

**Maj. Gen. Torrence Saxe**

*The Adjutant General*

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*Department of Military  
and Veterans Affairs*

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Halong Survivors in Anchorage Transition to Temporary Housing**

*Non-congregate shelters close as recovery assistance continues*

**JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska** — Following the catastrophic damage caused by Typhoon Halong in Kipnuk, Kwigillingok, and throughout Western Alaska, the state's unprecedented evacuation effort has reached a new milestone. Displaced survivors who were moved from their communities to Bethel and subsequently to Anchorage have now transitioned from hotel-based accommodations into more stable environments.

Initially, evacuees were housed in congregate shelters at the Egan Convention Center and the Alaska Airlines Center before moving into Non-Congregate Shelters (NCS) at five Anchorage hotels. As of Friday, April 17, all NCS locations have officially closed. A total of 165 households, representing 681 individuals, have successfully moved from these hotels into temporary housing within Anchorage and surrounding areas.

During the NCS phase, recovery teams provided more than 135,000 meals to displaced Alaskans. On-site staff also facilitated disaster recovery registration and connected residents with local, state, federal, and non-governmental assistance programs.

"While closing NCS is an important milestone this is not mission accomplished. We still have a long way to go to stabilize the affected communities, restore essential services damaged or destroyed by the storm, and to get people back in their homes," said Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM) Director Bryan Fisher. "Our contractors, disaster response and recovery partners all levels, tribal organizations, and individuals have worked incredibly hard to make sure the disaster impacted Alaskans had their critical needs met."

The transition process involved deep coordination with each household to identify specific family needs and secure available housing assistance. Staff assisted families in finding properties that met their requirements, navigating landlord rental agreements, and transporting belongings. Furthermore, the program helped furnish new units and provided resources to ensure families could succeed in their new settings.

"Hotel rooms are small and not set up for families to occupy long term. The Temp Housing units will give people more privacy, the ability to prepare their own food, areas for residents to host celebrations or have visitors, and other normal day to day conveniences," said DHS&EM Deputy State Disaster Recovery Coordinator Megan Iverson. "It has been a blessing to serve our Alaskan community and we will continue to engage our applicants to make sure they connect with resources and have up-to-date information in all phases of their recovery."

Recovery efforts continue through Federal Disaster Individual Assistance, Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Loans, and the State of Alaska Individual Assistance program. To date, the State of Alaska has received 2,328 applications, while FEMA has received 2,488 applications and awarded \$45,816,899 in Individual and Household Program funds. Additionally, the SBA has approved more than \$1.4 million in low-interest loans for 34 applicants.

State, federal, local, volunteer, and faith-based groups remain committed to providing robust, long-term support to Alaskans displaced by Typhoon Halong. Current applicants are eligible to be placed in temporary housing if their housing situation meets state and/or federal disaster recovery program criteria.

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