



For Immediate Release
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State Team Deploys to Crooked Creek to Inspect Damages

FORT RICHARDSON, Alaska – A State of Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM) Disaster Initial Response Team (DIRT) arrived in Crooked Creek on May 12 to provide emergency management services, assess conditions, and inspect damages to homes and public facilities. DHS&EM has received reports of damages to private homes and critical public infrastructure.

“The DIRT’s mission is to explain the resources and options available to the community and help the community determine their best course of action. The team will use their emergency response, sheltering, damage assessment, and disaster recovery experience in the coming days to assist the community,” said John Madden, Director of DHS&EM. “Listening to the community, acknowledging their concerns, and meeting their needs are the foundation of a comprehensive disaster response and recovery.”

The DIRT consists of three DHS&EM Emergency Management Specialists, one Department of Environmental Conservation Technical Specialist, and one American Red Cross of Alaska Shelter Manager. Currently two Village Public Safety Officers are in Crooked Creek.

Beginning on May 8, Crooked Creek on the Kuskokwim River, experienced seasonal ice jam flooding. The National Weather Service River Forecast Center reports that water levels may have reached 30 feet above normal levels.

On May 9, the community determined an evacuation was necessary and organized the evacuation with assistance for Donlin Creek Mine located ten miles North of Crooked Creek. 53 residents were evacuated to the Donlin Creek Mine.

Prior to and throughout the flood event, the Kuskokwim River Watch team has given ice jam updates to the community. River Watch Flights continue to provide spring break-up river condition updates to Kuskokwim and Yukon River communities.

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