

Be prepared for flooding!

UPPER THAMES RIVER
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



Get Flood Ready!

Floods can - and do - happen at any time of the year. Riverine flooding occurs when rivers and streams rise, overflowing their banks. In the Upper Thames River watershed, watercourses may flood due to:

- rapid snowmelt,
- rain combined with melting snow,
- rain on frozen or saturated ground,
- localized extreme rain from thunderstorms, or
- widespread heavy rain.

Severe weather is happening more often due to climate change. The potential for flood damage along rivers and streams is especially high in areas where there is development on low-lying, flood-prone lands.

Being prepared for a flood can save money, property, and lives. There are simple steps you can take to get flood ready and protect what matters most.



UTRCA Regulated Areas
Protecting People and Property



Understanding your Flood Risk

Do you live near a watercourse? Find your property on the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) regulated area maps at maps.thamesriver.on.ca. These maps identify the approximate location of floodplains and other natural hazards.

The flood hazards shown on the maps are based on the 1937 Thames River Flood which is considered equivalent to a 1:250-year flood event or a flood with a 0.4 percent chance of occurring in any given year.

The regulated area maps do not include areas that could be affected by other types of flooding such as urban flooding (e.g., flash flooding of streets, basements, storm drains and/or sewers).

UTRCA staff can help you learn more about riverine flood risk on your property. Call 519-451-2800 for more information.

Make a Plan

Make a family emergency plan – and be prepared to put it into action! Everyone should know what to do and where to go in case of an emergency.

- Plan and practice a flood evacuation route with your family and discuss where to meet if family members are separated.
- Learn about your municipality's emergency plan: warnings, evacuation routes, and locations for emergency shelters.
- Ensure you are familiar with UTRCA flood messages and what they mean.
- Pack an emergency kit so you can be self-sufficient for at least three days, including supplies for any pets.

Find out more about Emergency Kits at getprepared.ca.



Prepare Your Property

- Find out which local radio stations will air flood alerts. Have a battery-powered or crank radio on hand.
- Keep valuable items and important paperwork in a secure and dry location.
- Consult your utility suppliers for instructions on how to safely shut down, protect, and restart furnaces and other equipment.
- Consult your insurer about what to do if your property is flooded.

If Flooding is Imminent or Occurring

- Follow the instructions of emergency response officials (police, fire, and municipal staff).
- Follow instructions from utilities suppliers to safely shut down and protect furnaces and other appliances.
- Prepare to evacuate if necessary. Collect necessary items such as medication, important papers, and identification. Be aware that emergency vehicles may not be able to get to your home if streets become flooded.
- Do not walk through fast-moving water. Even 15 cm of moving water can make you fall.
- Avoid driving through water. Obey road closures and take alternate routes.
- Monitor local media for emergency instructions on seeking aid and medical care.

After a Flood

- Do not return home until authorities have advised that it is safe to do so.
- Make sure utilities and appliances have been given safety clearances by qualified professionals before turning them back on.
- Contact your insurer about next steps.

For More Information

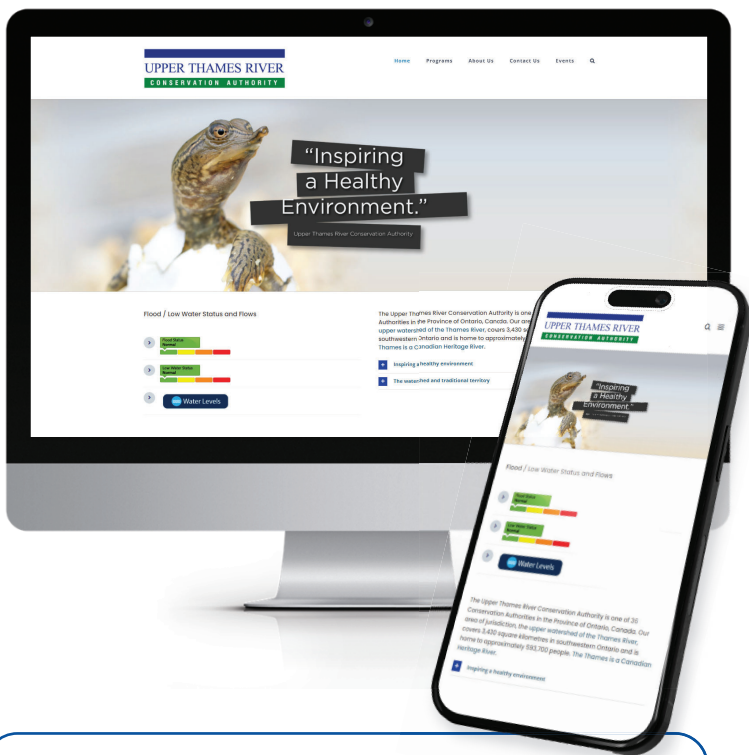
Visit **Get Flood Ready** (<https://www.canada.ca/en/campaign/flood-ready.html>) for more information on preparing for floods.

Flood Forecasting and Warning

Ontario's Conservation Authorities, including the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA), protect people and property from flooding by:

- operating and maintaining a flood forecasting and warning system to monitor and predict flood flows and water levels year-round. Staff monitor weather forecasts, precipitation, river flows, and snow and ice conditions to predict when a flood may occur and how high the water may rise;
- operating and maintaining flood control structures like dams, channels and dykes;
- providing advice to municipalities when preparing flood contingency plans;
- communicating flood messages with municipalities; and
- regulating development (building) in flood prone areas, wetlands, and other areas that protect people and property from natural hazards.

Municipalities include a flood emergency response in their municipal emergency planning for police, fire, and emergency responders.



UTRCA Flood Bulletins

The UTRCA issues flood bulletins to municipal flood coordinators and the media. There are three types of bulletins:

Watershed Conditions Statement - Flood Outlook



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

Flood Status Flood Watch



A **Flood Watch** means flooding is possible in specific watercourses or municipalities. Municipalities, emergency services, and individual landowners in flood-prone areas should prepare for flooding.

Flood Status Flood Warning



A **Flood Warning** is the most serious type of message. It means flooding is imminent or already occurring in specific watercourses or municipalities.

Go to thamesriver.on.ca for more information about flood bulletins and to see graphs of current Thames River water levels.