommodations are being provided at the evacuation centre.

For daily updates on breakup delivered to your email, subscribe to the Town of Hay River's Emergency Measures Email system at www.hayriver.com/breakup. Please check your Junk Mailbox if not receiving notices.

Water bulletins issued by the Department of ENR with detailed information on Hay River conditions can be found at <https://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/en/newsroom>.

