

**Maj. Gen. Torrence Saxe**

*Commissioner & Adjutant General*

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**Alaska National Guard**

*Department of Military  
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Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska

**STATE OF ALASKA**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**State's request for Federal Public Assistance approved for 2020 December Southeast Storm**  
*State's Individual Assistance program to address individual recovery effort*

**JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska** – Alaskans impacted by the Southeast Storm in December last year have until Feb. 26, 2021 to apply for State Individual Assistance. The City and Borough of Haines was the most severely impacted area, but communities throughout Southeast Alaska reported damages to roads, buildings, utilities, and other critical infrastructure.

Governor Dunleavy issued a disaster declaration for the 2020 December Southeast Storm on Dec. 5 and activated the state's Individual Assistance program on Dec. 29, 2020 to help individual Alaskans and families that saw damages to their homes or needed temporary housing assistance.

"As Alaskans we are fortunate to have a state Individual Assistance program to help disaster survivors," said Paul Nelson, Director of the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM). "Our state programs are not designed to make people whole, but they can give disaster survivors a hand up, and help with housing needs while people put their lives back together."

After inspectors with FEMA and the state conducted a Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA), Governor Dunleavy requested federal assistance in the form of Public Assistance. The Public Assistance program is designed to help communities, government organizations, and certain non-profits make repairs to utilities, public buildings, and other critical infrastructure damaged by the declared event. In addition, the Public Assistance Disaster Declaration will reimburse communities and agencies for eligible response costs associated with the disaster event. DHS&EM will continue to work with local governments within the disaster areas to identify eligible Public Assistance applicants.

The PDA did not find levels of damage that would result in a successful request for Federal Individual Assistance. However, the state's Individual Assistance program is available for individual Alaskans and families that saw damages to their homes or needed temporary housing assistance.

For information about the state's Individual Assistance program, or to apply for assistance, call 1-855-445-7131 or go to [ready.alaska.gov](http://ready.alaska.gov).

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