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Commissioner & Adjutant General

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*Department of Military
and Veterans Affairs*

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska

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Press Release:

State Individual Assistance available to survivors of 2023 Spring Floods

Individuals and families with damages from 2023 Spring Floods encouraged to apply.

Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, ALASKA – The Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM) is accepting applications for the State Individual Family Grant (IFG) and Temporary Housing programs until July 23, 2023. The program is designed to help individuals and families who suffered damages and/or losses to personal and real property during the 2023 Spring Floods.

State Individual Assistance registration will begin on May 24, 2023. The deadline to apply is July 23, 2023, but this deadline may be extended due to additional flooding.

On May 24, disaster survivors can register for the State Individual Assistance program by visiting the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management webpage at **Ready.Alaska.Gov**. Telephone registration is available at 1-844-445-7131.

“Over my past 20 years of flying River Watch, I’ve seen tremendous ice flows, but this year we observed ice flows bank-to-bank on the Yukon River of between 90 – 120 miles long. This ice was accompanied by a substantial volume of river water. Together, these two factors resulted in the severe flood season we are experiencing this month. While we cannot prevent communities from flooding, we can provide early warning and be there quickly to assist village leaders and community members when flooding happens,” said Claude Denver, DHS&EM Response Manager. “As important as a swift response is, the recovery process is just as important. The State’s Individual Assistance program, along with other assistance provided by our state, federal, volunteer, and other partners is critical to ensuring survivors recover as quickly as possible.”

The 2023 Spring Floods inundated Eagle and Circle on the upper Yukon River, Red Devil and Crooked Creek on the Kuskokwim, and Glennallen. Water levels in Circle reached historic levels with water in Crooked Creek reached levels 4-5 ft higher than catastrophic flooding of 2011. Additional communities may be flooded as spring break-up continues.

Residents of the Alaska Gateway Regional Education Attendance Area (REAA), Yukon Flats REAA, Kuspuk REAA and Copper River REAA Are currently eligible, but additional communities and/or REAAs will be added based upon damages that have yet to occur.

River Watch Teams have been flying the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers since May 8 to provide communities with up-to-date river conditions, advanced warning of ice jam flood potential, and emergency response assistance when needed.

A multi-agency response effort is taking place to help communities impacted by the flooding. Partner agencies include Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation, American Red Cross of Alaska, Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, Salvation Army Alaska Division, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Alaska Energy Authority, Kuspuk School District, Donlin Gold, Alaska State Defense Force, Civil Air Patrol, Alaska National Guard, United States Coast Guard, Department of Environmental Conservation, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, FirstNet, Alaska Division of Forestry and Fire Protection, and others.

Flood response and recovery information can be found at ready.alaska.gov/flood.

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