

Minto Suffers Another Bad Flood

Last Sunday, the village of Minto suffered another flood, the second one in about eight months.

The village reported that last Sunday's flood was about seven to eight inches higher than last August flood that also inundated the City of Fairbanks. Minto flood was caused by an ice jam during the Tanana River breakup.

According to Lawrence

Titus of Minto, the flood happened in the following manner.

On Sunday, May 12, ice started moving at 1:00 p.m. slowly and it looked to be an easy breakup and then it stopped when a jam developed below the village.

Minto villagers knew there would be flooding but stopped long enough to have something to eat and prepare for

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the flood.

At 5:30 p.m. ice started moving again and at the same time water began to come over the banks.

Dogs were turned loose and people began to move about through the village in boats.

At 6:45, flood waters reached the rear of the village. The men began to load the dogs into log rafts. Some people climbed on rooftops.

"There were people on rooftops, not due to flood, only enjoying scenery," said Lawrence Titus, smiling.

Everyone was then loaded into boats and taken to the village airstrip on higher ground.

At 9:10 p.m. the water began to recede.

Camps were set up at the airstrip and around it although some people still stayed at their homes built on higher grounds.

At 10:30, some boats headed back to the village to check the flood conditions.

Pete Haggland of the Tanana Air Taxi, flew Bergman Silas around and above the village to check the ice. He then took off for Fairbanks.

On Monday May 13 at 5:00 a.m. water dropped to 2½ feet below the bank level.

It was found that some homes had been flooded up to three to four feet of water.

"Despite all preparedness,

homes were destroyed to some extent," said Lawrence Titus.

Titus said that someone overheard the conversation between Mrs. Sarah Titus and Mrs. Martha Charlie some time around 1:30 p.m. Sunday.

"Not exciting," they said.

Then a little bit later, both women were seen running around getting ready to leave before the sudden flood hit.

Chief Peter John of the village said the ice jam developed two miles below Minto.

"The water came up so fast people had hard time moving dogs and all," said Chief John.

He said the people had been expecting the flood since May 6 but the sudden flood didn't give them much time to get things to eat for their families.

Twenty-one boats were on hand during the flood.

A four-foot high light bridge held firmly despite the ice and debris although most of it was underwater.

The people of Minto are meeting next Friday, May 17, in Fairbanks with government officials to decide whether to move the village to higher grounds. Minto has been flooded almost yearly.

"This flood cinches it for me," said Lawrence Titus this week. "I'm all for the move."