



State Emergency Operations Center

2022 Riverwatch

Incident Situation Report

Date: May 16 ,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.

Disaster Declarations:

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

Significant Operations:

Manley Division

Floodwaters are reseeding in Manley Hot Springs. While water levels in the river and slough have returned to pre-flood levels, there is still ponded standing water in the community and a high water table. With warmer temperatures, snow melt runoff continues.

Critical facilities returned to service including power generation and cellular communications. The Community Landfill is operational, receiving flood debris with space sufficient to handle the disaster debris load. The community is actively segregating flood debris into management categories (white goods, electronics, spoiled food, etc.) to provide for effective debris management.

Deployed Alaska National Guard servicemembers assisted every homeowner in the community who requested support with movement of debris to the landfill, clean up, movement of relief supplies, and digging water diversion channels. With their mission complete, Alaska National Guard was demobilized today, Monday May 16.

The roadway to Manley Hot Springs from Fairbanks still has soft spots and the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) continues to work improvements.

SEOC Manley Division Supervisor remains in Manley Hot Springs to coordinate transition from disaster response to recovery operations. Regular meetings occur with the Tanana Chiefs Conference and local Manley community leaders.

Seward Division:

In order to coordinate an inter-agency response to the Lowell Point Landslide, a Unified Command was established on Sunday, May 15 in Seward with the City of Seward, Kenai Peninsula Borough, and SEOC. Under the state declaration of disaster, SEOC DOT&PF Liaison deployed to Seward and is serving as the DOT&PF Agency Representative as well as the SEOC Division Supervisor on the landslide Unified Command. At the request of KPB and City of Seward, DOT&PF is executing contracts and operations to provide emergency water-taxi service around the slide, roadway safety signage and flaggers, water diversion culverts, and barge service to transport personal and recreational vehicles displaced in the landslide. The City of Seward contracted for explosive discharges at the Landslide site to stabilize the area.

SEOC is supporting the Lowell Point Landslide response with coordinated public information and technical assistance on disaster cost recovery documentation.

Kuskokwim Division:

McGrath

The local Alaska State Trooper Incident Commander reports approximately 15-20 homes impacted by flood waters. Additional damage is reported to the McGrath main road and other community road surfaces.

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 river flooding 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/>