State Emergency Operations Center

2022 Riverwatch

Incident Situation Report

Date: April 28, 2022   Time: 1600 hrs

SEOC Preparedness Level 1

In partnership with:

Contact
State Emergency Operations Center 907-428-7100
seoc@alaska.gov
riverwatch@ready.alaska.gov
State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) Activated to Level 1

Incident Overview

Timeline of Significant Events:

27 APR 2022: The SEOC Kuskokwim Division Supervisor deployed to Bethel yesterday, April 27, to meet with local, regional, and tribal organizations in Bethel to discuss emergency flood plans. Additional personnel will travel to Bethel tomorrow and daily River Watch flights will begin to observe river ice conditions and potential ice jam flooding concerns.

Significant Operations:

SEOC and National Weather Service (NWS) initiated regular conference calls with community leaders, tribal organizations, and public safety agencies on the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers to brief on current river conditions and discuss flood response preparation including Small Community Emergency Response Plan review.

Kuskokwim Division conducted meetings to brief Riverwatch operations with the Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP), Village Public Safety Officers, Bethel Harbormaster, Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation, Bethel Search and Rescue, Bethel Police Chief, and Tribal Administrators for Kuskokwim and Lower Yukon River communities. Kuskokwim Division is also working through a cooperative review of the Bethel-based Regional Resource Coordination Committee.

In addition, Kuskokwim Division coordinated meetings with AVCP and the Alaska National Guard and Alaska State Department of Transportation and Public Facilities in Bethel.

SEOC Public Information Officer (PIO) gave interviews with NWS on Anchorage Alaska News Source television, KUAC radio in Fairbanks, and Bethel radio station KYUK’s “coffee talk” program. PIO deployed to Bethel and spoke with KYUK reporters about Riverwatch and the current forecast. PIO is working to arrange media participation on Riverwatch flights on a space available basis.

Kuskokwim Division will begin Riverwatch aerial surveillance of the river tomorrow, April 29, and plans daily Kuskokwim community briefing calls at 1600 hrs.

Alaska National Guard has prepositioned a UH-60 Blackhawk hoist capable helicopter in both Bethel and Nome.
River Observations

River and lake ice observations can be provided to the Alaska-Pacific River Forecast Center (APRFC) via:

- radio from aircraft to AFSS with observations for inclusion in a PIREP
- phone at 1-800-847-1739
- email report and/or photos to nws.ar.aprfc@noaa.gov

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Weekly Community Call-in Information:

**SEOC Divisions and National Weather Service Riverwatch Reports**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yukon River Division</th>
<th>Kuskokwim River Division</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday May 2 @ 1000 hrs</td>
<td>Daily @ 1600 hrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-866-203-1705 (toll free)</td>
<td>1-866-203-1705 (toll free)</td>
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<td>Participant Code: 1145901</td>
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Lifeline Status

No significant reports across the Lifelines currently.
Weather Forecast (Statewide)

5 Day Flood Potential Outlook
Valid 04/28 thru 05/03 2022

No significant river flooding is expected...

Significant River Flooding Possible
Significant River Flooding Likely
Significant River Flooding Occurring or Imminent

Created by APRFC at 10am ADT
April 28, 2022

NWS provided a briefing on potential high water due to snowmelt in the Tanana Valley basin and ice jams on the Tanana River and tributaries.

Helpful Links
Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM)
http://ready.alaska.gov/

National Weather Service: Alaska-Pacific River Forecast Center
https://www.weather.gov/aprfc/