

**For Immediate Release
June 20, 2010**

Flood Status Update

- Water levels – South Saskatchewan River continues to rise. It is estimated that water levels will reach a maximum height around noon or afternoon today
 - Ross Creek – water levels are falling
 - Seven Persons Creek – water levels are currently falling but due to increase output from the St Mary's irrigation district may increase again
- Weather – AB Environment is predicting a possibility of 50 – 70 mm of rain today.
- Evacuations – Approximately 600 homes were canvassed on Saturday. Residents were advised to take voluntary evacuation measures. An evacuation centre has been established at the Stamped Ball room at the Exhibition Grounds where residents can attend if necessary. (approx 44 families utilized to date)
- Drinking Water – Drinking water in the City of Medicine Hat is fine. There are a few properties in the Ross Creek area where we are taking some precautionary measures. These properties had notices posted on their doors on Saturday evening, with specific precautionary measures outlined. There were less than 100 affected properties.
 - In this area of the 100 affected properties, the City will be flushing and testing and the residents will be notified again in writing, once water is confirmed clear for consumption. This process will take 3-4 days once flood water has receded and City crews can access the area to start the flushing operation
 - Information for these residents is also available on City of Medicine Hat website

Cypress County has some drinking water issues in some of their communities. There have been some boil advisories issued in the County – but there is no boil water advisory in the City of Medicine Hat.

- Road Closures – An update map outlining road closures is available on the City of Medicine Hat website.
 - The bridge at Ross Creek and Hwy 41 A is out of service.
 - The bridge at Sholton Hill is presently closed but is anticipated to be re-opened later today. When this occurs residents will be updated.
 - The City will continue to monitor road closures and remind residents to stay out of barricaded areas. Although the water may have receded City crews will need to clean off debris and assess the safety prior to reopening the affected areas. The same message for City Parks! Residents are being asked to stay away from posted areas until further notice
- Parks – Residents are reminded to stay out of posted areas. It is anticipated that Police Point Park will be closed at some point today due to rising river levels affecting the path system.
- Transit Routes- Due to the road closures, the City will be making necessary adjustments to the transit routes tomorrow. Transit maps will be posted on the City website or residents can call 403-529-8214 more for information.
- Utilities – Utilities have been turned off to approximately 43 homes. City crews have been assessing the situation and will be working to restore services to those affected
- FLOOD INFO LINE 403-502-8900 / Evacuation Centre 403-528-6939 / Transit Route Updates 403-529-8214 / Volunteer Center 403-502-8565 – call to register
- Information updated on City of MH website @ www.medicinehat.ca