



State Emergency Operations Center
2013 River Watch, AK DHSEM 13-Z-003
Date: May 23, 2013 Time: 1500 hrs
SEOC Preparedness Level 3



Circle, AK 5.19.13

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. 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 was minor flooding in Ft. Yukon.

Currently there are two teams conducting river observations: Upper Yukon Division is currently based out of Fairbanks and the Upper Kuskokwim Division based out of Aniak. The Circle Division Incident Management Team (IMT) is on scene in Circle, AK. There is a second team prepped and ready to respond if necessary.

Yukon River

Eagle: The SEOC Flood Recovery Branch has begun recovery operations for Eagle. There is 1 residence destroyed and 2 with minor damage. There are also 3 seasonal homes with unknown damage.

Circle (Disaster Declaration): The Circle Division is working through preliminary damage assessments. Not conclusive but reported, are 8 residences are destroyed and unlivable by the event and 9 residence with minor damage but livable. The Circle Division also identified damage to Circle Council assets to include the Circle Volunteer Fire Department, the ambulance and Council vehicle as well as the Youth Camp buildings. There were also 3 churches reported to have been affected by the flood. The community currently has 6 displaced people who have chosen to make their own provision for shelter and 2 sheltered at the Tribal Hall. The tribal hall is also open as a staging area for receipt of items. Circle is operationally focused on removal of ice chunks, debris and clean up. The community of Circle continues to coordinate efforts between the SEOC, Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) and the American Red Cross to fulfill resource requests.

Ft. Yukon: The upriver ice jam has broken and reports from Fort Yukon states that ice is flowing by. This has allowed water levels to recede. 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.

Stevens Village and Beaver: Both communities report that ice is flowing by.

Tanana: The community continues to make precautionary preparedness preparations in case of flooding. Currently there is a flood watch in affect. Reports from public observers state there is open water near Old Minto and ice is moving at Manley Hot Springs.

Kuskokwim River

Currently the Kuskokwim break up front has passed Napaimute. All flood products have been cancelled for the Kuskokwim River.

The Kuskokwim Division Supervision will change over the weekend.

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
Injured	0	0		# Evacuated	7
Missing	0	0		Still Required	0
Mass Care				Search & Rescue	
Shelters Open	1	0		Areas	0
Pop. Capacity	0	0		Assets	0
Pop. Remaining	0	0		Results	0
Sheltered	0	0		Quantity	0
Transportation				Wildland Activity	
Bridge Closures	0	0		Active Fires	10
Airport Closures	0	0		Staffed Fires	0
Port Closures	0	0		Total Acres Burned	396.5 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
	<i>The structures were reported to be homes with variable damage</i>						
Circle, AK	No	Yes	No	Yes 17		YES 8	Filled
	<i>Preliminary reports: 8 homes destroyed, 9 with major damage, some infrastructure</i>						
Fort Yukon	No	Yes	Yes	None 6			Cancelled
	<i>The 6 structures are unknown level of damage or type</i>						
Totals	0	0		29		0	0
No Info		Good		Minor Damage		Moderate Damage	Major Damage

Weather Forecast

Yukon Flats and Surrounding Uplands

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

Friday: Partly sunny. Isolated showers in the afternoon over the hills south and east of Fort Yukon. Highs in the upper 60s. Light winds.

Central Interior

Tonight: Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers in the evening. Lows in the upper 30s to lower 40s. Light winds.

Friday: Partly sunny. Highs in the upper 60s. Light winds.

Lower Kuskokwim Valley

Tonight: Mostly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s to mid 40s. Light winds.

Friday: Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 50s to lower 60s. Variable wind to 10 mph.	
Long Term Weather Trend	
The weather trend for the state appears to be warming through the weekend and into the next week from the 60's and into the 70's.	
Flood Products	
Flood Warning	None to report
Flood Watch	Yukon River from Beaver to Tanana through Sunday afternoon (May 26 th)
Flood Advisory	None to report
Other Significant Status	
Red Flag Warning	Interior through 2200hrs today

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

- The Flood Warning for Fort Yukon was canceled; ice is now flowing bank to bank downriver.
- Fort Yukon leadership and residents are expressed relief that major flooding has not occurred.
- The Tanana Chiefs Conference evacuated 7 elders and one caregiver as a medical precaution.

Circle

- Major flooding impacted Circle Alaska Sunday.
- The American Red Cross of Alaska is working with partners to providing 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

- The Flood Warnings and Watches for the Kuskokwim River have been canceled.

The Upper Yukon River Watch team is based out of Fairbanks. A second River Watch Team is based in Aniak to monitor river conditions on the Kuskokwim River.

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

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

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

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