

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DECEMBER 18, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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THE WHITE HOUSE

The President today declared a major disaster for the State of Alaska as a result of fire and freezing beginning about December 2, which caused extensive public and private property damage. The President's action will permit the use of Federal funds in relief and recovery efforts in designated areas of the State.

Federal assistance from the President's Disaster Relief Fund will consist primarily of protective measures, the temporary provision of electric generators, and the repair or restoration of damaged or destroyed public facilities and utilities. Low-interest rate disaster loans will be made available by the Small Business Administration under the authorities of Public Law 93-24.

Federal relief activities in Alaska will be coordinated by the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration, Department of Housing and Urban Development, under the direction of Administrator Thomas P. Dunne. Mr. Dunne will designate the specific areas within the State eligible for Federal assistance, based upon Federal and State damage assessments.

Mr. William H. Mayer, Regional Director of the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration, HUD Region X, will be designated as the Federal Coordinating Officer to work with the State in providing Federal disaster assistance under the Disaster Relief Act of 1974, Public Law 93-288.

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