

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: 10

LEDGER CODE:

TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT: 5:00 pm, May 29, 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: The ice chunks left by the flood are melting at a fast rate. The ice varied from a few feet to 20 or more feet in depth. ADOT has completed the temporary bypass road from Eagle to Eagle Village and it is open as of today. The road to the landfill is still impassable due to debris and ice cover.

Drinking Water (DW): The DW Program received nitrate and total coliform results for the ten wells that were sampled on May 21 by Shannon & Wilson. There were three wells that were positive for either total coliform or *E. coli*. All of the nitrate results were below the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 10 mg/L. People with contaminated wells have been contacted by drinking water staff. We are still awaiting results for VOC testing. Shannon & Wilson will travel back to Eagle to sample the remaining wells when they can coordinate with all of the homeowners. They expect to return the week of June 1.

Ft Yukon: DW: VOC and nitrate samples have been collected and are at the lab for analysis.

Stevens Village: A SW staff member and a WW staff member travelled to Stevens Village this morning to provide on-site assessments and technical assistance on the community landfill and debris issues, and for the sewage lagoon and local outhouses impacted by flood waters.

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 drinking water system has been disinfected and flushed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference Remote Maintenance Worker. Total coliform samples have been collected and are at the lab for analysis. If the sample results are satisfactory, the BWN will be lifted.

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

Russian Mission: The drinking water system remains on a BWN.

Alakanuk: The drinking water system was placed on a BWN on May 27, 2009. Four repeats samples will be taken this week.

Akiak and Kwethluk: Reports of additional fuel odors and sheen are coming in as residents begin cleanup activities. SPAR is following up on the reports and will likely make another visit to these communities next week.

Red Devil: A DW Program engineer will be travelling to Red Devil on Monday, June 1 to sample 11 private wells and the school well that were all impacted by the flooding. Samples will be analyzed for total coliform bacteria, nitrate and VOC.

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: 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: Information has been distributed advising property owners in flooded areas to boil water used for drinking, cooking, hand washing, or dish washing for at least two minutes, as well as 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. Technical assistance has also been 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.

Information has been provided on monitoring of on-site sewer systems and how to disinfect sewage on the ground.

SPAR has advised 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.

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 Stevens Village:

http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/gallery/stevensflood2009_01/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