



## Preparing for flood season

The COVID-19 pandemic has been stressful for Calgarians. As we approach the time period when Calgary is most likely to experience river flooding, we wanted to reassure Calgarians that we are ready.

### Understanding the current conditions

Snow pack in the mountains is high this year, so we're keeping a watchful eye on it as it continues to melt. But we want to remind Calgarians that melting snow alone doesn't result in flooding. The bigger driver of river flooding is heavy rainfalls, which typically happen from mid-May to mid-July.

Our teams are monitoring these conditions 24/7 using updated forecasting and monitoring tools so that we can provide residents with the earliest possible warning if flooding arises.

### We're ready

While we cannot stop large river floods from happening, Calgary is better prepared and equipped to respond to a river flood than ever before. Our investments in flood mitigation have made an incredible difference and reduced Calgary's flood risk by half.

- On the **Elbow River**, with the installation of higher gates on the top of the Glenmore Dam we have doubled the amount of storage in the reservoir so we can manage higher river flows in the spring. In preparation for this year's flood season, we've already lowered the Reservoir.
- On the **Bow River**, with the TransAlta agreement in place, the Ghost Reservoir has been lowered to provide more flood storage capacity and greater flexibility to help manage the river flow and protect communities along the Bow River.
- We've stockpiled riverbank protection and temporary barrier materials, trained staff, repaired critical erosion sites, refined emergency procedures and expanded our communication tools.
- Through river monitoring, forecasting models and updated flood mapping we have a better understanding of the rivers and flood risk.

We've also taken into account how COVID-19 may require us to do some things differently. This includes ensuring citizens and staff are able to continue practicing physical distancing; training extra staff so all critical positions have back-ups and additional support is available, if needed; and taking special COVID-19 appropriate considerations for supporting evacuees, should these supports be needed.

## What residents can do to prepare

While we can't prevent flooding entirely, the best way to ease the added stress amid the COVID-19 pandemic is by taking simple steps now to be flood-ready.

- **Understand.** Check our City flood maps on [calgary.ca/floodinfo](https://calgary.ca/floodinfo) to know if your home and community are at risk of river flooding.
- **Prepare.** Take precautions to prepare your family and your property. This includes:
  - Move valuables and documents out of your basement.
  - Reviewing your emergency plan and considering where you might stay. Should an evacuation order be issued, remember that your plan must be mindful of the current COVID-19 restrictions, and should not include a residence with a senior or immune-compromised individual.
  - Contacting your insurance company to review coverage in the event you must evacuate.
- **Stay informed throughout the season.**
  - Install the [Alberta Emergency Alert app](#) on your cell phone, follow The City of Calgary online or on social media, and monitor local news.

More resources to help residents prepare for the flood season are available on [calgary.ca/floodinfo](https://calgary.ca/floodinfo).