

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: 9

LEDGER CODE:

TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT: 6:00 pm, May 26, 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 28. The road to the landfill is impassable due to debris and ice cover.

Solid Waste (SW): A SW staff member traveled to Eagle on May 22 to attend a City Council meeting and provide technical assistance regarding short and long-term disposal actions. The Chief of Eagle Village was in attendance along with the IC and DMVA personnel. The City of Eagle has contracted with R&D Environmental in Fairbanks to stage a roll-off container at the Firehouse to accept household garbage. The roll-off was due to arrive that afternoon. R&D will pick up the roll-off as needed, drop off a replacement, and take the full container to the Tok landfill for disposal of the contents. The City also purchased a burn box for solid waste disposal, and DNR provided a temporary land use agreement for the site where the burner will be placed. The City of Eagle is working with DNR to find a suitable parcel of state property to convey to the City for use as a disposal site for the huge quantity of construction and demolition (C&D) debris that will soon be generated.

Drinking Water (DW): DW staff travelled to Eagle on May 21 with personnel from Shannon & Wilson to begin identifying and sampling private and public wells affected by flooding. Impacted wells were identified and samples from ten wells were collected for total coliform, nitrate, and volatile organic chemicals (VOC) analysis. Two of those wells tested positive for total coliform and one well tested positive for total coliform and *E. coli*. The nitrate results are expected to be complete by May 28, and the VOC results are expected early next week. DW staff are notifying the well owners of the total coliform results and recommending the water not be used for drinking until all test results are received. Those well owners with positive coliform sample results are being provided with information on well disinfection procedures. It is expected that Shannon & Wilson will go back out to Eagle this week to finish sampling the impacted wells.

PERP: The ice chunks left by the flood are melting at a faster rate than expected. This, along with some manual ice removal and the river level dropping, has left enough room for a four wheeler to run along the bank. PERP responders traveled from Eagle to Eagle Village to inspect the bank area for evidence of oiling. No oil sheen was observed on drainages into the Yukon River. There was some sheen on a pond behind the Princess Tours catamaran, Yukon Queen. The source of the sheen is unknown. The PERP responders helped Princess Tours employees remove the oil. The one drainage that was identified as coming out of the ice field had sorbent boom staked across it in case some oil is released as the ice melts.

Circle: DW staff received satisfactory sample results from Circle and the Boil Water Notice (BWN) has been lifted.

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

DW: The BWN for the community system has been lifted. Satisfactory sample results were received for the well and distribution system. DW staff have not received samples from Ft Yukon for Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOC). The system will be contacted on Wednesday, May 27 to determine when they will be sampling.

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

DW: DW staff received a satisfactory total coliform bacteria sample from the public water system and the BWN has been lifted.

Stevens Village:

PERP: PERP staff and a term contractor have completed stabilizing and securing tanks and drums with product in them that were impacted by the flood.

DW: The Tanana Chiefs Conference Remote Maintenance Worker (RMW) is travelling to Stevens Village today (May 26) to disinfect the water treatment plant and distribution system. After disinfection and flushing, the RMW will collect five samples for total coliform bacteria analysis. Sample results should be available by Friday, May 29. If the sample results are satisfactory, the BWN will be lifted.

Tanana:

PERP: PERP staff and a term contractor have completed stabilizing and securing tanks and drums with product in them that were impacted by the flood.

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

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

Kwethluk:

DW: DW staff received four repeat total coliform bacteria samples from the community and they were all satisfactory. The water system is still on a BWN pending the receipt of additional information from the water treatment plant operator.

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

Russian Mission:

DW: The water system is on a BWN. There was some flooding in the community, but it is unsure if the well was flooded. Total coliform bacteria samples will be collected this week.

Alakanuk: DW staff will be sending flood preparation information to the water system operator today.

Pilot Station: There was some flooding in the community but the water treatment plant and well were not affected.

Marshall: The airport was flooded, but the water treatment plant and well were not affected.

St. Mary's: Flood preparation information has been sent to the community.

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, Selawik, Russian Mission, Aniak, Akiak, Pilot Station, Kwethluk and Alakanuk.

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_02/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

Photos from Tanana:

http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/gallery/tananaflood2009_01/index.htm