



State Emergency Operations Center

2023 Wrangell Landslide

Incident Situation Report

Date: December 1, 2023, Time: 1600 hrs.

SEOC Preparedness Level 2



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

Contact

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

seoc@alaska.gov

landslide@ready.alaska.gov

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:

Today the SEOC transitioned Division Supervisors, with existing supervisor returning to Anchorage. 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. Yesterday search teams located and recovered a deceased adult male. Next of kin have been notified. One juvenile remains missing.

Two lanes of the Zimovia Highway have been opened by crews from the City and Borough of Wrangell and the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF). The Wrangell Police Department is issuing permits to residents who are authorized to pass through the slide area. Openings are scheduled for 8:00 to 8:30 AM, 12:00 to 12:30 PM, and 3:30 to 4:00 PM. DOT&PF continues work around the slide area and has removed several hundred truckloads of debris from the slide area since beginning route clearance work. DOT&PF will deploy on-scene weather stations to provide real-time weather data for responder and crew safety around the slide.

Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys (DGGS) successfully collected 12.5 square miles of data from Wrangell using a contracted lidar survey helicopter. DGGS estimates it will take at least one week to analyze the data. DGGS has demobilized their remaining personnel but will schedule a future briefing for the community once the data is analyzed.

A Red Cross 3-person Incident Care Condolence Team continues to support the community.

Recovery Branch:

The State Individual Assistance registration hotline and website opened on 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.

Current Registrations as of Noon, December 1st.

IA Applications Received:	7
PA Applications Received:	0
Total Disbursements:	Pending

Diomedes Division:

On Sunday, November 26th, 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 is planned.

The City and Tribe of Diomedes have declared a local disaster emergency and SEOC Division Supervisor has been in multiple meetings with the community daily to provide response guidance, along with regional tribal authorities.

SEOC is deploying a DOT&PF structural engineer to Diomedes, who will accompany the Bering Straits School District Facilities Director and a representative from Kawerak Inc. Due to weather the deployment of the engineer has been delayed until Sunday. DOT&PF engineer will assess the collapsed structure for hasty recovery of city/tribal property and evaluate the school for student attendance. \

Diomedes's school is closed for in-person learning until the school structure is assessed, and Bering Straits School District has moved to online learning, with laptops being distributed to students. Remote learning will resume Monday.

The community post office, previously located in the collapsed building, was relocated to the old washeteria building to continue mail service and food deliveries via bypass mail.

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) advised they addressed water supply contamination concerns from a fuel leak at the collapsed building. The local water plant is not currently producing water due to the temperature, and no water contamination occurred. DEC is providing technical assistance to the Diomedes water plant operator for routine testing to confirm water supply quality.

Other Southeast Communities Group:

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. The City declared a local disaster emergency last night.

SEOC deployed a Group Supervisor to the Island yesterday to coordinate an initial assessment of damages and provide on-site response coordination. The Group Supervisor is meeting with the city as well as local utilities to discuss and document damage, both in cities and the Unorganized Borough communities.

SEOC Operations Brief

SEOC Operations Briefings will be conducted Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 0800hrs via Zoom.

The next Situation Report will be released on Monday, December 4th, at 1600.

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


















Individual Assistance Applications Are Open, 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

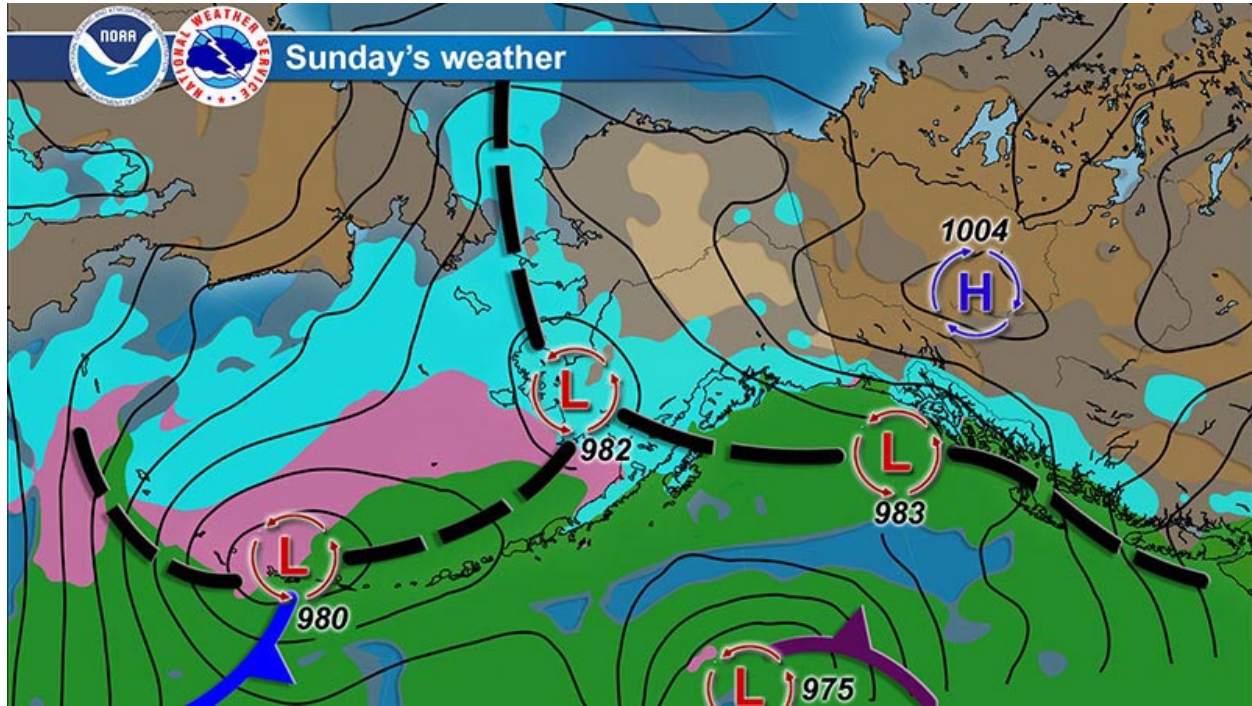
Lifeline Status

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

	<p>Food, Hydration, and Shelter</p>	
	 <p>Shelter</p>	<p>Wrangell: The Wrangell Police Department is issuing permits to residents who are authorized to pass through the slide area to return to their residences. Openings are scheduled for 8:00 to 8:30 AM, 12:00 to 12:30 PM, and 3:30 to 4:00 PM.</p> <p>Diomedes: School has transitioned to online learning and is distributing laptops to students. DOT&PF engineer has been delayed due to weather, with revised arrival date of Sunday.</p> <p>Recovery Branch: State Individual Assistance (IA) hotline and online IA application for residents of the declared area is open. IA has received 7 applications.</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: Residents continue to rely on deployed Starlink receivers for connectivity south of the slide area. Utilities are actively working to reestablish regular service.</p>
	<p>Transportation</p>	
	 <p>Roadways</p>	<p>Wrangell: The Wrangell Police Department is issuing permits to residents who are authorized to pass through the slide area. Openings are scheduled for 8:00 to 8:30 AM, 12:00 to 12:30 PM, and 3:30 to 4:00 PM</p> <p>City of Craig: Alaska State Troopers report no roads are currently blocked and there are no ongoing public safety concerns.</p>

Weather Forecast



National Weather Service Juneau, AK
 Weather Matrix for Wrangell Landslide
 Valid: 12/01/2023 04 AM - 12/04/2023 06 PM AKST
 Call 1-907-790-6800 for additional weather support



	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	Sat 12/02 7 PM	Sat 12/02 10 PM	Sun 12/03 1 AM	Sun 12/03 4 AM	Sun 12/03 7 AM	Sun 12/03 10 AM	Sun 12/03 1 PM	Sun 12/03 4 PM	Sun 12/03 7 PM	Sun 12/03 10 PM	Mon 12/04 1 AM	Mon 12/04 4 AM	Mon 12/04 7 AM	Mon 12/04 10 AM	Mon 12/04 1 PM	Mon 12/04 4 PM	
Temperature	38°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	40°F	39°F	38°F	37°F	38°F	41°F	43°F	43°F	42°F	41°F	40°F	40°F	40°F	41°F	42°F	42°F	
Wind Speed	16 mph	17 mph	17 mph	13 mph	13 mph	10 mph	9 mph	10 mph	13 mph	13 mph	13 mph	13 mph	14 mph	14 mph	14 mph	12 mph	11 mph	11 mph	11 mph	11 mph	11 mph	11 mph	11 mph	11 mph	9 mph	6 mph	9 mph	9 mph	11 mph	11 mph
Wind Direction	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	
Wind Gust	26 mph	28 mph	28 mph	23 mph	23 mph	17 mph	16 mph	17 mph	23 mph	23 mph	23 mph	23 mph	24 mph	24 mph	24 mph	20 mph	19 mph	19 mph	19 mph	19 mph	17 mph	17 mph	17 mph	13 mph	11 mph	13 mph	13 mph	13 mph	19 mph	19 mph
Chance of Precipitation	53%	53%	54%	54%	53%	57%	57%	67%	67%	68%	69%	69%	72%	76%	81%	84%	90%	94%	96%	97%	97%	97%	97%	97%	97%	95%	96%	96%	96%	93%
Weather	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	Rain	Rain	
Rainfall	0.01 in	0.03 in	0.03 in	0.02 in	0.01 in	0.02 in	0.03 in	0.03 in	0.06 in	0.07 in	0.04 in	0.04 in	0.05 in	0.07 in	0.1 in	0.1 in	0.14 in	0.14 in	0.12 in	0.11 in	0.08 in	0.06 in	0.03 in	0.03 in	0.03 in	0.02 in	0.04 in	0.08 in	0.1 in	0.14 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	0.0 in

Issued: Friday December 01, 2023 05:54 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

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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