



State Emergency Operations Center  
2013 River Watch, AK DHSEM 13-Z-003  
Date: May 31, 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. Currently there are no River Watch teams in the field. A River Watch Team will deploy on Sunday, June 2 to conduct observations of the Lower Yukon River.

On May 31<sup>st</sup> the Governor declared a disaster for the following Regional Education Attendance Areas (REAA): Alaska Gateway, Yukon Flats, Yukon-Koyukuk and Copper River.

**Note:** 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: None
- Flood Watch: Tanana - Flood watch continues for the Upper Tanana Valley due to rapidly melting snow.

##### Eagle / Circle / Fort Yukon / Hughes:

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

##### Galena:

- Emergency response priorities include restoring essential services and supplying basic essentials.
- The Alaska Energy Authority has restored partial electrical service and a GCI technician is restoring telephone communications. A State Incident Management Team is in Galena today and will remain throughout the weekend. The State continues to fulfill all other resource requests.
- The City expects the campion road to remain out of service for the entire year. As a result, they are planning an alternate landfill site.
- Many damaged areas are only accessible by helicopter.

##### Hughes:

- Minor flood damage reported to the airfield. The runway is open to traffic and lighting is limited. Pilots are encouraged to check TFR's before flying to Hughes.

##### Stevens Village:

- A resident called to report high water in area of Stevens Village. As of 1100 today, water is in the barge landing, slough, and lower end of town. It has slightly covered a road with one house on it; the name of the street is unknown and the resident of that house is out of town at this time.

#### **Kuskokwim River**

##### Flood Products

- Flood Warning: None
- Flood Watch: None

#### **Statewide**

##### Buckland:

- They are currently repairing their road; no other damage reported.

**Kobuk:**

- Flood warning rescinded this morning. The ice jam has released and the water level has returned to normal.
- A few village elders were temporarily moved to higher ground within the village.

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
<b>Mass Casualty</b>			<b>Evacuation</b>		
Dead	0	0	Communities	3 partial	0
Injured	0	0	# Evacuated	46	294 +
Missing	0	0	Still Required	0	0
<b>Mass Care</b>			<b>Search &amp; Rescue</b>		
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
<b>Transportation</b>			<b>Wildland Activity</b>		
Bridge Closures	0	0	Active Fires	27	0
Airport Closures	0	0	Staffed Fires	1	0
Port Closures	0	0	Total Acres Burned	664.1 YTD	0
<b>Medical</b>					
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 Yukon Valley

**Today:** Partly sunny in the morning...then mostly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms and showers in the afternoon south of Anvik. Highs in the 70s. Light winds.

**Tonight:** Mostly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms and showers in the evening south of Anvik. Lows in the mid 40s to lower 50s. Light winds.

**Saturday:** Partly sunny. Isolated thunderstorms and showers in the afternoon south of Anvik. Highs in the 70s. Light winds.

**Saturday Night:** Mostly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms and showers in the evening south of Anvik...then scattered showers after midnight. Lows in the 40s to lower 50s. Light winds.

**Sunday:** Cloudy. Scattered showers. Highs in the 60s. Southwest winds to 10 mph

**Sunday Night:** Mostly cloudy. Lows around 50.

**Monday:** Mostly cloudy. Chance of rain. Highs in the 60s.

### Central Interior

**Today:** Increasing clouds. Highs in the 70s to lower 80s. Light winds

**Tonight:** Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower to mid 50s. Light winds.

**Saturday:** Sunny. Highs in the 70s. Light winds.

**Saturday Night:** Clear. Lows in the 40s to lower 50s. Light winds.

**Sunday:** Increasing clouds. Isolated rain showers. Highs in the upper 60s and 70s. Southwest winds to 10 mph.

**Sunday Night:** Mostly cloudy. Chance of rain. Lows around 50.

**Monday And Monday Night:** Mostly cloudy. Chance of rain. Highs around 70. Lows in the mid 40s to lower 50s.

### Kuskokwim Delta

**Today:** Increasing clouds. Areas of dense fog west of Bethel in the morning...reducing visibility to one quarter mile or less at times. Highs in the upper 30s to upper 60s...warmest inland. Variable wind to 10 mph.

**Tonight:** Mostly cloudy with isolated rain showers east of Bethel. Lows in the mid 30s to upper 40s...warmest inland. Northwest wind to 15 mph.

**Saturday:** Mostly cloudy with scattered rain showers. Highs in the 40s to 60s, warmest inland. Variable wind to 10 mph.

**Saturday Night:** Mostly cloudy with scattered rain showers. Lows in the mid 30s to lower 40s. Southwest wind to 15 mph.

**Sunday:** Partly sunny with scattered rain showers. Highs in the upper 30s to upper 50s...warmest inland. Variable wind to 10 mph.

**Sunday Night:** Mostly cloudy with isolated rain showers. Lows around 40.

**Monday Through Tuesday Night:** Mostly cloudy with a chance of rain showers. Highs 50 to 55. Lows in the mid 30s.

## Long Term Weather Trend

The extremely warm temperatures across the central interior of Alaska will continue through about Sunday. Average temperatures for the day are running 10 to 18 degrees above normal. This is causing rapid snow melt in the higher elevations, leading to flooding in various rivers and streams in the central interior.

The freezing level in the central interior is near 10000 ft lowering to about 7000 ft in the Brooks Range. This is extreme for this time of year.

It does appear that cooler temperatures may be on the way beginning Monday and these appear to last through the next few days if the forecast holds. These cooler temperatures may also bring the potential for moderate rainfall as well.

## Flood Products

### Flood Warning

None

### Flood Watch

Tributaries of the Tanana river including the Chena, Salcha, and Chatanika, Goodpaster, Gerstle, and Delta Rivers, and Shaw Creek through the weekend.

### Flood Advisory

Gulkana River from Paxon Lake to the Richardson Highway Bridge through the weekend. Porcupine river and its tributaries through 3:30 pm Saturday.

	Susitna River from Talkeetna to Canyon through Friday afternoon.
<b>Other Significant Status</b>	
<b>Weather Public Statement</b>	<p><b><u>Red Flag Warnings</u></b>          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, Matanuska - Susitna Valley Including, Talkeetna, Willow, and Cantwell.</p>

**Public Information Talking Points:**

- The Governor has declared a state disaster for affected areas of the spring 2013 floods. This will make state funds for public and individual assistance, and state temporary housing available to support recovery efforts.
- River Watch continues to monitor river conditions, provide early warning, and assist communities with flood preparedness and emergency response.
  - The Middle Yukon Team and the Lower Kuskokwim Team has returned to Anchorage.
  - The Lower Yukon River Watch Team will launch on Sunday-Monday.
- 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](http://www.redcross.org/safeandwell).
  - Donations can be made to American Red Cross Disaster Relief at [redcross.org/Alaska](http://redcross.org/Alaska) or by calling 907-646-5401.
- Galena
  - Water levels are receding in Galena. Approx. 294 people have been evacuated.
    - Flood warnings have been removed from downstream communities on the Yukon.
  - Emergency response priorities in Galena are restoring essential services and access. Reestablishing regular freight service and establishing transitional shelter services.
    - Additionally, two more State Incident Management persons have been sent to Galena in addition to a Type II Incident Management Team from Forestry to support the City Manager, Village Chief, Police Chief, and Fire Chief.
  - The community chose to evacuate on Monday evening through various chartered and private aircraft. State assets evacuated 38 people on Tuesday. Approx. 130 people remained in Galena.
    - Shelter (Galena Learning Academy) at airport supporting about 50 residents
      - Power, water, and sewage have been restored to old Air Force barracks (housing shelter) and airport.
      - An Alaska Energy Authority lineman and a Village Safe Water specialist are present.
      - The Galena airport is receiving logistical flights bringing in additional supplies such as food, Water, hygiene items, and other needs.
    - 80 persons in the New Town/Crow Creek area (16 at school shelter in New Town).
      - Area is currently inaccessible by land to amenities at old Air Force base; supplies arriving via plane at the airport are now regularly delivered via helicopter or other means to residents remaining in New Town/Crow Creek area.
  - Displaced residents in Fairbanks:

