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Press Release

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DOT&PF works to provide vehicle access to New Eagle Village

(FAIRBANKS, Alaska) – The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) is constructing a temporary access road to provide emergency vehicle access to New Eagle Village.

“We are committed to providing access,” said Steve Titus, DOT&PF Northern Regional Director.

“There is a community with no power, no communication, limited food and limited drinking water. Our goal is to build a safe, expedient, low-impact access route for motorists.”

Devastation caused by the Eagle’s flooding is heightened by the massive jumble ice remaining after the flood waters receded.

Front Street in Eagle City is destroyed and covered in ice. Old Eagle Village is completely decimated. New Eagle Village, and the surrounding area, is intact but without road access. There is a 1.6 mile stretch of Mission Road covered by ice and debris stacked up to 25-feet high and 300-feet wide.

“The ice covering Mission Road is more than just an ice field, it is a debris field,” said Jim Fehrenbacher, Northern Region Maintenance Manager. “The ice is mixed with petroleum products, chemicals, propane tanks and telephone and electric wires. If we were to remove the ice we risk exposing personnel to hazards.”

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NEW EAGLE VILLAGE 2/2/22



(FAIRBANKS, Alaska) – A motorist approaches an ice and debris-littered portion of Mission Road in Old Village, blocking access to the community of New Eagle Village. (Official DOT&PF photo by Jim Fehrenbacher, DOT&PF Northern Region Maintenance Manager)

DOT&PF determined that cutting through the ice and debris mass would be overly time consuming and unsafe. DOT&PF is constructing a detour that will provide access by week's end, to reach New Eagle Village. The detour will be about 4,500-feet long from the Eagle airport, bypass the ice jam, and connect with Mission Road. The detour is cleared of brush and tundra road mats are being emplaced to stabilize the route. Although this solution is only temporary, it is the safest and fastest alternative.

For more information on the spring flooding in the Interior, visit the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management at www.dmva.alaska.gov .

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