



State Emergency Operations Center
2013 River Watch, AK DHSEM 13-Z-003
Date: May 28, 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. To date, four 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. Galena experienced major flooding Monday evening May 27 and evacuations are underway. Currently Koyukuk, Kobuk, Buckland, and Hughes are under a flood warning for today, May 28.

There are two teams conducting river observations: Middle Yukon Division is currently based out of Fairbanks and the Lower Kuskokwim Division based out of Bethel. The communities of Eagle, Circle and Fort Yukon have been transitioned to the Flood Recovery Branch.

Note: Barring any significant status changes, the SEOC will be fully staffed through the week. A duty officer will also be available at 1-800-478-2337.

Yukon River

Flood Products

- Flood Watch: Nulato through 4:00 pm today.
- Flood Warning: Galena and Koyukuk until 4:00 pm Wednesday, May 29.

Eagle / Circle / Fort Yukon:

- The SEOC Flood Recovery Branch currently conducting recovery operations for Eagle, Circle and Fort Yukon.

Galena:

- Major flooding continues; air rescue conducting evacuation. Several buildings and infrastructure compromised. Sewage lagoon overflowed into town. Diesel fuel is present in the flood water. Water service head damaged.

Manley Hot Springs:

- 5000 sand bags have been resourced to Manley Hot Springs to be used to protect 10 homes along the Spring Slough.

Tanana:

- Flood watch continues for the Upper Tanana Valley. No flood warnings issued.

Kuskokwim River

Flood Products

- Flood Watch: Tuluksak to Kwethluk

Aniak to Napaimute

- Open water along the river banks.

Napaimute

- Water level is down

Swift River / Holitna River / Aniak River

- All are open

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. Red Flag warning issued for the entire interior including Yukon Flats.

Event Needs and Status:

	Confirmed	Estimated			Confirmed	Estimated
Mass Casualty				Evacuation		
Dead	0	0		Communities	2 partial	0
Injured	0	0		# Evacuated	27	150 +
Missing	0	0		Still Required	0	0
Mass Care				Search & Rescue		
Shelters Open	3	0		Areas	1	0
Pop. Capacity	0	0		Assets	3	0
Pop. Remaining	0	0		Results	0	0
Sheltered	0	0		Quantity	0	0
Transportation				Wildland Activity		
Bridge Closures	0	0		Active Fires	21	0
Airport Closures	1	0		Staffed Fires	0	0
Port Closures	0	0		Total Acres Burned	412.8 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 8		No		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		Yes 7		Cancelled
	<i>The 6 structures are unknown level of damage or type</i>							
Galena	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes UNK		Yes UNK		Air Rescue
Totals	0	0		29		0		0
	No Info	Good		Minor Damage		Moderate Damage		Major Damage

Weather Forecast
<u>Yukon Flats and Surrounding Uplands</u>
Tonight: Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s to mid 50s. North winds to 10 mph.
Wednesday: Sunny. Highs in the lower to mid 70s. North winds to 10 mph.
Wednesday Night: Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 40s to lower 50s. North winds to 10 mph.

Central Interior

Today: Sunny. Highs in the mid 70s to lower 80s. Light winds

Tonight: Partly cloudy with isolated showers in the evening. Lows in the upper 40s to lower 50s. Light winds.

Wednesday: Partly sunny with isolated showers in the afternoon. Highs in the upper 70s to lower 80s. Light winds.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy becoming mostly clear. Lows in the upper 40s to lower 50s. Light winds.

Lower Kuskokwim Valley

Today: Sunny. Highs in the lower 70s to lower 80s. Variable wind to 10 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 40s to mid 50s. Variable wind less than 10 mph

Wednesday: Mostly sunny in the morning...then partly cloudy with isolated rain showers over the higher elevations in the afternoon. Highs around 80. Variable wind 10 mph

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy. Isolated rain showers in the evening mainly across the higher elevations. Lows in the upper 40s to mid 50s. Variable wind 10 mph.

Long Term Weather Trend

The weather trend for the state appears to be warm throughout week from the 60's and into the 70's.

Flood Products

Flood Warning	<u>Flood warning</u> in effect for Galena, Koyukuk, Kobuk, Hughes, and Buckland through 4:00 pm Wednesday.
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Flood Watch	Yukon River from Beaver to Rampart through today.
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	Kuskokwim River from Tuluksak to Kwethluk through Friday afternoon.
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	Susitna River from Talkeetna to Canyon through Friday afternoon.
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Flood Advisory	Gulkana River from Paxon Lake to the Richardson Highway Bridge until 6:00 pm Wednesday.
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Other Significant Status

Weather Public Statement	Red Flag Warnings for the Yukon Flats, Northern, Central, and Eastern Interior through 9:00 pm Tuesday, May 28.
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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.

Galena

- Major flooding is taking place in Galena today.
- More than 140 people have been evacuated to Fairbanks, Anchorage and Ruby. 64 additional people will be evacuated to Fairbanks 32, and Tanana 32. The Red Cross has reported that they are sheltering 200 Galena residents.
- A State Incident Management team is in Galena is working with the community.
- The 11th Air Force Rescue Coordination Center requested support from the Alaska National Guard to assist with rescuing people from their roofs in the flooded areas of Galena. The Alaska Air National Guard is sending a HC-130 and a HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter with pararescuemen on both aircraft. The Alaska Army National Guard is also sending a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter to assist in rescue efforts.

Kuskokwim

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

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

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

The next SITREP for this incident will be Wednesday, May 29th, 2013