

## INITIAL STAGES OF EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

The State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC) maintains a steady-state activation at Level One, staffed by the Alaska DHS&EM Operations Section. During the onset of an incident, the Operations Section provides technical support and resource coordination to impacted communities, while engaging with state, federal, tribal, nonprofit, and volunteer organizations to address urgent response and relief requirements.

Once the SECC receives initial notification of an emergency or disaster, it will initiate contact with the impacted jurisdiction to confirm needs and gather critical situational information. This data—alongside community profiles, maps, and background materials—will be used to brief DHS&EM leadership.

If standard communications with the community are down, unreliable, or unavailable, the SECC will attempt to establish alternative communications using backup systems or field assets.

The SECC will gather incident-specific and community-level context to orient incoming responders and support staff. A reliable source for baseline community data is the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development's Community Database:

<https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/>

This information supports the creation of the ICS 201 Initial Briefing Form, a foundational document for developing future Incident Action Plans as SECC operations scale up. A completed ICS 201 example is available in Appendix E. This data also informs the Initial Damage Assessment Report, which identifies community priorities and resource needs (see pages 15–20).

## CORE QUESTIONS

The SECC will initially gather answers to the following key questions to understand the incident scope and response posture:

1. What happened?
2. When did it happen?
3. Where did it happen?
4. What was the cause?
5. What population is affected?
6. How are they affected?
7. How long will they be affected?
8. How many dead?
9. How many injured?
10. How many missing?
11. What is the extent of damage?
12. What is the current impact on local govt?
13. How did we learn of this incident?
14. When did we respond?
15. Who is in field command?
16. What has been done so far?
17. What is the status of the local response?
18. What is the long-term situation?
19. What is the short-term situation?
20. Has mutual or outside aid been requested?
21. What are the initial PIO needs?
22. What is the short-term plan?
23. What is the long-term plan?
24. What executive actions or decisions are needed?
25. What is our briefing schedule?

