

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: 5

LEDGER CODE:

TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT: 4:00 pm, May 13, 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 clearing of the roadway is nearly complete and ADOT estimates that it will take 4 days to lay the matting. The road to the landfill is also impassable.

Solid Waste (SW): The location for temporary storage of the collected flood debris remains an issue. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) objected to using a gravel pit near the runway. ADOT is working with FAA to resolve this issue. An SW staff member is accompanying a PERP responder to Eagle today to assess and assist with the debris collection and storage.

Drinking Water (DW): Eagle residents are still on a boil water notice (BWN) because of E. coli contamination in the well. They will remain on the BWN for the foreseeable future. The DW Program is providing them with cleanup information. Lee Johnson is working with the community on well disinfection procedures. The well at the new village community center was tested for total coliform bacteria and the results were satisfactory.

PERP: NART has contracted with Inland Petro Services to supply support services in Eagle. The initial effort is directed at emptying fluids from the tanks and drums, stabilizing or removing the tanks to an interim storage area, and constructing or repairing tank cribbing to support the fuel tanks. The liquids collected will be segregated between contaminated material and reusable fuel. The water and oil will be separated, filtered, and recycled or disposed. An effort will be made to collect and consolidate tanks and drums. Tank recovery will address the following specific numbers of fuel tanks and associated tasks: (1) drum, (14) home heating oil tanks, (7) 1,000 gallon tanks, (4) propane yard tanks, (1) tank survey, (1) tank reset.

Circle: Circle residents remain on a BWN. The total coliform bacteria sample is at the lab and results should be available this afternoon. If the results are satisfactory, DW staff will lift the BWN.

Ft Yukon: One NART Spill Responder and a Drinking Water Engineer traveled to Ft Yukon on May 12 to review the Crowley tank farm; the flooded community heating oil tanks; an abandoned military landfill exposed and depositing debris into the Yukon River slough; and to test the drinking water supply. The following key city officials have been contacted and are actively involved: acting City Manager, Water Treatment Operator, a City Council Member, flood victims, and the Public Safety Officer.

PERP: Flood waters did not breach the secondary containment of the Crowley tank farm, but water and ice scour influenced the toe of the earthen levee. Flood water washed over the truck rack pit, releasing a minor oil sheen.

Sheen or fuel odor was not observed at the six flooded community residences. The Native Community Building flooded, releasing an estimated 400 gallons of used oil into the building. The structure is used for recycling waste goods, and is the disposal site for community used oil. Flood water remained beneath the building. The DEC staff provided absorbent pads, waste bags and personal protective equipment to recover oil. A community EPA technician will manage the cleanup, with PERP technical assistance. Local officials noted that this structure typically floods during the flooding season.

DW: Residents remain on a BWN. Johnny Mendez with the DW Program travelled out to Ft Yukon on Tuesday, May 12. He collected three total coliform bacteria samples and brought them back to Analytica Labs for analysis. Results should be available on Thursday, May 14. The BWN will remain in effect until get satisfactory results are confirmed. Samples for Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOC's) will be collected next week by the water treatment plant operator.

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

DW: Beaver residents remain on a BWN. DW staff do not believe that the area is still impacted by floodwaters. DW Program staff will be contacting Beaver officials today for an update.

Stevens Village: PERP staff are planning to fly to Stevens Village on May 14 to assess flood damage to tanks, spills from river wash and impacts to secondary containment.

DW: Residents remain on a BWN. DW Program has provided flood preparation information. They have been unable to contact the village today so the status of the water treatment plant is unknown. DW Program is working with Tanana Chiefs Conference to try to determine the status of the treatment plant. Johnny Mendez and Leslie Shurtleff will be travelling with SPAR personnel to Stevens Village on Thursday, May 14.

Tanana: Residents remain on a BWN. The pumps were turned off, but pressure was maintained in the system. The water treatment plant was not flooded. They have approximately 190,000 gallons of treated water in their storage tank.

Akiak: Residents remain on a BWN. One water sample has been analyzed as clean; however, they will need the results of additional samples prior to lifting the BWN. There was a report yesterday of minor sheening around the two bulk fuel tanks in Akiak.

Kwethluk: DW will likely issue a BWN this afternoon for the Kwethluk community system, and probably the school system, as a precautionary measure. Kwethluk still has substantial flooding, many roads are still submerged, and the road to the airport is still out. They are distributing drinking water to homes by boat, mostly. Although a few houses lost power, most of the community has access to power, and the generator was not shut down at any point, according to the Kwethluk police dispatcher.

Aniak and elsewhere: Aniak is still on a BWN. DW staff are attempting to acquire additional information on Akiachak, Napakiak, Napaskiak, and Oscarville. These communities reportedly received minor flooding. The DW will contact them when possible. Preliminary reports are that Red Devil was significantly impacted by flooding, while Sleetmute reportedly received minor flooding. Additional details will be provided as information becomes available.

Bethel: There is still minor flooding in two sections of town, but the water is slowly receding, and is noticeably lower than yesterday. People here were prepared, and there was not much damage or loss.

There were no other flood-related spills reported for the lower Yukon-Kuskokwim area (other than the report from Akiak).

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.

Drinking Water: Flood preparation information, including Boiling Water Notice (BWN's) literature to the following communities: Ruby, Nulato, Koyukuk, Kaltag, Galena, Buckland, Noorvik and Selawik.

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. DEC staff also provided assistance at Ft Yukon and are traveling elsewhere to assist other flood-impacted communities.

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>

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ed Meggert, DEC NART Fairbanks, 451-2124
Ed.meggert@alaska.gov

Cindy Christian, DEC Drinking Water Program Fairbanks, 451-2138
Cindy.christian@alaska.gov

Alan Wien, DEC PERP Wasilla, 376-1865
Alan.wien@alaska.gov

Larry Iwamoto, DEC PERP Anchorage, 269-7683
Larry.iwamoto@alaska.gov