



State Emergency Operations Center

## **2022 Riverwatch**

# **Incident Situation Report**

Date: May 23, 2022 Time: 1600 hrs

SEOC Preparedness Level 3

In partnership with:



### **Contact**

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

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## State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) Activated to Level 3

### Incident Overview

#### Timeline of Significant Events:

**APR 27 2022:** The SEOC Kuskokwim Division Supervisor deployed to Bethel. Additional Riverwatch personnel traveled to Bethel 28 April daily River Watch flights began to observe river conditions, providing advance notice of ice-jams.

**May 3 2022:** SEOC moved to Preparedness Level 2 – *Heightened Awareness*, for ongoing Riverwatch Spring break-up operations. Yukon Division deployment revised to May 9 due to cold weather. National Weather Service (NWS) issues flood watch for Crooked Creek following observation of ice jam on upper river. Flood watch is expected to remain in effect until ice breakup can be observed.

**May 7 2022:** SEOC moved to Preparedness Level 3 – *Active Response Operations* with Manley Hot Springs and Kuskokwim River communities reporting community flood impacts.

Governor Dunleavy issued a state disaster declaration for the Yukon Koyukuk Regional Education Attendance Area for flood impacts in Manley Hot Springs.

SEOC coordinates with Kenai Peninsula Borough Emergency Manager on response to the Seward City Lowell Point Landslide.

#### Disaster Declarations:

Governor Dunleavy has issued three Disaster Declarations for Spring Flooding, the Lowell Point Landslide, and Galena Fire Hall roof collapse.

#### Significant Operations:

##### Seward Division:

- SEOC deployed an Operations Specialist today to Seward. In coordination with the City of Seward and Kenai Peninsula Borough, the State of Alaska is supporting contracted water-taxi service, roadway traffic control, and road engineering planning with the Alaska State Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.
- Alaska Division of Geologic and Geophysical Surveys is assisting in preliminary landslide slope stability analysis. A Light Detecting and Ranging survey will be conducted to refine the analysis and provide an assessment of secondary slide risk.
- Vehicle barge service around the slide has transported 117 vehicles to date during the response. The Borough anticipates completing barge operations in the next 72 hrs.

- Work is ongoing to clear slide to a 6'-10' elevated road depth, with a side trench to serve as debris catchment. Debris sorting to remove vegetation and blasting are ongoing to support road clearing operations with the goal being to establish a temporary road over the slide.

### **Kuskokwim Division**

SEOC has demobilized the Alaska Division of Forestry taskforce in McGrath that was supporting flood response to make them available for fire suppression.

Red Cross is visiting McGrath today to provide initial disaster survivor support and clean up kits.

### **Glennallen Division:**

SEOC will deploy a four-person team to Glennallen tomorrow to meet with local officials, support emergency planning, and conduct an initial assessment of flood damage to infrastructure and residences. A flood advisory continues in effect for Moose Creek at Northway for snow melt flooding.

### **Lake Louise Road**

The road remains closed with water levels holding. Contractor plans to install another 5' culvert lower in this week. Culverts should reduce the water level further, further minimize percolation through the embankment and hopefully reopen the roadway. A flood advisory is in effect for the Gulkana River and Lake Louise Road.

### **Nebesna road**

Road is currently closed due to washout between 29-30 mile. Reports are there is only one resident beyond the road closure and they have flight access out if required. Due to the high-water levels and limited road use, operational plan is to leave the road closed until water recedes.

### **Paxson area Richardson highway**

Water is high in most drainages with some culverts at capacity, but no roadway overtopping at this time.

### **Taylor Highway MP 54.**

Water levels have stabilized and are starting to recede. Current in-place culvert remains ice blocked, but a replacement culvert is under contract for summer installation.

### **Yukon River:**

No current flood warnings or watches in effect. Flood advisories for the Innoko River at Shageluk,

## Buckland

Over the weekend Buckland reported an ice jam formed downstream of the village, just beyond the end of the runway, and extended past the location of last year's ice jam. The river rose 8' and generated community concern, but as of late last night, the jam released and water levels are dropping.

A flood advisory is in effect for the Salcha River and Chena River for snow melt runoff flooding.

## **Recovery Division:**

State Individual Assistance (IA) is now open all flood areas declared for IA. Information specific to the application process can be found on the [DHS&EM Individual Assistance](#) webpage, or by calling the Disaster Assistance Hotline at (907) 428-7072 or (907) 428-7075.

## River Observations

River and lake ice observations can be provided to the Alaska-Pacific River Forecast Center (APRFC) via:

- radio from aircraft to AFSS with observations for inclusion in a PIREP
  - phone at 1-800-847-173, Email report and/or photos to [nws.ar.aprfc@noass.gov](mailto:nws.ar.aprfc@noass.gov)
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## SEOC Operations Brief

### [Zoom Meeting Link](#)

Meeting ID: 829 8173 0839 Passcode: 186584

Dial in with your phone: +1 253 215 8782 US

Please email the Riverwatch conference at [riverwatch@ready.alaska.gov](mailto:riverwatch@ready.alaska.gov) if you are interested in receiving the Zoom calendar invitation.

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## Lifeline Status



**No Significant Lifeline Issues Across the State**



**Picture of flooding in Buckland**

### **Helpful Links**

Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM)

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

National Weather Service: Alaska-Pacific River Forecast Center

<https://www.weather.gov/aprfc/>