

**Implementation Guidelines for Conservation  
Authorities and Ministry of Natural Resources and  
Forestry, Provincial Flood Forecasting and Warning  
Program, 2023**

**Primary Responsibilities**

**Local Scale**

**Conservation Authorities**

Under the Conservation Authorities Act, Conservation Authorities (CA's are required to provide programs and services related to the risk of natural hazards that are prescribed in regulation (O.Reg. 686/21 "Mandatory Programs and Services").

This regulation is made under the Act and prescribes the programs and services that CAs are required to carry out in relation to Flood Forecasting and Warning (FFW) in their respective jurisdictions. CAs have an integral role in FFW including the following responsibilities:

- Assist the MNRF in the delivery of the FFW program in areas within their jurisdiction.
- Monitor weather forecast information and observed water levels and flows within their jurisdiction, utilizing both local and provincial resources.
- Maintain a local monitoring network, data collection and flood warning systems; and
- Where owned or authorized under agreement; monitor, operate and maintain water control structures such as dams, channels, dikes and erosion control structures in accordance with established operating plans.
- Provide on-going analysis and knowledge of current and forecasted local watershed and river conditions and flood potential within their jurisdiction.
- Receive flood messages from and maintain communication with the SWMC.
- Issue flood messages to the municipalities and media within their jurisdiction as per respective flood message distribution lists.
- Provide advice to their member municipalities in response to flooding.
- Maintain awareness of the status of the provincial response to a flood emergency through consultation with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) District Emergency Response Coordinator; and
- Following consultation with member municipalities, advise the MNRF District Emergency Response Coordinator when the flood emergency ceases to exist.

Other such functions and responsibilities as may be required under O. Reg. 686/21.

# VISIT US

For more specific information on flooding in the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority Watershed, please visit [www.catfishcreek.ca](http://www.catfishcreek.ca).

Catfish Creek Conservation Authority  
8079 Springwater Rd  
Aylmer, ON N5H 2R4



## Catfish Creek Conservation Authority

## FLOOD AND ICE MANAGEMENT PROVINCIAL MANDATE

# PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Mandatory Programs and Services, Ontario Regulation 686/21, Made Under the Conservation Authorities Act, September 29, 2021

## Flood forecasting and warning

2. (1) An authority shall provide programs and services to support its functions and responsibilities related to flood forecasting and warning as set out in subsection (2).

(2) The authority's functions and responsibilities with respect to flood forecasting and warning mentioned in subsection (1) are the following:

1. Maintaining information on surface water hydrology and the areas within the authority's area of jurisdiction that are vulnerable to flooding events.
2. Developing operating procedures for flood forecasting and warning, including flood contingency procedures to ensure continuity of an authority's operations in respect of flood forecasting and warning.
3. Maintaining a stream flow monitoring network that, at a minimum, includes stream flow gauges available as part of the provincial-federal hydrometric network and, where the authority considers it advisable, includes additional local stream flow gauges.
4. Monitoring of weather and climate information, snow surveys and observed water levels and flows utilizing local, provincial and federal data sources.
5. Analysis of local surface water hydrologic conditions related to flood potential and risk, including flood forecasting, to understand and quantify the response and potential impacts within watersheds to specific events and conditions.
6. Communications to inform persons and bodies that the authority considers advisable of the potential or actual impact of flood events in a timely manner.
7. Provision of ongoing information and advice to persons and bodies mentioned in paragraph 6 to support,
  - i. emergency and flood operations during a flood event, and
  - ii. documentation of flood events.

# WATERSHED FLOOD COMMUNICATION STATEMENT MEANINGS

The Provincial Flood Forecasting and Warning Committee (PFFWC), in conjunction with Conservation Ontario, has developed standardized flood and drought icons that indicate the current hazard status within a particular watershed, for use on CA webpages. Standardized icons provide the public easy and consistent information on flood status. This allows the public and water managers to quickly assess risks associated with the water conditions in Ontario.

INDICATOR	MEANING
NORMAL	NO FLOOD CONDITIONS
LEVEL 1	WATERSHED CONDITIONS STATEMENT: WATER SAFETY AND FLOOD OUTLOOK
LEVEL 2	FLOOD WATCH
LEVEL 3	FLOOD WARNING

### Normal

Conditions are within NORMAL limits. No flooding is expected. Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety  
High flows, unsafe banks, melting ice or other factors that could be dangerous for recreational users such as anglers, canoeists, hikers, children, pets, etc. Flooding is not expected.

### Watershed Conditions Statement - Flood Outlook

Early notice of the potential for flooding based on weather forecasts calling for heavy rain, snow melt, high wind or other conditions that could lead to high runoff, cause ice jams, lakeshore flooding or erosion.

### Flood Watch

Flooding is possible in specific watercourses or municipalities. Municipalities, emergency services and individual landowners in flood-prone areas should prepare.

### Flood Warning

Flooding is imminent or already occurring in specific watercourses or municipalities. Throughout a flood event, the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority (CCCA) will continue to monitor weather, ice, and watercourse conditions, and provide technical advice to municipalities to help mitigate the effects of flooding. Present and historic flood messaging is available on the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority website at [catfishcreek.ca](http://catfishcreek.ca).

# ICE MANAGEMENT

## Ice management

4. (1) An authority shall provide programs and services for ice management within its area of jurisdiction, if the authority determines that ice management is necessary to reduce the risks associated with natural hazards referred to in subsection 1 (1).
- (2) Programs or services provided under subsection (1) shall include the development and implementation of an ice management plan on or before December 31, 2024 that identifies, (a) how ice within the authority's area of jurisdiction may increase the risk of natural hazards; and (b) the steps that are necessary to mitigate these risks, including identifying equipment and resources needed to carry out these steps.
- (3) An authority may update the ice management plan referred to in subsection (2) from time to time.