



State Emergency Operations Center

2022 Riverwatch

Incident Situation Report

Date: May 18 ,2022 Time: 1600 hrs

SEOC Preparedness Level 3

In partnership with:



Contact

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State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) Activated to Level 3

Incident Overview

Timeline of Significant Events:

APR 27 2022: The SEOC Kuskokwim Division Supervisor deployed to Bethel. Additional Riverwatch personnel traveled to Bethel 28 April daily River Watch flights began to observe river conditions, providing advance notice of ice-jams.

May 3 2022: SEOC moved to Preparedness Level 2 – *Heightened Awareness*, for ongoing Riverwatch Spring break-up operations. Yukon Division deployment revised to May 9 due to cold weather. National Weather Service (NWS) issues flood watch for Crooked Creek following observation of ice jam on upper river. Flood watch is expected to remain in effect until ice breakup can be observed.

May 7 2022: SEOC moved to Preparedness Level 3 – *Active Response Operations* with Manley Hot Springs and Kuskokwim River communities reporting community flood impacts.

Governor Dunleavy issued a state disaster declaration for the Yukon Koyukuk Regional Education Attendance Area for flood impacts in Manley Hot Springs.

SEOC coordinates with Kenai Peninsula Borough Emergency Manager on response to the Seward City Lowell Point Landslide.

May 18 2022: State Disaster Individual Assistance program opened for telephonic and online registration.

Disaster Declarations:

Governor Dunleavy has issued three Disaster Declarations for Spring Flooding, the Lowell Point Landslide, and Galena Fire Hall roof collapse.

Significant Operations:

State Individual Assistance Program:

Residents of the Yukon – Koyukuk Regional Education Attendance Area (REAA) including Manley Hot Springs, the Kuspuk REAA (Village of Sleetmute and the Village of Red Devil), the Copper River REAA (Glennallen), and the Iditarod REAA (City of McGrath), are eligible to apply for State Individual Assistance. Disaster survivors in the declared areas above can register for the State Individual Assistance program by visiting the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency at Ready.Alaska.Gov or by calling the Individual Assistance hotline at (907) 428-7072 or (907) 428-7075. Registration deadline is July 12 2022.

Manley Division

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) spill response and orphan drum team is in Manley Hot Springs today, May 18, to assist in identification and recovery of flood released containments.

Manley Division and DEC are coordinating with the Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) on residential water well sampling and analysis.

Seward Division: Lowell Point Landslide

A Unified Command consisting of the City of Seward, Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB), and the State of Alaska continues operations for the Lowell Point Landslide incident. They are holding daily calls to coordinate the response operations.

Lowell Point resident population is approximately 100, and includes seafood workers who are lodged in Lowell Point, but work in fish processing plant on other side of slide, as well as local residents who need transport around slide for groceries and medical supplies.

Water-Taxi Service / Barge Service:

- (KPB) executed a temporary contract with Miller's Landing water-taxi service to provide transportation around the slide and a separate contract with a barge service to transport vehicles and equipment.
- The State of Alaska, through the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), will begin contracted water-taxi service on or before Monday May 23. State water-taxi service is scheduled for 5 times a day.
- DOT&PF is providing contracted traffic control for the scheduled water-taxi service on both sides of slide.

Slide Operations:

- DOT&PF is providing contracted traffic control for the scheduled water-taxi service on both sides of slide.
- City of Seward reports a special excavator is working on landslide. Slope remains very unstable, making is hazardous to engage any other equipment at this time.
- Advanced Blasting is expected to continue targeted blasting of the Lowell Point land slide.
- Landslide operations were interrupted by someone entering the blast danger area and refusing to depart who was subsequently arrested.

Geotechnical:

- City of Seward contracted to conduct LIDAR drone assessment of slide in coordination with DOT&PF.
- State Division of Geological and Geotechnical Division (DGGS) staff have been providing technical assistance virtually for landslide operations. SEOC has issued a recourse order to

field deploy DGGs staff to Seward to provide on-scene consultation to the Landslide response Unified Command.

Kuskokwim Division:

McGrath

Red Cross intends to send staff and clean-up kits to McGrath Monday, May 23 to assist residents with flood damage and support recovery case works.

The City is staging initial road repair material and equipment.

Red Devil and Sleetmute

Red Cross will conduct virtual assessments and provide support to residents with flood damaged homes.

Yukon River:

Ice has cleared out of the side channel and main channel at Circle.

NWS reports satellite imagery indicates an ice jam on the Yukon River located approximately 7 miles upriver from Grayling. Residents in Grayling, Anvik, Holy Cross, and Russian Mission can expect a rise in water levels when the ice jam releases. Serious community flooding is not expected.

Recovery Branch:

With State Individual Assistance (IA) now open through online and telephonic registration, operational planning is under to open State Disaster Assistance Centers where applicants can meet and file as in-person applications. Information specific to the application process can be found on the [DHS&EM Individual Assistance](#) webpage, or by calling the Disaster Assistance Hotline at (907) 428-7072 or (907) 428-7075.

River Observations

River and lake ice observations can be provided to the Alaska-Pacific River Forecast Center (APRFC) via:

- radio from aircraft to AFSS with observations for inclusion in a PIREP
 - phone at 1-800-847-173, Email report and/or photos to nws.ar.aprfc@noass.gov
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SEOC Operations Brief

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

Meeting ID: 829 8173 0839 Passcode: 186584

Dial in with your phone: +1 253 215 8782 US

Please email the Riverwatch conference at riverwatch@ready.alaska.gov if you are interested in receiving the Zoom calendar invitation.

Lifeline Status



No Significant Lifeline Issues Across the State



Picture of residual flood water in McGrath

Helpful Links

Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM)

<http://ready.alaska.gov/>

National Weather Service: Alaska-Pacific River Forecast Center

<https://www.weather.gov/aprfc/>