



For Immediate Release  
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## **Governor's Request for Federal Disaster Declaration Approved**

*State/FEMA continue disaster recovery efforts*

**Fort Richardson, Alaska** – Governor Sarah Palin received President Barack Obama's Federal Disaster Declaration for this spring's severe ice jam flooding along the Yukon, Kuskokwim, and other Alaskan Rivers. In the Declaration, Obama designated four regions eligible for Individual Assistance, six regions eligible for Public Assistance, and the entire state eligible for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

On May 21, Governor Palin requested a Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to evaluate the losses in residential property, businesses and public infrastructure. On May 22 two PDA teams began assessments in fourteen communities.

Governor Palin requested a Federal Disaster Declaration on May 26, based on the initial findings of the PDA teams.

“Winter will return to Alaska's interior in a few short months and we must provide assistance to the flood victims as soon as possible,” said Lt. Gen. (AK) Craig E. Campbell, Commissioner of the DMVA. “FEMA's prompt response to the state's request for federal assistance continues the tremendous partnership that has been forged between local, state and federal agencies. FEMA is aware of the seasonal challenges Alaskans face and is ready to act when the state makes a request.”

State and FEMA interaction will continue throughout the recovery process with the state providing information, coordinating with communities, and advocating for Alaskans. The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) will continue to encourage FEMA to designate additional areas in their declaration.

Beginning early next week, FEMA and DMVA's Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management will deploy Individual and Public Assistance Teams to begin quantifying individual damages and developing scope of work project worksheets.

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