



Roles and Responsibilities

Government of Alberta — Alberta Environment and Parks

- Operate and maintain Government of Alberta-owned water infrastructure within the province of Alberta.
- Enter into and manage existing agreements with other governments regarding water planning and ministerial orders (e.g., stopping applications and crown reservations).
- Implement the *Water Act* legislation, which governs the allocation (quantity) of water from natural watercourses where the allocations are recorded in licences and registrations or are otherwise exempted from the prior allocation system. This includes management of water licence priorities, tracking water conservation objectives, suspension of temporary diversion licenses, or other actions regarding the *Water Act* provisions during water shortage.
- Implement the Alberta Wetland Policy, which is instrumental for maintaining water storage in watersheds.
- Oversee the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*, the legislation that governs specific activities that impact water quality and monitors the state of the environment to ensure the maintenance of healthy, sustainable aquatic ecosystems.
- Monitor and forecast groundwater resources through the Groundwater Observation Well Network, which is a network of groundwater monitoring wells located in various aquifers throughout the province. Most wells are fitted with data loggers and sensors that continuously record groundwater levels.
- Manage, approve, and play a part in the broader water reuse requests in Alberta (per provincial guidelines for water reuse).
- Conduct a post-incident assessment of environmental emergency responses.
- Provide internal Government of Alberta operational guidance for water allocation through the Surface Water Allocation Directive used by Alberta Environment and Parks and Alberta Energy Regulator staff to set water licences. Each municipality has a unique water licensing structure.
- Provide information about the Interim Guidance to Authorize Reuse of Municipal and Industrial Wastewater. Alberta Environment and Parks issued this policy, which enables the use of recycled municipal and industrial wastewater.
- Monitor and forecast surface water resources. River Forecast Centre (RFC) generates a monthly Water Supply Outlook report. It contains an estimate of the March to September seasonal run-off at 20 locations across the North Saskatchewan, Red Deer, Bow, Oldman, and Milk River basins and includes a summary of snowpack conditions (mountain and plains), monthly and seasonal precipitation as a percentage of normal, current natural river flows, and long lead weather forecasts from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Environment and Climate Change Canada.
- Implement and maintain updates to the South Saskatchewan and Milk River Water Shortage Plan, including facilitating the South Saskatchewan and Milk River Water Shortage Committee and the Intra-basin Water Coordinating Committee. The South Saskatchewan and Milk River Water Shortage Committee coordinates water shortage response activities and communicates advisories for the two basins based on stages in the plan, current conditions at Government of Alberta infrastructure, and flow and water supply forecasts from the RFC. The Intra-basin Water Coordination Committee is responsible for preparing an operations plan to guide the decision making required for Alberta to meet the Master Agreement on Apportionment.



Government of Alberta — Agriculture and Forestry

- Provide the Agriculture Drought and Excess Moisture Risk Management Plan, which is a framework for a coordinated, proactive approach to reduce the short- and long-term effects of drought and excess moisture on Alberta farmers and ranchers.
- Provide the Alberta Climate Information Service, which is an online, interactive tool to help producers, farm consultants, and researchers see Alberta weather forecasts, browse maps of weather and climate-related information, and access near-real-time station data from more than 350 meteorological stations operating in Alberta.
- Provide support via Climate Services staff resources.
- Facilitate the Drought and Excessive Moisture Advisory Group to provide consistent and consolidated advice and recommendations to complement government actions on drought and excessive moisture related issues affecting agricultural producers in Alberta. They also advise and provide recommendations to government on long-term strategies for mitigating the effects of drought and excessive moisture.
- Support the Association of Agricultural Fieldmen to develop, implement, and control programs designed to carry out priorities and policies set by their Agricultural Service Board, whose expertise remain in weed control, soil and water resource conservation, and pest management.
- Produce monthly Farm Gate allocation Forecast leading up to and during the irrigation season for irrigation districts in the Southern Tributaries of the Oldman River.
- Maintain a year-round fire weather forecast office consisting of four fire weather meteorologists and two seasonal technicians. During the fire season (March-October) they produce two fire weather forecasts and briefings per day. These briefings are also used by the RFC at Alberta Environment and Parks.

Government of Alberta — Alberta Municipal Affairs

- Provide access to the Community Emergency Management Program that provides municipalities with emergency planning tools.

Government of Alberta — Alberta Support and Emergency Response Team

- Activate and coordinate the Inter-Agency Drought Working Group during drought emergencies and coordinate all department drought response activities.
- Ensure that roles and responsibilities during drought conditions are clearly defined, communicated, and understood by both internal and external stakeholders.
- Ensure post-incident assessments from droughts are documented and disseminated internally and externally.
- Ensure effective delivery of Alberta Environment and Park's Drought Response Plan.
- Establish the Regional Emergency Operation Centre (REOC) that focuses on the coordination of drought response activities at the local level.
- Assign an Emergency Response Officer to each provincial region as identified in the Drought Response Plan to support the municipalities and REOC.



Government of Alberta — Alberta Health

- Is responsible for legislation that would engage in situations of extreme drought where risk to human health becomes apparent.
- Along with Alberta Health Services, may put a stop to water reuse opportunities where there are broader risks to public health.
- Communicate via Alberta Health Services website links regarding heat warnings in effect, and environmental public health concerns, as well as information on coping with emergencies.

Notes