

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
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SEOC Update: 2025 October West Coast Storm – Disaster Update

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF RICHARDSON, Alaska — The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) remains at Level 4 – Major Incident Response. The SEOC is coordinating a state led, federally supported, and locally executed effort in the response and recovery to the 2025 West Coast Storms.

The Request for Assistance that was submitted by Governor Dunleavy to President Trump, has been approved and a Major Disaster Declaration has been made. This declaration grants access to the federal Individual Assistance (IA) and Public Assistance (PA) programs for the following areas:

Lower Kuskokwim Regional Educational Attendance Area Lower Yukon Regional Educational Attendance Area Northwest Arctic Borough.

Statewide operations focus on stabilization, recovery, and winterization across the impacted area and other affected regions. Field teams are conducting power restoration, debris removal, and emergency home repairs, while a major push is underway to move congregate sheltered individuals into non-congregate housing. Interagency partners continue to support survivors despite challenging weather conditions impacting air operations and supply chains in and around the remote communities.

To further state and federal coordination, the response will begin to transfer from the SEOC to the FEMA Joint Field Office (JFO) under a Unified Command. This transition will support life sustainment and survivor stabilization through the implementation of joint state and federal recovery programs, including Individual Assistance (IA), Public Assistance (PA), and Non-Congregate Sheltering (NCS).

Recovery is a priority for the impacted areas, putting an emphasis on restoring critical infrastructure and services – including water, power, and communications. Ongoing coordination between federal, state, local and tribal partners is continuing to provide critical supplies to impacted communities and addressing community needs as they are reported.

As of this afternoon, 1,163 applications for state Individual Assistance (IA) have been received. FEMA has received 195 IA applications to date. State IA applicant information is being shared with FEMA IA staff to encourage registration for both programs.

It is crucial that those who are affected by the recent storms register for both state and federal Individual Assistance programs and other forms of assistance.

State of Alaska Individual Assistance (IA) – Deadline is December 9, 2025 To register for State of Alaska Individual Assistance:
Call 1-844-445-7131, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Or apply online https://ready.alaska.gov/Recovery/IA

FEMA Individual Assistance (IA) – Deadline is December 22, 2025 To register for <u>FEMA</u> Individual Assistance: Call 1-866-342-1699, Monday – Sunday, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Or apply online at https://disasterassistance.gov

Red Cross Assistance

To Register for assistance through the American Red Cross: Call 1-800-RED-CROSS

To register for housing in the Non-Congregate Shelter Program, call the Assistance Line at 907-759-6927, Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Congregate shelters remain open in Anchorage and Bethel. Additional survivors may be sheltering with neighbors, family, or friends in multiple communities. Last night, a total of 98 individuals were reported sheltering: Egan Center – 66 and Alaska Airlines Center – 32. A total of 63 households consisting of 292 people have moved into Non-Congregate Sheltering (NCS) in Anchorage.

In coordination with the Calista Corporation, a Disaster Assistance Center (DAC) will be open through Friday Oct. 31 from 10am – 5pm. It is located at 5015 Business Park Blvd., Suite 1300, Anchorage, AK 99503. DACs will also be open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at both Egan and Alaska Airlines Centers until they are closed. The DACs will offer assistance with registering for Individual Assistance Services from both FEMA and the state. Future DACs or in-person IA registration/casework will be available as needed.

Alaska 211 can connect you with available local resources that best fit your needs. Call 2-1-1 or 1-800-478-2221. Email: alaska211@ak.org or visit www.Alaska211.org. Native Alaskan language interpretation services are available.

Reunification of pets is continuing. A website has been put together to assist with reunifications at https://alaskatyphoondogs.org/found-dogs. The Alaska Pet Help Line has been established to find missing pets or report a found pet in the impacted area. The number for the Pet Help Line is 907-615-8904. Evacuees can also contact the following shelters below to find out if their dog is there.

Best Friends of Canine; 907-707-7010 Mat-Su Animal Shelter: 907-746-5500 or 907-761-7501 Anchorage Shelter: 907-343-8138 Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium is continuing to accept donations of traditional foods at the Alaska Native Medical Center and is providing subsistence-based meals for shelter residents along with medical support. The Alaska Native Heritage Center (ANHC) is providing traditional food meals to those who are currently staying outside of the congregate shelters and is accepting for frozen food donations. To donate to ANHC please contact 907-205-0068 or email nativefoods@alaskanative.net.

There have been 34 approved personnel assignments under the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) with participation from 12 states providing emergency management, public assistance, individual assistance and logistics personnel.

Team Rubicon is coordinating the collection of new items only for donations. After evaluation and sorting, they are bringing them to both shelters in Anchorage for distribution. *Donation of used items will be denied*. More information can be found at https://teamrubiconusa.org. To donate new items, bring them to Team Rubicon at the Chugach Electric Warehouse located at 1120 East 1st Avenue, Anchorage, AK, daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A list of resources related to the disaster is available at <u>ready.alaska.gov</u>, under Top News.

Interagency Partner Operations

Alaska Organized Militia (AKOM): There are over 100 AKOM members activated on State Active Duty with additional authorization as needed for disaster response. AKOM is assisting the Division of Forestry & Fire Protection with winterization and debris removal.

American Red Cross: Overnight, the Red Cross sheltered 66 individuals at the Egan Center and 32 at the Alaska Airlines Center. They continue to assist with the noncongregate housing mission. The Red Cross currently has over 200 personnel assigned to supporting this response and recovery. Red Cross Care Teams are available at the NCS and are providing assistance with IA registrations.

Anchorage School District (ASD): School bus service continues to be provided from the shelters to schools. Yup'ik immersion programs continue. ASD is actively working with families participating in the Non-Congregate Shelter Program. Students will be picked up from the shelter and dropped off at their new hotel as needed.

Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP): AVCP is working to develop a plan for the transition to long-term recovery, managed by AVCP.

Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC): Recovery teams are restoring water service, testing for contamination, and repairing fuel lines, wells, and damaged access roads. The Social Security Administration (SSA) is on-site at shelters using medical records as ID in coordination with YKHC as needed. Two maintenance workers are heading to inspect school water/wastewater systems today in Nightmute.

U.S. Postal Service (USPS): The USPS remains committed to ensuring uninterrupted mail service for customers impacted by the recent flooding in Kipnuk and Kwigillingok. For residents currently displaced and staying at the Egan Civic Center shelter in Anchorage, mail is being directed to the Egan Center Mail Unit (2nd floor, 555 West 5th Avenue, Anchorage). Mail is available for pickup daily between 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m., and Temporary Change of Address (COA) forms are available on site. As the sheltering operation transitions and individuals move into non-congregate housing or other temporary residences, it is essential that customers complete a Change of Address request to ensure their mail continues to reach them without interruption:

- In Person: Customers may visit any Post Office to complete a Temporary Change of Address form using the mailing address of their new temporary residence.
- Online: Customers can also submit a Change of Address request quickly and securely at https://www.usps.com by navigating to the "Change of Address" section.

This step is critical once residents leave the shelter, as it allows USPS to redirect mail directly to their new location. If customers have questions or need additional assistance, they may contact Alaska Customer Relations at 907-564-2828.

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