

**Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation**  
**Division of Spill Prevention and Response**  
**Prevention and Emergency Response Program**

**NATURAL DISASTER SITUATION REPORT**

**INCIDENT NAME:** 2011 Spring Flooding

**SITREP #:** 1

**LEDGER CODE:** 14311460

**TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT:** 10:30 AM on May 20, 2011

**TYPE OF DISASTER:** Flooding

**LOCATION:** Red Devil and Crooked Creek, AK, on the Kuskokwim River. A flood warning has been issued to the community of Buckland on the Buckland River.

**TYPE/EXTENT OF DAMAGE:** Heavy snow melt and ice jams caused the Kuskokwim River to rise and caused flooding in the villages of Red Devil and Crooked Creek. The flooding has damaged many homes, businesses, and public infrastructure. Many people in Crooked Creek had to be evacuated. The flood waters and ice flow damaged or displaced numerous fuel tanks, drums, and other containers. There have been several petroleum spills in the community. Some private drinking water wells have also been impacted by the flood waters.

**TYPE OF ASSISTANCE REQUESTED:** The State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC) requested that DEC provide support to the 2011 Spring Flooding events to include assessment of impacts, spill response and recovery, technical assistance on drinking water, wastewater, solid waste, and other public health and environmental impacts.

**ASSISTANCE PROVIDED:** The Prevention and Emergency Response Program (PERP) provided a spill response staff to the Disaster Initial Response Team (DIRT) to assist in assessing the damages at Crooked Creek and evaluating DEC related issues.

PERP is in the process of obtaining a term contractor to conduct spill response and recovery work in Crooked Creek to include locating, stabilizing, collecting, and consolidating fuel tanks, 55-gallon drums and other containers containing petroleum or other potentially hazardous substances. The term contractor will also recover and contain contaminated and uncontaminated fuel products, contain and recover sheens of petroleum liquids, manage proper disposal of sorbent material, and perform other miscellaneous tasks as needed or as directed by DEC.

The Drinking Water Program issued a Boil Water Notice (BWN) on May 10 to the public water system in Crooked Creek. The Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC) collected water samples from the water system for coliform bacteria analysis. All samples were negative for bacteria and the BWN was lifted on May 13.

The Crooked Creek property owners were provided information on boiling water from private wells used for drinking, cooking, hand washing, or dish washing for at least 2 minutes, until water samples have been analyzed for bacterial contamination and shown to be clean. The following informational handouts have been provided to the community:

- How to disinfect drinking water
- How to disinfect a well
- How to disinfect sewage on the ground
- How to disinfect sewage in your home
- Disinfecting mold
- How to clean household items impacted by flood waters

The Drinking Water Program also provided flood preparation information to the community of Buckland.

The SECC has provided cleaning supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE), such as rubber boots and gloves, to Crooked Creek property owners whose homes were impacted by the flood waters.

Additional technical assistance on drinking water and wastewater issues will be provided as needed.

**CURRENT CONDITIONS:** On May 17, 2011, The Governor declared a Disaster Emergency for the villages of Crooked Creek and Red Devil.

Red Devil: The flood damaged 6 homes and some of the local road system. There have been no reports of damages pertaining to DEC related issues.

Crooked Creek: The community drinking water system is operational and providing good water to the community. PERP is finalizing a term contract to provide spill response and recovery throughout the flood impact area. The main fuel tank farm is intact and did not release any product. Some minor fuel transfer station repairs will be needed but all piping looks good. Primary fuel spills were from home heating oil tanks that toppled over during the flood and other miscellaneous fuel containers scattered around by the flood waters. A lagoon in the village contains numerous containers and debris washed in by the flood. All residents evacuated during the flood have returned to the community. The Red Cross is managing a shelter set up at the school.

Buckland: The National Weather Service (NWS) has issued a flood warning for the community of Buckland on the Buckland River, which will be in effect until noon Friday May 20, 2011. An ice jam has formed in front of Buckland while several ice jams remain above the village. Water has begun to rise and affect low lying village roads near the river. Water rose 2 feet Wednesday night. Variations of depth in the uptown part of the village range between 1 and 3 feet of water. Water is within 2 feet of coming over the bank and onto homes along Front Street. The road to uptown and the airport is under water. Downriver at Buckland the ice is still in place and more serious flooding is possible when the ice jam upriver releases.

**PUBLIC HEALTH THREAT:** Bacteria, viruses, protozoa, and/or petroleum products in flood waters can pose a threat to public health. Flood debris can also contain hazardous materials.

**ENVIRONMENTAL THREAT:** Spills from home heating oil tanks and other miscellaneous containers.

**FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** PERP will oversee the spill response and recovery operations of the term contractor in Crooked Creek. Once all hazardous liquid products have been retrieved and placed in safe storage, a disposal plan will be developed.

Additional technical assistance on drinking water and wastewater issues will be provided as needed.

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

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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