



CITY & BOROUGH of YAKUTAT

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Declaration of Local Disaster Emergency

Whereas, in the last several weeks, the Yakutat Borough has received approximately five & six feet of snow; and

Whereas, the Borough is now experiencing rain conditions, with near-freezing temperature, causing snow loads to become even heavier; and

Whereas, as a result, numerous structures within the Borough have sustained, or are in imminent danger of sustaining, significant damage; and

Whereas, the new Yakutat Clinic Health Center was forced to close and likely has millions of dollars of water damage; and

Whereas, the Yakutat Schools snow loads are threatening to collapse the roofs of the Gym and Elementary School, despite extensive snow removal efforts; and

Whereas, the Borough-owned fish plant, the only fish plant in the Borough, has snow loads at a dangerous level; and

Whereas, the municipal water and sewer plant roofs are dangerously overloaded; and

Whereas, the privately-owned hardware store and grocery stores have worrisome snow loads, as do numerous private lodges and residences; and

Whereas, there have been repeated, intermittent power outages, with loss of municipal telephone and internet; and

Whereas, several older structures have already collapsed, including a carport at the municipal public safety building, which collapsed onto the Borough's emergency management trailer; and

Whereas, this on-going situation poses an imminent threat to health, safety and welfare of the residents, businesses, and infrastructure of the City and Borough of Yakutat; and

Whereas, the available Borough personnel and resources are currently inadequate to handle the consequences of this current weather event; and

Whereas, in order to contain any potential harm that may be caused, State and Federal assistance is needed to supplement local efforts to respond to this emergency; and

Whereas, pursuant to AS 26.23.140, the Borough Manager may declare the existence of an emergency; and

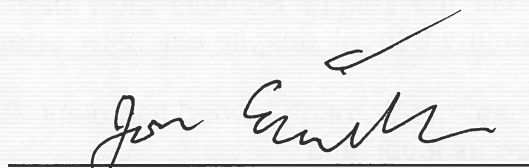
Whereas, the Borough Manager deems it necessary to declare a local emergency to protect Borough infrastructure and the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the Borough.

NOW THEREFORE, I hereby declare a local disaster emergency existing within the City and Borough of Yakutat, based upon the substantial risks to the public and to borough infrastructure posed by the current and forecast weather conditions. In accordance with AS 26.23.140, the intent of this declaration, in part, is to authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance to the Borough, including available federal and state emergency funding. The Borough requests that the Governor of Alaska provide such State assistance as may be available to meet the ongoing emergency and to request additional assistance from Federal agencies where State capability is not adequate.

IT IS FURTHER REQUESTED that the Assembly continue this declaration until the emergency no longer exists.

A copy of this Declaration shall be filed promptly with the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

Signed this 11th day of January, 2022.


Jon Erickson, Borough Manager