

Flood Monitoring/ Safety Bulletin

Bulletin Number: 2008.1.S2

Issued at: 4:30 p.m.

Issued by: Mark Helsten, Senior Water Resources Engineer

To: Municipal Flood Coordinators (via fax and email)

Message: The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) expects upper tributaries of the Thames River to peak overnight on Monday, January 7. These peaks are developing quickly due to the significant temperature increase and the generally low water content in the snow cover, which is resulting in a fast melt. Tributaries such as the Avon as well as the South Thames River near Tavistock may run higher into Tuesday.

The North Thames through St. Marys and the South Thames through Ingersoll are expected to peak into Tuesday morning. The Thames River through London should peak on Tuesday afternoon.

The current forecast for 15-20 mm of rain over the next 24 hours may have more effect on the southerly part of the watershed into Tuesday, resulting in a more prolonged flood peak. If small tributaries are already receding on Tuesday, they may rise a second time. If the higher end of these rain forecasts materializes, additional updates will be issued.

The UTRCA expects water levels on tributaries of the Thames River to rise to 0.5 to 1 metre, with water levels on the Thames River rising between 1.0 to 2.5 metres in most channels. Water levels on the main channel within the City of London may rise 2 to 3 metres. Some flooding of low lying park areas adjacent to watercourses is anticipated, but flooding is not expected to threaten any built up areas.

Flood control reservoirs at Fanshawe, Wildwood and Pittock all have at least 80% of flood control storage capacity available and will be used to reduce flooding impacts downstream.

The UTRCA is warning residents to stay away from ditches, streams, rivers, and ponds. Residents are asked to pay close attention to children near any water body, as the combination of slippery or submerged banks and fast-flowing, icy water is very dangerous. The edges of all flood control reservoirs and bodies of water in the watershed also pose a safety hazard.

UTRCA staff are monitoring the situation for any changes and will provide updates if conditions change significantly.

Update: As required

Contact: Mark Helsten, Senior Water Resources Engineer, at 519-451-2800 ext. 241

Confirmation of receipt of this message: **Confirmation is not required**

Information copies provided to: **Fax & Email:** UTRCA Chair and Vice-Chair; Joint Venture Conservation Authorities; Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority; Grand River Conservation Authority; MNR/Province.
Email only: County and Health Unit Flood Coordinators. **Fax only:** Local Police, OPP, City of London Fire Department

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Types of Flood Bulletins

Flood Monitoring/Safety Bulletins

Flood Advisory Bulletins
Flood Warning Bulletins

are dual purpose in nature, with Monitoring Bulletins used to report on general watershed conditions to flood coordinators, and Safety Bulletins to remind the general public of general river safety issues. are issued when the potential for flooding exists in specific municipalities. are issued after a forecast has been made and apply to specific flood damage centres where serious flooding appears inevitable.