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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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Nurse Dispatched to Eagle

Volunteer first to be deployed

(Anchorage, AK) — On Wednesday, May 13, 2009, the first Alaska Nurse Alert System volunteer was deployed. The nurse was sent to respond to the flooding in Eagle.

The Alaska Nurse Alert System is a collaboration of the State Section of Public Health Nursing, Municipality of Anchorage Department of Health and Human Services, American Red Cross-Alaska, Alaska Nurses Association and the Alaska Board of Nursing.

The response was prompted by a request from Eagle to the State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC) for a nurse practitioner to come and provide advanced level assessment and treatment for the residents of Eagle. An e-mail message was then sent to the nurse practitioners who have signed up with ANAS. Violet Rice, a nurse practitioner from Wasilla, responded that she was able to deploy. Rice will continue to serve the Eagle community through May 22.

“We’re very excited to see this system go into effect,” said Sandra Woods, a nurse consultant with state Division of Public Health, who helps coordinate the Alaska Nurse Alert System. “It’s nice to know that there are so many trained professionals standing by to assist in an emergency.”

Volunteers with the Alaska Nurse Alert System:

- Provide primary care treatment for residents
- Evaluate and treat injuries in adults and children
- Conduct physical and mental health assessments
- Prescribe any new medications as needed
- Assist residents in resuming their medications needed to control chronic health conditions

The Alaska Nurse Alert System was established in 2003 to help provide nurses in emergency situations. There are currently more than 450 nurses signed up; 24 of which are nurse practitioners.

For more information on the Alaska Nurse Alert System go to: <http://nursealert.org/>.

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