



## Residents should continue to avoid river

August 24, 2016

The City of Edmonton continues to urge residents to stay off the North Saskatchewan River and away from the river banks due to high water levels. As of noon today, water levels are about three metres higher than they were 24 hours ago. Although several trails in low-lying areas have been closed, no major flooding has occurred.

"The North Saskatchewan River remains dangerous due to increased flow rates and floating debris from rising river levels. We ask Edmontonians to continue to stay off the river and away from the river banks until further notice," said Edmonton Fire Chief Ken Block. "If you see someone that has fallen into the river, please call 911 and keep eye contact with the person until help has arrived."

Edmonton Fire Rescue Services asks residents to not attempt to rescue persons or pets from the river. Edmonton Fire Rescue Services is trained and equipped to protect life in these situations.

Gates are in place to protect low-lying neighbourhoods from flooding through outfall drains on the riverbanks. Crews assessed the river levels and closed two gates overnight to prevent damage to public and private property in Rosedale. If river levels continue to rise, gates protecting other low lying areas will be closed.

"We are asking residents encountering drainage issues on their property or on the street to call 311 and report it. Drainage crews may not be able to respond right away because of other priority demands, but it's valuable for us to know what is happening so we can log it and address any issues on a priority basis," said Chris Ward, branch manager of Utility Services.

### Trail Closures

The City has closed several trails due to high water levels: Lower Highlands granular trail, Capilano to Goldbar lower granular trail, Emily Murphy to Kinsmen granular trail and Fort Edmonton granular trail. Updates on trail closures will be posted on [edmonton.ca/trailcautions](http://edmonton.ca/trailcautions).

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.

### 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.

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### For more information:

[edmonton.ca/trailcautions](http://edmonton.ca/trailcautions)  
<https://rivers.alberta.ca>  
[WhatToDoWhenTheRiverIsHigh](#)

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