



State Emergency Operations Center
2013 River Watch, AK DHSEM 13-Z-003
Date: May 30, 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. There are two teams conducting river observations: Middle Yukon Division and the Lower Kuskokwim Division. The Middle Yukon Division will return to Anchorage tonight. The Lower Kuskokwim Division will demobilize and return to Anchorage Friday, May 31.

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

Yukon River

Flood Products

- Flood Warning: Galena, Koyuk, Koyukuk, and Nulato through Friday, May 31.
- Flood Watch: None

Eagle / Circle / Fort Yukon:

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

Galena:

- The State is deploying a rapid communication unit to Galena today; Alaska Energy Authority is sending a lineman to restore electrical service and GCI is sending cell tower equipment and a technician to work on telephone communications. The State is deploying additional Incident Management Team personnel and fulfilling all other resource requests. The airfield is still dry and operational.

Hughes:

- Minor flood damage reported. A DOT aircraft was dispatched to Hughes and reported the airfield is now dry, clear, and open to traffic.

Tanana:

- Flood watch continues for the Upper Tanana Valley due to rapidly melting snow. No flood warnings issued.

Kuskokwim River

Flood Products

- Akiak reported nuisance flooding overnight due to an ice jam downstream. The ice jam released this morning and the water level is returning to normal.

Statewide

Buckland:

- Minor flooding reported Tuesday, May 28. They are currently repairing their road; no other damage reported.

Kobuk:

- Reported everything but the airfield is flooded in their community today, May 30.

- Thursday morning a pilot reported an ice jam from Kobuk to a mile and a half upstream of Kobuk with flooding in Kobuk. It was reported to have 4 to 5 feet of water throughout the village. Sheets of ice were scattered throughout the village. The airport did remain unaffected at that time though.
- Homes in the village of Kobuk are flooded. Areas downstream of Kobuk could flood as well once the ice jam releases. Flooding is expected to continue in Kobuk until the ice jam releases and the water is allowed to drain out.

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. A Red Flag warning has been issued for the entire interior including Yukon Flats. A Red Flag warning was also issued for the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

Event Needs and Status:

	Confirmed	Estimated		Confirmed	Estimated
Mass Casualty			Evacuation		
Dead	0	0	Communities	3 partial	0
Injured	0	0	# Evacuated	46	294 +
Missing	0	0	Still Required	0	0
Mass Care			Search & Rescue		
Shelters Open	3	0	Areas	1	0
Pop. Capacity	0	0	Assets	4 AKANG	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	0	0	Staffed Fires	0	0
Port Closures	0	0	Total Acres Burned	427.0 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	Notes	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	No	Yes 6		Yes 7		Cancelled
	<i>The 6 structures are unknown level of damage or type</i>							
Galena	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes UNK		Yes 247		Air Rescue
						38	saves	
								26+ pets
Koyukuk	No	No	No	No		Yes 9	Fbks	
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 lower 70s to lower 80s. Northwest winds to 10 mph.

Tonight: Clear. Lows in the 40s. North winds to 10 mph.

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

Friday Night: Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 30s to mid 40s. North winds 5 to 15 mph.

Central Interior

Today: Mostly sunny. Isolated rain showers in the afternoon. Highs in the lower 80s. Light winds.

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

Friday: Partly sunny. Highs in the upper 70s to lower 80s. Light winds.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy. Lows in the 40s. Northwest winds to 10 mph.

Kuskokwim Delta

Today: Mostly sunny in the morning...then partly cloudy with isolated rain showers in the afternoon. Highs in the mid 60s to mid 70s...except in the in the 50s on nunivak island. Warmest inland. East wind to 15 mph.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy with isolated rain showers. Lows in the mid 30s to lower 40s. Variable wind to 10 mph.

Friday: Partly sunny. Highs in the 50s to 60s...warmest inland. Variable wind to 10 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy. Isolated rain showers in the evening. Lows in the mid 30s to upper 40s...warmest inland. Variable wind to 10 mph.

Long Term Weather Trend

The weather trend for the state appears to be warm throughout the week, resulting in rapid snow melt and sporadic flooding in the watersheds. An elevated wildland fire danger exists through much of interior Alaska.

Flood Products

Flood Warning	<u>Flood warning</u> in effect for Galena, Koyukuk, Nulato and Kobuk, through Friday, May 31.
Flood Watch	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 today, May 30.
Flood Advisory	Gulkana River from Paxon Lake to the Richardson Highway Bridge until 6:00 pm Wednesday. Dalton Highway between milepost 240 And 242.

Other Significant Status

Weather Public Statement	<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. Matanuska-Susitna Borough.
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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.

The state has responded to all requests for assistance made by communities impacted by flooding.

Overall, no fatalities or significant injuries reported during Flooding events.

The American Red Cross is asking Galena residents that have been evacuated to register with the Safe and Well website. www.redcross.org/safeandwell.

Donations can be made to American Red Cross Disaster Relief at redcross.org/Alaska or by calling 907-646-5401.

- Galena
 - The ice jam at Bishop Rock has released. Water levels are receding in Galena. Approx. 294 people have been evacuated
 - Approx. 130 people remain in Galena:
 - Shelter (Galena Learning Academy) at airport supporting about 50 residents
 - 80 persons in the New Town/Crow Creek area (16 at school shelter in New Town).
 - Displaced residents in Fairbanks:
 - 80 people staying at Willow House Hotel
 - 16 at Fairhill Community Church of God
 - 3 at University Community Presbyterian Church
 - Feeding operations through Stone Soup Kitchen for 3 meals/day
 - Meeting on Friday (May 31st) at Pioneer Park for all displaced residents to disseminate information on response and recovery, with lunch provided afterwards.
 - Emergency response priorities in Galena are restoring essential services and access. Reestablishing regular freight service and establishing transitional shelter services.
 - The Galena airport is operational: Flights are bringing in additional supplies such as MREs, Water, Hygiene items, and dog food (est. 100 dogs). Red Cross of Alaska is providing 200 Hygiene Kits
 - Alaska Energy Authority lineman in Galena to restore power to airport and shelter.
 - A Village Safe Water Plant specialist has been ordered to help with water/sanitation services to accessible parts of community.
 - Donations from outside locations:
 - “Cash is Best”- most organizations that collect donations accept monetary contributions.
 - General item donations can be made to local volunteer agencies that regularly accept them. They can then move goods based upon specific demand of displaced residents (although it does not guarantee items will go to Galena, it will nonetheless help the community in general). If you donate, be sure to make sure it is clean, functional and clearly labeled.
 - Volunteer agencies deploy volunteers in an organized manner. Spontaneous unaffiliated volunteering can be difficult to incorporate and potentially dangerous to

workers; if interested in volunteering, contact a local volunteer agency about how to sign up, receive training, and be prepared for all future disaster events.

- A two person State Incident Management team in Galena is working with the City Manager, Village Chief, Police Chief, and Fire Chief.
- The communities choose to evacuate on Monday evening through various chartered and private aircraft.

- Koyukuk
 - The released ice jam at Bishops Rock has caused a rise in water levels near the village of Koyukuk.
 - 9 residents self-evacuated on 5-29-13.
- Nulato
 - The community of Nulato reports that ice is moving past the community.

- Kuskokwim
 - The Lower Kuskokwim River Watch Team reports there is a jam at the upstream end of the Akiachak and Kuskokuac channel split; as multiple strong sheets are being thrust together. There is a sheet in place at the upstream end of the Kuskokuac channel. Chunk ice from this jam is backing up to upstream of Akiak with ice thinning out upstream of Tony Hall's bend (RM97).

- Kobuk
 - Flooding has been reported in Kobuk. The community has not made any emergency request to the state this morning.

- Eagle/Circle/Fort Yukon
 - Damage assessments are planned to begin late next week.

We're preparing for Lower Yukon River Watch operations. The Lower Kuskokwim River Watch Team is based in Bethel tonight and will return to Anchorage Friday, May 31.
Flood Warnings are in Effect for Galena, Koyukuk, Koyuk, Nulato and Kobuk.

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

The next SITREP for this incident will be Friday, May 31st, 2013