



State Emergency Operations Center
2013 River Watch, AK DHSEM 13-Z-003
Date: May 22, 2013 Time: 1500 hrs
SEOC Preparedness Level 3



Circle, AK (5.19.13)

Contact

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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. Three 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, and there is currently minor flooding in Ft. Yukon.

Currently there are two teams conducting river observations: Upper Yukon Division is currently based out of Circle Hot Springs but will transition to be base out of Fairbanks tonight and the Upper Kuskokwim Division based out of Aniak, Alaska. The Incident Management Team (IMT) Circle Division is on scene in Circle, AK.

Yukon River:

Circle, AK: A disaster resolution was received from Circle today . The community currently has 8 displaced people who have chosen to make their own provision for shelter. The Tribal Hall is open as a staging area for receipt of items. The preliminary damage report states 8 destroyed homes, 9 with major damage and 8 with minor damage. The community of Circle is coordinating efforts between the SEOC, Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) and the American Red Cross to fulfill resource requests.

Ft. Yukon: Fort Yukon currently has minor flooding in low lying areas: including the ball field, the old tank farm and the area around the tribal hall. The ice jam, 12 miles upriver, has a hole in it and pressure seems to have released as water is now flowing around the jam. This has allowed some water levels to recede around the airport access ramp which is now accessible again. Ft. Yukon has cancelled all previously made resource requests and is considering rescinding their initial disaster declaration but remains in contact and in coordination with the TCC Emergency Response Team and the SEOC.

Kuskokwim River:

There is a Flood Warning for Crooked Creek. At 1218 hrs, an ice jam occurred just downstream from Crooked Creek which caused water levels to rise 3 feet (just below flood stage) at Crooked Creek. The water will likely continue to rise and flooding is likely. The River Watch Team will depart to fly the river at 1600hrs for observation.

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	1 partial	0
Injured	0	0		# Evacuated	7	0
Missing	0	0		Still Required	0	0
Mass Care				Search & Rescue		
Shelters Open	1	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						

Bridge Closures	0	0		Wildland Activity		
Airport Closures	0	0		Active Fires	11	0
Port Closures	0	0		Staffed Fires	1	0
Medical				Total Acres Burned	395 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
			No	Yes	No	Yes		No	Yes	
Eagle, AK	No	No	No		Yes	6		UNK		None
	<i>The structures were reported to be homes with variable damage</i>									
Circle, AK	No	Yes	No		Yes	25		YES	8	Yes, being filled
	<i>Preliminary reports: 8 homes destroyed, 9 with major damage, 8 with minor damage</i>									
Fort Yukon	No	Yes	Yes		None					Cancelled
Totals										
	0	0				31	0	0		0
	No Info		Good		Minor Damage		Moderate Damage		Major Damage	

Weather Forecast

Overview

Upper Tanana Valley and Fortymile Country

Tonight: Mostly clear. Lows in the lower to mid 30s. Southeast winds to 10 mph becoming south after midnight.

Thursday: Sunny. Highs in the lower 60s. Northwest winds to 10 mph.

Yukon Flats and Surrounding Uplands

Tonight: Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 30s to lower 40s. Southeast winds 5 to 15 mph.

Thursday: Sunny. Highs in the lower 60s. Northwest winds to 10 mph.

Central Interior

Tonight: Mostly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s to lower 40s. Southwest winds to 10 mph.

Thursday: Cloudy. Highs in the upper 50s to lower 60s. West winds to 10 mph

Lower Kuskokwim Valley

Tonight: Cloudy with a chance of rain. Lows in the upper 30s to mid 40s. South wind 10 to 20 mph.

Thursday: Mostly cloudy with a chance of rain. Highs in the 50s. Light winds.

Flood Warning
<p><u>Yukon River at Fort Yukon</u>: Until 1000 hrs on Thursday <u>Kuskokwim at Crooked Creek</u>: Until 1600 Thursday At 1218 hrs on Wednesday an ice jam just downstream from Crooked Creek caused river levels rising 3 feet to just below flood Stage at crooked creek. River levels will likely continue to rise, until the ice jam releases. Flooding is likely. The extent and severity of the flooding will depend on the significance of the ice jam.</p>
Flood Watch
<p>Yukon River from Beaver to Rampart through Friday afternoon (May 24, 2013) Yukon river from Rampart to Tanana from Wednesday afternoon through Sunday afternoon (May 26, 2013) Lower Kuskokwim Valley near Crooked Creek including Aniak and Sleetmute through Wednesday morning (May 22, 2013)</p>
Flood Advisory
None
Spring Break up Outlook/Flood Potential
<p>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</p> <p>SHORT TERM FLOOD OUTLOOK</p> <p>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.</p>

Public Information Talking Points:

River Watch continues to monitor river conditions, provide early warning, and assist communities with flood preparedness and emergency response.

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

- An ice jam is 12 miles upstream from Fort Yukon. The ice jam is still in place but a channel has opened allowing pressure behind the jam to be released. A Flood Warning is still in effect for Fort Yukon.
- Fort Yukon leadership and residents are aware of the Flood Warning and have taken many precautions.
- The Tanana Chiefs Conference evacuated 7 elders and one caregiver as a medical precaution.

Circle

- Major flooding impacted Circle Alaska on Sunday.
- The American Red Cross of Alaska is working with partners to provide clothing, dog food, cots/sleeping bags, and food.
- A State Incident Management team is in Circle to help the community with flood response and recovery activities. The team is equipped with a water purification unit and an Emergency Response Support Trailer.

Kuskokwim

- Water levels have risen in Crooked Creek. The Kuskokwim River Watch Team reports the water has come up 3 feet and they have 2 feet of bank left before any type of flooding might occur.

The Upper Yukon River Watch team will be based out of Fairbanks this evening. A second River Watch Team will continue to base out of Aniak to monitor river conditions on the Upper Kuskokwim River.

One thousand sand bags have been sent to Tanana as a precaution to protect low-lying homes.

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

Current information and photos can be found at www.ready.alaska.gov/updates

The next SITREP for this incident will be Thursday May 24th, 2013