

Annual Spring Thaw Preparations and River Monitoring

Town of High River, May 2020

highriver.ca/river-monitoring

Understanding Local River Monitoring Stages

Rivers are always moving, which makes sure the water does not become stagnant. Without movement, water doesn't stay fresh and inviting very long and becomes less suitable as drinking water and for recreation. There are many factors, both natural and human-induced, that cause rivers to continuously change. The definitions used on High River's River Monitoring signs are standard terminology used by hydrologists who study and measure stream flow.

- This year, the Town will place LED signs in high traffic areas that will give the river's "status at a glance" to passing motorists, cyclists and pedestrians.
- The signs will direct people to the website: highriver.ca/river-monitoring
- We use standard language because it is easily recognized
- Similar to the familiar fire hazard signs, they will help raise awareness of the potential for risk.

We will always let residents know if action is required based on the risk.

The four stages of river monitoring go from Normal to Flood Warning. Action is not required until the Flood Watch stage, but it is always good to be prepared for an emergency.

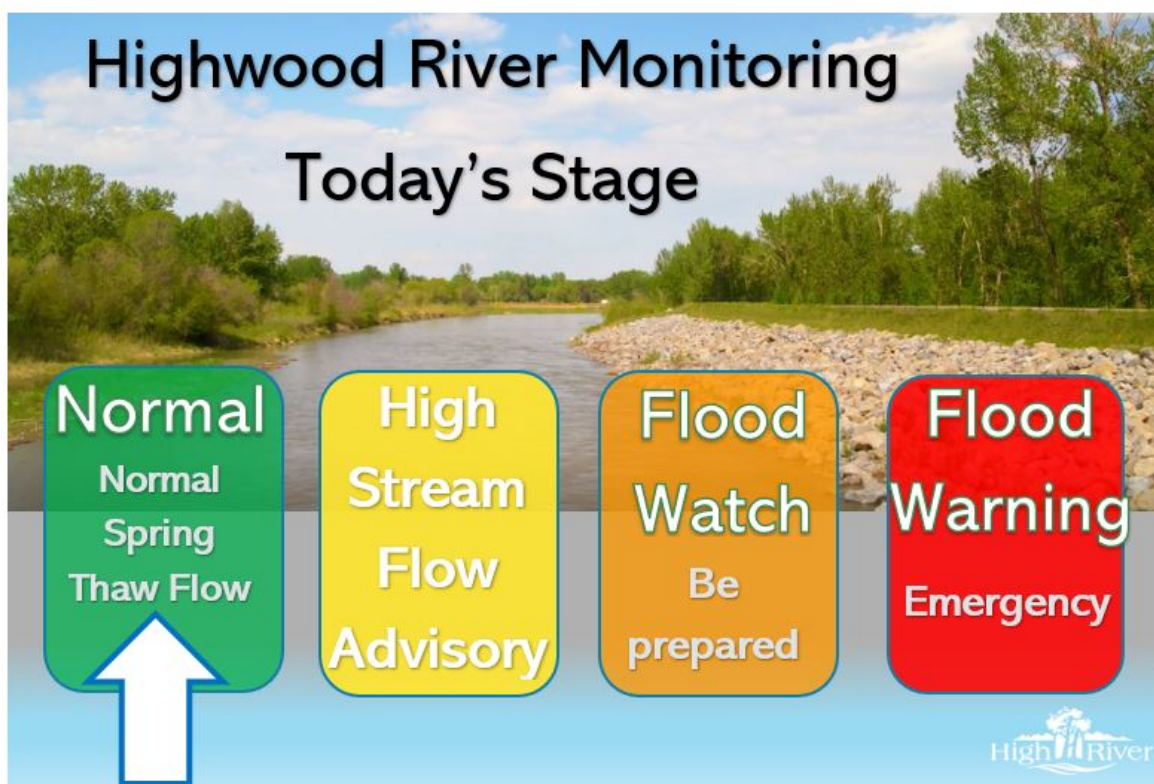
- Normal (green)
- High stream flow advisory (yellow)
- Flood watch (orange) and
- Flood warning (red)
- "All-clear or Advisory ended" will be issued when the advisory is ended.

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Normal Flow Stage



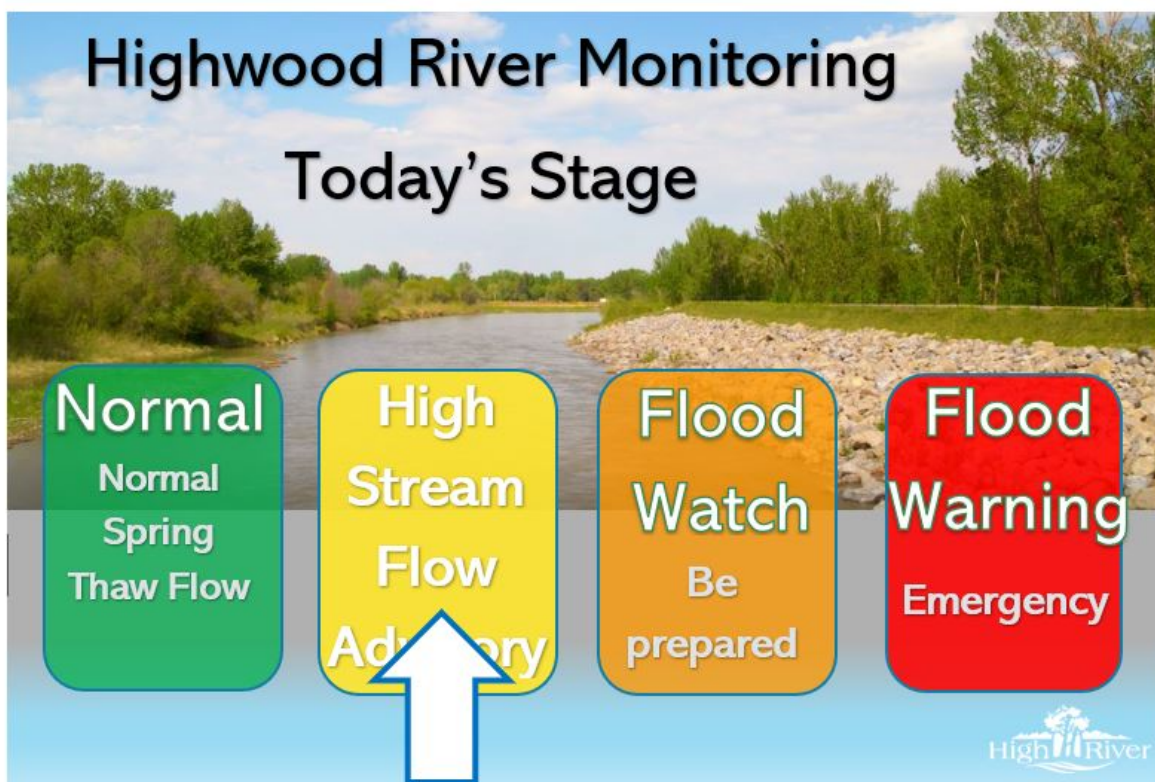
As the river flows downslope, the volume and flow rate of the water is within normal range for spring run-off. In a Normal Stage there are no alerts or concerns. Monitoring continues to see if there are any changes, usually caused by impacts of weather (temperature or rainfall). Flow is measured by noting the amount of water passing by monitoring stations. This data is available in real time for the key stations monitored by Town staff on riversalberta.ca

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High Stream Flow Advisory Stage



Stream levels are rising or expected to rise rapidly and no major flooding is expected. Minor flooding in low-lying areas is possible. Anyone situated close to the streams affected is advised to be cautious of the rising levels. **Pay attention to Town information on the website and social media and listen for alerts.**

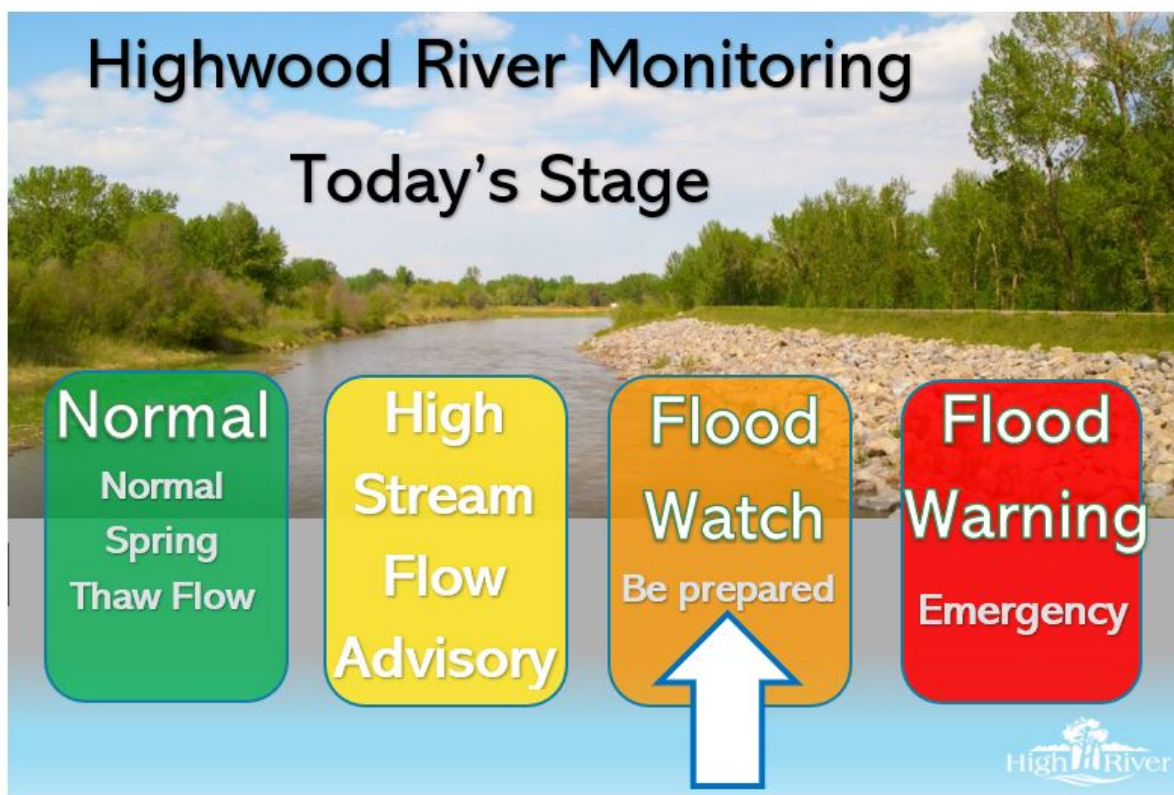
It is always important to be prepared in case the stream flow advisory becomes a Flood Watch. Water volume and flow is ever-changing and the advisory may be cancelled when flows return to normal. **If volume and flow returns to normal this stage will be followed with normal stage, or ADVISORY ENDED**

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Flood Watch Stage



Stream levels are rising and will approach or may overflow the riverbanks. Flooding of areas adjacent to these streams may occur. Anyone situated close to the river is advised to take appropriate precautionary measures. **Pay attention to Town information on the website and social media and listen for alerts.**

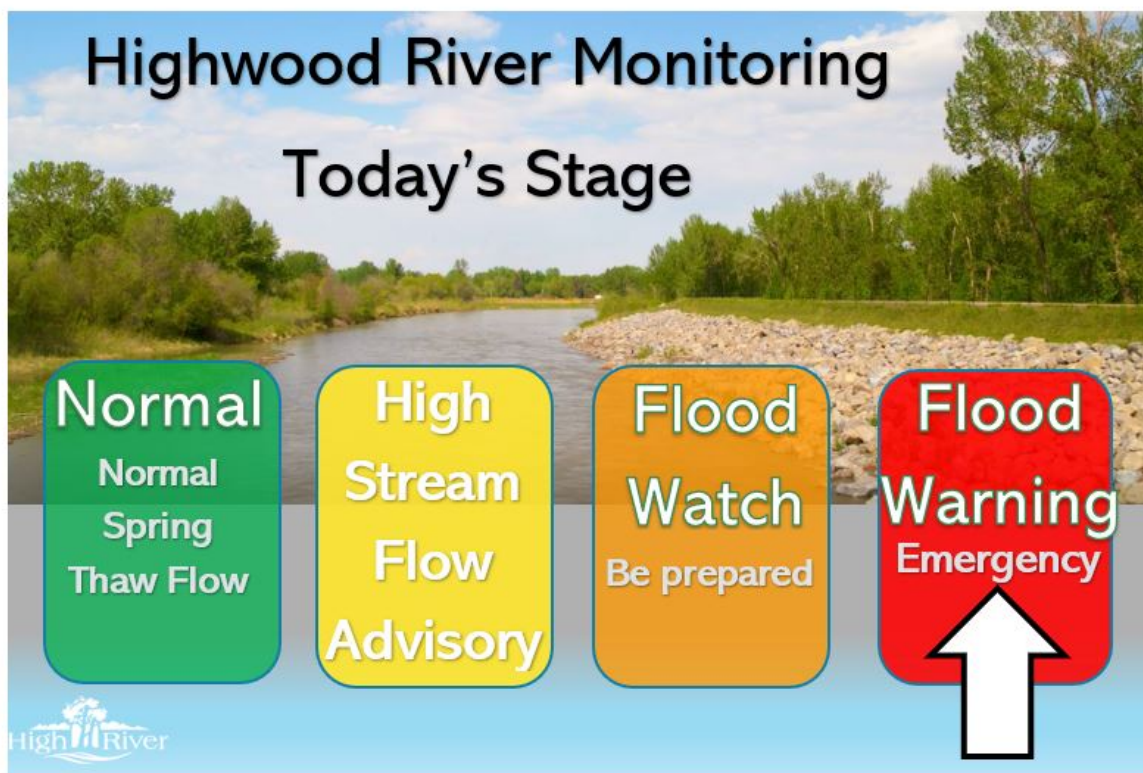
[CLICK HERE TO LEARN WHAT TO DO IN A FLOOD WATCH STAGE](#)

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Flood Warning Stage



Rising stream levels will result in flooding of areas adjacent to the streams affected. Anyone situated close to the river should take appropriate measures to avoid flood damage and injury.

Pay attention to Town information on the website and social media and listen for advice on actions required to protect yourself, family, pets and your home.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN WHAT TO DO IN A FLOOD WARNING STAGE](#)