

Association of Village Council Presidents Press Release

Contact:
Gage Hoffman
907-543-7308
ghoffman@avcp.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 20, 2022

AVCP Damage Assessment Continues in the Region

AVCP will be providing daily updates as the damage assessment following Typhoon Merbok continues. We will also be providing updates on efforts by AVCP, state and federal partners to coordinate relief and recovery efforts in our region.

To date, we have received no reports of loss of life due to the storm.

AVCP Executive Board Chairman Thaddeus Tikiun and Chief Executive Officer Vivian Korthuis have met in Bethel with Governor Mike Dunleavy to discuss efforts to bring support to the region. Governor Dunleavy toured Hooper Bay, Scammon and overflow Chevok before a brief stop in St Mary's. The Governor has declared a state disaster, activated the National Guard and is seeking a federal disaster declaration for our region. Senator Lisa Murkowski is assisting on relief efforts at the federal government level.



AVCP has community-based staff in 46 of our villages-those team members are assessing damage and assessing immediate needs for people in those communities.

AVCP provides crisis benefits services and housing improvement program services along with other programs that can provide crisis support for individual tribal members and we are working in every impacted community to identify the needs and assist in providing support any way we can. People with questions can contact Andrea Wuya, Community Services Division at (907) 543-8553.

Damage assessments are still in their early stages, but we have identified the following issues:

- Half of Chevak is without running water
- Half the sewage system is down in Nightmute
- Hooper Bay, Chevak, Newtok, Tununak, and Toksook are in need of food and water
- Alakanuk is in need of water.
- 100 boats have been lost or sunk in Chevak.
- 10 tribal members in region have lost their homes
- In Nunam Iqua, the initial assessment is that about a quarter of the gravel pile that had been delivered in the past month for road maintenance has washed away
- Hooper Bay's gravel deliver remains largely intact and will be used for road repairs
- All AVCP staff have been contacted and are safe

At this time, all AVCP offices are up and running although cell service is coming in and out and the power outages appear to have caused IT issues that are impacting work in some offices. We ask people for their patience when trying to contact AVCP.

Please be safe while traveling throughout the region and while working on repairs in your villages.

###

For additional information, please contact AVCP Communications Director, Gage Hoffman at 907-543-7308 or email at ghoffman@avcp.org

AVCP is a regional nonprofit tribal consortium comprised of the 56 federally recognized tribes of the YK Delta. The geographic boundaries of AVCP extend from the Yukon River Village of Russian Mission downstream to the Bering Sea coast, north up through Kotlik and south along the coastline to Platinum and then extending up the Kuskokwim River to Stony River, including Lime Village on the Stony River tributary. The area encompasses approximately 6.5 million acres, or 55,000 square miles, in Western Alaska.