

**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:** 4

**LEDGER CODE:**

**TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT:** 4:00 pm, May 11, 2009

**TYPE OF DISASTER:** Flooding

**LOCATION:** Multiple Locations (see below)

**TYPE/EXTENT OF DAMAGE:** Heavy snowmelt and ice dams have caused rivers and streams to rise and caused flooding in the Yukon and Kuskokwim river systems. The resultant flooding has impacted several communities as noted below. Many homes and businesses have been flooded or are in the process of being flooded. Several areas have been evacuated. There have also been several reported spills from the flooded communities.

**Eagle:** A large volume of stranded ice remains and will remain in place until it thaws. The ice varies from a few feet to 20 or more feet in depth. The road from Eagle to Eagle Village remains impassable. ADOT is working on putting in a temporary road. The road to the land fill is also impassable.

**Solid Waste (SW) issues:** DEC field personnel requested a temporary storage area for flood debris. Fairbanks staff coordinated with Solid Waste, the DNR Division of Mining, Land and Water, Northern Region Office Regional Manager, and the DOT acting Director to locate an appropriate location on State land. The gravel pit near the airport was selected with an alternate pit also selected. Fish totes were ordered through SECC Logistics for storage of batteries and other hazardous wastes. Other debris with only a light coating of oil will later be disposed of in a land fill, and will be segregated from debris that will need to have fluids drained (e.g., destroyed cars and trucks.) All compostable materials will be collected in dumpsters and shipped off site. The dumpsters were ordered by the DMVA staff.

The residents of Eagle are beginning the process of recovery of those possessions that are accessible. Debris piles are being formed. Personnel from Fairbanks SW are heading out to Eagle this week to work on those issues.

**Drinking Water (DW):** The Fairbanks DW office has sent an engineer to Eagle to assist with evaluating the wells and determine their fitness for use. Most of the wells were discovered to be contaminated and will need to be rehabilitated prior to use. DMVA Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DMVA-DHS&EM) is supplying food and drinking water to the affected populace.

**PERP:** NART has contracted with Inland Petro Services to supply support services in Eagle. The initial effort will be to empty fluids that remain in the tanks and drums that were moved by the flood waters, and stabilize or remove the tanks to an interim storage area. The liquids that are collected will be segregated between contaminated material and reusable fuel. The water and oil will be separated and filtered. An effort will be made to collect and consolidate the drums.

**Circle:** Two DEC responders from Fairbanks drove to Circle to assess the damage. There was a strong odor of diesel from the area around the city well, and minor structural damage with several buildings flooded. Several large ice blocks were observed in the city, but damage was minor compared to that in Eagle. The ice piles near the edge of

the city contain some debris and a strong odor of diesel exists, but access will be restricted until the ice thaws. The information on the well has been relayed to DEC's DW staff.

Ft Yukon: Some structural damage has been reported along with home heating oil tank (HHOT) releases. The levee on the city tank farm was not breached and no spill incidents were noted. The water tank was filled prior to the flood waters impacting the village and will not be re-filled again until the well has been evaluated. A previously unknown landfill of military vintage was discovered when the flood waters eroded into the slough bank. SW has been notified. The DW and PERP programs will travel to Ft Yukon on May 12<sup>th</sup> to assess and confirm the situation.

Beaver: Minor flood damage has been reported; no site assessment by DEC is anticipated at this time.

Stevens Village: The ice jam that caused the flooding at Stevens Village released at 1:00 AM on May 11<sup>th</sup>. The school and the upper airstrip were reported as undamaged. A site assessment by DW and PERP staff is planned for later this week.

Akiak: On Saturday (May 9<sup>th</sup>), DEC staff received a request from the DMVA-DHS&EM State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC) for a fuel pump and 100 feet of hose to support fuel transfer operations at Akiak. The DEC PERP spill responder at Bethel coordinated with the Crowley company in Bethel and managed to acquire a fuel pump which was then airlifted to Akiak. A request for DEC drinking water technical assistance was also received on May 9<sup>th</sup> due to possible contamination of the local water treatment plant. DEC DW staff provided advice and a boil water notice was issued to local residents.

Kwethluk: The community is undergoing flooding at this time and they are shutting off electrical power. The road to the airport is impassable and accessible only by boat.

Bethel: A few areas in the community have experienced flooding. The ice jam at Akiak has released and water is receding from both Akiak and Akiachak. The emergency responders are closely monitoring locations downriver for additional flooding as a result of the release of the ice jam.

**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 oil tanks and bulk fuel facilities.

**TYPE OF ASSISTANCE REQUESTED:** Staff from DMVA-DHS&EM, NART and the DEC Drinking Water program are currently in Eagle. Additional staff will be deployed to Ft Yukon tomorrow.

**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 advice 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. Provide contractual support to DHS&EM as requested.

**CURRENT RIVER CONDITIONS:** For current flood warnings and flood watches, visit the National Weather Service website at: <http://aprfc.arh.noaa.gov>

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