



State Emergency Operations Center

2023 Wrangell Landslide

Incident Situation Report

Date: November 27, 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:

Two SEOC Division Supervisors are deployed to Wrangell providing operational coordination of state-level resources in support of the City and Borough of Wrangell. The Wrangell Field Division is assisting at the slide location, while Wrangell City Division is supporting the City and Borough regarding recovery documentation, tribal engagement, and mass care.

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. Additional DPS personnel deployed to the community at the time of the incident have demobilized but may redeploy to the community at any time if needed.

The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) in coordination with the City and Borough of Wrangell have cleared two lanes of the Zimovia Highway and installed new culvert to manage water flow. The roadway remains closed to non-emergency traffic. Local power company is working to reconnect power, which will include repair of damaged poles south of the slide area. DOT&PF has noted cracking and shifting approximately 30 feet above the roadway, and UAS are monitoring the slide for safety.

On Friday, Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys (DGGS) on-scene personnel demobilized and returned to home stations. DGGS crews will redeploy as needed to support the community. Helicopter contracted to perform lidar survey has been unable to complete the flight due to weather conditions. Next attempt will be made Tuesday.

Non-resident Central Council Tlingit & Haida personnel have demobilized. Starlink receivers they deployed remain in place and will continue to be supported until the City & Borough of Wrangell, and Wrangell Cooperative Association assess they are no longer needed.

An evacuation order remains in place for Zimovia Highway from Mile 11-13 which has impacted approximately 20-30 individuals. The Stikine Inn has offered accommodation to displaced residents. Currently no feeding or sheltering operations are being conducted. On Friday, the Red Cross deployed 5 personnel to begin preliminary damage assessments, and an additional 3 personnel with an Incident Care Condolence Team arrived Sunday. The United States Forest Service continues to assist in coordinating fuel and food deliveries for affected residences south of the slide.

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

Recovery Branch:

The Recovery Branch will activate the State Individual Assistance hotline and website tomorrow for survivor registration.

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

Emerging Incidents Group:

Coffman Cove: On Friday, Coffman Cove declared a local disaster to the SEOC. On Sunday, Coffman Cove's mayor was notified that Governor Dunleavy declared a state disaster for the community.

Diomedes: On Sunday, the community reported that the city office building, constructed in 1978, had experienced a failure of several wooden supports on one side of the structure. Today it was reported the remaining supports have failed resulting in further damage. The office building is leaning towards the community elementary school. Several buildings around the school and office building are evacuated, and the elementary school is closed with staff and classes moved to the high school building which is unaffected. The SEOC is working with the community, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Department of Environmental Conservation, City of Nome emergency management, Kawarek, and Bering Strait School District to address concerns. A local disaster declaration is anticipated.

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 Wednesday, November 29th 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



Alaska Overall



Impacted Areas








Food, Hydration, and Shelter



Shelter

An evacuation order remains in place for Zimovia Highway from Mile 11-13 which has impacted approximately 20-30 individuals. The Stikine Inn has offered accommodation to displaced residents. Currently no feeding or sheltering operations are being conducted. On Friday, the Red Cross deployed 5 personnel to begin preliminary damage assessments, and an additional 3 personnel with an Incident Care Condolence Team arrived Sunday.

Tomorrow the Recovery Branch is opening the State Individual Assistance hotline and IA online application for affected residents. Flyers have been distributed in the community with the contact information.

 <p>Energy (Power & Fuel)</p>	<p>Energy, Power, Fuel</p>	
	 <p>Power</p>	<p>Cut off homes beyond the slide have no power due to downed transmission lines. With road access re-established, DOT&PF approved power company to begin restoration work.</p>
 <p>Communications</p>	<p>Communications</p>	
	 <p>Infrastructure</p>	<p>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>Central Council of Tlingit and Haida (CCTH) has deployed multiple Starlink receivers on the southside of the slide area, which are providing connectivity to residents and crews working on the slide.</p>
 <p>Transportation</p>	<p>Transportation</p>	



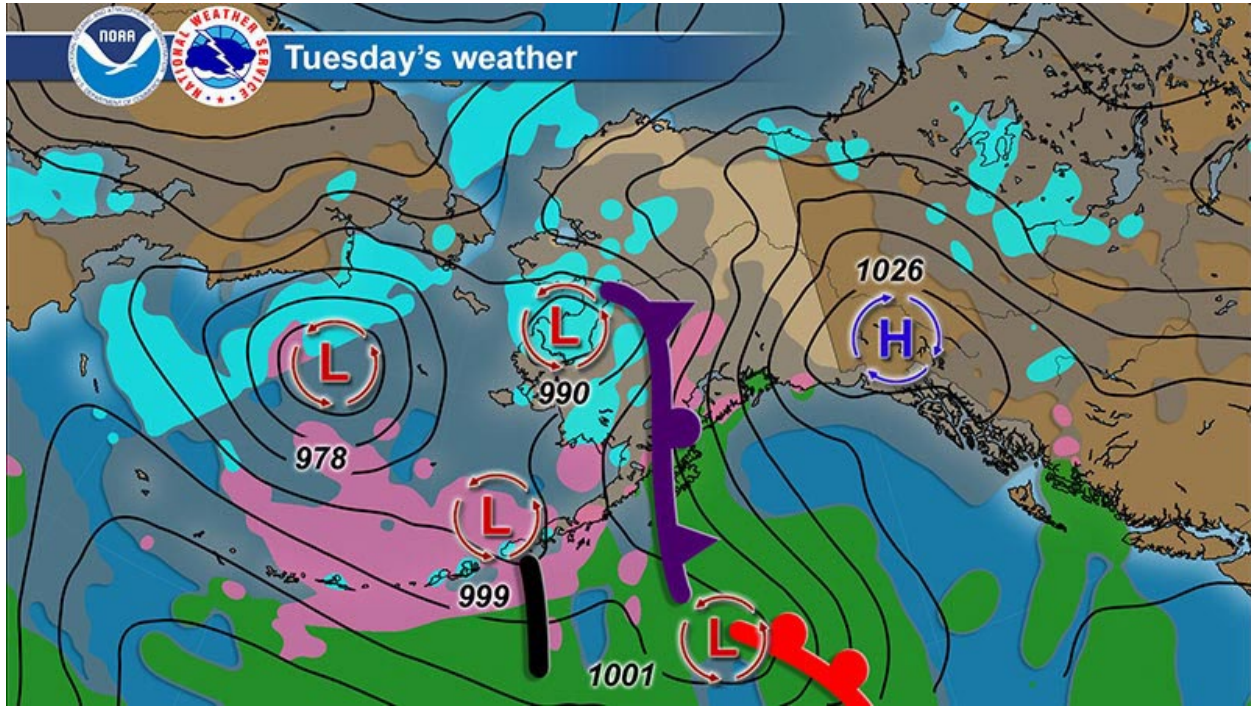
Roadways

Wrangell: DOT&PF in coordination with the City and Borough of Wrangell have cleared two lanes of the Zimovia Highway and installed new culvert to manage water flow. The roadway remains closed to non-emergency traffic.

DOT&PF has noted cracking and shifting approximately 30 feet above the roadway, and UAS are monitoring the slide for safety.

Coffman Cove: Several local roads and culverts are damaged/washed out. Several houses are cut off from car access, but ATV access is still possible.

Weather Forecast



National Weather Service Juneau, AK
 Weather Matrix for Wrangell Landslide
 Valid: 11/27/2023 04 AM - 11/30/2023 06 PM AKST
 Call 1-907-790-6800 for additional weather support



	Mon 11/27 4 AM	Mon 11/27 7 AM	Mon 11/27 10 AM	Mon 11/27 1 PM	Mon 11/27 4 PM	Mon 11/27 7 PM	Mon 11/27 10 PM	Tue 11/28 1 AM	Tue 11/28 4 AM	Tue 11/28 7 AM	Tue 11/28 10 AM	Tue 11/28 1 PM	Tue 11/28 4 PM	Tue 11/28 7 PM	Tue 11/28 10 PM	Wed 11/29 1 AM	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 11/30 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
Temperature	44°F	44°F	44°F	44°F	44°F	43°F	42°F	40°F	38°F	38°F	40°F	40°F	39°F	38°F	37°F	38°F	38°F	37°F	39°F	40°F	40°F	40°F	40°F	39°F	39°F	39°F	40°F	41°F	41°F
Wind Speed	8 mph	5 mph	5 mph	2 mph	3 mph	3 mph	2 mph	2 mph	5 mph	5 mph	5 mph	5 mph	4 mph	4 mph	4 mph	5 mph	6 mph	6 mph	6 mph	9 mph	9 mph	8 mph	8 mph	8 mph	6 mph	8 mph	8 mph	9 mph	9 mph
Wind Direction	SE	SE	SE	SE	S	S	S	SE	SE	SE	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E
Wind Gust	11 mph	10 mph	9 mph	5 mph	6 mph	6 mph	4 mph	5 mph	9 mph	10 mph	10 mph	10 mph	8 mph	8 mph	8 mph	10 mph	11 mph	11 mph	11 mph	16 mph	16 mph	13 mph	13 mph	13 mph	11 mph	13 mph	13 mph	16 mph	16 mph
Chance of Precipitation	95%	92%	62%	49%	49%	57%	57%	53%	33%	33%	21%	14%	15%	15%	17%	18%	18%	28%	43%	100%	100%	100%	100%	75%	64%	65%	65%	66%	66%
Weather	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	None	Rain	Fog Rain	Fog Rain	Fog Rain	Fog Rain	Fog Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain
Rainfall	0.14 in	0.1 in	0.05 in	0.02 in	0.01 in	0.02 in	0.03 in	0.02 in	0.0 in	0.01 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.01 in	0.02 in	0.03 in	0.04 in	0.03 in	0.03 in	0.04 in	0.07 in	0.07 in	0.05 in	0.04 in	0.03 in	0.03 in	0.03 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: Monday November 27, 2023 03:50 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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