

MEMORANDUM

STATE OF ALASKA

Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
Office of the Commissioner



TO: Division Directors
DATE: April 7, 2026
FROM: Ryan Anderson, P.E., Commissioner 
SUBJECT: Construction Contracting Authority for Northwest Arctic Freeze-Up Disaster

Under the Governor's Declaration of Disaster Emergency dated March 25, 2026, the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) has been directed to utilize all available state resources to support response and recovery efforts in the Northwest Arctic Borough.

This memorandum establishes contracting authority, coordination structure, and expectations for construction-related emergency response actions.

Contracting Authority

To ensure timely and coordinated response across affected communities, Director Daniel Gibson is designated as the Contracting Officer for all construction-related contracting actions associated with the Northwest Arctic Freeze-Up disaster.

- This authority applies department-wide and supersedes normal regional contracting boundaries for the duration of the disaster response and recovery.
- All emergency procurements, construction contracts, and related agreements executed under this declaration will be coordinated through Director Gibson.
- The Northern Region Contracts Section will support this effort by preparing, processing, and managing contract documents, ensuring compliance with procurement requirements and maintaining document control.

This designation aligns with existing departmental procurement authorities and is intended to streamline execution during emergency operations.

Lines of Supervision and Coordination

- Division Directors will retain supervisory authority over their respective staff and field operations; however, all construction contracting activities related to this disaster will be coordinated through Director Gibson.
- Directors shall establish clear internal reporting processes to ensure timely communication of contracting needs and actions.
- Field personnel, project managers, and procurement staff must coordinate contracting actions through this centralized structure.
- Divisions may be asked to assign staff resources to support contracting coordination and rapid deployment needs.

This structure is intended to ensure consistency, transparency, and speed in delivering critical response actions to affected communities.

Thank you for your continued leadership and coordination in support of Alaska's disaster response efforts.