

SCOMM

115:4

COMMITTEE TAPE LOG

COMMITTEE: MILITARY & VETERANS' AFFAIRSDATE: 2/25/99TIME: 5 PM.SUBJECT: Overview: Division of Emergency ServicesMEMBERS: MURKOWSKI ✓ COGHILL JAMES ✓ PHILLIPS ✓ KOTT CISSNA CROFT FOSTER ✓
LM JC JJ GP PK SC EC RF

SPEAKER	TAPE #	SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION
	99-3	
	001	Call to order at 5:02 PM. PRESENT: LM, JJ, GP, PL
LM		CALL TO ORDER
		INTRO DAE LIEBERSBACH, DIRECTOR
		DIV. of EMERGENCY SERVICES
DAE LIEBERSBACH		Begin to overview.
		Rep FOSTER PRESENT AT 5:04 PM.
LM.		QUESTION: FUL DISASTER? WHAT SIGNIFIES FUL DISASTER?
		~~SC~~ SC. PRESENT @ 5:06 PM.
DAE L.		
LM.		CLARIFICATION of ORDER of EMERGENCY RESPONSE
DAE L.		"WORK IN ALL DISASTERS, NOT INCLUDING TO CERTAIN
		"NATURAL DISASTERS."
LM.		EMER COMMUNICATION OUTREACH / MITIGATION?
DAE L.		
LM		
DAE		
G.P.		PAID POSITION?
DAE		
G.P.		ORGANIZED RESOURCES HAVE "LAPC"?
DAE.		Nope.
J.J.		RESPONDING TO EMER. SITUATIONS.

FEMA: 'Prepare for worst' on Y2K bug

By MARK HELM
Hearst Newspapers

WASHINGTON — "Plan for the worst and hope for the best," the Federal Emergency Management Agency advised Wednesday as it issued a guide for consumers to prepare for Year 2000 computer-bug problems.

The agency stressed that the most important thing people can do to avoid problems resulting from computer crashes is to "stay informed" because institutions are varying widely in their response to the bug.

"Ask your local government, your bank, your utility company and other organizations that you rely upon what they are doing to be ready" for the Year 2000, or Y2K, problem, the FEMA guide said.

"Being prepared is key to dealing with any potential emergency, whether natural or man-made," FEMA director James Lee

Please see Page F-4, Y2K

Y2K: Federal agency comes up with guidelines

Continued from Page F-1

Witt said in a statement. "We need to take the same approach we use with hurricanes, tornadoes or floods — plan for the worst and hope for the best."

While insisting that there is no indication that the Year 2000 glitch will cause widespread disruptions in the United States, the FEMA guide recommended that Americans:

- Keep copies of their bills, bank statements and other records. Consumers with investments should consider asking their banks and brokerages to issue special statements of their accounts that would give their investment values by this Dec. 31.

- Store enough food and clean water to last up to a week. Also, people should buy candles, matches, batteries and flashlights for possible power outages.

- Expect some of the problems stemming from the Y2K bug to begin before Jan. 1. The guide said consumers should be prepared for possible disruptions on July 1, when 46 states begin their fiscal

year 2000. Another date to watch is Oct. 1, the beginning of fiscal year 2000 for the federal government.

FEMA also recommended that people with personal computers check with their PC's manufacturer and with the manufacturer of the computer's software to find out if they are Y2K-compliant, that is, bug-free.

"It is important that we tell the American people everything we know, for an educated public will always make the right decisions," FEMA Deputy Director Robert Walker said in a statement.

Despite its warnings, the FEMA guide also contained several pieces of good news. Among the things most Americans should not worry about, according to FEMA, are:

- Money. The banking industry has been working on the problem for several years and at the end of 1998, 96 percent of banks were said to be on track to be Y2K-ready by this June 30.

- Massive power outages. The guide said they are unlikely. The electric utility industry has completed work on more

than half of its critical systems and expects to have finished them all by June 30. However, industry officials warn that minor outages — those lasting a day or two — cannot be ruled out.

- Flying. The Federal Aviation Administration has fixed more than 90 percent of its critical systems and expects to have them all reprogrammed within the next few months. In addition, airplane manufacturers report that none of the problems identified so far would present a safety risk.

- The federal government. More than 60 percent of its critical systems are now Y2K-compliant, and officials say they all will be before Jan. 1.

- Home appliances. Most home electronic products will not be affected by the Y2K bug. However, FEMA recommends that people check with manufacturers to make sure any appliances they consider essential are Y2K-compliant.

Copies of the FEMA guide can be ordered by calling 800-480-2520 or by logging on to the agency's web site at www.fema.gov/y2k.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
15 February 1999
POC: Major Mike Haller / 907-428-6031

*send
letter of
congratulations*

NEW EMERGENCY SERVICES' DIRECTOR SELECTED

Governor names Liebersbach as new director, cites experience

CAMP DENALI, Alaska --- Governor Tony Knowles announced the appointment of Mr. Dave Liebersbach as Director of the Alaska Division of Emergency Services today.

Brigadier General Phil Oates, Commissioner of the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs, also expressed his faith in Liebersbach's experience and credentials. "My priorities begin with Emergency Services," Oates declared. "I have every confidence in him and know that he has a great team of people who work well with him in the Division," he added. "His focus is on serving the people of Alaska."

Liebersbach had been acting director since last summer when former director Bob Heavilin left to join a firm in the private sector. Liebersbach was hired for the Chief of Staff position, within the DES, in October of 1996. Immediately prior to that, he'd worked with the Bureau of Land Management at the Arctic District Headquarters in Fairbanks. Most recently, he'd served as incident commander during the Big Lake - Miller's Reach Fire. He'd also led fire fighting efforts elsewhere in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, California, Oregon and Washington.

He is married to Lora Harbo, of Fairbanks. They have a daughter and a son.

Guard units preparing to take Y2K problems

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON - National Guard units around the country are being trained to deal with phone-system outages and other chaos that could result from computer crashes when the year 2000 begins.

In Washington state, half of the guard's ground troops will be on duty Dec. 31 and Jan. 1. Other states plan to have units on standby in case of blackouts, looting or other problems that might occur if computers shut down because they can't comprehend the date 2000.

"The business we're in is to help communities when they're overwhelmed by an event, a blizzard, riot or other natural or manmade disasters," said Lt. Col. Tim Donovan, spokesman for the National Guard in Wisconsin. "We have the resources. And many of the consequences being speculated about Y2K are not unlike the things we've been doing for years."

The potential problem stems from how computers deal with the date. Since most computers only recognize the last two digits of a date, such as the 99 in 1999, some of them are likely to interpret 00 as 1900.

Most government officials expect only minor problems from the so-called Y2K bug and say training the National Guard is merely a precaution. But some people are

Y2K watch
THE JUNEAU EMPIRE

hoarding canned goods and planning to withdraw their money from banks in case deliveries can't be made and bank machines can't operate.

Others are predicting shutdowns of airports, train stations and power generators.

Just in case, the adjutant general in Washington state rescheduled a drill so that 3,000 guardsmen would be on duty on New Year's Eve and Jan. 1.

The decision to call out the Guard in each state rests with the governor. If troops are mobilized, they likely would be called to aid civilian law-enforcement, transportation agencies and emergency medical crews.

"The general has asked all department heads, all heads of local emergency management agencies to go back and examine their plans based on a worst-case scenario estimate and come back with any kind of situation that they might not be able to handle," said 1st Lt. Gloria Haggarty, a Guard spokeswoman. "Based on that information, we're going to develop additional plans."

D
V
A



Emergency Services 41 employees



Mission

...To minimize loss of life and property and reduce suffering in time of disaster

Vision

...Through partnerships, leading the way in emergency management

Acting Director: Dave Liebersbach

- Works in partnership to bring everyone together related to mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery
- Partners: federal, state, local, military, private sector, volunteers
- Four major principles guide DES's activities
 1. Educating the public
 2. Provide emergency management training
 3. Plan for future disasters
 4. Foster partnerships for emergency management
- Responded to over 50 events in 1998
- Small staff is augmented by Alaska State Defense Force, and Naval Militia *explain*
- Weapons of Mass Destruction: DES is focal point in working with Anchorage, as a city to receive training and equipment under Nunn-Lueger Legislation
- Recent Managed Disasters
 - Miller's Reach
 - Shishmaref
 - Western Alaska Fisheries
 - Southeast Rain Storm

*What raises
to level of
disaster to call
our DES*



Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Alaska Division of Emergency Services



The Alaska Division of Emergency Services (ADES) provides a 24-hours-a-day watch to meet the needs of all Alaskans when threatened or impacted by a disaster of any type.

Mission: the mission of ADES is to minimize loss of life, suffering and reduce property loss from disaster.

Vision: The DES vision statement is: "...through partnerships, leading the way in Emergency Management."

The Division serves as a catalyst for ideas which might reduce the effects of disasters, enhance disaster preparedness, increase response efficiency, and improve the delivery of recovery services to all Division customers.

1997 was a busy year for the Division of Emergency Services. The Division worked on a number of training exercises, dealt with local and State emergencies, and numerous mitigation projects.

In the early part of the year and into the spring, flooding was only one of the concerns. The idea of "Ice Engineering" was tried out for the first time in Alaska, as members drilled holes in river ice to try to lessen the ice jams that form and cause mass flooding during the spring thaw. Other mitigation efforts included Public Service announcements, on the

dangers of flooding and how to be prepared, sent to radio stations statewide. A video covering the hazards of spring breakup was also played on the statewide ARCS network.

In June the Village of Chalkyitsik was the victim of flooding due to runoff from Gakona Glacier. The water became backed up and had no where to go. DES assisted the villagers in recovery efforts.

As Spring turned into Summer the threat of fire loomed across the state. DES monitored and coordinated relief efforts to help combat wildfires in Akhiok in April. In July, a fire near the Stony River, near Inowak scorched 600,00 acres and threatened three villages. DES was ready with evacuation and other contingency plans. Fortunately, the fire didn't damage any of the villages.

Late summer and fall in Alaska are prime times to be concerned about flooding, as the autumn rains sometimes seem endless. Normally gentle rivers that overflow due to ice jams in the spring once again see their banks overflowing. In August a State Disaster was declared for the Northern Copper River area and the Tanana River basin as villages in those areas became soaked. DES helped people in those areas apply for loans and other funds to help rebuild. Flooding was also a concern in Northway, The Fairbanks North Star Borough, and parts of Anchorage.

A noteworthy mitigation effort occurred in September, as the "Disaster Recovery Handbook" was distributed to local officials. This book contains lots of information on disaster recovery, as well as tips on preparedness and prevention. It was written with the special needs of Alaskans in mind, containing subjects not as common in the lower 48.

Alaska publication?

El Nino brought warmer waters in autumn, causing more erosion than normal to many beaches as the warmer water melted the permafrost layer. In October a State Disaster was declared in the village of Shishmaref, located on a tiny barrier island in the Chukchi Sea. A sea storm had undercut the beach, putting 11 homes in danger of falling into the water. DES sent a multi-agency team to Shishmaref to coordinate moving the buildings to a safer location on the island, prevent further erosion damage to the beach and help residents there make arrangements to have homes moved, and find a place to live in the mean time. Erosion was also a concern in Whittier, Kotzebue and Kivalina.

Volcanoes and earthquakes continue to be a concern in Alaska every year. 1997 was no exception. Volcanoes monitored by DES included the Pavlof Volcano in January, the Okmok Volcano in February, the Kamchatka Volcano eruption in May, the Chiginagak Volcano in October and the Bezymainny Volcano on the Kamchatka Peninsula in December.

Earthquakes of concern in 1997 included an Earthquake in the Anchorage and Mat-Su area in May, and a 7.7 quake on the Kamchatka Peninsula on December 5. This quake was strong enough and located in an ideal place to create a Tsunami, and a Tsunami warning was give for the Aleutian Islands from Attu to Dutch Harbor.

Other events monitored and acted upon by the Division of Emergency Services in 1997 included an apartment fire in Fairbanks and problems with the Unalakleet water system in January; a tundra fire near King Salmon in March; a Dutch Harbor seafood plant fire in April; Gakona River flooding and a Metlakatla water system leak in May; a McGrath area fire, Kalifornsky Beach Road fire and the Gerstle River flooding in July; a Sheldon Point washeteria fire and Knik River erosion in August; a Bristol Bay-Kuskokwim economic disaster in September; the ship M/V Kuroshima grounding in Unalaska in November and a fuel shortage in Platinum in December.

ADES, the Alaska State Defense Force and the Alaska National Guard routinely schedule training sessions, so that they might better deal with disasters. 1997 saw the Division participating in a number of these exercises, including a Cruise Ship disaster exercise in May, a military support exercise with members of the Alaskan Command (at Elmendorf Air Force Base) in June, joint training between members of the ASDF and the Emergency Communication Response Team (ECRT) in June and a mass casualty/earthquake exercise in August. DES also took part in a three-nation search and rescue exercise (SAREX) involving the U.S., Canada and Russia in September.

define purpose

[Click here to visit the official ADES home page](#)



*To report emergency
or imminent disaster
or 428-7000*

*Alk Emergency Mgmt Systems
in draft now*



THE
FOLLOWING
DOCUMENT(S)
ARE
POOR
ORIGINAL
COPIES



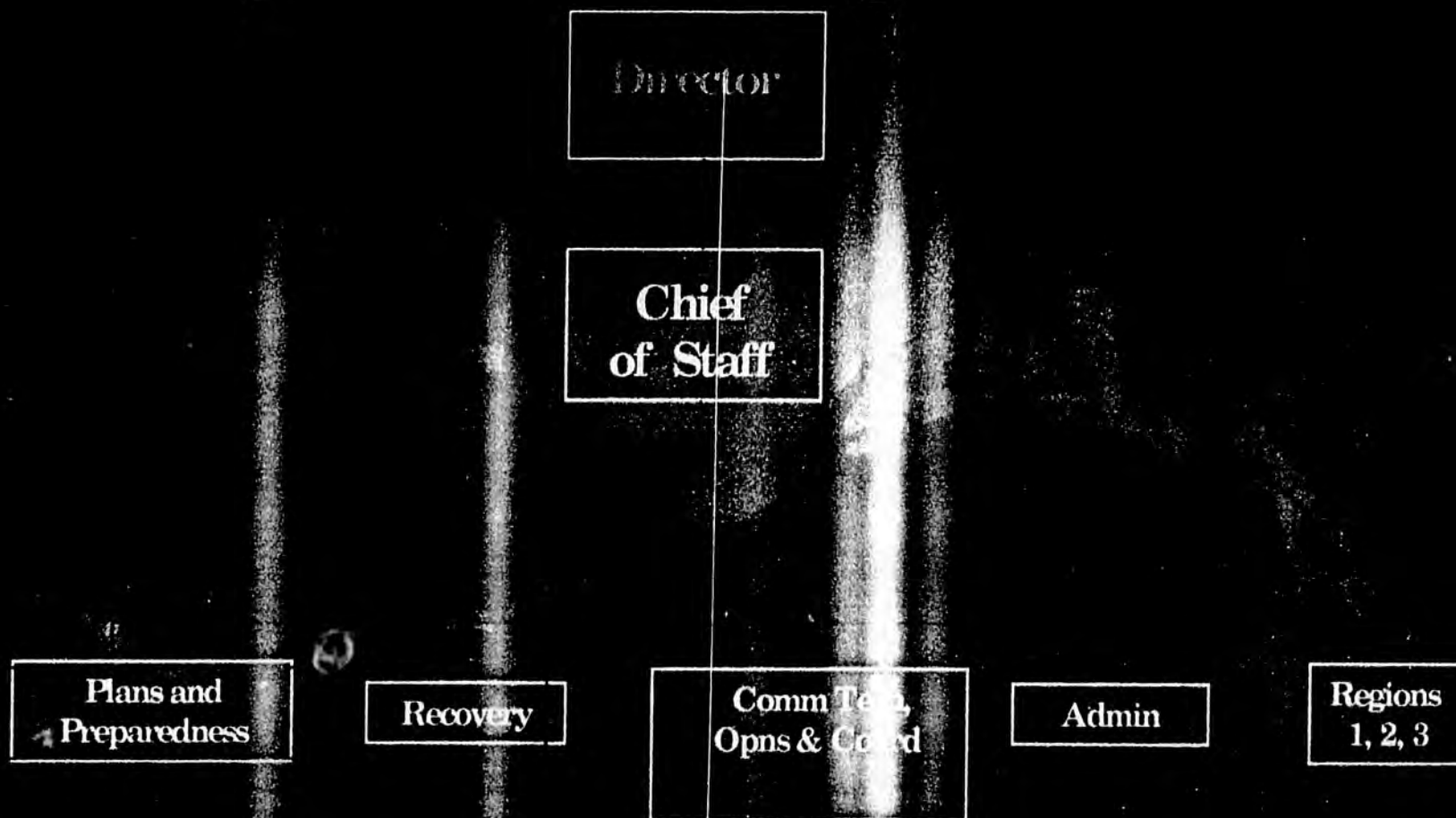
Alaska Division of Emergency Services

Mission

"Alaska's Division of Emergency Services is to lead, coordinate, and support the emergency management system; in order to protect lives and prevent the the loss of property from all hazards."



Alaska Division of Emergency Services *Departmental Organization*





Alaska Division of Emergency Services



ALASKA DIVISION OF EMERGENCY
SERVICES

STATE EMERGENCY COORDINATION
CENTER

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

DAILY
SITUATION REPORT

Prepared by: [illegible]

December 18,
as of 9:00 A



Alaska Division of Emergency Services

REQUEST

REQUEST

SECC

State Emergency Coordination Center
(SECC)



Alaska Division of Emergency Services

Governor's Disaster Policy Cabinet (DPC)

- Provides recommendations to the Governor
- Members
 - Core departmental commissioners
 - Attorney General
 - Director, Office of Management & Budget
- Commissioner, DMVA (TAG) is chair

- What kind of recommendations
- do they define whether something is classified as a state disaster
- What criteria is used in determining disaster



Alaska Division of Emergency Services

State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) Responsibilities

- Facilitate Preparation of EOPs
- Review Plans
- Designate Boundaries of LEPCDs
- Appoint LEPCs for LEPCDs
- Supervise & Coordinate LEPCs
- Establish Procedures for CRTK
- Review Disaster Response AARs



Alaska Division of Emergency Services *Vision*

“... through partnerships leading the
way in Emergency Management.”



Alaska Division of Emergency Services

Partnerships

- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Alaskan Command
- Alaska National Guard
- U.S.. Coast Guard
- U.S.. Army Corps of Engineers
- Alaska/West Coast Tsunami Warning Center
- National Weather Service
- Department of the Interior
- Business/Industry
- American Red Cross
- Volunteer Organizations
- Utility Companies
- Local Emergency Planning Committees
- Native Corporations
- Communities/Boroughs

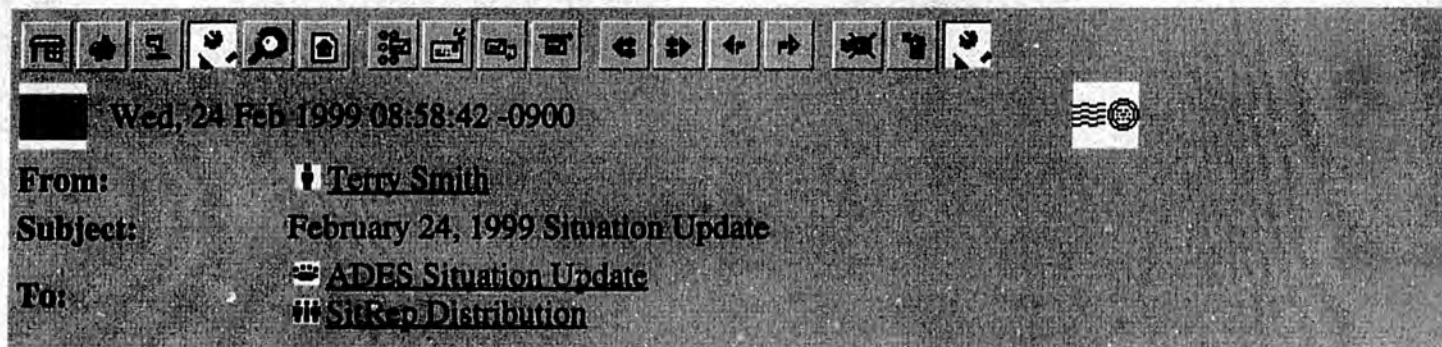


Alaska Division of Emergency Services

Emergency Management

Focus in Alaska

- Educate the Public
- Training
- Have A Plan
- Get to Know Each Other



**DIVISION OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
DAILY SITUATION UPDATE
As of 9:00 AM, February 24, 1999
Preparedness Level 1**

ISSUES ADDRESSED IN THIS REPORT:

STATEWIDE

Satellite Sun Outage

Western Alaska Fisheries Disaster Federal Funds

SOUTHWEST REGION

Earthquake

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS REGION

Shishaldin Volcano Update

Earthquake

MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

Alaska Fire Chiefs Association Conference

STATE EMERGENCY COORDINATION CENTER OPERATIONS

(Items that begin with an * indicate changes or new information since the previous day's report).

STATEWIDE

Satellite Sun Outage

AT&T Alascom has provided notice that beginning on February 22nd and extending to March 5th, their satellite facilities will be experiencing service degradation and outages as a result of sun interference. Predictions anticipate the outages to occur between 12:11 PM to 12:38 PM Alaska Standard Time for a period of approximately 5 to 10 minutes each day. Sun outages occur for a few days twice each year as the geosynchronous satellite passes directly between the antenna on earth and the sun. This causes radio frequency noise from the sun to become stronger than the desired signal from the satellite. Further information is available from the AT&T Network Operations Center at 1-800-252-7521 or 907-264-8414.

Western Alaska Fisheries Disaster Federal Funds

The Division of Emergency Services is now taking applications for federal assistance from

people affected by the Western Alaska Fisheries Disaster. Applications will be taken via a helpline by calling 1-888-388-3473 from February 19 through April 20, 1999. This money was made available through a 1999 spending bill for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. People whose family income falls below Federal poverty guidelines are eligible to receive the assistance if they fall under the following categories: Commercial Salmon Permit Holders in the disaster area, Commercial Salmon Fishing Crew License Holders, Cannery Workers/Processors and Subsistence Users of Yukon River drainage salmon stocks. Please call the above helpline number Monday through Saturday from 10 AM until 7 PM for further details.

SOUTHWEST REGION

Earthquake

The Alaska Earthquake Information Center reports that a light earthquake occurred on Monday at 3:50 AM on the Alaska Peninsula. This earthquake had a preliminary magnitude of 4.2 and was located 59 miles south of King Salmon and 43 miles southeast of Egegik. No reports of damage have been received.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS REGION

Shishaldin Volcano Update

The Alaska Volcano Observatory has issued the following additional information about Shishaldin Volcano. This volcano is located near the center of Unimak Island about 58 miles from Cold Bay. A small summit crater typically emits a noticeable steam plume with occasional small amounts of ash. Shishaldin is one of the most active volcanoes in the Aleutian volcanic arc, erupting at least 27 times since 1775. The most recent eruptive period occurred in late 1995 and early 1996 and consisted of minor explosions that produced low level steam and ash emissions. During the past week, personnel in Cold Bay observed anomalous steaming from the volcano. Last week, a vigorous steam plume rose to 6,000 feet above the vent and a long plume drifted downwind. The steam activity decreased throughout the week to light puffs rising a few hundred feet above the vent. On Thursday, February 18th, pilot and ground observations reported a large steam plume rising to 19,000 feet. A new seismic net monitoring the volcano recorded slightly elevated seismicity beginning at the end of January, and low-level seismic tremor has now been identified. Under the current conditions, a low level ash burst could occur with little or no warning. The AVO has raised their level of concern code to Yellow, meaning the volcano is restless, eruption may occur. Volcano information is available at <http://www.avo.alaska.edu> or 786-7478.

*** Earthquake**

The Alaska Earthquake Information Center reports that a moderate earthquake occurred on Tuesday at 3:23 AM in the Aleutian Islands. This earthquake had a preliminary magnitude of 5.0 and was located 108 miles west-northwest of Attu and 371 miles west-northwest of Amchitka. No reports of damage have been received.

MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

Alaska Fire Chiefs Association Conference

The spring AFCA conference is scheduled to begin on Wednesday, February 24th at 1 PM in the Baranof Hotel in Juneau. The conference lasts until late Saturday afternoon. Further information and reservations are available by contacting Len Malmquist of the AFCA.

STATE EMERGENCY COORDINATION CENTER OPERATIONS

Alaska Division of Emergency Services Duty Officer and Operations: Wanice Cowles is the duty officer until March 2nd. To reach the duty officer dial (907) 428-7000 or 1-800-478-2337, 24 hours per day. The Division of Emergency Services has a web site available for information on

emergency topics at <http://www.ak-prepared.com>. Please note that the web site is currently undergoing revisions and on a temporary basis may not be fully functional. The State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC) is at Level 1 and is open from 8 AM to 5 PM, Monday to Friday.

[Unsend](#)	[Undelete](#)	[Delete](#)			
[Previous In Thread](#)	[Next In Thread](#)	[Previous Unread](#)	[Next Unread](#)		
[History](#)	[New Message](#)	[Reply](#)	[Forward](#)		
[Desktop](#)	[Mailbox](#)	[Directory](#)	[Chat](#)	[Site Search](#)	[Home](#)