

Maj. Gen. Torrence Saxe
Commissioner & Adjutant General



*Department of Military
and Veterans Affairs*

www.dmva.alaska.gov

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 25, 2023

Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

Jeremy Zidek: 907-441-2337

2023 Spring Floods Update – May 25

State and response partners actively engaged in flood response.

State Emergency Operation Center Activation Level: 3 – Ongoing Response

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska – May 25th Governor Mike Dunleavy amended his May 15 State Disaster Declaration and activated the State of Alaska Public Assistance and Individual Assistance Disaster Recovery programs in the following areas:

NW Arctic Borough (Buckland, Kobuk, Noatak)
Iditarod Regional Education Attendance Area (REAA) (McGrath)
Lower Kuskokwim REAA (Kwethluk)
Lower Yukon REAA (St. Mary's and potentially others).
City of Galena

This is in addition to the Alaska Gateway, Yukon Flats, Kuspuk, and Copper River REAAs which were declared on May 13.

Public Assistance can reimburse communities for emergency protective measures associated with the disaster event and can fund repairs to damaged critical infrastructure. Individual Assistance can provide grants to individuals and families to repair their homes, pay for essential needs, and provide temporary housing.

State of Alaska Individual Assistance Program
Registration for Individual Assistance for the 2023 Spring Flooding Disaster opened on Wednesday, May 24, 2023

Disaster survivors can call the state's Disaster Assistance Hotline at (844) 445-7131 to register over the phone. Online registration is available at ready.alaska.gov.

Information about the State of Alaska Individual Assistance program can be found at ready.alaska.gov/flood or ready.alaska.gov/Recovery/IA.

Significant Operations Updates

YUKON:

Riverwatch, with surveillance by air, provides advance warning of local community ice jam flood risk until the ice front passes. Once the ice front passes, snowmelt flood risk may continue to threaten communities.

Active response is ongoing to flooded communities on the Yukon and Kuskokwim River. Riverwatch operations ongoing for communities of the Lower Yukon River.

Galena: Community had Emergency Planning meeting last week and was flood prepared. Flood water inundated swimming pool and overtopped Tiger Freeway at Alexander Lake and Loudon Loop, but no homes inundated. Airport is open. Boil water notice in effect. Water receding. Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy amended State Disaster Declaration to include the City of Galena.

Russian Mission: 2 homes flooded; 6 homes surrounded. 10 Lower community homes evacuated to high ground.

With the community runway out of service for over 72 hours, and at the request of the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation, the SEOC and the Alaska State Troopers coordinated an Alaska National Guard Blackhawk helicopter mission from Bethel to deliver a medical provider, supplies, and transport medically fragile individuals out of the community at 1300 hrs. today.

Runway closed with 1' of water on surface. NOTAM issued. Old tank farm flooded, and pump house floated away.

Fort Yukon: Five homes inundated, with some inundated above the first floor. Water around the north runway with taxiway and ramp closed. Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT/PF) checked the airstrip today and opened airport culvert. DOT/PF expects full drainage in 1-2 days. As of now, planes able to land and take off but must offload freight and passengers on the runway. NOTAMs issued. The community has 300,000 gallons of potable water and the power is on. School is available for sheltering.

Koyukuk: Washeteria impacted and shut down due to inundation of the community sewage lagoon. All other services are intact.

Stevens Village: Flooding in progress but no current evacuations. Contingency evacuation location set up at the Yukon River Lodge. Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is monitoring water levels.

Circle: Alaska Organized Militia (AKOM) strike-team continued work in Circle assisting with debris cleanup and will do a "hand off" with Team Rubicon volunteers deploying for a residential flood damage cleanup mission for 14 residences. Alaska VOAD (Volunteers Active in Disaster) and NorthVOAD is providing relief supplies and assisting Team Rubicon with volunteer coordination. Alaska Division of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) Spill Prevention and Response (SPAR) established a local hazardous waste collection point. To date, Red Cross reports 6 homes destroyed, 10 with major damage, 5 with minor damage, and 3 inaccessible. Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) reports community well head was cleared and appears undamaged.

KUSKOKWIM

Crooked Creek: AKOM strike-team is assisting the community with clean up and will remain lodged in the community until mission complete. Boiled water notice lifted. Disaster relief supplies delivered by air. Salvation Army and the American Red Cross coordinating delivery of food supplies and shelter service. Responder lodging tent and command post tents ordered, with first scheduled to arrive by Samaritan's Purse donated air tomorrow. The community reported an additional fuel spill yesterday. In coordination with DEC, Donlin Mine deployed for an initial sorbent response. ADEC intends to deploy for additional response.

Kalskag: Airport runway length reduced. NOTAM issued.

Kwethluk: One AKOM service member on active-duty orders in the community assisting with flood recovery. Two homes have water damage from flooding. A boil water notice is in effect for the community. Airport is open and has a NOTAM for irregular surfaces on the runway.

Copper River:

Glennallen: Community held a community meeting on May 24th with Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (DHS&EM) and Department of Transportation and Public Facilities providing information. DHS&EM Individual and Public Assistance team in Glennallen May 25 to assess damages and assist with registration for state disaster recovery programs. Residential damage reported as damage: 2 major, 5 minor. IGA store open. Glenn Highway open. Red Cross cleanup kits available. Red Cross performing Individual Assistance outreach. Salvation Army has sent food and cleanout supplies.

For Current Flood Warnings, Watches, and Advisories see <https://www.weather.gov/arh/>

Resources:

Flood Response and Recovery Information: www.Ready.Alaska.Gov/Flood

Overview of the River Watch program: <https://youtu.be/NcdHTMIKaKMd>

Break up map at <https://www.weather.gov/aprfc/breakupMap>

Fresh Eyes on Ice <https://www.facebook.com/groups/FreshEyesOnIce>

Flood Preparedness Checklist [Link](#)

National Weather Service Flood Info: [Flood Warnings, Watches or Statements \(weather.gov\)](#)

###