

ALASKA NEWSLETTER

Local Emergency Planning Committee

ISSUE NO 1 | APRIL 2026 | VOLUME 3



NEW AK LEPC COORDINATOR

Kim Barenburg has replaced JJ as the new Alaska LEPC Coordinator for the state.

Kim.Barenburg@alaska.gov

UPCOMING EVENTS
DEC EMERGENCY
PLANNING
UPDATES

EPA PRESENTATION ON LITHIUM-ION BATTERY FIRE RESPONSE

Torri Huelskoetter from the EPA gave a presentation to the attendees on the mission of the Lithium-Ion Battery Task Force (LIBTF) is to enhance emergency response planning, preparedness, and technical capabilities of OSCs to respond to lithium-ion battery incidents. LIBTF also aims to increase awareness of the hazards presented by lithium-ion batteries throughout other response agencies at the local, state, and federal level.

More information on the Lithium-Ion Battery can be found at the EPA page [Site Profile - Region 4 Lithium Ion Battery Outreach - EPA OSC Response](#).

If you're interested in having Torri conduct the presentation she presented at the LEPCA Meeting to your LEPC, please reach out to Torri for scheduling.

Huelskoetter.Torri@epa.gov



UPDATES 2026
NEW LEPC MEMBERS
APIP
CO-CHAIR UPDATES
LEPC COORDINATOR
INTRODUCTION

The 2026 Alaska Emergency Manager Conference was a hit. Some of the more popular presentations was the **Misinformation, Disinformation, and Malinformation on Social Media and Generative AI Use During a Disaster** by Victoria Hiroka & Molly Forthofer from Hawaii and other classes such as the **NOAA Disaster and Emergency Response Capabilities – Incident Support Beyond the National Weather Service** by Liza Sanden & Caroline Wilkinson from NOAA and the **FNSB Outreach for Reaching Community Members During the 2025 Wildfire Season** by Nancy Durham.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS!



- STAY INFORMED
- MAKE A PLAN
- PACK A GO-BAG
- BUILD A STAY BOX

New LEPC Members (voted in by the SERC)

- Andrea Irrigo (Nome)
- Maria Grant (Nome)
- Vanessa Larimer (Fairbanks NSB)
- Marion Parrish (KPB)
- Wayne Burgess (KPB)
- Timothy Winters (KPB)
- Jay Teague (KPB)
- Brian Ledahl (KPB)
- Kenneth Ufkin (KPB)
- Scott Escott (KPB)

If you have new LEPC Members or members that are part of your LEPC but have not been voted in, please send the LEPC Membership Application to the LEPCA Co-Chairs & the AK LEPC Coordinator. All new members will be voted in at the next SERC meeting.



OCTOBER 2026

LEPCA meeting in the morning followed by SERC meeting in the afternoon.

MARCH 2027

At the next AK Emergency Manager Conference, the LEPCA & SERC meeting in the afternoon.

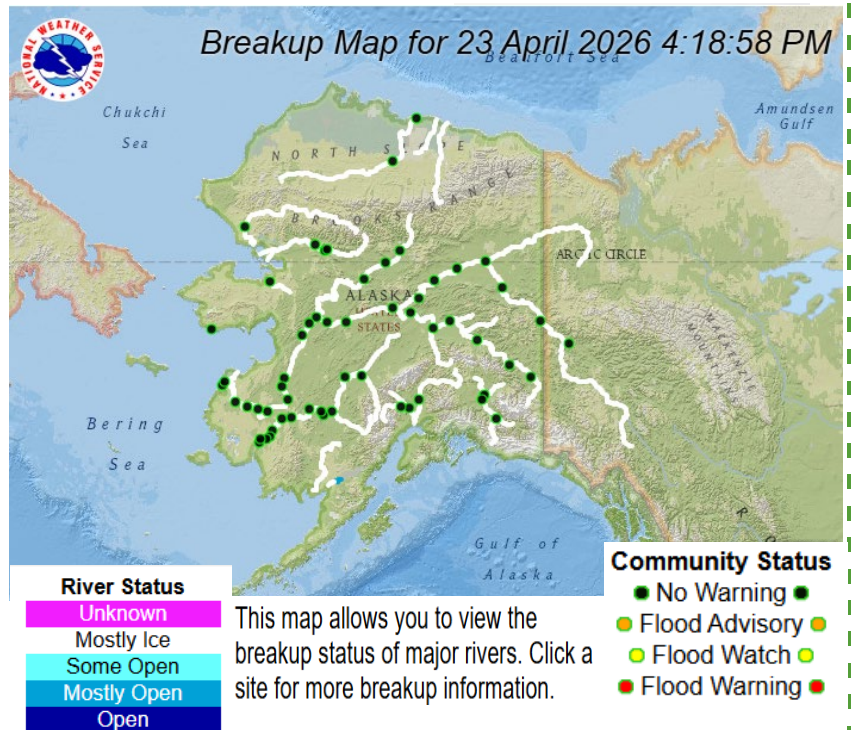
Riverwatch 2026

River breakup is projected to be more impactful than the past couple of years, due to thicker ice and inconsistent ice break-up.

<https://www.weather.gov/aprfc/breakupMap>

COOP 2026

The Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP) for FY 2026 **has been cancelled** due to the mass amounts of natural disasters. COOP 2027 dates are TBD.



New State LEPC Coordinator

My name is Kim Barenburg, and I am serving as the State LEPC Coordinator. I look forward to working closely with our LEPC Co-Chairs and all LEPC Chairs to strengthen coordination, preparedness, and community engagement. I will support planning efforts, facilitate communication, and provide quarterly newsletters to keep everyone informed on updates, training opportunities, and key LEPC initiatives. I value collaboration and welcome your input.

<https://ready.alaska.gov/SERC>



Updates from LEPCA Co-Chairs

LEPCA members often meet informally as a “virtual networking meeting.” This networking is fast becoming vital to establishing shared resources to complete statewide projects, benefiting Alaskans from preparedness to recovery topics. Contact LEPCA Co-chairs **Brenda Ahlberg** or **Tom Vaden** to be added to the invite list.

Email either chair at:

Ahlberg - bahlberg@kpb.us

Vaden - nomelepcchair@live.com



NOME LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

KENAI PENINSULA COMMITTEE



ALASKA PARTNERSHIP FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION (APIP)

APIP brings together a diverse community of infrastructure owners and emergency managers to build strong relationships during “blue sky” days through monthly meetings, field trips, and networking events focused on how our state’s systems operate. By sharing information, training opportunities, and effective practices year-round, we ensure that when disaster strikes, we already have the established networks and trust needed to cooperate effectively. Whether it’s maintaining business continuity or coordinating a rapid response to keep the lights on, our involvement in APIP helps us support one another and protect the vital infrastructure that every Alaskan relies on.

Membership is simple – just contact Ben and to join the distro list. Join us in person or remotely anytime, we’d love to have you.

<https://ready.alaska.gov/apip/>

2 WAYS TO LEVERAGE

APIP



1 ATTEND OUR MONTHLY MEETING

Network with other infrastructure stakeholders, learn from our presenters, join us on field trips, perhaps give a presentation yourself. Get on our distro list to stay informed.

10AM - Noon on Third Thursdays from September - May

In Person: AT&T Center 505 E Bluff Dr, Anchorage AK 99501

Virtually: On Teams

2 GET ON “THE LIST”

APIP manages the DHSEM’s emergency contact list to efficiently contact infrastructure managers in emergencies.

Send us an email and make sure your organization’s emergency contacts are on THE LIST.

BEN HARTLIEB
benjamin.hartlieb@alaska.gov



Emergency Planning, Community Right-To-Know Act, & Tier II Reporting

Alaska requires the use of **E-Plan** interface is the only accepted form for Tier II reporting in Alaska. Reports will not be accepted by any other method. DEC recommends you refer to the following documents as you prepare to submit your Tier II report: EPA Instructions & Alaska Supplement to the EPA Tier II Instructions. <https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/prevention-preparedness/tier-ii-reporting/>



Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Need Help Cleaning Up a Home Heating Oil Spill?



Financial assistance may be available for Alaskans through the HHOT Response Funding program.

Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)

DEC launched a new program last fall to help eligible homeowners cover the cost of responding to home heating oil spills and is now formally announcing the program statewide and is available to help homeowners cover heating oil spill cleanup costs.

Residential Property: Private residences of four units or fewer.

Recent Event: For heating oil spills discovered after 09/01/2025, with limited exceptions. <https://HomeHeatingOilTanks.alaska.gov>

Funding Amount: \$13,000 - \$17,000 depending on location.

This may cover things like spill cleanup supplies and the cost to haul away and dispose of oil-contaminated soil.



UPDATES



Alaska Cybersecurity Plan Training

- TBD, May 26, 2026

Email: mva.dhsem.training@alaska.gov

Alaska Cyber Group Annual Conference

- UAA, Anchorage, June 2, 2026

Email: uaa.adacarctic@alaska.edu

Alaska Seismic and Tsunami Operation Workshop

- TBD, August 2026

Email: mvaresilience@alaska.gov

Rural Resilience Workshop

- Nome, September 2026

Email: mvaresilience@alaska.gov



Flooding Preparedness Check List

- Talk about the risk** - Talk to your family and friends about the risk of flooding and how you can respond. Identify family members who may need assistance before and during a flood and make sure their needs are covered.
- Protect your vehicles** - Move boats and other vehicles to higher ground. Make sure boats are accessible in case they are needed during the flood.
- Make a Plan** - Make a family emergency plan so family members know their responsibilities, including children. Make a family communication plan so people know how to communicate. Write down important phone numbers, social media accounts, and other contact information and give a copy to each family member.
- Make a Kit** - Prepare emergency food, water, medications, fuel, flashlights, batteries, phone chargers, generators, and battery powered radio. Some emergency supplies is better than none.
- Gather critical paperwork** - Gather critical documents like deeds, titles, birth and marriage certificates, identification, insurance and other documents. Place critical documents in a waterproof bag and in a safe place.
- Elevate and Flood Proof** - Move things out of reach from rising water. Placing items in water proof containers or plastic bags can prevent damage or loss. Put items on counter tops, shelves, rooftops or anywhere outside the reach of flood waters. Fast rising flood waters may not give you enough time to protect valuables when flooding occurs.
- Support Community Preparedness** - Talk to your community leaders and know your community flood plan. Identify the community's shelter and what support is needed to make it ready.
- Be pet prepared** - Gather pet food and supplies, and identify where pets can be relocated and/or sheltered during the flood event. Do not set pets free as this can become a nuisance to neighbors and other animals.
- Keep up to date on conditions** - Get your information from trusted sources like community leaders, local media, response organizations, River Watch teams, and the Alaska River Forecast Center.
 - o Visit the Alaska River Forecast Center at weather.gov/aprf/