



TO: Bryan Fisher, Director, Emergency Operations Center

FROM: Brent Goodrum, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources

RE: DNR Staff Supporting Western Alaska Storm Efforts

DATE: September 19, 2022

BACKGROUND: A weather system (from Typhoon Merbok) impacted communities along the Western Alaska coast over the weekend. The State of Alaska stood up an Emergency Operations Center to coordinate agencies' response after a verbal disaster declaration by Governor Mike Dunleavy. The Department of Natural Resources has several divisions that activated to support the EOC and collect information about the historic wind and floodwater event:

Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys

- During storm: Coordinated directly with SEOC and USGS. Launched response map tool for tracking flood magnitude assessments and field operations:
<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/2f6d927a9bfb478abaf8d1528d6a78cb>
- Current activities:
 - High Water Mark teams are responding to document flood levels, wave surge, and erosion in the 9 most impacted areas (focusing first on features that tend to disappear soon after an event). This information is a critical component of community emergency response, recovery, mitigation, and long-term planning efforts. Communities currently targeted by DGGs include Nome, Bethel, Golovin, Nunam Iqua, Hooper Bay, Teller, Napakiak, and Newtok. If possible, attempts will also be made to survey Napakiak, Oscarville, Kotlik, Kipnuk, Kwigillingok, and Stebbins. These are the current plans, subject to change as more information about storm impacts is received and access/conditions allow.
 - Bethel area: 2 teams
 - Team 1: Autumn Poisson (DGGs Geologist), Kimra Widmer (MLW Surveyor)
 - Team 2: Keith Horen (DGGs Geologist) and Josip Adams (U.S. Geological Survey)
 - Nome area: 1 team with Zachary Siemsen (DGGs Geologist) Joe Donohue (MLW Surveyor)
- Alaska DGGs will continue maintaining a [response map tool](#) as community reports roll in to track flood magnitude assessments and field operations (including UAS)
- Available to support other SEOC activities where geological hazards expertise is needed
- DGGs points of contact
 - De Anne Stevens, Chief of Engineering Geology Section, deanne.stevens@alaska.gov, 907-451-5014
 - Jacquelyn Overbeck, Manager of Coastal Hazards Program, jacqueline.overbeck@alaska.gov, 907-451-5026

Division of Mining, Land, and Water

- 2 Surveyors will be part of the High Water Mark team alongside DGGs staff

Division of Forestry and Fire Protection

- EOC Director reached out to DOF Chief Norm McDonald about incident management team support

Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation

Forwarded Director Fisher's email exchange with Bering Strait Native Corporation and Calista Corp about potentially damaged cultural and historical sites with the State Historic Preservation Officer and the Office of History and Archeology (within the Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation)