



State Emergency Operations Center
2013 River Watch, AK DHSEM 13-Z-003
Date: May 19, 2013 Time: 1730 hrs
SEOC Preparedness Level 3



Contact

State Emergency Operations Center 907-428-7100

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Incident Overview

State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) Activated to Level 3

The SEOC is activated to level 3, 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 Circle Hot Springs, Alaska and Upper Kuskokwim River based out of Aniak, Alaska. Monday the Flood Response team will deploy to Circle.

Yukon River:

Residents have been relocated to higher ground in Circle. The town has been inundated with 5 to 8 feet of water. Nearly all the homes in the village have been flooded. The church, store, clinic and community center are flooded. The school is surrounded by water but the water has not entered the school because it is elevated.

This flooding is associated with the surge of water and ice that moved through Eagle on Friday May 17. Flooding will continue until the ice and water move downstream of circle.

Kuskokwim River:

Weather is reported to be fair and clear in Aniak with sun beating down on the River. A report from Napaimute states the river had dropped 4 inches.

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	23	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				

Infrastructure Status:

Community Name	EOC / IMT Activated	Local Declaration	Shelter Open	Structures Damaged	CIKR Status	Relocated Residents	Resource Requested	
Eagle, AK	No	No	No	6		UNK	None	
	The structures were reported to be homes with variable damage							
Circle, AK	No	No	No	UNK				
Totals	0	0			0	0	0	
	No Info		Good		Minor Damage		Moderate Damage	Major Damage

Weather Forecast

Overview

Upper Tanana Valley and Fortymile Country

Tonight: Decreasing clouds with lows in the teens. West winds 5 to 15 mph.

Monday: Partly sunny with highs in the mid to upper 40s and light winds.

Yukon Flats and Surrounding Uplands

Tonight: Increasing clouds with lows in the lower to mid 20s. Southwest winds 5 to 15 mph

Monday: Cloudy. Highs in the mid 40s to lower 50s. Southwest winds 5 to 15 mph

Lower Kuskokwim Valley

Tonight: Partly cloudy with lows around 30. Variable wind 10 mph

Monday: Partly sunny in the morning...then cloudy with a slight chance of rain in the afternoon west of Sleetmute. Highs in the mid 40s to lower 50s. South wind 10 to 20 mph

Flood Warning

The flood warning remains in effect until 6:00 p.m. Monday for the Yukon River at Circle (May 20, 2013)

Fort Yukon flood warning in effect until 4:00 p.m. Tuesday for the Yukon River at Fort Yukon (May 21, 2013)

Flood Watch

Yukon Flats and Surrounding Uplands through Wednesday afternoon (May 22, 2013)

Yukon river from rampart to Tanana from Wednesday afternoon through Friday afternoon (May 24, 2013)

Flood Advisory

Ice jam flooding for the Chena river down river from the Nordale road bridge and upriver from Fort Wainwright until 6 pm Sunday (May 19, 2013)

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

Below normal temperatures continue over much of Alaska. This will 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 the weekend.

Public Information Talking Points:

- Talking Points 5.19.13

Circle

- Major flooding impacted Circle Alaska today. Water rose rapidly 5 to 8 ft this morning and reached or flooded the majority of structures in Circle. All residents and pets are safe. Flood waters are now rapidly receding.
- A Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM) Emergency Management Specialist is in Circle and working with the Chief of the Native Village of Circle to identify any emergency assistance needs. No emergency assistance has been requested at this time.
- At this time residents are at the school, store and a location near the post office. The power system and washateria appear intact and operational.

Eagle

- The Flood Warning for Eagle has been canceled.
- Several homes in Eagle and downriver have sustained damages.
- DHS&EM's River Watch team in Eagle is in close communication with community leadership and has not received any requests for emergency assistance at this time.
- The Upper Yukon River Watch Team is working with the community to determine if damaged structures are full time residents, recreational properties, or non-residential structures.
- Mitigation efforts after the 2009 flood moved and/or protected homes which would have been affected by this flood event.

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 National Weather Service Alaska-Pacific River Forecast Center has a Flood Warning in effect for Circle, and a Flood Watch in effect for Fort Yukon. The Upper Yukon River Watch Team is continuing to monitor river conditions and alert communities downriver.

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