



**For Immediate Release**

**September 20, 2012**

**Contact: Jeremy Zidek 907-428-7125 or 907-441-2337**

**Jeremy.Zidek@Alaska.gov**

**State Emergency Operation Center Activates to Respond to Community Emergency Request**  
*South-central and Interior Communities Feel the Impact of Continuous Wind and Rain*

CAMP DENALI, Alaska - The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) activated today to respond to the recent flooding in the Matanuska-Susitna (Mat-Su) Borough and community of Seward. The Mat-Su borough has issued a disaster declaration with request for state assistance. The SEOC response level has been raised to level 3, indicating the SEOC is staffed and responding to the emergency request received from the communities. The SEOC has received reports of flooding, landslides and road closures throughout South-central Alaska. At this time there have been no reports of major injuries.

The Mat-Su and Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) have activated emergency response staff and are responding or are preparing to respond. The SEOC has dispatched an Emergency Management Specialist to the Mat-Su Borough Emergency Operations Center to act as a SEOC liaison. The liaison will work with the Mat-Su Borough EOC to identify and respond to emergency life-safety, search and rescue, and other critical needs.

Officials are instructing residents in East Talkeetna to evacuate immediately, specifically the homes at the north end of Beaver Road.

The American Red Cross of Alaska open three shelters in the Mat-Su Borough and assisted in the operation of a shelter in Seward. For more information on the location of active Red Cross Shelters visit <http://www.arh.noaa.gov/>

Families that are safe and united should stay off of phone lines as much as possible. Keep emergency lines like 911 open for emergencies and tune into local media for up-to-date disaster information. If it is possible, stay in your home and avoid traveling.

In addition to events in the Mat-Su and KPB severe wind and rain has impacted other areas of the state. An Initial Damage Assessment Team visited Tanacross yesterday to help local government evaluate the scope and severity of damages from a Sept 16. wind event. The SEOC has been communicating with the communities throughout Prince William Sound. The village of Chenega has experienced a land slide that has blocked the community's access to their airport. The Department of Transportation is currently working to restore Chenega's airport access.

For a complete update on current and forecasted flood conditions visit the National Weather Service at <http://www.arh.noaa.gov/>.

###