



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Governor Palin Surveys Flood Damage in Interior

May 7, 2009, Juneau, Alaska - Governor Sarah Palin traveled to the Interior today to survey areas ravaged by the worst ice jam flooding in decades. The governor was joined by Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Director John Madden. Weather permitting, the governor will meet with village leaders at Fort Yukon, and fly over Eagle and Circle.

On Wednesday, Governor Palin declared a disaster for the flooding event in the Interior of Alaska, including the drainages of the Yukon, Kuskokwim and Kobuk rivers. The disaster declaration will allow greater coordination among state agencies and provide easier access to state disaster relief funds. The declaration will also pave the way for receipt of federal funds from a possible federal disaster declaration.

The State Emergency Coordination Center Preparedness Level has been increased to Level 4: The center's operations occur in response to a major life-threatening or property-damaging event.

Given the severity of the flooding, Governor Palin has decided not to attend several events scheduled on the East Coast.

"Alaska is experiencing the worst ice jam flooding in recent history," Governor Palin said. "I am committed to do everything I can to help this region recover quickly. I appreciate the efforts of the Division of Homeland Security getting the necessary supplies to those in need."

Governor Palin had planned to travel to New York City this week to promote Alaska's Global Food Aid Program. The event promotes the use of Alaska seafood products to help feed millions of hungry people around the world. First Gentleman Todd Palin will attend in the governor's place.

Governor Palin was also invited to attend the White House Correspondents' Dinner. The First Gentleman will attend that event as well. Governor Palin also postponed numerous state meetings planned in Washington, D.C., including a scheduled gasoline meeting.

A copy of the disaster declaration can be found at:

http://www.gov.state.ak.us/pdf/FloodingDisasterDec_May7-2009.pdf

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