



State Emergency Operations Center  
2013 River Watch, AK DHSEM 13-Z-003  
Date: May 21, 2013 Time: 1600 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, 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 Incident Management Team (IMT) Circle Division is on scene in Circle, AK.

#### Yukon River:

Circle, AK: Some residents are staying at the Tribal Hall. At least one home is moved off its foundation and the home owner is being moved to Fairbanks with assistance from Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC). Water samples are being tested and verified today. The American Red Cross and the TCC Emergency Response Team are working together to assist residents with food, clean up supplies and environmental health awareness.

Ft. Yukon: Fort Yukon is currently flooded in low lying areas on the west side of town including the ball field, the old tank farm and the area around the tribal hall and one access ramp at the airport. Several homes on the downstream side of town have been impacted. While some fluctuations to river levels have been reported these do not mean that the risk of major flooding from the upstream ice jam has passed. If the ice jam releases suddenly it could result in major flooding throughout the town of Fort Yukon. If the jam holds in place long enough it may erode and allow a slow release of the upstream water. This or the erosion of ice downstream of Fort Yukon could lower the risk of major flooding when the ice jam releases.

#### Kuskokwim River:

The weather is rainy and slightly warmer today in the Upper Kuskokwim area. The ice may break at Aniak on Thursday (May 23, 2013 or Friday May 24, 2013) the Upper Kuskokwim Division will be flying today at approximately 4:00 p.m. to assess the situation.

#### 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
<b>Mass Casualty</b>				<b>Evacuation</b>		
Dead	0	0		Communities	1 partial	0
Injured	0	0		# Evacuated	7	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	6	0
Airport Closures	0	0		Staffed Fires	0	0
Port Closures	0	0				

Medical			Total Acres Burned	152 YTD
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:** Mostly clear with lows in the mid 20s. Southeast winds to 10 mph.

**Wednesday:** Mostly sunny with highs in the lower 60s. Light winds.

**Yukon Flats and Surrounding Uplands**

**Tonight:** Partly cloudy with lows in the mid 20s to lower 30s. Light winds.

**Wednesday:** Sunny with highs in the lower to mid 60s. Light winds.

**Central Interior**

**Tonight:** Partly cloudy with lows in the upper 20s to lower 30s. East winds to 10 mph.

**Wednesday:** Increasing clouds with highs in the upper 50s to lower 60s. Light winds.

**Lower Kuskokwim Valley**

**Tonight:** Rain likely with lows around 40. Southeast wind 10 to 25 mph.

**Wednesday:** Mostly cloudy with a chance of rain. Lows in the upper 30s to mid 40s. South wind 10 to 15 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)

Lower Kuskokwim Valley near Crooked Creek including Aniak and Sleetmute through Wednesday morning (May 22, 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

River Watch continues to monitor river conditions, provide early warning, and assist communities with flood preparedness and emergency response. Two Emergency Management Specialists are traveling with the River Watch team to accommodate emergency response activities in multiple communities.

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.

#### Fort Yukon

- A Flood Warning is in effect for Fort Yukon until 10pm Tuesday. An Ice Jam is 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.
- The Tanana Chiefs Conference evacuated 3 elders and one caregiver as a medical precaution.

#### Circle

- Major flooding impacted Circle Alaska Sunday.
- DHS&EM is sending a two 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.
- Mitigation efforts after the 2009 flood moved and/or protected homes which would have been affected by this flood event.
- Damages to structures in Eagle and downriver have been reported.

A River Watch team is based in Circle Hot Springs to monitoring ice conditions on the Upper Yukon. A second River Watch Team is based 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 on the Yukon. A Flood Watch is in effect for Crooked Creek on the Kuskokwim.

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 Wednesday May 22nd, 2013**