

For Immediate Release

**Toronto and Region Conservation Authority reminds residents to be aware of river flooding risk
due to thunderstorms**

May 10, 2022, Toronto, ON – As warmer weather approaches, and on the heels of Emergency Preparedness Week, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) reminds residents to be aware of river flooding risk due to thunderstorms.

Thunderstorms can develop suddenly during the warmer months and are often accompanied by strong winds, hail, lightning, and heavy rain.

River flooding occurs when rivers and streams rise over their banks and spill into the surrounding land. The rivers in TRCA are considered ‘flashy’ due to urbanization, which means that large amounts of precipitation over a short period of time, often associated with thunderstorms, can cause water levels in river systems to rise with little warning - even in as little as a few minutes.

Residents should be aware that flooding can occur very quickly with passing thunderstorms.

River Flooding Safety Tips

- **Stay away** from riverbanks and avoid recreational activities in watercourses during storm events, especially thunderstorms.
- **Do not drive** through, stand, or walk in any moving water. Avoid low-lying areas such as road underpasses and walkways.
- **Stay informed** on storm events such as thunderstorms through local radio, television, mobile or other public alerting systems.
- If you are instructed by emergency officials to **evacuate** due to flooding, do so immediately.
- If you are in danger, call 911 immediately.

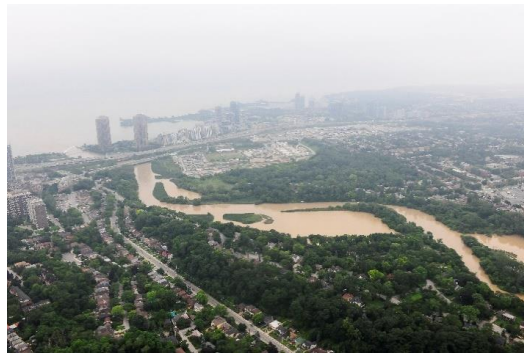
Additional Facts about TRCA’s role in flood monitoring

- If a storm event is forecasted for TRCA’s jurisdiction, a storm event risk assessment is completed by an on-call Flood Duty Officer (FDO), as part of the Flood Forecasting and Warning Program.
- TRCA may issue a flood message when there is certainty that a storm event with heavy rainfall could cause river flooding. TRCA issues flood messages to designated stakeholders, and members of the public who [self-subscribe](#).
- During severe storm events, FDO’s will monitor the real time weather and watershed conditions in TRCA’s jurisdiction, using tools such as radar and weather forecast models, as well as the TRCA Flood Monitoring Realtime Gauging Network (<https://trcagauging.ca/>).

- TRCA continuously monitors the watersheds in its jurisdiction for potential flooding, through the Flood Forecasting and Warning Program, and will continue to monitor for storm events throughout the thunderstorm season.
- Learn more about [TRCA flood messages](#).

Learn more about summer weather hazards and safety tips at www.canada.ca.

For more information on [river flooding risk due to thunderstorms](#), and who to call when you see flooding, click [here](#).



This image was taken by TRCA flood staff from a helicopter, the day after the July 8, 2013, storm in efforts to document the extensive watershed response extents and damages caused by flooding.

© Photo courtesy of Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA)



A visual of the G. Ross Lord Dam and reservoir levels, after the July 8, 2013, storm with active drawdown operations.

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About Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA)

With more than 60 years of experience, TRCA is one of 36 Conservation Authorities in Ontario, created to safeguard and enhance the health and well-being of watershed communities through the protection and restoration of the natural environment and the ecological services the environment provides. More than five million people live within TRCA-managed watersheds, and many others work in and visit destinations across the jurisdiction. These nine watersheds, plus their collective Lake Ontario waterfront shorelines, span six upper-tier and 15 lower-tier municipalities. Some of Canada's largest and fastest growing municipalities, including Toronto, Markham, and Vaughan, are located entirely within TRCA's jurisdiction.

To learn more about TRCA, visit trca.ca.

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