



State Emergency Operations Center
2013 River Watch, AK DHSEM 13-Z-003
Date: May 17, 2013 Time: 1500 hrs
SEOC Preparedness Level 2



Kuskokwim River @ Crooked Creek 5/17/13

Contact

State Emergency Operations Center 907-428-7100

riverwatch@ak-prepared.com

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:

At 0330 hrs this morning, water breached the seawall in Eagle, AK resulting in minor flooding. The City of Eagle reported water damage to a few structures, power poles and power lines. The City is in contact with the SEOC and has not requested any State assistance at this time.

The Flood Warning for Eagle was cancelled at 1336hrs. The ice jam released and the water level returned below flood stage.

Kuskokwim River:

The Upper Kuskokwim interagency team flew the upper river. There are sheets and pans of ice around Stony. The ice is beginning to split at Red Devil. At Crooked Creek the ice appeared to have minor movement but has stopped.

Statewide:

The SEOC continues to monitor winter storm advisories, 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 |
|-----------------------|--|-----------|-----------|--|----------------------------|--|-----------|-----------|
| Mass Casualty | | | | | Evacuation | | | |
| Dead | | 0 | 0 | | Communities | | 0 | 0 |
| Injured | | 0 | 0 | | # Evacuated | | 0 | 0 |
| Missing | | 0 | 0 | | Still Required | | 0 | 0 |
| Mass Care | | | | | Search & Rescue | | | |
| 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 |
| Transportation | | | | | Wildland Activity | | | |
| Bridge Closures | | 0 | 0 | | Active Fires | | 6 | 0 |
| Airport Closures | | 0 | 0 | | Staffed Fires | | 0 | 0 |
| Port Closures | | 0 | 0 | | Total Acres Burned | | 152 YTD | |
| Medical | | | | | | | | |
| Facility-Status | | 0 | 0 | | | | | |
| Capacity | | 0 | 0 | | | | | |
| Blood | | 0 | 0 | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |

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:

- Talking Points 5.17.13
- Ice movement has occurred at Eagle. Minor flooding has been reported. The River Watch Team is working closely with the City of Eagle's Mayor and the Village of Eagle's VPSO. At this time there are no requests for state emergency assistance.
- 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 SEOC is staffed in order to track River Watch activities and to quickly transition to emergency response if flooding impacts a community.
- River Watch's mission is to conduct aerial observations of ice jam prone rivers, provides flood warnings and alerts, and assist communities with emergency management and/or evacuations.
- A River Watch team is in Eagle to monitoring ice conditions on the Upper Yukon. A second River Watch Team is in Aniak to monitor river conditions on the Kuskokwim River.
- Current information and photos can be found at www.ready.alaska.gov/updates
- **Public Information Officer Contact: 907-428-7125. Cell 907-441-2337**

The next SITREP for this incident will be Monday May 20th, 2013