

Watershed Conditions Statement Flood Outlook

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Issued at: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.
Issued by: Davin Heinbuck, Water Resources Coordinator

To: **ABCA Watershed Municipal Flood Coordinators**

Confirmation of receiving this message is NOT required

Message: **Forecast potential of 75-100 millimetres (mm) of rain over the next several days. Minor flooding is expected, with a potential for more widespread flooding issues.**

A passing cold front will pull a moisture-laden and slow moving low-pressure system into southern Ontario over the next several days. Depending on the exact track and duration, there is the potential of 75-100 millimetres (mm) of rainfall associated with this system beginning tonight (September 21, 2021) and lasting through Thursday morning.

As of the latest weather forecasts, the heaviest rainfall is expected to come in two waves, with the first wave reaching the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) watershed this evening and into tomorrow, with a little less certainty around timing and rainfall totals in a second wave tomorrow evening.

Based on current weather and streamflow forecasts, flood potential will depend on the actual rainfall amounts we receive. If we receive the lower end of forecast totals, rivers and streams are forecast to exceed bankfull conditions, resulting in flooding of traditional low-lying flood plain areas. Should embedded thunderstorms develop and high-end rainfall forecast amounts are observed, widespread flooding is likely. Impacts could include localized flooding issues and numerous road closures.

Flows on the larger rivers are not likely to peak until Thursday and Friday. Flows would remain higher than normal through the weekend. Residents are reminded to use caution near all watercourses as slippery and unstable streambanks, and fast-flowing water will combine to create hazardous conditions.

This message will remain in effect until 9:00 a.m. on Monday, September 27, 2021, unless local conditions warrant further updates. The Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority will continue to monitor forecasts and watershed conditions through the week and will provide updates as required.

Contact: Davin Heinbuck, Water Resources Coordinator at 519-235-2610 or pager 519-661-6840

Copies To: ABCA Board, Adjacent CAs, Media, OPP, MNRF-SWMC

End of Message –
Page 1 of 1

Types of Flood Messages

Watershed Conditions Statement (Flood Outlook/Water Safety): General watershed conditions suggest high runoff potential that could lead to flooding and remind the public of general river safety issues.

Shoreline Conditions Statement: Weather forecasts over Lake Huron suggest a potential for high waves reaching the shoreline, and resulting in potential coastal flooding and erosion issues.

Flood Watch: Flooding is possible in specific watercourses or municipalities. Municipalities, emergency services, landowners in flood-prone areas should prepare.

Flood Warning: Flooding is imminent or already occurring in specific watercourses or municipalities. Municipalities and individuals should take action to deal with flood conditions. This may include road closures and evacuations.