

State Contract For Disaster Mitigation

JUNEAU — Governor William A. Egan recently announced the state will contract with the Federal Government for a quarter of a million dollar grant for disaster mitigation, preparedness and response.

The Governor, presently faced with two ongoing major disaster declarations, once declaration of an emergency and two communities threatened with severe power shortages is instituting for the first time in our nation's history a comprehensive program to (1) reduce the effects of natural hazards thru effective land use and construction practices, and by eliminating or lessening disaster-producing events; (2) to mitigate potential disaster effects on people and property through warning, evacuation, and emergency protective measures; and (3) to assure that disaster relief assistance is carried out as efficiently and expeditiously as possible.

Governor Egan said that Alaska "has experienced and is subject to many of the natural disasters known to man, and it is extremely important to the safety and welfare of all Alaskans to expand our efforts to cope with the forces of nature by concentrated planning, training, preparedness and response."

The Governor said the Alaska Disaster Office will direct and coordinate the new disaster preparedness programs with government and independent agencies; the military, business and industry, and the public.

This new program, he said, "Will assure that positive action will be taken to prevent unnecessary loss of life and property, suffering and hardships we have experienced in past disasters."