

Venetie to get emergency assistance

Gov. Steve Cowper authorized the Alaska Division of Emergency Services recently to assist the village of Venetie in a disaster declaration prompted by a fire in the Interior village that destroyed its snow removal equipment and the village power generator.

As a result of the loss of the snow removal equipment, the village is

unable to keep its airport runway clear. The loss of the use of the runway is judged to be a threat to the health, safety and well being of the residents of Venetie.

The village has declared a disaster situation which is beyond their ability to provide relief to the residents. A local disaster declaration is necessary

before the state can issue a disaster declaration.

The most immediate result of the state's declaration is authorization for airlifting a bulldozer to Venetie, which will be used to plow the village runway. The cost of the airlift is about \$16,000. An assessment of the total fire damage is underway.