



Long Point Region Conservation Authority

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LPRCA Flood Messages

New terminology effective February 17th, 2012

The Long Point Region Conservation Authority, the Ministry of Natural Resources and conservation authorities across Ontario introduced new flood message terminology in February of 2012.

These changes will ensure that all terminology used is consistent and in line with weather terminology used by Environment Canada, the Weather Network and other agencies.

The LPRCA issues three types of messages:

1. **WATERSHED CONDITIONS STATEMENT** *(previously High Water Safety Bulletin or Watershed Conditions Bulletin)*

These are general notices of weather conditions that could pose a risk to personal safety or which have the potential to lead to flooding.

Watershed Conditions Statement – Water Safety: High flows, unsafe banks, melting ice or other factors could be dangerous for recreational users, e.g. 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 or a rise in Lake Erie.

2. **FLOOD WATCH** *(Previously Flood Advisory)*

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

A Flood Watch message describes watershed conditions, the potential impact and may include a forecast of water levels. Municipal flood co-ordinators should initiate a check on their flood or emergency plans, monitor potential problem areas and, if requires, remain on stand-by alert. Municipal flood co-ordinators may also advise specific properties at this stage.

3. **FLOOD WARNING** *(No change)*

This is the most serious type of message: flooding is imminent or already occurring in specific watercourses or municipalities.

A Flood Warning message may include a call for a specific action to be taken by flood co-ordinators and/or emergency services, e.g. closing roads and bridges, activating the emergency response plan, warning residents in specific areas or, in some cases, evacuation.

Getting the message:

LPRCA Website

Flood messages are posted on the LPRCA website. Go to the News and Events section of the LPRCA website at www.lprca.on.ca to view the media release.

Municipal Flood Co-ordinators

Flood messages are distributed to municipal flood and emergency co-ordinators through a fan-out system in partnership with police forces throughout the watershed.

Local Media

LPRCA flood messages are distributed to area radio stations and newspapers for broadcast and publication. Take heed of the message issued.