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*Commissioner & Adjutant General*



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and Veterans Affairs*

[www.dmva.alaska.gov](http://www.dmva.alaska.gov)

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 31, 2023**

*Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management*

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### **2023 Spring Floods Update – May 31**

*State and response partners actively engaged in flood response.*

#### **State Emergency Operation Center Activation Level: 3 – Ongoing Response**

**JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska** – DHS&EM State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) is actively engaged in response to flooding within the communities in the areas of Northwest Arctic Borough REAA Iditarod REAA, Lower Kuskokwim REAA, Lower Yukon REAA, Alaska Gateway REAA, Yukon Flats REAA, Kuspuk REAA, Copper River REAA and City of Galena.

May 25<sup>th</sup> Governor Mike Dunleavy amended his May 15 State Disaster Declaration and activated the State of Alaska Public Assistance and Individual Assistance Disaster Recovery programs in the above areas.

Public Assistance can reimburse communities for emergency protective measures associated with the disaster event and can fund repairs to damaged critical infrastructure. Individual Assistance can provide grants to individuals and families to repair their homes, pay for essential needs, and provide temporary housing.

#### State of Alaska Individual Assistance Program

Registration for Individual Assistance for the 2023 Spring Flooding Disaster opened on Wednesday, May 24, 2023

Disaster survivors can call the state's Disaster Assistance Hotline at (844) 445-7131 to register over the phone. Online registration is available at [ready.alaska.gov](http://ready.alaska.gov).

Information about the State of Alaska Individual Assistance program can be found at [ready.alaska.gov/flood](http://ready.alaska.gov/flood) or [ready.alaska.gov/Recovery/IA](http://ready.alaska.gov/Recovery/IA).

## Significant Operations Updates

While disaster-level flood response is ongoing, Riverwatch demobilized as the ongoing ice jam flood threat is known and aerial observations of ice are no longer needed. Air operations will now focus on flood response. SEOC continues to work with partnering agencies and organizations statewide to assist communities with flood response and recovery.

### YUKON:

#### YUKON FLATS REAA

**Ft. Yukon** Three People sheltered at the school with about 10 people impacted with flooding in their homes. Community has no immediate needs but has long-term road flood and drainage concerns.

**Stevens Village** Airport access road is still under water and not currently usable.

**Circle** Team Rubicon volunteers continued working in the community assisting residents with home flood cleanup (“muck out”). Team Rubicon also organized spontaneous Airforce and faith-based volunteers from Fairbanks to assist over the holiday weekend. Alaska Division of Environmental Conservation will deploy a hazardous waste container location team tomorrow and a contract recovery team on Thursday. SEOC Recovery Branch will deploy a Disaster Assistance Center to Circle on Tuesday June 6 for State Individual Assistance registration and Public Assistance information. SEOC has deployed a response trailer, temporary restroom facilities, and communications support to assist with the volunteer operations.

#### LOWER YUKON REAA

**Emmonak** Main airport road washed out in three places but is passable by 4-wheeler. Full evaluation pending reduction in water levels. Approximately 20 homes are inaccessible, but no reports of flooded homes at this time. The women’s shelter was damaged with about six people being moved to city apartments. The Tank farm, water plant, and power plant were unaffected. Community has about three weeks’ worth of potable water saved.

**Alakanuk** Boil water notice in effect. Sewer is not working for about 50 homes. Repairs to both water and sewer systems are in progress. Two homes were flooded. Airport is open as are the store and power system.

**Russian Mission:** Water receding from the runway with assessment of runway condition scheduled for May 31. Eight or nine homes were damaged. Displaced people are mostly staying with local families. Community is feeding about 42 people, and MREs and bottled water have been distributed.

**Nunam Iqua:** Active flooding in progress. Awaiting further assessment.

### KUSKOKWIM DIVISION:

#### KUSPUK REAA

**Crooked Creek** SEOC demobilized two Alaska Organized Militia (AKOM) servicemembers back to Bethel, with the remaining two continuing in the community for

cleanup assistance. SEOC will deploy a Volunteer Agency Liaison and Individual Assistance expert to the community on Wednesday to serve as Crooked Creek Task Force Leader with the mission to coordinate State Individual Assistance, volunteer services, and work towards transitioning the community from response to recovery. With only five people sheltered at the school and classes restarting next week, Crooked Creek responders and survivors will move from the school shelter to SEOC deployed tents. Community feeding support continues with the normal community store without resources.

### **LOWER KUSKOKWIM REAA**

**Kwethluk** One AKOM servicemember will shift from Crooked Creek to Kwethluk to support cleanup operations there. Nine homes were damaged, with two homes having been moved from their foundations. Shelter opened in school, with others sheltering with family in the community. Water is still high. SEOC is requesting AKOM Armory for use as AKOM responder lodging if available. The store is open, and food is getting in. A full damage assessment is in progress, but water is still high.

### **OTHER IMPACTED COMMUNITIES:**

**Galena** River has receded from its high point.

**Glennallen** Salvation Army today delivered 9 portable heaters to residences in a flooded apartment building that has water damaged heating, along with disaster utility support information. Community is transitioned to recovery and responsibility moved to Recovery Branch for coordination for State IA and PA programs.

**Other Areas:** A Flood Watch was issued this afternoon for Slacha River flooding in the Fairbanks area for rainfall flooding. With already high-water levels from snowmelt runoff, additional flood damage is possible.

### **IDITAROD REAA**

**Grayling** – Airport is open. Water is at bottom of airport road access bridge and across portion of the access road.

**For Current Flood Warnings, Watches, and Advisories visit [Flood Warnings, Watches or Statements \(weather.gov\)](#)**

### **Resources:**

Flood Response and Recovery Information: [www.Ready.Alaska.Gov/Flood](http://www.Ready.Alaska.Gov/Flood)

Overview of the River Watch program: <https://youtu.be/NcdHTMIKaKMd>

Break up map at <https://www.weather.gov/aprfc/breakupMap>

Fresh Eyes on Ice <https://www.facebook.com/groups/FreshEyesOnIce>

Flood Preparedness Checklist [Link](#)

National Weather Service Flood Info: [Flood Warnings, Watches or Statements \(weather.gov\)](#)

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