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Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

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SEOC Update: 2025 October West Coast Storm – Situation Update

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF RICHARDSON, Alaska — The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) activation level has moved to level 4 – Major Incident Response, Alaska SEOC's highest level. As rescues were completed, and impacted communities reported accountability, SEOC's priority now is life sustainment, shelter operations, and interim restoration of community water, power, sanitation, and medical services.

The Alaska State Troopers have notified next of kin that 67-year-old Ella Mae Kashatok has been located deceased. The remaining two missing people from Kwigillingok have been identified as Vernon Pavil, 71 and Chester Kashatok, 41. The entire SEOC inter-agency staff grieves this loss of Alaskans.

Troopers are requesting that anyone who knows of additional people who are unaccounted for, please contact the Alaska State Troopers at 907-451-5100. The Troopers will continue to coordinate with the local community to continue recovery efforts for the two missing individuals.

The SEOC, in cooperation with multiple state, local, and volunteer agencies, has initiated an evacuation of the residents currently sheltered in Kipnuk and Kwigillingok whose homes were destroyed. As sheltering capacity was reached in Bethel, hundreds of survivors are being relocated outside the region to safe, warm shelters elsewhere within the state. The Alaska National Guard is supporting the evacuation using its tactical airlift capabilities. Two UH-60 Blackhawks, one HH-60 MEDEVAC, one CH-47 Chinook, and a C-17 Globemaster III are carrying out this mission.

Today, Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region disaster survivors, whose homes were destroyed, are being flown to Bethel via Alaska Air Guard helicopters and then transferred to a C-17 for transport to shelter in Anchorage. The American Red Cross is coordinating the sheltering and food service response once in Anchorage. Additional support in this effort is being provided by the Municipality of Anchorage, Department of Health and Social services, University of Alaska, and other local volunteer organizations. Additional survivor evacuations will be ongoing based on survivor need, and will use multiple contract, commercial, and National Guard aircraft.

The Alaska Rescue Coordination Center has reported receiving an overwhelming number of calls for non-critical evacuations. The SEOC is requesting calls for non-critical evacuations be made to your local community or Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation. For life-threatening emergencies please contact the Alaska Rescue Coordination Center at 907-551-7230.

The SEOC currently has emergency management specialists deployed to Bethel and Kotzebue to coordinate state disaster response in each region. The Alaska Organized Militia has more than 100 deployed personnel across the state in support of the response. SEOC has received mutual aid from other states through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact including Colorado, Virginia, South Carolina, Texas and Arkansas.

For those wishing to make donations, cash donations are preferred and are accepted through the Alaska Community Foundation's Western Alaska Disaster Relief Fund. Additional information can be found at: <https://alaskacf.org>.

The American Red Cross has brought additional staff from around the nation to help in Anchorage and Bethel to assist with sheltering and other mass care needs. The World Central Kitchen has arrived and is coordinating feeding of the survivors in shelters. The Salvation Army is supporting mass care and working to coordinate donation management and sheltering needs.

As of this morning, DHS&EM has received 230 applications for Individual Assistance.

Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta

Damage assessments for impacted communities is ongoing in coordination with DOT&PF, AVCP, and ANTHC.

Bethel – Over 100 people were sheltered in Bethel overnight at the Alaska National Guard Armory. Other communities in the region are sheltering individuals in smaller numbers at local schools or community buildings. The YKHC, World Central Kitchen, and American Red Cross are supporting sheltering needs in Bethel. The Brown Slough Bridge has been assessed and reopened.

Kipnuk –The runway in Kipnuk has been reopened. Currently, the council building and school have power and are running on generators. The remainder of the community is without power. Communication has been reestablished with the community through Starlink. GCI is sending a technician to Kipnuk, working to restore cell service. Significant damage to the cemetery has been reported.

Kwigillingok – 350 people were sheltered overnight. Last night, an SEOC emergency management specialist was able to travel to the community aboard an Alaska National Guard Blackhawk to deliver a pallet of water and support communications. VPSO's in the community have received Starlink and communications have been reestablished. Water pressure has been restored at the water plant and washeteria. Assessments are continuing for damages to the community's sewer system. Restrooms at the school are

working. Damage to many homes is severe, and the community leadership is instructing residents not to reenter homes due to safety concerns.

Quinhagak – 10 Alaska State Defense Force deployed. There is a DEC Remote Maintenance Worker on site working to make repairs to the water infrastructure and assess further damage.

Nightmute – A spill was reported in Nightmute. DEC responded and assessed it is diesel from heating tanks and limited to 35 gallons. Sorbent materials were sent to Nightmute and are being used to address the spill.

Norton Sound/Nome

Impacts to the Norton Sound and Nome area were not severe. Approximately half of Elim is still without power. The city is working with the Alaska Village Electric Cooperative to restore power. There is minor damage to Moses Point Road. Service members from the Alaska Organized Militia remain on State Active Duty in Nome to continue support for disaster response and recovery.

Northwest Arctic Borough/Kotzebue

The SEOC has two emergency management specialists in Kotzebue to assist the NWAB and City of Kotzebue with resource needs as they develop. Last night there were no people sheltered overnight in Kotzebue.

Kotzebue – The Alaska Organized Militia (AKOM) has 9 members deployed to Kotzebue. 132 homes have been inspected, and 52 are reported as damaged. AKOM has begun muck out and dry out of many homes. 23 homes remain in the flood area and have not been inspected.

Kivalina – No one at the shelter at this time. Damage assessment is ongoing.

State of Alaska Individual Assistance Disaster survivors in the designated disaster area can register for the state's Individual Assistance program by visiting the DHS&EM registration webpage at [<https://ready.alaska.gov/ia>] (<https://ready.alaska.gov/ia>). Telephone registration is available at 1-844-445-7131. The State's Individual Assistance (IA) program is designed to provide financial assistance to individuals or families for damage to a primary residence, primary mode of transportation, essential personal property, and medical/funeral/dental needs created as a direct result of a declared disaster.

The SEOC understand that one of the most heartbreaking decisions people had to make during this disaster was leaving their pets behind. For many, animals are beloved members of the family, and being forced to evacuate without them adds another layer of stress and grief to an already overwhelming situation. Safety and survival often require impossible choices in moments like these, and we want every pet owner to know that their love and concern for their animals has not gone unnoticed. At this time evacuation of people is the priority.

The state's Mass Care Task Force and our partner agencies, including the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation State Veterinarian's Office, are actively working to coordinate rescue efforts for stranded and displaced animals. Every effort is being made to reunite families with their animals safely and as quickly as possible.

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