



For Immediate Release
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Crooked Creek Recovery Effort in Full Swing
Multi-Agency Disaster Housing Task Force Moves Forward with Late Fall Goal

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – Crooked Creek, which suffered major damage during this spring’s river break-up, is receiving assistance to restore the community to a pre-disaster condition. The Crooked Creek Disaster Housing Task Force (DHTF) meets regularly to manage funding options, adequate construction design, shipping schedules, proper land usage, volunteer labor, donations management, and construction timelines. The DHTF is led by the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM) to facilitate home-construction prior to winter.

Governor Parnell’s May 17 State Declaration of Disaster Emergency activated the State’s Individual Assistance Program to address the needs of Crooked Creek and Red Devil residents who suffered damages to their homes and/or personal property. In addition, a Federal Public Assistance Disaster Declaration enables FEMA to fund 75 percent of the disaster costs for repairs to eligible public infrastructure damaged during the flood event. The remaining 25 percent is funded by the State.

“There is no single plan for rebuilding a remote Alaskan community. Each community is unique and we work with community leaders, residents, and our partners that have a role in the rebuilding effort,” said Mike O’Hare, DHS&EM Deputy Director and State Coordinating Officer. “Since the flood we have been actively engaged with our federal, state, tribal, non-profit and native corporation partners to mobilize available assets. We have funding, we have a plan, we have volunteers. We are now buying the material, moving supplies and equipment to Crooked Creek in preparation for the volunteer teams’ arrival in mid-August.”

DHS&EM established the Crooked Creek Disaster Housing Task Force (DHTF) on May 16th to coordinate resources and develop a comprehensive plan to rebuild or repair the damaged homes in Crooked Creek. The DHTF members include: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Cold Climate Housing Research Center, Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) Housing Authority, Denali Commission, The Kuskokwim Corporation, Bureau of Indian Affairs(BIA), Department of Environmental Conservation, American Red Cross of Alaska, Calista Regional Corporation, Alaska Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (AKVOAD), Samaritans’ Purse, Mennonite Disaster Services, and Christian Reformed World Relief Committee.

“As always, our partners have been tremendous; we could not do this work without their steadfast commitment. Each of the DHFT partners brings a unique capability, expertise, and/or funding to the rebuilding effort. Together, we can provide a comprehensive disaster recovery package,” said O’Hare. “Our goal is to have residents in sustainable, climate-appropriate housing by October 15.”

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