

Annual Spring Thaw Preparations and River Monitoring

Town of High River, May 2020

highriver.ca/annual-river-monitoring

High River's Local River Monitoring Process

Local monitoring and observations are based on science *and* experience

- Spring thaw, spring rains and snowmelt are predictable cycles of nature.
- Experience tells us that how they will combine and if this will affect the Town are not as predictable.
- We know the Town, we built the infrastructure to protect the community, and we know this river.

That's why we monitor the river and the weather diligently combining scientific data collection with local observations based on experience.

We use data provided by experts but the Town calls the shots to determine when action is required to protect our residents.

- We are recognized as experts in flood planning and response
- Like we rely on AHS as experts on COVID-19, we use river monitoring science provided by teams of experts up in the mountains each spring measuring snow pillows and snow packs
- In the case of river monitoring, we call the shots and are not taking our cues from the province.

We know this river, and based on monitoring, we determine when action is required to protect the Town and our residents

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We have a local monitoring process carried out by Town staff, focused on High River data

- Town staff check [key monitoring stations](#) to collect data specifically gathered for the Highwood River Basin.
- The stations we monitor are:
 - Name
- This data includes daily, real time information about the snowpack and snowmelt as the river makes its way towards the Town
- Data for High River is compiled by monitoring stream flow and volume at these stations and by anticipating the impacts of temperatures and precipitation.
- Monitoring data is available publicly and is shared with residents.
- High River staff monitor the river until the end of June.

May 2020