



State Emergency Operations Center

2023 Wrangell Landslide

Incident Situation Report

Date: November 29, 2023, Time: 1600 hrs.

SEOC Preparedness Level 2



Photo courtesy of Wrangell Field Division Supervisor Willis Walunga, DHS&EM

Contact

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State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) Activated to Level 2

Incident Overview

On Monday, November 20th at 2051hrs 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 hrs. on November 20th, recalled staff, activated to Level-2 and is coordinating multiple requests for state-level resources in support of Wrangell's Incident Command.

On November 21st, 2023, Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy declared a state disaster emergency for the City and Borough of Wrangell. On November 26th, 2023, Governor Dunleavy also declared a state disaster for the City of Coffman Cove.

Significant Operations Updates

Wrangell City and Borough:

On Tuesday, November 28th the SEOC Wrangell Field Division Supervisor demobilized, and all SEOC operations in Wrangell are now consolidated under the Wrangell City Division Supervisor. SEOC will transition the Wrangell Division Supervisor personnel on Friday, December 1st. SEOC intends ongoing in-person on-ground SEOC Division Supervisor level support for the City and Borough of Wrangell until no longer needed. Wrangell Division Supervisor is engaged with City and Borough search, roadway, mass care, tribal coordination, Individual Assistance, and recovery support.

The Department of Public Safety (DPS), in coordination with the Wrangell Incident Command, continues to support a reactive search strategy for the missing victims. Friday, search personnel located and recovered a deceased juvenile. Two individuals; one adult and one juvenile, remain missing.

The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) in coordination with the City and Borough of Wrangell completed clearing of two lanes of the Zimovia Highway over the weekend. The road remains closed to non-emergency traffic, though Wrangell Police have implemented a limited access residential schedule. DOT&PF continues work around the slide area with heavy equipment and Unmanned Aerial Systems to assess slide stability, risk, and to support ongoing search operations. DOT&PF will deploy an on-scene weather station to provide real-time weather data for responder and crew safety around the slide.

Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys (DGGS) lidar-helicopter survey began yesterday. The helicopter began surveying the Mile 11-12 slide area but was unable to complete the survey due to weather. An additional flight will be completed today pending good weather.

On Sunday, the Red Cross deployed a 3-person Incident Care Condolence Team to Wrangell. Sheltering operations ended with the reopening of limited residential traffic on Zimovia Highway allowing return of displaced residents.

The Alaska Division of Forestry and Fire Protection (DOF&FP) deployed a Public Information Officer to support the City & Borough of Wrangell with public messaging.

Recovery Branch:

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

State Public Assistance is providing the City and Borough of Wrangell and the City of Coffman Cove with technical advice on the disaster reimbursement process.

Diomed Division:

On Sunday, the community reported that the city office building, constructed in 1978, had several wooden supports fail on one side of the structure. On Monday, 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 planned. SEOC is deploying a DOT&PF structural engineer Friday to Diomed, who will accompany the Bering Straits School District Facilities Director and a representative from Kawerak. DOT&PF engineer will assess the collapsed structure for hasty recovery of city/tribal property and evaluate the school for student attendance. Diomed's school is closed until the school structure is assessed. The community post office, previously located in the collapsed building, relocated to the old washeteria building to continue mail service and food deliveries via bypass mail.

SEOC is actively working with Diomed City and Tribal officials, the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Department of Environmental Conservation, City of Nome emergency management, Kawarek Inc., and Bering Strait School District.

Other Southeast Communities Division:

City of Craig: On Tuesday, November 28, 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 are reported, several homes are reporting damage. A local disaster declaration is on the Craig City Council agenda tomorrow.

SEOC will deploy a Prine of Wales Division Supervisor to the Island tomorrow to coordinate an initial assessment of damages and provide on-site response coordination.

SEOC Operations Brief

SEOC Operations Briefings will be conducted Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 0800hrs. Operations Briefings have moved to the Zoom platform.

The next Situation Report will be released on Friday, December 1st, at 1600.

Please email the 2023 Wrangell Landslide conference at landslide@ready.alaska.gov




Individual Assistance Applications Open Tomorrow, To Apply:



Call 1-844-445-7131, Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm





Or Apply Online at ready.alaska.gov/Recovery/IA



The Last Day to Apply is January 27, 2024

Lifeline Status

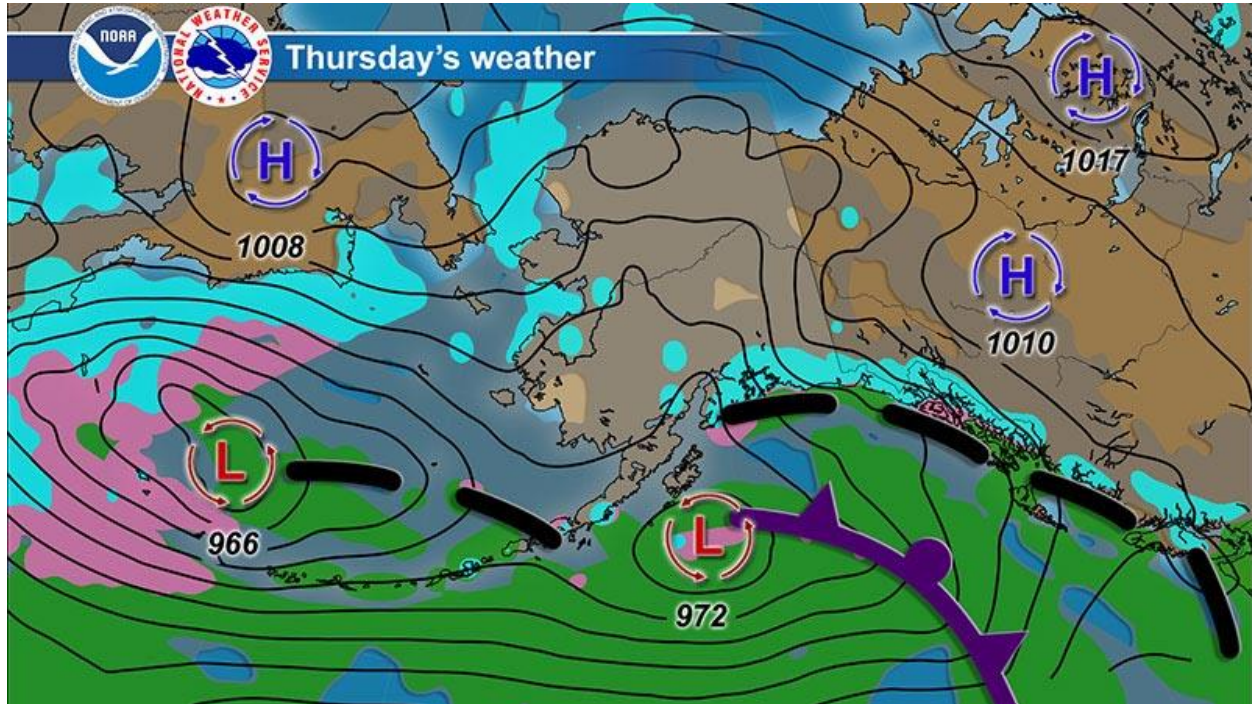
 <p>Alaska Overall</p>	
<p>Impacted Areas</p>	

	<p>Food, Hydration, and Shelter</p>	
	 <p>Shelter</p>	<p>Wrangell: On Sunday, the Red Cross deployed a 3-person Incident Care Condolence Team to support mental health needs. Wrangell Police have implemented a limited access road schedule for Zimovia Highway which will facilitate return of displaced residents.</p> <p>Craig: The community has reported several homes damaged by recent flooding and landslides, mostly limited to driveways. A local disaster declaration is on the City council agenda tomorrow. No injuries reported.</p> <p>Diomed: City Office building collapse with the NW corner resting on the community elementary school. School and office building closed and evacuated. Office building condemned due to foundation damage.</p>

		<p>Recovery Branch: Yesterday, Recovery Branch opened State Individual Assistance (IA) hotline and online IA application for residents of the declared area.</p>
	<p>Energy, Power, Fuel</p>	
	 <p>Power</p>	<p>The Recovery Branch reported the completion of power restoration has occurred based on conversations with the local community.</p>
	<p>Communications</p>	
	 <p>Infrastructure</p>	<p>Southeast: The Notice to Mariners regarding US Coast Guard Channel-16 VHF communications in the Southeast-region remains in effect. USCG requests mariners relay all unanswered requests for assistance to the USCG including both radio and phone.</p> <p>Wrangell: Multiple Starlink units have been deployed by Central Council Tlingit & Haida south of the Mile 11 slide to facilitate incident as well as residential communications. They will remain in place until the City & Borough of Wrangell, and the Wrangell Cooperative Association determine they are no longer needed.</p> <p>Kenai Peninsula: KPB reported that 911 services were restored yesterday at 3:09pm following a reported outage.</p>

	<p>Transportation</p>	
	 <p>Roadways</p>	<p>Wrangell: Two lanes of the Zimovia Highway have been opened, but the roadway remains restricted to emergency traffic only. DOT&PF have noted cracking of the slide approx. 30' upslope from the roadway and are monitoring with UAS.</p> <p>Wrangell Police are implementing a limited access schedule for residential use of the roadway.</p> <p>City of Craig: City of Craig reported public works did emergency route clearance work across the island. No injuries reported, several homes damaged. A local disaster declaration is on the Craig City Council agenda tomorrow. DOT&PF is engaged with the city.</p>

Weather Forecast



National Weather Service Juneau, AK
 Weather Matrix for Wrangell Landslide
 Valid: 11/29/2023 04 AM - 12/02/2023 06 PM AKST
 Call 1-907-790-6800 for additional weather support



	Wed 11/29 4 AM	Wed 11/29 7 AM	Wed 11/29 10 AM	Wed 11/29 1 PM	Wed 11/29 4 PM	Wed 11/29 7 PM	Wed 11/29 10 PM	Thu 11/29 1 AM	Thu 11/30 4 AM	Thu 11/30 7 AM	Thu 11/30 10 AM	Thu 11/30 1 PM	Thu 11/30 4 PM	Thu 11/30 7 PM	Thu 11/30 10 PM	Fri 12/01 1 AM	Fri 12/01 4 AM	Fri 12/01 7 AM	Fri 12/01 10 AM	Fri 12/01 1 PM	Fri 12/01 4 PM	Fri 12/01 7 PM	Fri 12/01 10 PM	Sat 12/02 1 AM	Sat 12/02 4 AM	Sat 12/02 7 AM	Sat 12/02 10 AM	Sat 12/02 1 PM	Sat 12/02 4 PM
Temperature	34°F	35°F	39°F	40°F	39°F	39°F	38°F	39°F	39°F	38°F	39°F	41°F	41°F	40°F	39°F	37°F	37°F	37°F	39°F	40°F	40°F	39°F	38°F	36°F	36°F	37°F	39°F	41°F	41°F
Wind Speed	8 mph	6 mph	6 mph	9 mph	9 mph	8 mph	8 mph	8 mph	13 mph	13 mph	13 mph	11 mph	13 mph	13 mph	16 mph	17 mph	17 mph	17 mph	16 mph	14 mph	14 mph	16 mph	16 mph	14 mph	14 mph	14 mph	13 mph	13 mph	13 mph
Wind Direction	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E
Wind Gust	11 mph	13 mph	16 mph	18 mph	18 mph	19 mph	19 mph	18 mph	23 mph	23 mph	23 mph	19 mph	23 mph	23 mph	26 mph	28 mph	28 mph	28 mph	26 mph	24 mph	24 mph	26 mph	26 mph	24 mph	24 mph	24 mph	23 mph	23 mph	23 mph
Chance of Precipitation	0%	0%	46%	70%	81%	84%	100%	100%	100%	86%	77%	68%	68%	58%	52%	52%	41%	46%	46%	45%	37%	33%	48%	60%	60%	68%	68%	69%	69%
Weather	None	None	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain
Rainfall	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.02 in	0.05 in	0.03 in	0.08 in	0.1 in	0.11 in	0.11 in	0.07 in	0.05 in	0.04 in	0.04 in	0.04 in	0.03 in	0.02 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	0.01 in	0.01 in	0.01 in	0.02 in	0.04 in
Snow Accumulation	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	0.0 in	0.0 in

Issued: Wednesday November 29, 2023 05:40 AM AKST

Hazard Level	None	Limited	Elevated	Significant	Extreme
Wind Speed	≤13 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	≤30%	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

Note - Grey color indicates no thresholds assigned

- Values in each 3-hour time block represent the worst case scenario, except for temperature, sky cover, and relative humidity where average values are displayed

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/>

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