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## Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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### **Crews Battle, Overcome Runway Flooding, Rural Airports Operational**

**(JUNEAU, Alaska)** – Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) crews have battled and defeated flooding at some of Alaska's rural airports in the state's central region.

DOT&PF officials conducted an aerial survey of some of the rural village airports on the Kuskokwim River Wednesday.

Two airports affected by flooding were at Red Devil and Aniak.

"When we landed at Red Devil, we noticed that water had previously flowed over the first 600 feet of the runway," said Troy LaRue, DOT&PF's aviation superintendent. Immediate maintenance was necessary to return it to normal operations.

"Lenore Baird (airport manager) performed remarkably to grade and reshape the runway which is now in very good condition," LaRue explained.

Currently, all state-owned rural airports between Red Devil and Kalskag are operational however; reports indicate the Tuluksak runway is currently underwater. There is no way to estimate the damage to Tuluksak's runway until the water subsides. There is still a potential for flooding on the lower parts of the Kuskokwim. DOT&PF crews will monitor and mitigate flood damage as necessary.

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