

Melting Snow Causes Approach to Flood Stage

U.S. Meteorologist for the area, Dan Sala, reported the stage of the Chena River at 9 a.m. Tuesday was 4.9 feet, a rise of 1.7 feet since yesterday.

A forecast of continued warm temperatures and modest snow melt will cause continued rises for the next three days. The three day stage forecast are:

for Wednesday, the 10th — 7.0'; Thursday, the 11th — 8.5'; and Friday, the 12th — 10.6'.

Flood stage is 12 feet. The weekend outlook indicates continued stages of 10 and 11 feet.

Ice remains solid on the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers although the flow of water over the ice has increased.

The Chena River shows signs of the ice breaking up with ice jams forming in the lower Chena. One jam had occurred near Ft. Wainwright, damming water at 2 to 3 feet above the normal flow.

The jam has broken at this time and the river is flowing full of ice. Small streams and tributaries of the Chena are generally free of ice but will remain

high.

Localized overflow of these streams will continue for the next few days. Residents near these streams should be alert for possible flooding.

Residents of low lying areas on the other major rivers should also remain alert for flooding due to the snow melt and possible ice jams.

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