

**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:** 7

**LEDGER CODE:**

**TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT:** 4:00 pm, May 18, 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:** A large volume of stranded ice will remain in place until it thaws. The ice varies from a few feet to 20 or more feet in depth. The road from Eagle to Eagle Village remains impassable. ADOT is working on putting in a temporary road. The clearing of the roadway is complete and ADOT is estimating that the matting will be in place and the road opened by May 19. The road to the landfill is impassable due to debris and ice cover.

**Solid Waste (SW):** A temporary collection area has been established at the ADOT gravel pit for the storage of debris, drums, tanks and hazardous waste that were removed from the flooded areas.

**Drinking Water (DW):** A mobile water treatment unit has arrived in Eagle to treat drinking water from the City Well. We have received one satisfactory total coliform bacteria sample from the treated water. The well remains on a Boil Water notice until we can receive confirmatory satisfactory samples. We are working with Shannon and Wilson to contract services to sample private and public wells in Eagle that were affected by the flooding. DW staff will travel out to Eagle on Wednesday or Thursday to provide assistance to Shannon & Wilson in identifying wells and to determine what testing should be done.

**PERP:** PERP and their contractor have demobilized from Eagle. Remobilization will occur when the debris removal plan is finalized, or the situation changes.

**Circle:** DW staff have received satisfactory samples from Circle and the BWN has been lifted.

**Ft Yukon:** No change in Ft Yukon status for spill response issues.

**DW:** The Boil Water Notice for the community system has been lifted. Satisfactory sample results were received for the well and distribution system. Samples for Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOC's) will be collected this week by the water treatment plant operator.

**Beaver:** Minor flood damage has been reported; no site assessment by DEC is anticipated at this time.

**DW:** DW staff have not received any samples for Beaver, so they remain on a BWN. DW staff do not believe that the area is still impacted by floodwaters.

Stevens Village:

PERP: A PERP term contractor has been given a notice to proceed for the removal of drums, stabilization of tanks and construction of a secondary containment area to store the recovered oil and hazardous material that was displaced or spilled as a result of the flood. Local residents will be hired to complete the work in Stevens Village. 40-hour Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) trained personnel have been identified and will be contacted for potential employment.

DW: No change in reported status from the previous Sitrep. Residents remain on a BWN. DW staff traveled out to Stevens Village on May 14. The village has no power and the water treatment plant is non-operational at this time. Treated water and raw water tanks are almost full, but cannot be used because there is no power to run the pumps. The well was flooded and the system lost pressure. The entire system will have to be disinfected before it is put back into service.

Chalkyitsik: PERP had received reports of minor flooding and fuel spills from the EPA technician located in the village. A responder flew out on a regularly scheduled flight to assess damage and the fuel spills. Although there was standing water in the low lying areas, no water damage was observed. PERP staff responded to a fuel release from the school tanks while on site, but the release was probably not caused by the flood conditions.

Tanana:

PERP: One PERP responder met the EPA Technician and Village Public Safety Officer to survey and assess flood damage in the community. Fifteen households received flood damage in the "Circle" subdivision. Typical damage consisted of displaced 500-gallon above ground home heating oil tanks, damaged "outhouses," flooded outhouse pits, pools of "septic" water, all generating significant amounts of solid and liquid waste products. Minor amounts of fuel were observed in the soil or standing water in the "Circle" subdivision. Several other flood residents lost above ground storage tanks, with fuel remaining on soil, vegetation, and in standing water. Two sewage lift stations flooded the low-lying community neighborhoods. Road culverts were blocked with debris; trees and brush caught 55-gallon drums and other buoyant debris from the flood. Local residents formed work groups to help manage the disaster and restore their community so the evacuated residents could return.

A PERP term contractor has been given a notice to proceed for the removal of drums, stabilization of tanks and construction of a secondary containment area to store the recovered oil and hazardous material that was displaced or spilled as a result of the flood. Local hire will be emphasized to complete the work in Tanana. Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) trained personnel have been identified and will be contacted for potential employment.

DW: DW staff received satisfactory total coliform samples and the BWN has been lifted.

Akiak: No change in reported status from the previous Sitrep.

Kwethluk: No change in reported status from the previous Sitrep.

Bethel: No change in reported status from the previous Sitrep.

**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.

DW: Flood preparation information, including Boiling Water Notice (BWN's) literature has been provided to the following communities: Ruby, Nulato, Koyukuk, Kaltag, Galena, Buckland, Noorvik and Selawik.

**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:**

The Drinking Water Program will be distributing information advising property owners in flooded areas to boil water used for drinking, cooking, hand washing, or dish washing for at least two minutes, and providing advice on monitoring of on-site sewer systems and how to disinfect sewage on the ground. They are also distributing 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.

NART is advising 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.

Technical assistance is being 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.

**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. Additional staff will be deployed to Ft Yukon tomorrow.

**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_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_02/index.htm)

[http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/gallery/eagleflood2009\\_03/index.htm](http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/gallery/eagleflood2009_03/index.htm)

Photos from Circle:

[http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/gallery/circleflood2009\\_01/index.htm](http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/gallery/circleflood2009_01/index.htm)