

Yukon River Flooding

UMVIM Response

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are the travel dates?
 - a. Teams will fly to Fairbanks each Monday beginning Aug 19th, fly to Galena on Tuesday, return to Fairbanks two weeks later on Tuesday and return home each Wednesday beginning Sept 4th (see FAQ #2).
 - b. On site work will begin either Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday morning depending on flight schedules.
 - c. Each team will work for two consecutive weeks.
 - d. The last team will leave the site around Oct 1st.
 - e. If weather permits, teams may work as late as Oct 15th
2. What are the travel arrangements?
 - a. FEMA will pay for round trip airfare from your nearest airport to Fairbanks and provide charter flights to the work site.
 - b. Team members will travel to Fairbanks on Monday, overnight at The First United Methodist Church (FUMC) in Fairbanks, and fly by charter aircraft to the assigned worksite on Tuesday. Two weeks later on Tuesday, the teams will return to Fairbanks by charter aircraft, overnight at FUMC, and return home on Wednesday.
 - c. You will receive a safety briefing and a cultural overview prior to leaving Fairbanks.
 - d. Travel instructions will be provided when you receive your registration packet. Flight reservations will be made through National Travel, FEMA's travel agent. Typically the authorization will be given on the Wednesday before the Monday flight to Fairbanks.
 - e. Travel to and from Fairbanks must be completed in one day. FEMA will not reimburse you for an overnight stay enroute.
 - f. You will be met at both the Fairbanks airport and the charter service for transportation to and from the FUMC. A contact name and phone number will be provided before you depart.
3. Will FEMA reimburse me for checking luggage?
 - a. No, the volunteers will need to pay for checking their luggage.
4. Where will we stay?
 - a. A Responder Support Camp (RSC) has been constructed on the tarmac at the airport, which is on the old Galena Air Force Station.
 - b. The RSC will have living/sleeping quarters, a chow hall, shower facilities and laundry capability. You can visit <http://alaskastructures.com/products/military/?id=64><http://alaskastru>

structures.com/products/military/?id=64 to get an idea of what the facility will look like. The structures are arctic rated down to -20 degrees.

- c. The arrangement will consider male/female segregation and privacy concerns.
 - d. Cots will be available in the sleeping quarters.
 - e. Sleeping bags are available if you do not wish to take your own. You can pick them up upon your arrival in Fairbanks.
5. How will we be fed?
 - a. Two hot meals and a sack lunch will be provided each day.
 6. How long are we expected to stay?
 - a. Each team member is expected to commit to working on site for two consecutive weeks. The logistics and expense of getting them there is too great for FEMA to accept any less of a commitment.
 7. Where will we be working?
 - a. Teams will work in the village of Galena on the Yukon River, about 270 miles west of Fairbanks and 350 miles northwest of Anchorage. This village received the most damage.
 8. What will we be doing?
 - a. In most cases, teams will be rebuilding homes that have been “mucked out” by the homeowner or AmeriCorps volunteers. This includes tasks such as putting in insulation, hanging sheetrock, mudding and taping, installing doors and windows, hanging cabinets, repairing and/or replacing decks and entry steps, painting, etc.
 - b. In a few cases, teams may have to complete the “muck out” and do mold remediation.
 - c. It’s the same kind of tasks teams have done in Mississippi after Katrina or New Jersey after Sandy. It’s just more isolated.
 9. What skills are needed?
 - a. This deployment requires volunteers with construction/remodel skills/experience, some electrical and some plumbing. This is not a volunteer mission for someone who has no construction/remodel experience.
 10. Are there any age limits on team members?
 - a. Team members must be at least 18 years of age.
 - b. There is no upper limit as long as the team member is physically able to do the work assigned and tolerate the rustic living conditions.
 11. What about power, water, sewer, etc.?
 - a. Power: Some homes have power some do not. There are generators available for working on those homes that do not have power. The FEMA offices and the Responder Support Camp (where the teams will be housed) are on the old Galena Air Force Station and they do have power.
 - b. Sewer: All of the facilities on the Air Force Station have sewer, none of the homes do. The homes all have either septic tanks or

holding tanks and most of them do not work at this time. There are port-a-potties spread throughout the village.

- c. Water: The facilities on the Air Force Station have running water but most of the homes do not. The water system received major damage during the flood and they are still working to restore that service. Each volunteer is requested to bring one or two water bottles that can be filled from water kegs. The community is not able to recycle so they don't want to use plastic throwaway water bottles any more than absolutely necessary.
12. Will I have phone and Internet service?
 - a. The FEMA facilities on the AF Station have landlines and can be used by volunteers. There is spotty cell phone service for ATT subscribers. Verizon does not work in any of the villages. The preferred carrier is GCI, an Alaska based carrier. UMVIM will provide two GCI phones for team use.
 - b. There are a few WiFi hot spots on the AF Station. It is not clear at this time whether there will be Internet at the RSC.
 13. Are there any stores where I can buy things I forgot?
 - a. There is one grocery store in the village with a limited supply of items. They also tend to be expensive. Do your best to think of everything you will need and bring it with you.
 14. How much luggage can I bring?
 - a. Each volunteer is limited 50 pounds of luggage. This includes all luggage, i.e. suitcases, backpacks, briefcases, etc.
 15. Are there medical facilities available?
 - a. Galena has a medical clinic staffed by a doctor and nurse. The clinic will be available to volunteers.
 - b. In case of a medical emergency, Medevac services are available but it will take at least 40 minutes for the Medevac plane to reach the village.
 - c. Volunteers should ensure they take adequate supplies of any medications for the two weeks plus a cushion in case bad weather prevents their return on schedule.
 - d. Volunteers with a high-risk medical condition should not consider this deployment.
 16. Do I need any special clothing?
 - a. We recommend a good pair of work shoes/boots, preferably with thick soles and steel toes. There are lots of sharp objects lying around that can penetrate the soles of your shoes. Tennis shoes are not recommended for work on site.
 - b. Long sleeve shirts are a must. The mosquitoes are plentiful and very hungry.
 - c. A good pair(s) of work gloves. Team #1 also recommended a pair of thinner gloves such as Gorilla Grips for working on jobs that require more dexterity than you can get with thick leather gloves.

- d. Clothing appropriate for the climate. Remember, you are in the central part of Alaska and it starts to cool off earlier than the lower 48. Check the weather for Galena before you pack.
 - e. Rain gear, including boots, is a good thing to consider.
 - f. If you are allergic to mosquito bites, you might want to consider a “bug jacket”. These are available at REI and other sporting goods stores.
 - g. A suggested packing list will be provided when you receive your registration packet.
17. Should I bring any of my own personal protective equipment?
- a. We suggest you bring your own safety glasses. Remember standard eyeglasses are not safety glasses.
 - b. Team #1 suggests you bring a pair of knee pads.
18. Do I need to bring any tools?
- a. No, FEMA will provide all the tools and equipment you will need to do the assigned tasks.
19. Do I need to bring any supplies?
- a. No, supplies will be present on site when you arrive to do the tasks assigned.
 - b. You can always make a donation to purchase supplies if you wish. You can do this by sending your check to the PNW Conference Treasurer’s Office, 816 S 261th St #2, Des Moines, WA 98198. Put “2013 Yukon River Flooding” on the memo line. These funds will be used solely for the Yukon River flooding recovery.
20. Do I need insurance?
- a. Yes, you must have your own medical insurance.
 - b. We have secured supplemental UMVIM medical insurance through the Southeast Jurisdiction. Each volunteer will have \$10,000 supplemental medical insurance coverage from date of departure until date of return. This is secondary insurance.
21. Who is my emergency contact at the work site?
- a. In Galena - Josephine Malemute, 907-978-8618
 - b. In the lower 48 – Jim Truitt, 253-630-1268 (H), 253-797-1680 (C)
22. Will I be working with volunteers from other organizations?
- a. Yes, you probably will. This effort will require the best all of us have to offer if we are going to get the villagers back in their homes before winter closes us down.
 - b. Your work team may be composed of volunteers from other Methodist conferences from across the Western Jurisdiction or the US or members of teams from other faith based organizations.
23. Will there be power for my CPAP machine?
- a. Yes, the sleeping quarters will have 110v power available.
24. Do I need any vaccinations?
- a. A current Tetanus shot is mandatory.
 - b. Hepatitis A & B are recommended but not mandatory.