



**\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\***

## **Swan Lake Loop Disaster Improvements**

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**Date: Friday, March 22, 2024**  
**From: Office of the City Manager, Tessa Baldwin**  
**Phone: (907) 442-3401**

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Kotzebue, Swan Lake Loop – The City of Kotzebue, key officials, and community partners provided the following updates regarding the ongoing Swan Lake Loop disaster and the progress being made.

Public Works Department reported that there are now 9 frozen water lines and 6 frozen sewer lines. They have acquired additional hot jets that are now in use. Contractors have insulated and filled 13 holes that had been previously exposed.

The Planning Department has contacted residents with frozen sewer lines to expose cleanouts for contractor access. Although there is no update on Individual Assistance from the State, the Planning Department is still compiling necessary documentation for submission. They are continuing to forward updates and damage reports to the State to support Individual Assistance approval. There is also a focus on future prevention and mitigation strategies due to ongoing loop replacement delay.

The Native Village of Kotzebue continues providing water and food supplies to those affected. There has been slow progress on the Individual Damage Assessment Survey. They have continued their follow ups on FEMA and ONAP applications.

Maniilaq has made progress with making their modular washer and dryer facility operational. Once scheduling has been decided, communication efforts will be planned to inform residents of facility availability. Maniilaq also stated that there have been no unusual health incidents attributed to Swan Lake Loop failure.

Continued collaboration with the City and Tribe on identified needs have been addressed with the Northwest Arctic Borough, along with other partnerships within the community.

For further information or assistance, residents are encouraged to contact City Hall at 907-442-3401 or email at [customerservice@kotzebue.org](mailto:customerservice@kotzebue.org).