



State Emergency Operations Center

2023 Wrangell Landslide

Incident Situation Report

Date: December 4, 2023, Time: 1600 hrs.

SEOC Preparedness Level 2



Photo courtesy of DOT&PF

Contact

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seoc@alaska.gov

landslide@ready.alaska.gov

State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) Activated to Level 2

Incident Overview

On Monday, November 20th at 2051hrs the City and Borough of Wrangell experienced a major landslide at mile 11 of Zimovia Highway. The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) was notified of the landslide at 2130 hrs. on November 20th recalled staff, activated to Level-2 and is coordinating multiple requests for state-level resources in support of Wrangell's Incident Command.

On November 21st, 2023, Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy declared a state disaster emergency for the City and Borough of Wrangell. On November 26th, 2023, Governor Dunleavy also declared a state disaster for the City of Coffman Cove. Today Governor Dunleavy amended his state declaration of disaster to add the entire Southeast Island School District Regional Education Attendance Area, including the City of Craig and Hydaburg for both Public and Individual Assistance.

Significant Operations Updates

Wrangell City and Borough:

In Wrangell this weekend, the SEOC Division Supervisor met with the mayor and engaged state Division of Geologic and Geophysical Surveys (DGGS) and Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) for operational coordination. Division Supervisor continues to support implementation of the state's disaster individual assistance program and work through volunteer and faith-based solutions for unmet needs.

The Department of Public Safety (DPS), in coordination with the Wrangell Incident Command, continues to support a reactive search strategy for the missing victims. One juvenile remains missing.

Crews from the City and Borough of Wrangell and the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) continue to work on the Mile 11 slide. Work progressed to clear the slide debris setting the stage for slope protection to be placed in the coming days. Debris removal will continue tomorrow. Road openings will shift up in the morning and move the last opening later into the evening to allow for more construction in the daylight. Construction is likely 2 to 3 days from being able to pour a concrete surface meaning a full opening is not likely until next weekend or later. Traffic barrels with lights are being ordered to support traffic road openings. Automated weather station components are being gathered for installation.

DGGS provided a technical assessment of slope stability concerns near mile 3 of the Zimovia Highway yesterday. DGGS, in conjunction with DOT&PF Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) operators, conducted evaluation of the slope and determined no immediate threat exists. The mile 3 slope is outside the area previously surveyed and DGGS ordered new UAS footage today for evaluation.

Responders noted additional oil sheen in the water near the slide area this weekend and SEOC asked DEC to engage the United States Coast Guard for response coordination, believing oil in the original slide debris was mobilized during tide movement and search operations.

A Red Cross 3-person Incident Care Condolence Team continues to work in the community to help those grieving. Wrangell Incident Command requested Alaska's Crisis Canines deploy to support community mental health and this request is being coordinated through the state Department of Health and

Wrangell Division Supervisor. Out of ongoing concern for slide risk, several residents have not returned to their homes and Wrangell Division Supervisor is meeting with them today to coordinate assistance.

Recovery Branch:

The State Individual Assistance registration telephone hotline and website opened on November 28th, and applications are being accepted from the state-declared areas.

State Public Assistance is providing communities in the declared area with technical advice on the disaster reimbursement process.

Current Registrations as of Noon, December 4th.

IA Applications Received:	7
PA Applications Received:	1
Total Disbursements:	Pending

Diomedes Division:

On Sunday, November 26th, the community reported that the city office building, constructed in 1978, had several wooden supports fail on one side of the structure. The following day, remaining supports collapsed leaving the building on the ground, with the northwest corner resting on the community elementary school. Foundation damage resulted in the building being condemned, and demolition is planned.

On Sunday, a structural assessment by a team including a DOT engineer, Bering Strait School District's Director of Maintenance and representatives from Kawerak and the City of Diomedes assessed conditions of Diomedes's school and city office buildings.

The assessment reports the school is structurally sound with minor damage, exterior siding, trim, interior drywall cracks. No mechanical or structural issues were found. Bering Straits School District has moved to online learning, with laptops being distributed to students. School will be closed to in-person learning until the collapsed office building is removed.

The city office building is severely damaged with the western wall collapsed against the school. The engineer's recommendations include maintaining the school's closure due to the unstable state of the city building, and stabilizing the city building to allow retrieval of city, tribal, postal, and firefighting equipment. This work will be carried out by a Kawerak contractor and crew, supplemented by local community hires.

Other Southeast Communities Group:

City of Craig: On Tuesday, November 28, the SEOC was notified of damage caused by flooding and landslides across Prince of Wales Island. The City of Craig reported their public works department did emergency route clearance work across the island. While no injuries were reported, several homes were damaged. The city declared a local disaster emergency on November 30.

SEOC Division Supervisor visited the community over the weekend and reports 2 homes were damaged near mile 4.25 of Port St. Nichols Road, and a community water line is at risk due to flood erosion.

Several areas had new culverts installed, while others are pending. Debris clearance from some roadways continues.

SEOC Operations Brief

SEOC Operations Briefings will be conducted Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 0800hrs via Zoom.

The next Situation Report will be released on Wednesday, December 6th, at 1600.

Please email the 2023 Wrangell Landslide conference at landslide@ready.alaska.gov

Individual Assistance Applications Are Open, To Apply:

Call 1-844-445-7131, Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm

Or Apply Online at ready.alaska.gov/Recovery/IA

The Last Day to Apply is January 27, 2024

Lifeline Status



Alaska Overall



Impacted Areas



Food, Hydration, and Shelter







Shelter

Wrangell: The Wrangell Police Department is issuing permits to residents who are authorized to pass through the slide area. Openings are being scheduled by Wrangell PD and are subject to change to meet route work needs.

Craig: Division Supervisor visited the community and noted at least 2 homes were damaged near mile 4.25 of Port St. Nichols Road, and a community water line uncovered by flooding.

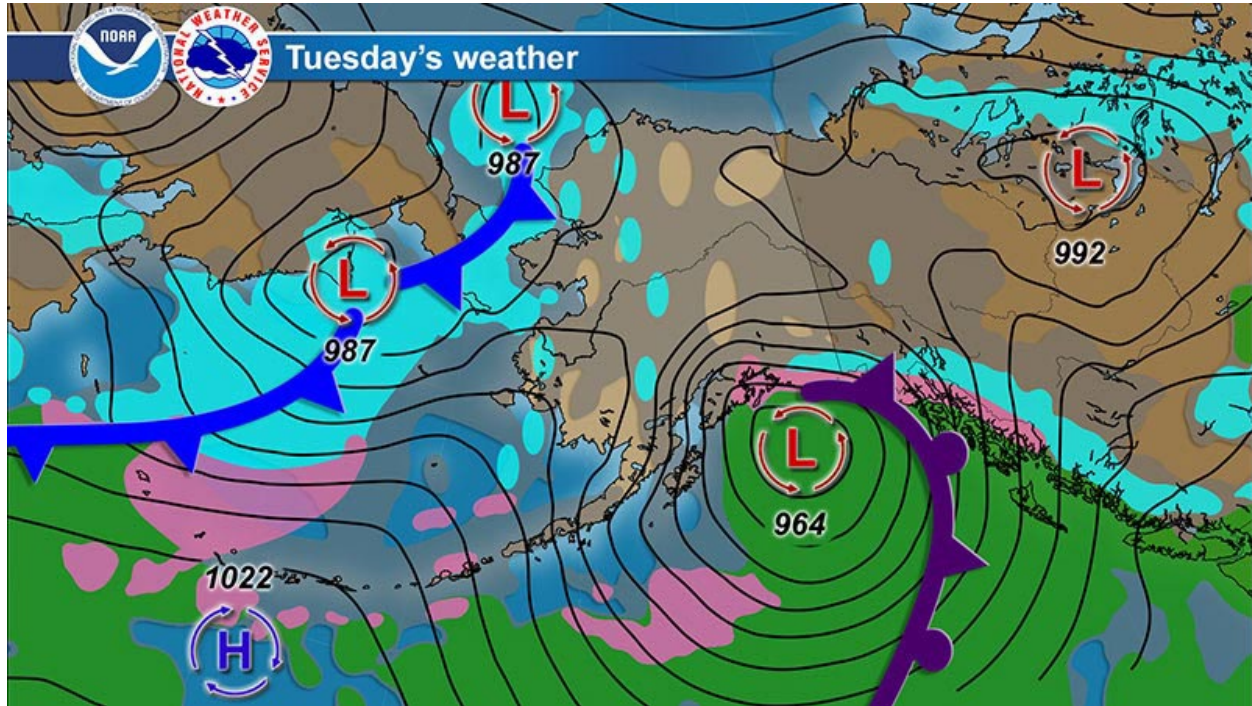
Diomed: Representatives from DOT&PF, BSSD, and Kawerak visited the community over the weekend and completed assessments on the impacted structures. A plan is being made to demolish the office building and reopen the school with a preliminary estimate of 4 weeks, depending on weather.

Recovery Br: The Recovery Branch opened the State Individual Assistance (IA) hotline and IA online application

		for affected residents. There have been 7 applications submitted.
	<p>Communications</p>	
	 <p>Infrastructure</p>	<p>Southeast: The Notice to Mariners regarding US Coast Guard Channel-16 VHF communications in the Southeast region remains in effect. USCG requests mariners relay all unanswered requests for assistance to the USCG including both radio and phone.</p> <p>Wrangell: Residents continue to rely on deployed Starlink receivers for connectivity south of the slide area. Utilities are working to re-establish regular service, with an estimate of at least a week.</p>
	<p>Transportation</p>	
	 <p>Roadways</p>	<p>Wrangell: Work continues around the Mile 11 slide area to prepare for additional repair work to begin. Road openings for residents are being shifted to maximize daylight work hours for roadcrews.</p> <p>DOT&PF, along with DGGs and City and Borough of Wrangell personnel conducted inspections on a reported unstable slope near mile 3 of Zimovia Highway. Inspections found no immediate threat.</p> <p>Craig/POW: Division Supervisor visited several sites in and around Craig that were impacted by recent weather events. Several areas had new culverts installed, while others are pending. The City of Craig reported their public works department did emergency route clearance work</p>

		across the island. Some debris clearance from roadways continues. While no injuries were reported, several homes were damaged. The city declared a local disaster emergency on November 30.
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Weather Forecast



National Weather Service Juneau, AK
 Weather Matrix for Wrangell Landslide
 Valid: 12/04/2023 04 AM - 12/07/2023 06 PM AKST
 Call 1-907-790-6800 for additional weather support



	Mon 12/04 4 AM	Mon 12/04 7 AM	Mon 12/04 10 AM	Mon 12/04 1 PM	Mon 12/04 4 PM	Mon 12/04 7 PM	Mon 12/04 10 PM	Tue 12/05 1 AM	Tue 12/05 4 AM	Tue 12/05 7 AM	Tue 12/05 10 AM	Tue 12/05 1 PM	Tue 12/05 4 PM	Tue 12/05 7 PM	Tue 12/05 10 PM	Wed 12/06 1 AM	Wed 12/06 4 AM	Wed 12/06 7 AM	Wed 12/06 10 AM	Wed 12/06 1 PM	Wed 12/06 4 PM	Wed 12/06 7 PM	Wed 12/06 10 PM	Thu 12/07 1 AM	Thu 12/07 4 AM	Thu 12/07 7 AM	Thu 12/07 10 AM	Thu 12/07 1 PM	Thu 12/07 4 PM
Temperature	44°F	44°F	46°F	46°F	45°F	44°F	44°F	43°F	43°F	42°F	42°F	42°F	41°F	41°F	41°F	40°F	40°F	39°F	39°F	40°F	40°F	39°F	39°F	39°F	39°F	38°F	37°F	38°F	38°F
Wind Speed	19 mph	24 mph	24 mph	20 mph	21 mph	21 mph	20 mph	20 mph	17 mph	17 mph	17 mph	13 mph	13 mph	12 mph	11 mph	11 mph	10 mph	10 mph	10 mph	10 mph	9 mph	9 mph	9 mph	9 mph	9 mph	9 mph	8 mph	8 mph	
Wind Direction	SE	SE	SE	E	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	S	S	S	S	S	SW	SW	S	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	
Wind Gust	25 mph	29 mph	29 mph	28 mph	28 mph	26 mph	24 mph	24 mph	24 mph	24 mph	19 mph	18 mph	17 mph	16 mph	16 mph	13 mph	13 mph	13 mph	13 mph	13 mph	13 mph	13 mph	13 mph	13 mph	13 mph	13 mph	12 mph	12 mph	
Chance of Precipitation	95%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	74%	65%	60%	61%	61%	54%	62%	71%	71%	71%	59%	59%	47%	
Weather	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	Rain	
Rainfall	0.06 in	0.07 in	0.11 in	0.12 in	0.12 in	0.15 in	0.15 in	0.17 in	0.19 in	0.13 in	0.11 in	0.1 in	0.09 in	0.09 in	0.08 in	0.07 in	0.08 in	0.07 in	0.06 in	0.06 in	0.05 in	0.04 in	0.07 in	0.09 in	0.04 in	0.04 in	0.03 in	0.03 in	
Snow Accumulation	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	0.0 in	

Issued: Monday December 04, 2023 04:17 AM AKST

Hazard Level	None	Limited	Elevated	Significant	Extreme
Wind Speed	≤15 mph	15 to 19 mph	20 to 24 mph	25 to 29 mph	≥30 mph
Wind Gust	≤25 mph	25 to 34 mph	35 to 44 mph	45 to 59 mph	≥60 mph
Chance of Precipitation	≤20 %	20 to 39 %	40 to 59 %	60 to 79 %	≥80 %
Rainfall	≤0.1 in	0.1 to 0.29 in	0.3 to 0.79 in	0.8 to 1.09 in	≥1.1 in
Snow Accumulation	≤0.5 in	0.5 to 0.9 in	1.0 to 1.9 in	2.0 to 2.9 in	≥3.0 in

Note - Grey color indicates no thresholds assigned
 - Values in each 3-hour time block represent the worst case scenario, except for temperature, sky cover, and relative humidity where average values are displayed

Helpful Links

Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM)

<http://ready.alaska.gov/>

National Weather Service: Alaska Forecast Center

<https://www.weather.gov/alaska/>