

Flood Watch

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Issued at: Tuesday, April 1, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.
Issued by: Daniel King, Water Resources Engineer

Municipal Flood Coordinators in ABCA Watershed Area

To: **Confirmation of receiving this message is REQUIRED**

Message: **40-60 mm of rain forecasted, with locally higher amounts possible
A quick runoff with widespread flooding is possible.**

A Colorado Low will move into southern Ontario tomorrow (Wednesday, April 2, 2025) pulling in a steady inflow of moisture. Rainfall forecasts for the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) over the next two days show a potential of 40-60 mm of rain falling in less than 24 hours, beginning late tomorrow morning and lasting into early Thursday morning. The track of the heaviest rains is unknown; however, current forecasts predict higher rainfall in the north half of the watershed.

The ABCA watershed received between 20 and 25 mm of rain over the weekend and water levels in rivers and streams have not yet fully receded. With saturated ground, further rain this week will result in a quick runoff and rapid rise in river levels.

Based on the current forecast, and streamflow forecasting models, flooding is expected. The extent of flooding will depend on the actual rainfall totals. If the higher forecasted rain amounts materialize this could result in the highest water levels seen in several years and an expectation of significant overbank flooding and road closures. Lower end rainfall totals are likely to result in levels similar to recent events. Flood levels on the larger rivers are expected to peak on Thursday (April 3, 2025), smaller rivers and creeks are forecasted to see peak levels late Wednesday and into early Thursday.

Residents are reminded to use extreme caution near all watercourses. Slippery and unstable streambanks, and extremely cold and fast-flowing water will combine to create hazardous conditions. Driving or otherwise crossing flooded roads is never safe. Even if the flooding appears to be shallow, flood waters can obscure submerged washouts, debris and other hazards. In preparation for this event municipal officials should consider monitoring low-lying areas, clearing catch basins and ensuring that stormwater management infrastructure is in good working order.

This message will remain in effect until 9:00 a.m. on Monday, April 7, 2025, 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, General Manager at 519-235-2610 or pager 519-661-6840

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

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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.