



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Governor Mike Dunleavy
STATE OF ALASKA

Tuluksak Fact Sheet

Key Information:

- Tuluksak has not gone without access to drinking water at any point since January 16.
- The State of Alaska has been involved with the response, both in terms of personnel and funding, from the very first day.
- A disaster declaration is a long-term recovery tool and has no impact on our response.

Timeline of Events:

- **January 16:** Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) staff are alerted to the fire in Tuluksak while it is in progress. DEC notifies the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) as well as tribal and federal partners.
- **January 16:** DEC immediately contacts the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation's (YKHC) Remote Maintenance Worker Program (RMW) to ensure emergency response plans are in place. YKHC's RMW program is entirely state-funded and designed for situations such as these.
- **January 16:** YKHC advises that site visit plans are underway, and DEC works to gather blueprints and documents pertaining to the washeteria.
- **January 18:** Following a blizzard, the RMW team makes an on-the-ground assessment of the burned-out washeteria and determines it is a total loss. The facility was not insured.
- **January 19:** The SEOC confirms that drinking water remains available, with much more on the way.
- **January 20:** The Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (DCCED) and the SEOC notifies all stakeholders that they are assisting Tuluksak with the drafting of an emergency resolution. Recovery funding sources are identified during that same meeting.
- **January 26:** YKHC holds a meeting with stakeholders to go over a detailed, three-phase recovery plan.
- **January 28:** The Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) determines that trucking in water via the ice road will be the most economical solution until YKHC can finish construction. The road is being plowed as often as three times per day.
- **February 8:** YKHC begins work on Phase 1, which includes pumping filtered, chlorinated water from the river to supply showers, laundry facilities, and to recharge the school's sprinkler system.
- **February 8:** Governor Dunleavy approves the disaster declaration.

Why the delay in declaring a disaster?

In some cases, including Haines, the need for long-term recovery tools are immediately apparent. In other cases, it's necessary to wait for recovery plans to be solidified. The lack of a disaster declaration plays no role in the immediate response. As a point of fact, there were no requests for reimbursement at the time of issuance, and it was state agencies who assisted Tuluksak with the drafting of the emergency resolution.

Why can't the Alaska National Guard (AKNG) be utilized to deliver bottled water?

Regional organizations and volunteer groups have been able to provide sufficient potable water via air and the ice road. Utilizing the AKNG to deliver water to a community is prohibited by law when other government, commercial, or non-profit groups can meet the need.

Why is water being provided by charities?

The SEOC's job is to coordinate and monitor the relief effort and ensure there is no lack of potable water. It is not out of the ordinary for disaster relief to include non-governmental organizations. The Tuluksak Native Community is in contact with the SEOC and multiple state agencies should the situation change.