

North Slope Borough

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Harry K. Brower, Jr., Mayor



MEMORANDUM

TO: Assembly Members
FROM: Harry K. Brower, Jr., Mayor
DATE: April 2, 2019
SUBJ: Mayor's Status Report for March 2019

Good afternoon Assembly Members and listening audience.

March has been a busy month with our communities preparing for Spring Whaling. Good luck and God's blessings to the whaling crews across the slope. My staff has also been preparing for the upcoming Spring Festival celebrations. We look forward to seeing our children enjoying themselves outdoors and seeing the Whaling Crews participate in the games. We have launched a community snow sculpture contest and a coloring contest for school students to engage families and students to display their creativity. Winners of each contest will be announced mid-April.

Basketball teams from Anaktuvuk Pass, Point Hope, and Utqiagvik traveled to Anchorage to compete with qualifying teams across the state for the title of State Champions. Congratulations to our Tikigaq Harpooners and Harpoonerettes on winning the 2A State Championship, you all did a great job demonstrating our value of cooperation. Together by working together we can accomplish anything we set our minds to.

On March 25th I traveled to Washington DC to meet with the Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Delegation to the international Whaling Commission to address Japan's departure from the International Whaling Commission and its implications for the bowhead whale quota. We will continue to communicate and coordinate with the AEWC about this topic to ensure the AEWC's continued ability to protect the bowhead whale subsistence harvest. I also met with Congressman Don Young and Senator Lisa Murkowski on matters addressed with the Marine Mammal Commission, and current proposed legislation affecting northern Alaska.

The following are departmental endeavors toward achieving the Mayor's Initiatives:

The **Department of Public Works** reports that several winter storms have hit our coastal communities over the past month, one serious enough in Point Hope to call for a closure of school and businesses. High winds, heavy snowfall and low visibility are typical during these storm events. The Department of Public Works responds before, during and after these storms with the top priority of keeping roads clear for emergency services access. For the safety of themselves and others, residents are asked to remain sheltered until the storm passes and roads are cleared. It is also important that the roadway right-of-way is kept clear of vehicles and other obstructions. We continue to repair existing equipment as we are able and purchase new equipment as the capital budget allows to keep a high state of preparedness. Although we have faced hardships over the past month, it is encouraging to see citizens and staff of the North Slope Borough come together and work to ensure the safety of all.

The Department of Public Works is working closely with Capital Improvement Program Management (CIPM) to move vehicles and freight over the ice road and CWAT trail for as long as they are open.

CIPM Project Administrators continue to work with village Public Works Supervisors to address issues and improve efficiency on project upgrades and construction operations throughout the North Slope villages. CIPM is working with the school district to address a concern about the original Nuiqsut School air handlers. We are in the process of determining potential upgrades to ensure that the air quality requirements are met.

The **Housing Department** continues to coordinate with village staff to assure we are keeping up with housing issues for homes across the slope. In the month of March there were 143 Housing issues reported, and 99 housing issues addressed; including but not limited to, emergency heat, plumbing, electrical & other general fix requests.

Village	# Issues Reported	Issues Fixed
Anaktuvuk Pass	21	16
Atqasuk	14	6
Wainwright	40	13
Kaktovik	10	0
Nuiqsut	18	0
Point Hope	6	23
Point Lay	2	0
Utqiagvik	143	41
Totals	254	99

A total of 20 adults and 10 children were assisted this past month through the Native Village of Barrow homeless program funded through the NSB Mayor’s Office.

The **Fire Department** is excited to host the first bi-annual North Slope Borough Fire Chiefs Conference. The NSB Fire Chiefs Conference is a 5-day event designed to empower the Fire Chief’s within the North Slope Borough through the development of Leadership and Management skills. NSB Fire Chiefs will be able to work together in an effort to rebuild the local Volunteer Departments across our Region.

The Fire Department and Ilisagvik College have initiated a review of the Emergency Services Certificate Program. Both organizations want to make sure that the program is meeting requirements set forth by accrediting bodies and industry standards, while also ensuring that the program is still benefiting the residents of the North Slope

Below are the details of 221 Ambulance calls, 13 Fire Calls and 42 Medevac Transports:

Village	Ambulance Calls	Fire Calls	Medevac Transp.	ETOH	Drugs
Anaktuvuk Pass	24	0	9	1	0
Atqasuk	17	0	1	0	0
Wainwright	34	0	3	0	0
Kaktovik	9	0	0	1	0
Nuiqsut	25	1	4	2	0
Point Hope	29	1	0	1	1
Point Lay	8	1	3	1	0
Utqiagvik	75	10	22	10	1
Totals	221	13	42	16	2

The **Department of Search & Rescue** continues to maintain its mission of serving the North Slope Residents. SAR provides safe, efficient and reliable airborne response to aero medical evacuation (medevac), search and rescue, and other emergencies. All units of Search and Rescue contribute to fulfilling our mission.

Below are the details for 5 related rescue activities performed last month:

2/29/19	BVSAR	AK19013648, received a call of a person out hunting Overdue, From BVSAR , 1 person on Snow machine with blue sled, VSAR got ready, Person called in that he is home, report Closed, no injuries reported.
3/02/19	AKP	AK19014291, report of overdue hunter traveling north, before SAR Deployed Person Arrived home, Canceled mission with AST. Closed no injuries
3/07/19	AIN	S-92, report of hunter south of wainwright requesting assistance from AIN VSAR, got no one responding, NSB launched S-92 to location, no report of injury. Closed
3/14/19	BRW	AK19016894, VSAR went to pick up 4 to 5 people reported having snow machine issues at location 19 miles south, VSAR went and assisted in getting people home safe, no report of injuries, Closed
3/16/19	NUI	AK19017319, Overdue Hunter, out to Judy Creek reported by his Wife, worried of him requesting assistance from SAR, Family went out 3 pm to find him, not back yet Person looking for Made it home, SAR went to look for Family member, all made it back to Nuiqsut ok no report of injuries, Closed

NSB Aircraft logged 97.9 hrs. of flight time performing 44 sorties; details are provided below:

Aircraft	Sorties	Hours	Other
Learjet N789SR	9	22.9	Aircraft was down twice for a total of 15 days waiting for parts for navigation & engine fan blade failure which was covered by MSP Gold Has 256.8 hours until Phase Inspection & Engine MID POINT INSPECTION at the rate the aircraft is being utilized, estimate August.
Bell N402ES	11	12	Primary 412 ready to go. Annual 83.7 hour inspection is due in 100.0 hours.
Bell N401ES	0	0	Has 41.5 hours out from an overhaul. Has 54.9 hours until 100 inspection. In the process of removing from fleet.
King Air N408SR	15	45.5	Aircraft was down 3 times, cabin heat discrepancy and R/H Engine over temp inspection. Phase 1 Inspection is due in 141.9 hours.
S-92	9	17.5	Aircraft was down twice for less than 24 hours total There is a few items that will be due coming up that may down it for a day or so in April 91.411 & 91.413 along with the RVSM will be due in June, maintenance will try and get done at same time phase inspection is due and will need to be farmed out, probably to Beechcraft service center in Sacramento Phase 1 Inspection is due in 96.4 hours estimate
Total	44	97.9	

The **Police Department** is continuing its work with our Federal and State law enforcement partners in the ongoing effort of illegal drug and alcohol importation into our communities.

During the month of March 2019, the Police Department responded to 2,038 calls for service during which 114 criminal and noncriminal cases were filed. 129 of the calls were alcohol related, 18 calls

were drug related, and 33 calls were domestic violence related. 802 calls were dispatched and 1,236 calls were officer initiated.

A total of 38 criminal cases were submitted to the District Attorney for prosecution.

Call Breakdown:

Community	Total Calls	Alcohol	DV	Drug
Anaktuvuk Pass	182	9	1	1
Atqasuk	76	4	1	0
Kaktovik	89	1	1	0
Nuiqsut	150	3	4	0
Point Hope	139	2	3	1
Point Lay	63	1	0	1
Deadhorse	161	1	0	1
Utqiagvik	1013	104	23	13
Wainwright	165	4	0	1
Total	2038	129	33	18

Alcohol Seizures:

Community	Distilled Spirits (750ml)	Wine	Beer (12oz)	Malt (12oz)
Anaktuvuk Pass	12	0	0	0
Atqasuk	0	0	0	0
Kaktovik	0	0	0	0
Nuiqsut	0	0	0	0
Point Hope	0	0	0	0
Point Lay	0	0	0	0
Deadhorse	0	0	0	0
Utqiagvik	0	0	0	0
Wainwright	0	0	0	0

Drug Seizures:

Community	Marijuana	Hash Oil	Fentanyl	Cocaine	Heroin	Methamphetamine
Anaktuvuk Pass	0	0	0	0	0	0
Atqasuk	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kaktovik	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nuiqsut	0	0	0	0	0	0
Point Hope	169 g	0	0	0	0	0
Point Lay	0	0	0	0	0	0
Deadhorse	0	0	0	0	0	0
Utqiagvik	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wainwright	0	0	0	0	0	0

Task Forces:

NSBPD Detectives continue to participate in multiagency task forces with our law enforcement partners.

Total Drugs:

- 2022.2 grams of Methamphetamine
- 582.592 grams of Heroin
- 1200 units of Oxycodone
- 13 buprenorphine sublingual strips

Total Alcohol:

18 (750ml) bottles of Distilled Spirits

Through the **Department of Human Resources**, the Meritain Interactive Health representative traveled to all North Slope villages and provided on-site health evaluations.

The college intern positions have posted as of April 1st. This is a great opportunity for students graduating this year and attending college afterwards, along with students returning to the slope for summer break. It will provide them with experience in the work place of their field of interest to boost their resumes while earning wages to help offset their educational expenses.

Human Resource’s Recruiting Division will be participating in the upcoming Career Fair at the Barrow High School on April 26th.

Below are the following recruiting statistics to report:

Community	BRW	AKP	ATQ	KAK	NUI	PHO	AIN	PIZ
Permanent	18	0	0	1	1	1	0	0
Temporary	20	2	2	0	1	4	0	2
ETP	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Interns	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

The **Health Department** CYS Family Reunification continues to provide on-going one on one parenting classes. Village trips are being scheduled in Kaktovik, Point Hope, and Anaktuvuk Pass. IHLC Sewing and Traditional Crafts and Skills Classes have started at CYS, inviting parents to bond with their children in a hands on, culturally safe setting.

With assistance from the Police Department, the Prevention Team is working towards gaining a better understanding of the alcohol consumption trends on the North Slope. In collaboration with IBH staff, Prevention Team participated in a Talking Circle with Kiita students regarding alcohol and tobacco. The Prevention Team traveled to Point Hope and conducted school/community prevention and education outreach about alcohol, tobacco, and other health topics in the Tikigaq School. They've also hosted KBRW radio shows on the Mini Health Summit and Self-Harm

Community Health Aide Program (CHAP) continues to search for individuals passionately interested in working as a health aide and has an interest in helping our North Slope communities grow healthy and strong in mind and body. For more information on how you can become a health aide in your community, please contact the CHAP at 907.852.0256.

PHN circulated PSA’s regarding flu, increasing environmental cleaning, emphasizing covering coughs, handwashing, and immunizations. PHN has held multiple flu clinics, and continue to monitor the flu situation. PHN staff traveled to Kaktovik offering school screenings, child immunizations, flu immunizations, infant health screenings, well child checks including developmental screenings, and healthy lifestyle screening and counseling.

The **Department of Planning and Community Services** NSB Area Wide Census activity is nearing completion as the raw data is being reviewed. Planning Department has contracted with AES utilizing the P.I.D. contract and their work is complete and final data is being submitted with planning staff.

Planning staff continues to meet with the ASTAR coordinator on a weekly basis. Our second round of stakeholder engagement has been scheduled for April 8 in Pt. Lay, April 9 in Wainwright, and April 10 in Utqiagvik to meet with stakeholders on the advancement of the project and to collect first round of community value surveys. Pt. Hope, Atqasuk, Nuiqsut, and Kaktovik are being tentatively planned for this summer.

NSB AW Comprehensive Plan has been completed, and the Public Hearing with Planning Commission was held on Jan 31st and a resolution passed. A presentation to the Assembly was scheduled for March 4 and ordinance on March 5 has been approved.

Community Winter Access Trails are currently packed in all permitted areas. Trail activity is in full swing and caravans have begun.

UIC groomed and maintained the snow trail between Utqiagvik and Deadhorse. Caravans have been running.

UIC groomed all the way to Atqasuk and back to Utqiagvik. The trail is currently coordinating caravans. Non-conforming users have been using the trail.

UIC has been approved to begin pioneering the Wainwright – Atqasuk route and is ready for caravan travelers as of March 21.

For Galbraith – Anaktuvuk Pass: there was 4" snow as of March 21 and they continue to conduct recon trips via snow machine.

The Department of Wildlife Management participated in two meetings hosted by the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission regarding proposed polar bear research near Point Lay, Wainwright and Utqiagvik by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Service could not do research near Red Dog Mine due to the lack of sea ice. Five days prior to the new research plan, the Service contacted our department, AEWC, and the Alaska Nannut Co-management Council (ANCC) that led to these teleconferences. AEWC and the Commissioners from the communities near where collaring polar bears using airplanes/helicopter would have occurred raised the deep concern about possible impacts to subsistence and the lack of consultation and co-management in a timely manner prior to research. The FWS agreed to postpone their research in Spring 2019

Wildlife is conducting an ice-based bowhead survey in April-May 2019. Several DWM staff are now focused on the spring bowhead whale census. A good observation perch has been identified just west of NARL and an access trail has been completed. This perch would be an ideal place to count whales if the ice configuration remains the same. Alternative locations are being considered as well. The survey plan is to conduct a 24 hour watch as in the past but starting much earlier. Training was conducted the last week of March and watches started on April 1 or sooner if necessary. Census operations will monitor the "whalers channel" (Channel 72) and can be contacted through the DWM. Please keep our crew in your thoughts and prayers for a safe productive season.

Inupiat Culture History and Language hosted 237 elementary school students at the Iñupiat Heritage Center. Their visit surrounded the themes "Whaling" and "Life in the Old Days and Today". Slide shows of whaling, Nalukataq, making the blanket, whaling vocabulary words, hunting tools, and artifacts were shared with the students.

Ivalu Workshops continued at IHC until through the end of February. Sewing Gathering started on March 9 and is held every Tuesday and Saturday up until the end of April.