



State Emergency Operations Center
2013 River Watch, AK DHSEM 13-Z-003
Date: May 29, 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.

Major flooding occurred in Circle on Sunday May 19.

Minor flooding occurred in Ft. Yukon on Sunday May 19.

Galena experienced major flooding Monday evening May 27. Over 288 people and 26 pets have been evacuated to date.

Minor flooding has also occurred in Hughes, the Cummings Road area near Delta Junction, and the Sourdough area near Glenallen.

There are two teams conducting river observations: Middle Yukon Division and the Lower Kuskokwim Division. 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 Warning: Galena, Kobuk, and for today, May 29.
- Flood Watch: Nulato through 4:00 pm Thursday, May 30.
- Flood Watch: Koyukuk, Buckland, and Hughes, until 4:00 pm today, May 29.

Eagle / Circle / Fort Yukon:

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

Galena:

- Major flooding continues. Air rescue evacuation complete; 38 people and an estimated 26 pets rescued and transported to Fairbanks. An estimated 288 people have evacuated Galena. Several buildings and infrastructure compromised. Sewage lagoon overflowed into town. Diesel fuel and debris are present in the flood water. Water service head is damaged and out of service. Airfield is still dry and operational.

Buckland:

- Minor flooding reported Tuesday, May 28. Currently they report water is up only two inches.

Hughes:

- Airport flooded Tuesday, May 28, and is unusable. Currently the community is sheltering in place.

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 through Friday, May 31.
- Tuluksak reports the river is slowly rising and is currently four feet below flood stage.
- Akiak reports the river ice is moving and the water level has risen 2.5 feet over the river bank in low lying areas.

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 flood warnings, watches, and advisories, with due regard for at-risk communities; as well as the State’s elevated volcano status and wildland fire hazard. Red Flag warning has been 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 | 38 | 294 + |
| Missing | 0 | 0 | | Still Required | 0 | 0 |
| Mass Care | | | | Search & Rescue | | |
| Shelters Open | 2 | 0 | | Areas | 1 | 0 |
| Pop. Capacity | 0 | 0 | | Assets | 3 | 0 |
| Pop. Remaining | 0 | 0 | | Results | 38 saves | 0 |
| Sheltered | 0 | 0 | | Extras | 0 | 26 + pets |
| Transportation | | | | Wildland Activity | | |
| Bridge Closures | 0 | 0 | | Active Fires | 22 | 0 |
| Airport Closures | 1 | 0 | | Staffed Fires | 0 | 0 |
| Port Closures | 0 | 0 | | Total Acres Burned | 450.1 YTD | 0 |
| 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 |
| | <i>Preliminary reports: 8 homes destroyed, 9 with major damage, some infrastructure</i> | | | | | | | |
| Fort Yukon | No | Yes | Yes | None | 6 | | Yes | 7 |
| | <i>The 6 structures are unknown level of damage or type</i> | | | | | | | |
| Galena | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | UNK | | Yes | 256 |
| | | | | | | | | 38 |
| | | | | | | | | saves |
| | | | | | | | | 26+ pets |
| Totals | 0 | 0 | | | 29 | | 0 | 294 |
| | No Info | | Good | | Minor Damage | | Moderate Damage | Major Damage |

Weather Forecast

Lower Koyukuk and Middle Yukon Valleys

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

Tonight: Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 40s to lower 50s. North winds to 10 mph.

Thursday: Sunny. Highs in the mid 70s to lower 80s. Northwest winds to 10 mph.

Thursday Night: Clear. Lows in the upper 30s to mid 40s. North winds to 10 mph.

Central Interior

Today: Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 80s. Light winds.

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

Thursday: Mostly sunny. Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the lower to mid 80s. Light winds.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the evening. Lows in the upper 40s to lower 50s. Light winds.

Kuskokwim Delta

Today: Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 60s to lower 70s...except in the 40s along the coast. North wind 10 to 15 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 30s to upper 40s...warmest inland. North wind 10 to 15 mph.

Thursday: Partly cloudy. Isolated rain showers in the afternoon. Highs in the upper 60s to mid 70s...except in the lower 40s along the coast. East wind to 15 mph.

Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy with isolated rain showers. Lows in the mid 30s to mid 40s...warmest inland. Variable wind to 10 mph.

Long Term Weather Trend

The weather trend for the state appears to be warm throughout week, resulting in rapid snow melt and sporadic flooding in the watersheds.

Flood Products

Flood Warning | Flood warning in effect for Galena and Kobuk, through 4:00 pm Thursday.

Flood Watch | Yukon River at Nulato through Thursday, May 30.

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| | Kuskokwim River from Tuluksak to Kwethluk through Friday afternoon. |
| | Susitna River from Talkeetna to Canyon through Friday afternoon. |
| | Tributaries of the Tanana river including the Chena, Salcha, and Chatanika, Goodpaster, Gerstle, and Delta Rivers, and Shaw Creek through Thursday, May 30. |
| Flood Advisory | Gulkana River from Paxon Lake to the Richardson Highway Bridge until 6:00 pm Wednesday. |
| Other Significant Status | |
| Weather Public Statement | <p><u>Red Flag Warnings</u> Are in effect for the Upper Kobuk and Noatak Valleys, Lower Koyukuk and Middle Yukon Valleys, Upper Koyukuk Valley, Central Interior, Yukon Flats and Surrounding Uplands, Upper Tanana Valley and the Fortymile Country, Deltana and Tanana Flats, Eastern Alaska Range, Denali, Upper Kuskokwim Valley, Susitna Valley Including, Talkeetna, Willow, and Cantwell</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.

Galena

- Flooding is still at high levels; breaks are beginning to form in jam at Bishop Rock according to media reports.
- Approx. 250 people have been evacuated
 - A majority were evacuated by private and local initiatives to other communities to include Ruby, Fairbanks, and Anchorage.
 - 52 people total were evacuated by the state to Fairbanks: 16 people (mostly elderly) on Monday night (May 27) and 38 yesterday (May 28) via Alaska Air National Guard assets to include a HC-130 and a HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter with pararescuemen on both aircraft. The Alaska Army National Guard is also sent a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter to assist in rescue efforts.
- Red Cross reports there are 76 people currently sheltered at the Galena Learning Academy (the old Air Force barracks) which is currently not affected by flood waters.
- A State Incident Management team is in Galena is working with the community.

Kuskokwim

- The Flood Watches for the Kuskokwim River at Tuluksak and Kwethluk are in effect through Friday Afternoon, May 31.

The Middle Yukon River Watch team stayed in Galena last night. The Lower Kuskokwim 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 Thursday, May 30th, 2013