



For Immediate Release

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Press Release:

State Maintains Emergency Response Effort as Storm Diminishes

Communities Shelter Resident, No Reports of Injury or Major Damage

Anchorage, AK – The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) continues 24 hour operations in order to support communities affected by 2011 West Coast Storm. Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM) staff and agency response partners are working from the SEOC to address critical emergency needs. National Weather Service (NWS) Coastal Flood Warnings are still in effect for much of the West Coast of Alaska. However, the energy in the storm continues to diminish. 37 communities and 2 boroughs have reported minor damages and/or sheltering operations.

The SEOC Center has received no reports of injury related to the storm or received an emergency assistance requests from communities.

“The emergency managers in the impacted communities have done an excellent job responding to this storm. They informed their residents about the potential danger, took steps to minimize the damage, and established shelter so people would have a safe place to wait out the storm,” said David Kang, SEOC deputy incident commander. “The state will continue to communicate with the local emergency manager and will be ready to act upon any emergency assistance requests.”

Minor damages have been reported throughout Western Alaska. While NWS Coastal Flood Warnings are in effect the SEOC’s is urging communities to focus on the life safety needs of residents.

“As the threat from the storm begins to pass the state will give communities the opportunity to restore essential service and get people back into their homes before we begin a thorough damage assessment,” said Kang.

Throughout this event accurate forecasts from the National Weather Service have been essential to emergency preparedness efforts. Communities took the appropriate actions based upon the frequently updated NWS information.

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