



**For Immediate Release**  
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Press Release:

## **State Responds to Cordova Disaster Declaration** ***State Emergency Operations Center Increases Activation Level to 3***

ANCHORAGE, Alaska –After experiencing extreme and excessive snowfall the City of Cordova has issued a Disaster Declaration requesting the state provide assistance with shelter operation, emergency management staff, laborers, snow removal equipment, and additional heavy equipment operators. The City of Cordova has activated their Emergency Operations Center to deal with impassable streets, potential roof collapses, avalanches across major highways, closure of businesses, and potential loss of critical infrastructure.

Avalanches in populated areas and collapsing roofs are the primary areas of concern. The storm that impacted Cordova also deposited large amounts of snow in Valdez and Yakutat.

The Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM) activated the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) today to respond to requests identified in Cordova's Disaster Declaration. The SEOC activation level is now at level three, which indicates an actual event has occurred or may be imminent. SEOC staff is currently working with Cordova's Emergency Operation Center to provide the necessary emergency assistance. The SEOC plans to remain staffed throughout the weekend.

Access to Cordova's airport was temporarily blocked by avalanches. Snow removal crews reestablishing access at 1:10 today. The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities reports the airport is clear of snow and available for aircraft.

Agency liaisons representing the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Public Safety, Environmental Conservation, Transportation and Public Facilities, as well as the American Red Cross of Alaska, The Alaska National Guard and Federal Emergency Management Agency have been notified of SEOC activation level and briefed on the current situation in Cordova.

The National Weather Service forecast additional snow fall throughout the weekend.

Three DHS&EM emergency management staff members, in Cordova to provide assistance not related to the snowfall, have extended their stay and are now working with community leadership.

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