

Communities to get federal aid

Federal disaster officials have assured Sen. Frank Murkowski that emergency funding requests will be expedited to aid several Southcentral Alaska communities ravaged by the worst flooding disaster in recent years, Murkowski said.

Among those hardest hit by the floods have been Talkeetna, Seward and Tyonek.

After contacting White House and

Federal Emergency Management Agency officials earlier this month, Murkowski was told federal officials would arrive in the state in anticipation of an emergency declaration by Gov. Sheffield.

"When I informed federal emergency officials of the magnitude of this flooding, they gave me their personal assurances that the State of Alaska's disaster funding request would be dealt

with immediately," Murkowski said.

"Those Alaskans who have lost their homes, suffered personal or property damage from this disaster can be assured that the Alaska Congressional Delegation is pursuing every avenue to expedite federal assistance to our state," he said.

Murkowski said he also was working to determine if federal highway funding could be allocated to the state for highway repairs.