

Destruction Along Bering Sea Coast

Courtesy of Anchorage
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By HOWARD WEAVER

NOME — Disaster officials headquartered in Nome have begun piecing together reports from villages along the Bering Sea coast, and the stories so far paint a bleak picture of widespread destruction.

Hundreds of residents in towns and villages from Wales to Unalakleet now face the winter with fuel supplies splashed across



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the snow, houses destroyed by storms, and boats scattered on the tides.

The storm apparently struck without pattern, causing extensive damage in some communities while hardly harming neighboring towns. These are the latest reports from Alaska Disaster Office headquarters in Nome:

Tin City: Four buildings were damaged by the storm, including the village store. Residents also report damage to their 10,000-gallon fuel storage tank, shaking it from its foundation.

Elim: The village reports all

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boats and related equipment were lost in the storm. Gasoline storage drums also were washed away by the tide.

St. Michael: The Standard Oil Company bulk fuel plant in St. Michel is reported destroyed.

Nook: The summer fishing camp, about 20 miles south of Nome, reportedly was totally destroyed by the storm.

Shaktoolik: The village reports losses of boats, motors and related supplies totaling \$20,000.

Wales: Moderate damage from water and storm-carried debris was reported.

Unalakleet: Extensive damage to all shoreline facilities was reported. The Federal Aviation Agency housing complex and the Department of Health and Social Services building were destroyed, and the Native store was damaged. An unknown number of homes also sustained damage from water and debris.

Teller: Residents reported extensive damage to homes and other structures and many persons from the village were evacuated to the church and teacher's quarters. Fuel drums were scattered and probably lost. Thirty-eight families were reported in need of assistance.

The villages of Teller, Wales, Shaktoolik, Shishmaref and Unalakleet have requested disaster teams to help with damage inventories.

The villages of Hooper Bay, Deering, Spencer, Port Clarence and Savoonga reported they came through the storm without major damage.

A disaster team was dispatched to Teller Thursday, but a helicopter which was to have been used is weathered-in at Elim and could not be utilized. Survey of additional villages is scheduled today.