



Community Response - Kotzebue Flooding

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kotzebue, Alaska (October 22, 2024, 4:02 PM) – A significant flooding event is currently impacting various parts of Kotzebue. In response, local organizations, including the City of Kotzebue, Northwest Arctic Borough School District, Native Village of Kotzebue, Northwest Arctic Borough and Maniilaq Association, collaborate to provide safe evacuation centers for affected residents. Arrangements are being made to ensure access to water, food, and housing for those displaced, which is why these organizations have established four subcommittees to ensure a coordinated and effective response to the crisis.

As the situation develops, it is essential to note that both runways at the local airport are closed due to high winds pushing ice onto the runways. The airport is not accessible at this time, further complicating the response efforts.

The subcommittees will focus on the following areas:

- **Emergency Declaration Oversight:** This team is responsible for ensuring the proper declaration process is followed and compliance with all legal and regulatory requirements is maintained. They will coordinate with city, state, and federal officials to activate necessary resources, facilitating a quicker response to the community's needs.
- **Damage Documentation:** This group will systematically assess and document flooding incidents, including recording damage to homes and infrastructure. By compiling detailed reports, they will maintain accurate records that can be used for future reference and potential funding needs.
- **Public Communication:** This team will manage all communications with the public, ensuring precise and consistent messaging regarding ongoing response efforts. They will work with local media and utilize social media platforms to inform residents about safety protocols and available assistance.
- **Resource Management:** This group will identify and manage all available resources for affected residents, tracking supplies, shelters, and financial assistance. They aim to ensure that those in need can access essential support during this challenging time.

Next Steps:

- Initiate the official emergency declaration process with the relevant authorities.
- Begin immediate assessment of flood-affected areas to document damages.
- Prepare initial public statements and establish a robust communication plan.
- Compile a comprehensive list of available resources and identify any gaps in current support efforts.

These collaborative efforts reflect our commitment to providing timely assistance to those impacted by the flooding. Residents are encouraged to stay informed through official communication channels and report any damages to facilitate our response. **### END ###**