



Residents urged to stay off the North Saskatchewan River

August 23, 2016

Edmonton Fire Rescue Services is asking Edmontonians to stay off the North Saskatchewan River and away from river banks due to rapidly rising water levels. Water levels are expected to increase three to four metres in the next 24 hours and could result in excess debris in the river as well as walking trails and boat launches being submerged in low-lying areas.

Water levels are rising quickly as a result of steady rainfall the past two days.

"The North Saskatchewan River is a powerful, deceptive and fast moving river. With the river levels rising so dramatically in such a short amount of time, this increases the flow rate of the river making it extremely dangerous," said Fire Chief Ken Block. "We are asking the public to cease river activities until water levels return to normal."

Updates about trail closures due to rising water levels will be posted on the [Trail/Park Cautions & Closures map](#) on the City's website.

Staying Safe and Avoiding Water Damage

Residents in low-lying areas [can take several precautions](#) if the City of Edmonton or the Province of Alberta issues a flood alert or warning:

- Stay off the river and away from the river bank.
- Move valuables out of the basement or an underground garage to a higher elevation.
- Park vehicles away from street depressions and/or move them to higher ground.
- Minimize water use inside your house.
- Clear street catch basins of debris - ONLY if safe to do so. Otherwise, call 311.

Park users are encouraged to use caution in the River Valley, obey all signs and detours, and to call 311 if they see water covering trails.

In the case of continued rainfall and rising river levels, Drainage crews may need to close flood gates in low-lying neighbourhoods to protect the neighbourhood drainage systems. Residents encountering drainage issues on their property or on the street are encouraged to call 311.

For more information:

edmonton.ca/trailcautions
[What to Do When the River is High](#)
rivers.alberta.ca

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