

# State Emergency Operations Center



## 2023 Wrangell Landslide Incident Situation Report

December 13, 2023, at 1600

SEOC Preparedness Level 2



### Contact

State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) 907-428-7100

[seoc@alaska.gov](mailto:seoc@alaska.gov)

[landslide@ready.alaska.gov](mailto:landslide@ready.alaska.gov)

## **Incident Overview**

On Monday, November 20, 2023, at 2051, the City and Borough of Wrangell experienced a major landslide at Mile 11 of Zimovia Highway. The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) was notified of the landslide at 2130 on November 20, 2023, recalled staff, activated to Level-2, and is coordinating multiple requests for state-level resources in support of Wrangell's Incident Command.

On November 21, 2023, Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy declared a state disaster emergency for the City and Borough of Wrangell. On November 26, 2023, Governor Dunleavy also declared a state disaster for the City of Coffman Cove. On December 4, 2023, Governor Dunleavy amended his state declaration of disaster to add the entire Southeast Island School District Regional Education Attendance Area, including the City of Craig and Hydaburg for both Public and Individual Assistance.

On December 7, 2023, Governor Dunleavy declared a state disaster for public assistance for the City of Diomedes in response to their collapsed city office building.

## **Significant Operations Updates**

### **Wrangell City and Borough:**

On December 6, 2023, the City and Borough of Wrangell announced a suspension of the search for the last mission person from the landslide after 15 days of exhaustive effort by the Wrangell Volunteer Search and Rescue teams. The search included K9 scent detection dogs and local heavy equipment operators who combed through the complex landslide debris field. All accessible areas above and within the intertidal zone were searched. Search and rescue personnel and a scent detection K9 team will be available in the community and available to reengage with active searching if new information is developed.

SEOC Wrangell Division Supervisor remains deployed, providing support to the Wrangell City and Borough. A joint Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) group composed of state and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) personnel arrived in Wrangell Sunday and began assessment work, visiting the landslide site and impacted homes. PDA group completed Wrangell assessments today and redeployed to Prince of Wales Island to continue their damage assessment.

Crews from the City and Borough of Wrangell and the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) continue to work on the Mile 11 slide. DOT&PF completed installation of second 36" culvert to improve drainage, as well as 3 dams and a small lake for debris collection. Zimovia Highway reopened for two 30-minute transit windows today. DOT&PF is beginning installation of a 72" culvert with anticipated completion in 4 days, weather permitting.

Division of Geologic and Geophysical Surveys (DGGS) continues to provide technical assessments and analysis. DGGS analysis of LiDAR data is ongoing and plans to publish reviewed landslide data following the Christmas holiday.

National Crisis Response Canine teams demobilized Monday evening, after meeting with first responders and children in local schools and visiting medical facilities, community gatherings, and the senior center.

### **Recovery Branch:**

The State Individual Assistance registration telephone hotline and website opened on November 28, 2023, and applications are being accepted from the state-declared areas.

State Public Assistance is providing communities in the declared area with technical advice on the disaster reimbursement process. All current applications are for the Wrangell area although other communities have damages.

Current registrations as of 0800, December 11, 2023.

IA Applications Received:	17
PA Applications Received:	1
Total Disbursements:	Pending

PDA Group completed work in Wrangell and moved to Prince of Wales Island today. Following the state declaration for Diomed, a joint State and FEMA PDA for Diomed is being considered.

**Diomed Division:**

On Sunday, November 26, 2023, the community reported that the city office building, constructed in 1978, had several wooden supports fail on one side of the structure. The following day, the remaining supports collapsed leaving the building on the ground, with the northwest corner resting on the community elementary school. Foundation damage resulted in the building being condemned, and demolition is planned.

The SEOC continues to support the community with coordination and technical assistance.

**Other Southeast Communities Group:**

**Prince of Wales Island (POW):** On Tuesday, November 28, 2023, the SEOC was notified of damage caused by flooding and landslides across Prince of Wales Island. The City of Craig reported their public works department did emergency route clearance work across the island. While no injuries were reported, several homes were damaged. Other damages were reported in Hydaburg and the Unorganized Borough area of the Island. The City of Craig declared a local disaster emergency on November 30, 2023.

SEOC Division Supervisor visited Prince of Wales Island on December 1-3, 2023, meeting with Craig and Hydaburg City officials, residents, and the power operator. The PDA Group traveled to Prince of Wales today and will begin assessment work tomorrow.

**Emerging Incidents Group:**

**Selawik:** Following a community-power outage on December 6 that required most of the community to shelter at the high school, Selawik City declared a local disaster for homes with frozen pipes and sewer lines. The Northwest Arctic Borough provided Selawik with heaters to thaw residential service lines. Power was restored and the shelter closed. The Department of Environmental Conservation was contacted and reported no damage to main water lines.

Northwest Arctic Borough declared a disaster on Tuesday, December 12, for cost reimbursement. The Borough advised SEOC that the response may be within their capacity and no additional resource requests for this incident are anticipated.

**Quinhagak:** On Monday night, December 11, 2023, SEOC received a local disaster declaration from the Native Village of Kwinhagak/Quinhagak I.R.A. Council, following notice from the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) of a four-day community-wide power outage. On Wednesday December 13, SEOC received a local disaster declaration from the City of Quinhagak. Both declarations describe a failure of the Alaska Village Electric Cooperative (AVEC) power plant on Friday December 8 resulting in frozen community infrastructure and residences, and request state financial assistance for response and repairs. During the outage, the community school was opened as a shelter and supported approximately 20 people.

Yesterday, Alaska Village Electrical Coop (AVEC) linemen completed restoration of power to all but 4 of the affected residences. The school shelter has closed with residents able to return home. AVEC crews are scheduled to complete a transformer replacement today that will complete repairs to the electric grid. Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation and ANTHC are thawing water/wastewater infrastructure and residences. As thawing continues, there are concerns of freeze damage to infrastructure and residences.

**Manokotak:** Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) reported yesterday that the community has experienced power disruptions due to generator failure. No immediate needs exist, but community has been added to SEOC watch list at AEA's request.

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### SEOC Operations Brief

Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup> will be the final scheduled SEOC Operations Briefing and Situation Report for the 2023 Wrangell Landslides Incident.

Please email the 2023 Wrangell Landslide conference at [landslide@ready.alaska.gov](mailto:landslide@ready.alaska.gov)

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### Individual Assistance Applications Are Open, To Apply:




Call 1-844-445-7131, Monday-Friday, 0800-1600




Or Apply Online at [ready.alaska.gov/Recovery/IA](https://ready.alaska.gov/Recovery/IA)

**The Last Day to Apply is January 27, 2024**

## Lifeline Status

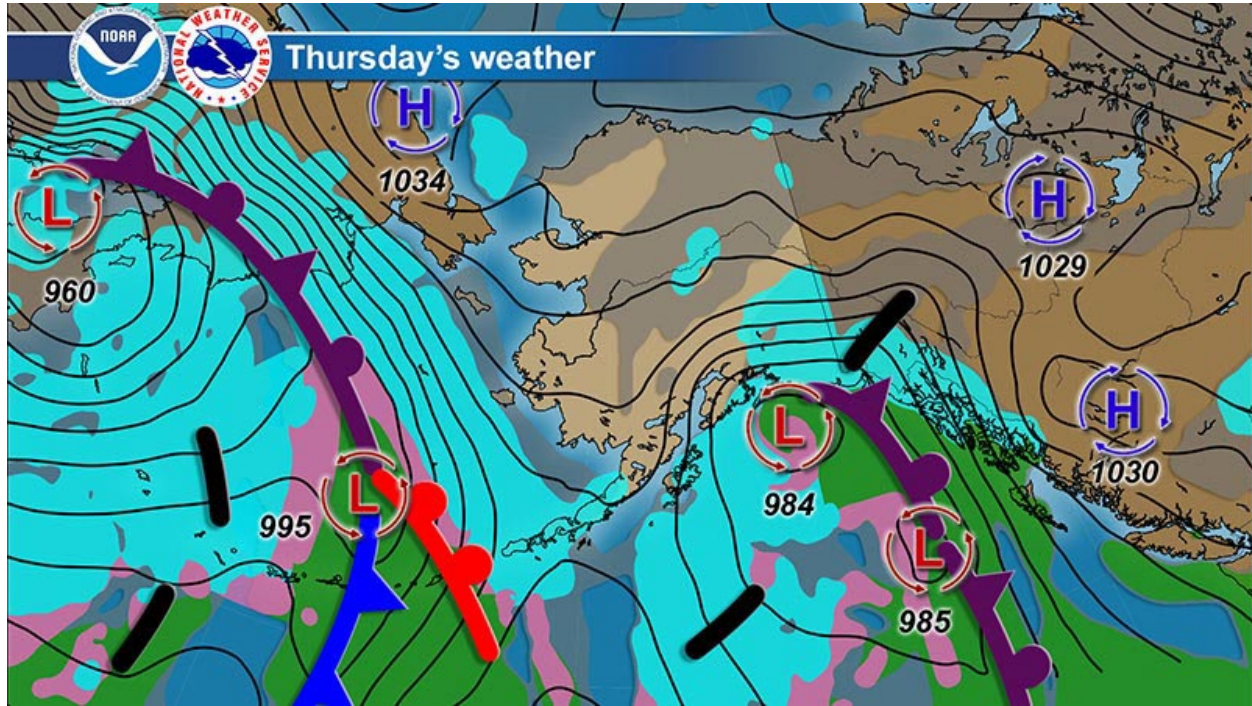
 <b>Alaska Overall</b>	       
<b>Impacted Areas</b>	       

 <b>Food, Hydration, and Shelter</b>		
	 <b>Shelter</b>	<p><b>Wrangell:</b> PDA group completed work in the community and moved to Prince of Wales.</p> <p><b>POW:</b> PDA group arrived on POW today.</p> <p><b>Quinhagak:</b> SEOC is monitoring concerns for 69 homes impacted by power outages that may have frozen pipes.</p> <p><b>Recovery Br:</b> State Individual Assistance (IA) hotline and online IA registration remain open for the entire declared area. There have been 17 applications submitted, 13 from Wrangell, 2 from Craig, and 1 each from Klawock and Thorne Bay.</p>
 <b>Communications</b>		

	 <p><b>Infrastructure</b></p>	<p><b>Southeast:</b> Notice to Mariners regarding United States Coast Guard (USCG) Channel-16 VHF communications in the Southeast region including Cape Fairweather, Fairweather Grounds, Yakutat Bay, and Lituya Bay remains in effect.</p> <p><b>Wrangell:</b> Residents continue to rely on deployed Starlink receivers for connectivity south of the slide area. Utilities are working to re-establish regular service, with an estimate of at least a week.</p>
	<p><b>Transportation</b></p>	
	 <p><b>Roadways</b></p>	<p><b>Wrangell:</b> DOT&amp;PF crews installed two 36-in culverts to supplement an existing 24-in. Additional embankment and culvert work is scheduled prior to the start of road resurfacing. Ongoing work is weather dependent.</p> <p>Zimovia Highway was closed to residents yesterday due to weather and ongoing work. The road was opened for two 30-minute transit windows today ahead of work beginning to install 72" culvert. Work is expected to take 4 days.</p>



# Weather Forecast



National Weather Service Juneau, AK  
 Weather Matrix for Wrangell Landslide  
 Valid: 12/13/2023 06 AM - 12/16/2023 06 PM AKST  
 Call 1-907-790-6800 for additional weather support



	Wed 12/13 6 AM	Wed 12/13 9 AM	Wed 12/13 12 PM	Wed 12/13 3 PM	Wed 12/13 6 PM	Wed 12/13 9 PM	Thu 12/14 12 AM	Thu 12/14 3 AM	Thu 12/14 6 AM	Thu 12/14 9 AM	Thu 12/14 12 PM	Thu 12/14 3 PM	Thu 12/14 6 PM	Thu 12/14 9 PM	Fri 12/15 12 AM	Fri 12/15 3 AM	Fri 12/15 6 AM	Fri 12/15 9 AM	Fri 12/15 12 PM	Fri 12/15 3 PM	Fri 12/15 6 PM	Fri 12/15 9 PM	Sat 12/16 12 AM	Sat 12/16 3 AM	Sat 12/16 6 AM	Sat 12/16 9 AM	Sat 12/16 12 PM	Sat 12/16 3 PM	Sat 12/16 6 PM	
Temperature	36°F	38°F	39°F	39°F	39°F	40°F	41°F	41°F	41°F	40°F	41°F	40°F	40°F	40°F	39°F	37°F	36°F	36°F	37°F	35°F	33°F	31°F	32°F	33°F	32°F	33°F	33°F	36°F	35°F	35°F
Wind Speed	16 mph	14 mph	13 mph	13 mph	14 mph	19 mph	17 mph	18 mph	19 mph	21 mph	23 mph	21 mph	20 mph	18 mph	19 mph	17 mph	17 mph	17 mph	16 mph	13 mph	13 mph	12 mph	8 mph	4 mph	4 mph	5 mph	5 mph	3 mph	8 mph	
Wind Direction	SE	SE	SE	S	S	S	S	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	E	E	
Wind Gust	33 mph	21 mph	19 mph	18 mph	19 mph	24 mph	21 mph	25 mph	26 mph	28 mph	29 mph	28 mph	27 mph	25 mph	26 mph	24 mph	24 mph	24 mph	23 mph	19 mph	19 mph	18 mph	12 mph	8 mph	8 mph	9 mph	9 mph	13 mph	13 mph	
Chance of Precipitation	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	98%	79%	73%	72%	64%	64%	65%	76%	82%	100%	82%	75%	67%	59%	58%	46%	46%	35%	35%	31%	31%		
Weather	Rain Snow	Rain Snow	Rain Snow	Rain Snow	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain Snow	Rain Snow	Rain Snow	Rain Snow	Rain Snow	Rain Snow	Rain	
Rainfall	0.08 in	0.07 in	0.06 in	0.06 in	0.08 in	0.09 in	0.04 in	0.04 in	0.04 in	0.06 in	0.06 in	0.14 in	0.14 in	0.1 in	0.12 in	0.14 in	0.12 in	0.07 in	0.08 in	0.04 in	0.04 in	0.02 in	0.02 in	0.02 in	0.02 in	0.01 in	0.01 in	0.01 in	0.01 in	
Snow Accumulation	0.0 in	0.1 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	

Issued: Wednesday December 13, 2023 05:49 AM AKST

Hazard Level	None	Limited	Elevated	Significant	Extreme
Wind Speed	≤15 mph	15 to 19 mph	20 to 24 mph	25 to 29 mph	≥30 mph
Wind Gust	≤25 mph	25 to 34 mph	35 to 44 mph	45 to 59 mph	≥60 mph
Chance of Precipitation	≤20 %	20 to 39 %	40 to 59 %	60 to 79 %	≥80 %
Rainfall	≤0.1 in	0.1 to 0.29 in	0.3 to 0.79 in	0.8 to 1.09 in	≥1.1 in
Snow Accumulation	≤0.5 in	0.5 to 0.9 in	1.0 to 1.9 in	2.0 to 2.9 in	≥3.0 in

## **Helpful Links**

Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM)

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

National Weather Service: Alaska Forecast Center

- <https://www.weather.gov/alaska/>

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

- <https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/disaster-distress-helpline>