

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
Division of Spill Prevention and Response
Prevention and Emergency Response Program

NATURAL DISASTER SITUATION REPORT

INCIDENT NAME: 2009 Spring Flooding

SITREP #: 1

LEDGER CODE:

TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT: 4:00 pm, May 6, 2009

TYPE OF DISASTER: Flooding

LOCATION: Multiple Locations (see below)

TYPE/EXTENT OF DAMAGE: Heavy snow melt and ice dams have caused rivers and streams to rise and caused flooding in the Fairbanks area and the communities of Eagle, Buckland, Chalkyitsik and Kobuk. Many homes and businesses have been flooded or in the process of being flooded. Several specific areas have been evacuated. The communities of Circle, Stevens Village, and Beaver have potential for flooding.

There have been several reported spills from the flooded communities.

Eagle: A good portion of both Eagle and Eagle Village have been destroyed. DEC staff from PERP and the Drinking Water program are enroute along with the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DMVA-DHS&EM), and Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) personnel. They will be assessing spills, condition of the various tank farms, plus the status of village and individual wells.

NART consulted the Regional Community database to determine which entities in each village had bulk fuel storage and obtained the contact information.

The following communities have been contacted or are in the process of being contacted with regard to securing of their various bulk fuel facilities. The Drinking Water program has also contacted the same communities with advice concerning protection and disinfection of drinking water sources.

Buckland: Limited information. Some flooding reported. No reports of spills.

Fairbanks Area: FNSB Emergency Management is distributing flyers from DEC programs addressing well, septic systems and fuel storage as they do with every flood. Several complaints and spill reports received.

Circle: The ice dam is currently between Eagle and Circle but there is fast ice at Circle. No flooding as yet. Yukon Flats School District (YFSD) has removed fuel from their facilities leaving only a two-day supply. All other fuel storage has been left in place with fuel being evenly distributed between tanks to provide neutral buoyancy.

Stevens Village: Potential flooding only at this time.

Kobuk: Some flooding reported. No reports of spills.

Chalkyitsik: Flood waters are receding. A spill from the YFSD tank farm was reported. The spill volume has yet to be established. NART is working with the school district at this time.

PUBLIC HEALTH THREAT: Bacteria, viruses, protozoa, and/or petroleum products in flood waters pose a threat to drinking water wells. Flooded on-site sewer systems can backup into homes or onto the ground surface. Home heating fuel tanks, propane tanks, barrels, and small fuel containers can shift, fall, or float away and cause spills. Flood debris can also contain hazardous materials.

ENVIRONMENTAL THREAT: Spills from home heating tanks and bulk fuel facilities..

TYPE OF ASSISTANCE REQUESTED: DMVA-DHS&EM has requested staff from NART and Drinking Water programs to accompany them to Eagle. The team is currently enroute to Eagle.

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED: The Drinking Water Program will be distributing information advising property owners in flooded areas to boil water used for drinking, cooking, hand washing, or dish washing for at least two minutes, and providing advise on monitoring of on-site sewer systems and how to disinfect sewage on the ground. They are also distributing informational handouts on floods, how to disinfect drinking water, and how to disinfect a well.

NART is advising property owners in flooded areas to secure fuel containers, tanks and barrels to keep them from floating away. They are also providing information on reporting spills, and assessing damage to bulk fuel facilities.

Technical assistance is being provided to impacted communities and local governments on how to set up a water sampling program for impacted private wells. Expenses (including water sample collection, delivery, and lab analysis) are reimbursable under the State Disaster Relief Fund.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: Monitor the situation and continue to provide technical assistance on drinking water, wastewater, debris disposal, and fuel spills as needed.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

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