



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Governor Commends Local Communities for Being Prepared,  
Warns Situation Still Dangerous**

November 10, 2011, Juneau, Alaska – Governor Sean Parnell called into the State of Alaska Emergency Operations Center this morning to thank local, state, and federal agencies for working well in partnership to execute the state’s emergency response plans during the Bering Sea storm. He also warned that the situation remains dangerous and flood warnings are still in effect.

“The storm is almost finished, but we are not out of the woods yet,” Governor Parnell said. “Local community leaders have done an excellent job preparing for the storm, and making sure the lives of their neighbors and loved ones were protected in the best way possible.”

Governor Parnell has been in constant contact with the leadership of the Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) to make sure the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management is meeting the needs of the local communities. Accordingly, Alaska National Guard assets were prepositioned in Nome and Bethel, and the Guard worked closely with its U.S. Coast Guard counterparts to provide immediate evacuation capability if and when life safety issues arise.

“There are two events we routinely train for with our local community partners: spring flooding and fall sea storms,” said DMVA Commissioner, Maj. Gen. Thomas H. Katkus. “So far our combined actions have gone according to plan, and people are safe and secure in their communities or evacuation points.”

The storm is expected to deliver the final surge of water this afternoon in the northernmost communities. Then the damage assessment teams will break the affected areas into three regions and work with the local communities to put a dollar amount on the destruction.

“We are committed to getting communities back to full operations as quickly as possible,” said Governor Parnell.

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