



State Emergency Operations Center  
2013 River Watch, AK DHSEM 13-Z-003  
Date: May 16, 2013 Time: 1500 hrs  
SEOC Preparedness Level 2



**Contact**

State Emergency Operations Center 907-428-7100

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## Incident Overview

### State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) Activated to Level 2

The SEOC is activated to level 2, heightened awareness, for 2013 River Watch operations. The River Watch program is a joint, inter-agency effort, combining personnel from DHS&EM and the National Weather Service (NWS) Alaska Pacific River Forecast Center (APRFC) to monitor river conditions during Alaska's spring break up season through over flight river surveillance. The program includes local community visits to provide current conditions and emergency preparedness information.

Currently there are two teams conducting river observations: Upper Yukon River based out of Eagle, Alaska and Upper Kuskokwim River based out of Aniak, Alaska.

#### **Yukon River:**

The Yukon River at Dawson broke up Wednesday evening. Ice moved 13 miles downriver and formed a jam about 80 up from Eagle, AK. The Klondike River and the Fortymile River are open water; both are tributaries to the Yukon. The ice is thinning from Eagle, AK to Circle AK.

According to the Yukon Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) Situation Report an Incident Management Team has been activated due to minor flooding in Rock Creek, Yukon Territory, Canada. Rock Creek is approximately 80 air miles upriver from Eagle, AK. RCMP also reported an ice jam on the Pelly River caused sudden flooding in the community of Ross River, which now appears to be receding; pilots reported large ice jams upstream that are being monitored.

#### **Kuskokwim River:**

The Kuskokwim River is reported to be solid with some water reported on the banks. The Upper Kuskokwim interagency team arrived in Aniak, Alaska today (16 May, 2013) and will fly upriver to observe current ice conditions.

#### **Statewide:**

The SEOC continues to monitor other flood prone river systems and potential at-risk communities as well as the State's elevated volcano status and wildland fire hazard.

#### **Event Needs and Status:**

|                       |  | Confirmed | Estimated |  |                            | Confirmed | Estimated |
|-----------------------|--|-----------|-----------|--|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>Mass Casualty</b>  |  |           |           |  | <b>Evacuation</b>          |           |           |
| Dead                  |  | 0         | 0         |  | Communities                | 0         | 0         |
| Injured               |  | 0         | 0         |  | # Evacuated                | 0         | 0         |
| Missing               |  | 0         | 0         |  | Still Required             | 0         | 0         |
| <b>Mass Care</b>      |  |           |           |  | <b>Search &amp; Rescue</b> |           |           |
| Shelters Open         |  | 0         | 0         |  | Areas                      | 0         | 0         |
| Pop. Capacity         |  | 0         | 0         |  | Assets                     | 0         | 0         |
| Pop. Remaining        |  | 0         | 0         |  | Results                    | 0         | 0         |
| Sheltered             |  | 0         | 0         |  | Quantity                   | 0         | 0         |
| <b>Transportation</b> |  |           |           |  | <b>Wildland Activity</b>   |           |           |
| Bridge Closures       |  | 0         | 0         |  | Active Fires               | 7         | 0         |
| Airport Closures      |  | 0         | 0         |  | Staffed Fires              | 0         | 0         |
| Port Closures         |  | 0         | 0         |  | Total Acres Burned         | 151 YTD   |           |
| <b>Medical</b>        |  |           |           |  |                            |           |           |
| Facility-Status       |  | 0         | 0         |  |                            |           |           |
| Capacity              |  | 0         | 0         |  |                            |           |           |
| Blood                 |  | 0         | 0         |  |                            |           |           |

| Community Name | EOC / IMT Activated | Local Declaration | Shelter Open | Structures Damaged | CIKR Status  | Relocated Residents | Resource Requested |  |              |
|----------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------------|--|--------------|
|                |                     |                   |              |                    |              |                     |                    |  |              |
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|                |                     |                   |              |                    |              |                     |                    |  |              |
|                |                     |                   |              |                    |              |                     |                    |  |              |
| <b>Totals</b>  | <b>0</b>            | <b>0</b>          |              |                    | <b>0</b>     | <b>0</b>            | <b>0</b>           |  |              |
|                | No Info             |                   | Good         |                    | Minor Damage |                     | Moderate Damage    |  | Major Damage |

## Weather Forecast

### Overview

**Upper Tanana Valley and Fortymile Country**

**Today:** Mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 50s. Southeast winds to 10 mph.

**Tonight:** Mostly cloudy. Scattered rain and snow showers west of Tok and Chicken. Lows in the lower 30s. Southeast winds to 10 mph.

**Yukon Flats and Surrounding Uplands**

**Today:** Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 50s. Southeast winds to 10 mph.

**Tonight:** Mostly cloudy. Scattered rain and snow showers west of Fort Yukon. Lows in the lower to mid 30s. East winds to 10 mph.

**Upper Kuskokwim Valley**

**Today:** Cloudy. Scattered rain and snow showers after noon. Highs in the lower to mid 40s. Light winds.

**Tonight:** Mostly cloudy. Scattered rain and snow showers in the evening. Scattered snow showers and areas of fog after midnight. Lows in the lower to mid 20s. West winds to 10 mph.

### Flood Advisory

Flood Advisory in Salcha on the Tanana River until 10:00 pm tonight (May 16, 2013)

### Flood Watches

None to report

### Spring Break up Outlook/Flood Potential

The spring breakup flood potential throughout Alaska is currently rated as moderate for most of the state. This forecast is based on observed snowpack. Ice thickness reports and long range temperature forecasts.

**SHORT TERM FLOOD OUTLOOK**

A cooling trend is occurring over much of Alaska. This will likely slow down the snow melt process and decrease the volume of runoff into the rivers. Breakup is proceeding slowly throughout Alaska and will continue on that trend through much of next

week. Conditions are still favorable for a dynamic breakup where greater chances for significant ice jams exist along with better chances that flooding might be more severe than normal.

**Public Information Talking Points:**

- Residents that live near Ice Jam prone rivers should move vehicles away from the water, talk to community leaders about emergency response plans, identify sheltering points, and listen for river condition updates.
- The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) has been activated to monitor potential flooding during this spring river break-up season. The SEOC is staffed in order to track River Watch activities and to quickly transition to emergency response if flooding impacts a community.
- Each spring the River Watch program, a partnership between Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM) and the National Weather Service Alaska-Pacific River Forecast Center (APRFC), conducts aerial observations of ice jam prone rivers, provides flood warnings and alerts, and assists communities with emergency management and/or evacuations.
- A River Watch team is in Eagle to monitor ice conditions on the Upper Yukon. A second River Watch Team is in Aniak to monitor river conditions on the Kuskokwim River.
- Forecast cold temperatures will continue to slow the break-up process. The ice broke in Dawson. The Yukon breakup front is expected to reach Eagle in the next 24 hours.
- A Flood Advisory is in effect until 10pm Thursday for Tanana River in Salcha.
- Current information and photos can be found at [www.ready.alaska.gov/updates](http://www.ready.alaska.gov/updates)

**Public Information Officer Contact: 907-428-7125. Cell 907-441-2337**

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**The next SITREP for this incident will be Friday May 17, 2013**