

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: 11

LEDGER CODE:

TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT: 7:00 pm, July 2, 2009

TYPE OF DISASTER: Flooding

LOCATION: Multiple locations within the Alaska Gateway Regional Educational Attendance Area (REAA), Yukon Flats REAA, Yukon-Koyukuk REAA, Kuspuk REAA, Yupiit REAA, Lower Kuskokwim REAA, Lower Yukon REAA, and Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

TYPE/EXTENT OF DAMAGE: Heavy snowmelt and ice dams caused rivers and streams to rise and caused flooding in the Yukon and Kuskokwim river systems. The flooding impacted several communities, damaging many homes, businesses, and public infrastructure. Several areas had to be evacuated. Many public and private drinking water systems were impacted by the flooding, as well as wastewater disposal systems, and landfills. The flood waters damaged or displaced numerous fuel tanks, drums, and other containers in the communities and other locations along the rivers. There were also several petroleum spills in many of the flooded communities.

CURRENT CONDITIONS: The emergency response phase of this disaster incident has passed. We are now in the recovery phase of the disaster.

Drinking Water: All Boil Water Notices have been lifted for all public drinking water systems that were impacted by the flooding. Except for Eagle, all flood impacted private drinking water wells have been sampled and verified to be free of coliform bacteria and volatile organic compounds (VOC), and that nitrate levels are below the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL).

In the City of Eagle, there are 12 private wells, clustered in one specific area, that continue to show positive for total coliform bacteria. These wells have been disinfected at least one time. DW Program hydrologists are evaluating the potential for the aquifer to be contaminated. DMVA is supporting the cost of continued assistance to private property owners with contaminated wells. DW staff will continue evaluating the situation and develop options for solutions.

Solid Waste: Eagle: DNR is in the process of conveying land to the City of Eagle to be used as a landfill for the flood debris. The Solid Waste Program will be issuing a Letter of Authorization for the one-time disposal of Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste. An actual solid waste disposal permit will not be needed for this operation. FEMA is providing a draft contract for the City of Eagle to use for the collection and disposal of inert flood debris. A contract should be awarded about July 17, and will last for approximately 30 days. The contractor will be separating household hazardous waste from inert debris and placing it into the existing lined temporary secondary containment area that was set up for hazmat debris during the response phase of the disaster.

PERP:

Eagle: NART has had a consistent presence in Eagle during the response effort over the past 2 months. NART has worked closely with term contractors on the collection, containment, stabilization, and storage of fuel tanks, drums, and various other containers of oil and hazardous substances in order to eliminate the threat to the public health and safety. Emerald Alaska Inc. is the current term contractor that has completed the emergency response work in the City and Village of Eagle. A total of 120 drums of various amounts of fluids were recovered from the City and Village of Eagle during the response. These fluids were filtered and condensed into smaller units. On June 30th,

Emerald's vacuum truck left Eagle hauling 5,800 gallons of oily water and 900 gallons of contaminated gasoline. Emerald also transported one tote of batteries, 2- 55 gallon drums of glycol, other hazmat items such as paints, grease, 2 totes of oiled debris, and 5 over-pack drums of contaminated soil. These substances will be properly disposed of either in Anchorage or out of state.

Approximately 1700 gallons of used oil was distributed to the community for use in used oil burners. 1400 gallons of recovered home heating oil was filtered and redistributed to the City and Village of Eagle for use in public facilities. Emerald and DEC are de-mobilizing from Eagle as of today. The ADEC command trailer is being towed to Anchorage by Emerald.

DEC will continue to be the lead State agency for the disposal of any additional household hazardous waste discovered during the inert debris collection and disposal operation.

Stevens Village: During the emergency response phase of the flood disaster, 85 drums containing potential contaminants were recovered and placed in a temporary secondary containment site adjacent to the barge landing. The recovery phase of the cleanup will entail characterizing the contents of the drums, consolidating like product, packing, shipping, and final disposal of oil and hazardous substances. Clean useable products will be recycled back into the community as much as possible.

Tanana: During the emergency response phase of the flood disaster, several home heating oil tanks that had been displaced by flood waters were secured. Approximately 90 drums containing potential contaminants were recovered and placed in a temporary secondary containment site. The recovery phase of the cleanup will entail characterizing the contents of the drums, consolidating like product, packing, shipping, and final disposal of oil and hazardous substances. Clean useable products will be recycled back into the community as much as possible.

All Other Flood Impacted Communities: All DEC related issues have been resolved.

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: DEC staff from SPAR, DW, SW, and WW have conducted numerous onsite evaluations of health and environmental threats, and provided technical assistance and regulatory guidance to communities, agencies, and the general public.

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

SPAR advised property owners in flooded areas on how to secure fuel containers, tanks and barrels to keep them from floating away. SPAR also provided 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>

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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