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## Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**

START: Friday, Sept. 21, 2012 10:00 a.m.

### **Flooding Can Damage Wastewater Systems**

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is issuing the following advisory for Prince William Sound property owners near flooding streams and rivers.

Flooded onsite sewer systems may be damaged and will not function properly. If sewage has leaked onto the ground, DEC recommends disinfecting the area with lime. A light powdering of finely ground garden lime will work, or a 5% solution of water and chlorine bleach. Sewage can contain active and harmful bacteria, cysts and viruses.

If possible, do not use your onsite sewer system until after the flood waters and groundwater levels have receded enough to prevent wastewater from surfacing or backing up into your home.

For more information on how to monitor your sewer system to detect damage, call the DEC Kenai Office at (907) 262-3405.

For more information on flooding and flood cleanup in Alaska, visit:  
<http://www.flood.alaska.gov/>.

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