



State Emergency Operations Center
2013 River Watch, AK DHSEM 13-Z-003
Date: May 20, 2013 Time: 1500 hrs
SEOC Preparedness Level 3



Tanana River

Contact

State Emergency Operations Center 907-428-7100

riverwatch@ak-prepared.com

Incident Overview

State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) Activated to Level 3

The SEOC is activated to level 3, actual event, for 2013 River Watch operations. Two communities have experienced flooding on the Yukon River. Moderate flooding occurred in Eagle on Friday May 17, 2013 with major flooding in Circle occurring on Sunday May 19, 2013.

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. The Flood Response Team Circle Division is in transit to Circle, AK.

Yukon River:

Circle, AK: The 5 -8 feet water inundation has receded. Initial reports are that every residence in Circle, the church, store, clinic and community center were inundated with some level of water. The school and post office however were without incident.

Ft. Yukon: Throughout the day Ft. Yukon has made preparations for expected flooding. In the last report, there was a large sheet of ice (likely the break up front) 12 miles upstream from Fort Yukon. The sheet is blocking much of the river channel causing widespread flooding of lowlands southeast of Fort Yukon. It is also building a large reserve of water that could act much like a dam break when the ice sheet erodes enough to release the ice jam. Fort Yukon is currently experiencing minor flooding of low-lying areas in town. If this ice jam releases suddenly, it could result in major flooding throughout Fort Yukon.

Kuskokwim River:

The Kuskokwim River is progressing slowly. Today, is the second day of warmer temperatures and tonight may be the first night without freezing. There is very little water in the system currently the warmer temperatures should increase the amount of water in the system and will also increase the activity levels.

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			

Infrastructure Status:

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

Weather Forecast

Overview

Upper Tanana Valley and Fortymile Country

Tonight: Partly cloudy with lows in the upper teens to lower 20s. Light winds.
Tuesday: Sunny with highs in the mid to upper 50s. Southeast winds to 10 mph.

Yukon Flats and Surrounding Uplands

Tonight: Partly cloudy with lows in the lower to mid 20s. Light winds.
Tuesday: Mostly sunny with highs in the upper 50s to lower 60s. Light winds.

Lower Kuskokwim Valley

Tonight: Cloudy with a slight chance of rain showers west of Sleetmute. Lows in the 30s. South wind 10 to 20 mph.
Tuesday: Rain likely with highs in the lower to mid 50s. South wind 15 to 25 mph.

Flood Warning

Fort Yukon flood warning in effect until 10:00 p.m. Tuesday for the Yukon River at Fort Yukon (May 21, 2013)

Flood Watch

Yukon River from Beaver to Rampart through Wednesday afternoon (May 22, 2013)
Yukon river from Rampart to Tanana from Wednesday afternoon through Friday afternoon (May 24, 2013)

Flood Advisory

None

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. So far moderate to major flooding has affected the Yukon communities of Eagle and Circle

SHORT TERM FLOOD OUTLOOK

Temperatures are expected to begin approaching normal this week. Together with long daylight hours this should begin to result in ripening and melting of both the river ice and the remaining low lying snow pack.

Public Information Talking Points:

- Talking Points 5.20.13

Fort Yukon

- A Flood Warning is in effect for Fort Yukon. At 9:00am an Ice Jam was 12 miles upstream from Fort Yukon. The jam caused water to spread out from the banks.
- Fort Yukon leadership and residents are aware of the Flood Warning and have taken precautions.

Circle

- Major flooding impacted Circle Alaska Yesterday. Water rose rapidly 5 to 8 ft this morning and reached or flooded the majority of structures in Circle. The Flood Warning is canceled.
- 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.
- DHS&EM is sending a three person Flood Response team to Circle to help the community with flood response and recovery activities.

Eagle

- The Flood Warning for Eagle has been canceled.
- 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.
- 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, put essential items in a go-bag, and listen for river condition updates.

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 Upper Kuskokwim River.

The National Weather Service Alaska-Pacific River Forecast Center has a Flood Warning in effect for Fort Yukon and a Flood Watch in effect for Beaver, Steven's Village, Rampart, and Tanana.

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 Tuesday May 21st, 2013