Bringing the Aleutians East Borough, the AEB School District and Eastern Aleutian Tribes together by sharing common goals.

Cold Bay to Participate in Tri-Annual Airport Emergency Exercise this Month

For a small town, Cold Bay has a big role to play when it comes to responding to emergency landings at the airport. Over the last several years, Delta Airlines, American Airlines, FedEx and two F16 fighter jets were forced to make emergency
landings after experiencing mechanical problems. Fortunately, no one was hurt among the passengers and crew members. But what if something had gone wrong and people on the plane had been injured? Those are scenarios state DOT employees, other government agencies, private businesses and residents in Cold Bay have to be prepared for.

On August 15th, Cold Bay will perform its tri-annual airport emergency exercise. State of Alaska DOT will take the lead, with representatives from the City of Cold Bay, PenAir, Grant Aviation, the Cold Bay Clinic, Izembek Refuge, U.S. Post Office and Frosty Fuel playing key roles.

“Every time we do something like this, we learn a little bit more,” said Harold “Hap” Kremer, Cold Bay Airport Manager with DOT. “We hope to build a muscle memory with the overall events, so that we don’t even have to really think about it. We just react, and that’s why we do the training.”

![On July 7, 2015, Cold Bay took part in a tri-annual water rescue exercise. Photo by Michael Tickle.](image)

Every year, Cold Bay conducts a table top exercise to go over emergency scenarios and how to respond. In 2015, the full-scale tri-annual exercise involved a water rescue exercise with a simulated aircraft going down in the water.

“That involved skiffs and boats, and a lot of teamwork went into that,” Kremer said. “It went very well.”

The exercises are a requirement by the FAA. They also provide valuable information.

“Each time we do one of these, we find out something new that we need to work on,” he said.

The goal of the exercise is for the participants to be prepared for an emergency, no matter what it entails.

“This year, the exercise is going to be an aircraft that has complications landing on the airfield. So we’re going to pull out all the different players involved,” he said.

“It’s important to be prepared for any kind of emergency,” said Cold Bay Mayor Dailey Schaack.
“It’s always good to be ahead of the game and have a lot of things in place. It’s important to know what you have, what each of our roles are and who to contact.”

Kremer said the clinic will play an important role in this exercise.

“The clinic will have people responding to the event, triaging the injured patients,” said Dr. Danita Koehler, Medical Director with Eastern Aleutian Tribes. “Then we would separate the patients into groups of patients -- who needs to be treated right away versus the walking wounded and those who can wait.”

“The categories the clinic will be responsible for include triaging patients, treating them on scene, transporting them to definitive care, and then recovering from the event, such that you can go back to normal operations,” Dr. Koehler said.

The model followed in this full-scale exercise is called the National Incident Management System, which is a comprehensive national approach to a full spectrum of potential incidents and hazard scenarios. It helps to improve coordination and cooperation between public and private entities in a variety of domestic incident management activities.

“So whether you’re in Cold Bay, Alaska with 45 residents or you’re in New York City with 4.5 million people, the way of responding to a disaster is organizationally the same,” said Dr. Koehler. “It’s kind of an organizational tree with a lot of different roles and responsibilities.”

In bigger cities, injured patients might have five or six health care providers attending to their needs.

“In Cold Bay, our challenge is how do you take care of a critically ill or injured patient with one or two pair of hands? That’s a challenge. You might have a lot of injuries, but you still have just one or two health care providers. So you...
have to know what your limitations are. It still has to be done, but you have to give yourself some privilege of understanding that you only have one or two pairs of hands.”

Kremer said at the end of the exercise, they’ll hold a debrief to go over the scenario to discuss what went well and what the complications were.

“The ultimate goal is to find out where the weak link in the chain is, and try to address it before we actually need it,” he said.

“It’s always good to do these exercises,” said Mayor Schaack. “Afterwards, we can see where we can improve, and how we can be better prepared.”

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**Positive Momentum Continues for Sand Point’s**

**Department of Public Safety**

It’s been a good year for the Sand Point Department of Public Safety (DPS). According to Police Chief Hal Henning, case reports are at a five-year low – down 45% compared to this time last year, and they’ve decreased by 80% since 2014.

“That has been a five-year trend,” Henning said. “That tends to happen when the economy is better.

Like last year, the fishing season was really good, and I think that has some effect on it.”

Even though case reports are down, drug seizures and arrests are on the rise.
“A lot of those drug arrests are coming from tips in the community,” he said. “The trust that the community has in the police department right now is phenomenal. They are calling all the time with drug and crime tips.”

On July 1st, Henning posted the news to the Sand Point DPS Facebook page, while expressing gratitude to community members for their help.

“As the Sand Point DPS enters the second half of the year, I wanted to take a moment to thank the citizens of Sand Point for their continued support of the department and our efforts to curb the sale of illicit drugs in our community, thus helping to keep the crime rate down,” the post said. “I can attribute a lot of our success to the citizens of Sand Point, who continue to support our mission and supply us with much needed information and tips.”

Having experienced police officers as well as a drug task force that’s been up and running since January has also made a difference. Thomas Slease, a former Kotzebue police officer, is Sand Point’s drug officer attached to the Western Alaska Alcohol and Narcotics Team (WAANT).

“The task force has been doing an amazing job, getting dope coming in on the planes and on the boats,” said Henning. “Primarily, it’s been heroin and methamphetamines that they’ve been picking up coming into town.”

Recently, two men were arrested in Whittier, Alaska after carrying a backpack filled with 33 pounds of methamphetamines aboard a ferry.

“All the time there’s a big load coming into Anchorage, some of that’s going to eventually find its way into western Alaska,” Henning said. “So we’re making headway here.”

Often, in small rural Alaska towns, getting information from residents about people in town who are selling and using drugs can be challenging, since everyone knows each other. In many cases, a lot of the information that comes into the Sand Point Police Department is from anonymous tips.

“It’s like all kinds of puzzle pieces,” said Henning. “We’re able to take all of these anonymous tips, along with information that we have. That can, in turn, build enough of a picture for officers
to get warrants and make contact. So the information is invaluable, and it’s really nice to have officers on staff now that if something happens, they know what to do. They’re very seasoned.”

Two months ago, Sand Point’s DPS reached another milestone as the department became fully staffed for the first time in a year after becoming restructured with two-week on, two-week off shifts for the officers. During the first week in June, Mark Chandler, who has 20 years of experience as a military police officer, joined the department.

“The cool part with him is we are the first agency in the state to utilize this new career entry program with the military,” said Henning. “This program is unique because Mark is still in the military, but he’s also on temporary duty assignment to the Sand Point Police Department for on-the-job training. So the military is taking care of his pay and benefits for 90 days. All we have to cover is his lodging and travel.”

Taking advantage of this program with the department’s latest hire is saving the City approximately $15,000 in wages and benefits alone for three months. At the end of that period (in early September), Officer Chandler retires from the military and will continue working with the Sand Point Police Department.

Another positive change within the department includes staffing one of the officers at the Sand Point School.

“Officer Dave Anderson just graduated from school resource officer training in Tukwila, Washington,” said Henning, “so we will be staffing him at the school during the school year a few hours a day during his two-week-on shift.”

Anderson plans to work with the school administration on what role he will play.

“Officers trained with the National Association of School Resource Officers are kind of like an
“unofficial mentor,” Anderson said. “They’re a resource for the school. Often, they’re guest lecturers and usually teach classes involving some sort of law enforcement or constitutional law.”

Anderson said school resource officers also function as a liaison between law enforcement and the school, focusing on understanding kids.

“What I got out of this training more than anything else is understanding the adolescent/teen brain,” he said. “I raised four children, but I didn’t realize that their brains keep developing until they’re age 25. That makes a lot of sense to me now. So I imagine having that in mind will help us all deal with any issues that come up.”

Anderson said establishing rapport with the kids as well as with the rest of the community is important.

“It helps to make police officers more approachable,” he said.

“We still have to meet with the school district and get everything set up,” Henning said, “but we already have an office there that they’ve dedicated for the school resource officer.”

All of these changes within the department have had a positive impact on the community.

“We’re getting out and interacting with the community, and I think that has made a difference,” said Henning. “It seems like pretty much everybody is happy with how things are going with the department.”

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**Crews Construct New Sewer Outfall Line in Sand Point**

Sand Point will soon have a new sewer outfall line to replace the city’s old one. Crews from the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) and the city have been working on the project for the last several weeks.
“Infrastructure has a limited life span, and the current one has been there quite a while,” said Jordan Keeler, Sand Point City Administrator. “It’s fairly old.”

The project entails a wholesale replacement of the old sewer line.

“They’re going to pull the existing outfall line, and then they’re going to cut it up into pieces,” said Keeler. “So we’ll try and save some of the better pieces, just to have additional material on hand. They’ve already done a dive to inspect it, so we know there are parts that are salvageable. It makes sense to keep what we can.”

ANTHC is spearheading the project, and Indian Health Services funds are being used to get the job done. The project has had a couple of setbacks due to some labor issues, so two city employees have been putting in extra hours to help keep the project on track. So far, crews are making good progress.

“They assembled the new pipe, which was in separate pieces beforehand,” Keeler said. “They had to test the integrity of it because it’s fused together.”

Keeler said the expected life span of the new sewer outfall line is about 25 – 30 years. Work on the project should be wrapped up by the end of September.

**Akutan Water Intake Structure & Raw Water Transmission Line Improvement Project**

The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) is currently replacing Akutan’s existing 35-year-old raw water intake structure and transmission line. This system is the City of Akutan’s primary water source. The project will construct a new raw water intake structure and a new water
transmission line in the community of Akutan. Six local hires are providing daily general labor responsibilities on this project under the supervision of the ANTHC superintendent. Construction work began in May and is expected to be completed in September. This project is funded by USDA RD with loans and grants, matching funds by the city, and some grants from ANTHC. Total cost projection is $2.4 million.

Akutan’s water intake structure & raw water transmission line improvement project is expected to be wrapped up by the end of next month. Photos courtesy: City of Akutan.

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**Akutan Harbor Power and Lighting Project**

The City of Akutan, in its efforts to add more infrastructure to its newly built harbor, is in the final stage of designing the new Harbor Utility Project for power generation and harbor lighting. Negotiations for construction of the project is ongoing, and the start date is targeted for fall of 2019. Funding of this project is from a combination of grants, City and Aleutians East Borough funds.
Liza Mack to Serve as Executive Director for the Aleut International Association

By Jessica Veldstra

The Board of Directors for the Aleut International Association is happy to announce that Liza Mack from King Cove will serve as the Executive Director for AIA.

Liza Mack is Aleut, born and raised in the Aleutians and has over 20 years of experience working in and around Native organizations and communities. She is a PhD candidate in the Indigenous Studies Program at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF). Her dissertation research focuses on natural resource management, knowledge transfer and engagement of Native communities in the regulatory process. She has an A.A. in Liberal Arts from UAS Sitka, a B.A. and M.S. in Anthropology from Idaho State University. She has taught Native Cultures of Alaska and Intro to Unangam Tunuu as an adjunct instructor at UAF. She is familiar with the local, regional, state, federal and international board processes that take place in Alaska and the Circumpolar North. She values the importance of engaging Native people in these settings.

During the past year as the interim director, Liza helped complete several multi-year projects and has secured funding of the expansion of the CONAS project, bringing on new partners. She is the Head of Delegation to the Senior Arctic Officials, and the Sustainable Development Working Group. She is also the Chair of the Indigenous People’s Contaminant Action Program and the Álgu Fund. She has attended meetings with partner organizations such as the Korea Maritime Institute and the University of Washington. She has done well in getting local involvement and interest in Aleut International and our work at the Arctic Council. She is currently traveling in the Aleutians meeting with community members about our upcoming projects and the work of AIA. Please join us in welcoming Liza as a permanent member of the Aleut International Team.
CITY OF FALSE PASS

JOB DESCRIPTION
CITY CLERK

APPOINTMENT - By Council
SUPERVISOR - Mayor
WAGE - DOE
WORK SITE - City Office
HOURS OF WORK - M - F, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.,
attendance at City council and other meetings required, may work additional hours & days as
necessary.
CLASSIFICATION - Permanent Full Time. The City Clerk, however, holds office at
the pleasure and approval of the City council.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

1. High school graduate
2. General knowledge of financial, bookkeeping and office procedures required.
3. Ability to type and experience with computers preferred.
4. Experience in dealing with the public.
5. Ability to supervise and work cooperatively with others.
6. Demonstrated ability to administratively manage and supervise projects.
7. Ability to draft and prepare correspondence with state, federal, and non-profit agencies.
8. Ability to deal with state, federal, and non-profit agencies.
9. Ability to prepare and follow budgets.
10. Ability to work with a minimum of supervision and carry out delegated personnel
    and managerial duties

JOB DESCRIPTION

Under the immediate supervision of the Mayor and under the direction of the City council, the
City Clerk shall carry out all duties as directed: These include the management of the City
office, day to day administrative supervision of projects and such personnel and managerial
duties as delegated by the Mayor. The City Clerk shall give notice of the time and place of
meetings to the City council and to the public; attend meetings of the City council and keep
the journal; arrange publication of notices, ordinances, and resolutions; maintain and make
available for public inspection an indexed file containing City ordinances, resolutions, rules,
regulations and codes; attest deeds and other documents; perform other duties specified in
Title 29 or prescribed by the Mayor or City council. The City Clerk shall prepare or supervise
preparation of tax reports, financial reports, grant progress reports and shall ensure that these
reports are accurate and timely filed. The City Clerk shall contact and deal with State, federal,
and non-profit agencies to ensure efficient provision of services to citizens. The City Clerk
shall make application for grants and State and federal funding available. The City Clerk shall route mail received by the City and insure the City council and Mayor are aware of filing and other deadlines. Performs other duties as assigned.

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Win an iPad for your Scenic Commercial Fishing Photo!

Capture the winning image from the 2018 commercial fishing summer season!

The Aleutians East Borough is seeking an outstanding photo of commercial fishermen/boats in Borough waters this summer to be featured in the AEB’s eye-catching 2019 promotional calendar.

Photos must be at least 3 megabytes to qualify.

Contest ends August 25, 2018

Email your winning photo to itanis@aeboro.org
Got News?

If you have news you’d like to share or if you’d like to subscribe, please email itanis@aeboro.org or call Laura Tanis at (907) 274-7579.
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[Link to AEB's Facebook page](http://www.facebook.com)

[Link to King Cove's Facebook page](http://www.facebook.com)

[Link to Cold Bay's Facebook page](http://www.facebook.com)