



For Immediate Release
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7 May 2009

Spring Flooding Fact Sheet

5-07

- Governor Sarah Palin visited Fort Yukon today to meet with community leaders and assess the level of pre-flood support.
- The SECC has established a 2009 Spring Breakup Flood Event Information web page at ready.alaska.gov. This webpage contains current flood information, including photos, and will be updated as new information becomes available.
- Those who want to make donations are encouraged to make cash donations to established charities. Cash donations are the most effective way to help those in need.
- The State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC) activation is at level 4. Level 4 operations occur in response to a major life threatening or property damaging event.
- River Watch teams are conducting aerial observations of the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers. The River Watch teams, made up of DHS&EM Emergency Managers and National Weather Service Hydrologists, survey river conditions, issue flood warnings and assist communities with flood response and/or evacuation.
- A disaster response team arrived in Eagle on Wednesday to assist with emergency management functions and coordinate the disaster response effort. The Yukon River Watch team turned over ground operations to the disaster response team and then continued aerial observations of flood conditions. The disaster response team is made up of representatives from the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM), Department of Health and Social Services, Department of Environmental Conservation, Tanana Chiefs Conference and the American Red Cross.
- As of May 7, 5:01 pm the National Weather Service River Forecast Center has flood warnings in effect for the Chistochina River near Chistochina, for the Kuskokwim River near McGrath, and for the Yukon River from Eagle to Ft. Yukon.
- The City of Eagle sent a request to the SECC for potable water. The SECC has coordinated with Bureau of Land Management to deliver 1000 gallons by truck.
- The City of Eagle sent a request to the SECC for water containers, life jackets, stoves/propane, sleeping bags, latex gloves, and hand sanitizer. The Department of Natural Resources is working to fill this request.
- The Department of Transportation is assisting the unified command in assessing airport and road conditions along the river system.
- Alaska Volunteer Organization Active in Disasters (AKVOAD) is assisting in affiliating volunteers and managing donations. Contact AKVOAD at (907) 952-1694 www.akvoad.com or AKVOAD Spokesperson/Chair Richard Whetsell at (907)398-2252.

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