

**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:** 8

**LEDGER CODE:**

**TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT:** 1:00 pm, May 21, 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 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 complete and ADOT is estimating that the matting will be in place and the road will be opened by May 22. The road to the landfill is impassable due to debris and ice cover.

**Solid Waste (SW):** A temporary collection area has been established at the ADOT gravel pit for the storage of debris, drums, tanks and hazardous waste that were removed from the flooded areas. SW staff will be attending a City Council meeting at 11:00 am tomorrow to address solid waste issues.

**Drinking Water (DW):** A mobile water treatment unit has arrived in Eagle to treat drinking water from the City Well. DW staff has received one satisfactory total coliform bacteria sample from the treated water. The well remains on a Boil Water notice until confirmatory satisfactory samples are received. Shannon and Wilson has been contracted to sample private and public wells in Eagle that were affected by the flooding. DW staff will travel out to Eagle today (May 21) to provide assistance to Shannon & Wilson in identifying wells and to determine what testing should be done.

**PERP:** NART is mobilizing 2 responders to Eagle to evaluate melting of the ice field and the possibility for putting in containment /collection systems for oil that may be released from the melting ice. The concern is for tanks and drums that may tip over as the ice melts. While the responders were initially recovering drums and tanks it was determined that containment/collection systems around the ice field was neither safe nor technically possible. NART will continue with periodic trips to Eagle to monitor the ice, look for leaking drums and tanks that emerge from the ice and work with the residents on related issues.

**Circle:** DW staff has received satisfactory samples from Circle and the BWN has been lifted.

**Ft Yukon:** No change in Ft Yukon status for spill response issues.

**DW:** The Boil Water Notice for the community system has been lifted. Satisfactory sample results were received for the well and distribution system. Samples for Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOC's) will be collected this 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:** DW staff have not received any samples for Beaver, so they remain on a BWN. DW staff do not believe that the area is still impacted by floodwaters.

Stevens Village:

PERP: NART has received word from the SECC that the road repair work is complete and that the drums and tanks may now be accessible. A term contractor will be mobilized to Stevens Village to accomplish the following tasks: removal of drums, stabilization of tanks and construction of a secondary containment area to store the recovered oil and hazardous material. Local residents will be hired to complete the work in Stevens Village. 40-hour Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) trained personnel have been identified and will be contacted for potential employment.

DW: No change in reported status from the previous Sitrep.

Tanana:

PERP: Two NART responders have been mobilized to Tanana with the contractor to proceed with the removal of drums, stabilization of tanks and construction of a secondary containment area to store the recovered oil and hazardous material. They have identified two teams of 8 people each from Tanana that are current in Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) training and are proceeding with the scope of work. There is approximately 4 to 5 days of work for the two teams.

DW: DW staff received satisfactory total coliform samples and the BWN has been lifted.

Akiak: No change in reported status from the previous Sitrep.

Kwethluk: No change in reported status from the previous Sitrep.

Bethel: No change in reported status from the previous Sitrep.

**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.

DW: Flood preparation information, including Boiling Water Notice (BWN's) literature has been provided 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:** Provide DEC related support to the 2009 Spring Flooding events, to include spill response, technical assistance on drinking water, wastewater, solid waste, and other public health and environmental impacts.

**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. It is important to note that all wells, public and private, that have been affected by flooding should be tested for bacteriological contaminants.

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:**

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For DEC staff photos of the flooding, please visit the following:

**Photos from Eagle:**

[http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/gallery/eagleflood2009\\_01/index.htm](http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/gallery/eagleflood2009_01/index.htm)

[http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/gallery/eagleflood2009\\_02/index.htm](http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/gallery/eagleflood2009_02/index.htm)

[http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/gallery/eagleflood2009\\_03/index.htm](http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/gallery/eagleflood2009_03/index.htm)

**Photos from Circle:**

[http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/gallery/circleflood2009\\_01/index.htm](http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/gallery/circleflood2009_01/index.htm)

**Photos from Tanana:**

[http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/gallery/tananaflood2009\\_01/index.htm](http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/gallery/tananaflood2009_01/index.htm)