

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Seasonal Flood Safety Message: Be aware of flooding risk due to thunderstorms

June 1, 2022, Oshawa, ON – It's what we have waited for all winter long: warmer weather and the upcoming summer season! The warmer season brings longer days and more time outdoors. It also comes with severe weather hazards such as thunderstorms and flooding.

Thunderstorms can develop suddenly during the warmer months and are often accompanied by strong winds, hail, lightning, and heavy rain. Flooding can occur very quickly with thunderstorms, especially when large amounts of heavy rain occur in a short period of time, particularly in highly urbanized areas.

Forecasting and flood messaging for thunderstorms by Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority (CLOCA):

It can be difficult for weather forecasts to accurately predict where and when thunderstorms will form. If a thunderstorm is expected or anticipated in CLOCA's jurisdiction, a risk assessment is completed by an on-call Flood Duty Officer (FDO), as part of the Flood Forecasting and Warning Program. If flooding is possible or about to occur, CLOCA issues flood messages to designated individuals within municipalities, local agencies, school boards, the media, and members of the public who self-subscribe. ([Learn more about CLOCA flood messages and how to self-subscribe.](#))

However, thunderstorm forecasts often have very low confidence in exactly where, when, and how much rain will fall, therefore CLOCA Flood Duty Officers may not issue a flood message for every forecasted (and sometimes un-forecasted) thunderstorm due to the high uncertainty. During severe rain events, FDOs will monitor the real-time weather and watershed conditions in CLOCA's jurisdiction, using tools such as radar and weather forecast models, as well as the [CLOCA's Realtime Monitoring Network](#).

Summer flooding safety preparedness tips:

Flooding occurs when rivers and streams rise over their banks and spill into the surrounding land. Some of the creeks and streams in CLOCA's jurisdiction are considered 'flashy', which means that large amounts of precipitation over a short period of time can cause water levels in the watercourse to rise very quickly with little warning—even in as little as a few minutes.

As a reminder:

- **Stay away** from riverbanks and avoid recreational activities in watercourses during storm events, especially during thunderstorms.
- If you are instructed by emergency officials to **evacuate**, do so immediately.
- **Do not drive** through, stand, or walk in any moving water. Avoid low-lying areas such as road underpasses and walkways.
- **Stay informed** on thunderstorm warnings through local radio, television, mobile or other public alerting systems. Keep a battery powered or wind-up radio in your home to stay up-to-date during power outages.
- If you are in danger, call 911 immediately. For more information on who to call when you see flooding:



WHO DO I CALL WHEN I SEE FLOODING?

- Private drainage and surface water**
The property owner is responsible for private drainage. Contact your **insurance representative** for any property related damage due to flooding. Consider adding other types of flooding coverage to your policy as necessary.
- Residents and businesses near watercourses**
If your property runs adjacent to a watercourse, you are responsible for reporting incidents such as blockage and flooding. To report incidents and flood risk issues, contact your **local conservation authority**.
- Sanitary sewer back up services**
Most backups occur when the sewer pipe that runs from your home to the Region's main sanitary sewer pipe is blocked by items such as roots or grease, or overwhelmed by volume. If you have a sewer backup in your home, call your **regional municipality**.
- Urban flooding**
The volume of water generated from a heavy downpour can sometimes cause storm drainage systems to breach their capacity, resulting in the excess water flowing overland along major drainage systems such as roads.
If you have a problem with the storm sewer in your neighbourhood, (pooling of water at the catch basin) call your **local municipality**.
For hydro or natural gas related questions, including safety tips for flooding, contact your **local utility provider or the Electrical Safety Authority**.

If you are in danger call 911 immediately.

Toronto and Region
Conservation
Authority

Learn more:

- Explore CLOCA's [floodplain mapping tool](#) and find out if your property is located in a floodplain and how to prepare.
- Visit CLOCA's [Realtime Monitoring Site](#).
- For preparedness tips, visit the federal government's [Get Flood Ready web page](#).

For more information about regional water levels and seasonal changes, contact your local Conservation Authority:

• Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority	(905) 579-0411
• Toronto and Region Conservation Authority	(416) 661-6514
• Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority	(905) 895-1281
• Conservation Halton	(905) 336-1158
• Credit Valley Conservation	(905) 670-1615
• Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority	(905) 885-8173
• Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority	(705) 424-1479
• Kawartha Conservation	(705) 328-2271

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About Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority (CLOCA) is a local, community-based, environmental organization and one of 36 Conservation Authorities responsible for managing watershed resources across Ontario. Established in 1958, CLOCA's jurisdiction is based on the watershed boundaries of four major watercourses and 18 minor watercourses draining an area of over 639 square kilometres. Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority's watershed stretches from the municipal boundaries of Ajax/Pickering to Clarington, and north from Lake Ontario to the crest of the Oak Ridges Moraine.

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority provides a wide variety of science-based watershed management programs and services, delivered in partnership with their municipal partners, local landowners, environmental agencies, and all levels of government. Our municipal partners include the Region of Durham, the cities of Oshawa and Pickering, the towns of Ajax and Whitby, the Municipality of Clarington, and the townships of Scugog and Uxbridge.