



GRCA flood messages

New terminology effective Feb. 15, 2012

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The Grand River Conservation Authority, the Ministry of Natural Resources and conservation authorities across Ontario are introducing new flood message terminology in February 2012.

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

The GRCA issues three types of messages:

1 **Watershed Conditions Statement** *(Previously High Water Safety 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 required, 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:



GRCA Website
Flood messages are posted on the GRCA website. A graphic on the home page shows the current status and links to the flood message.

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



E-mail
Go to the Newsroom section of the GRCA website at www.grandriver.ca and see the item "Subscribe or unsubscribe to receive GRCA information."



Twitter
To sign up click on the Twitter logo on the GRCA home page, or use Twitter to follow our feed at [grca_flood_msg](https://twitter.com/grca_flood_msg)