

# ICE JAM AND SPRING SNOWMELT FLOODING QUICK FACTS



## BE PREPARED FOR SPRING BY KNOWING THE FACTS

- Ice jams occur when temperatures are warm enough for ice on a river or stream to break up into pieces. These pieces get stuck and cause water to back up on the river or stream, and floods the surrounding area. If this obstruction breaks, then flooding can occur downstream as well.
- Ice jams can occur in the winter and early spring, and are dependent on temperature fluctuations.
- Because it holds a lot of moisture, snow and melting snow can exacerbate flooding in the late winter and early spring.
- Heavy rainfall can also contribute to and exacerbate ice jam and snowmelt flooding.