

Communities can get help for winter of '89's bitter cold

Alaska communities affected by the severe freezing conditions between Jan. 15 and Feb. 15 are eligible for federal disaster relief, according to Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska.

The federal assistance is the result of a declaration by President Bush that a major disaster in Alaska resulted from the cold spell. The declaration will authorize the release of federal funds to assist state and local governments in repairing and restoring damaged public facilities.

Stevens said preliminary estimates indicate the uninsured damages to Alaska public facilities exceed \$3

million.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency designated the Northwest Arctic Borough and the communities of Galena, Tanana and Sand Point as currently eligible for the disaster relief funds. The funds include payments of 75 percent of the cost to repair or restore damaged public facilities.

FEMA will also conduct damage surveys in other areas, at the state's request, and additional communities may be added after those surveys are completed, the White House told Stevens.