



BERTA'S BRIEFINGS

REPRESENTATIVE BERTA GARDNER

Serving Geneva Woods, College Village, Green Acres, Tudor, Taku & Campbell Park

MARCH 23, 2011

Japan's Crisis: What does it mean for Alaska?

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As a state vulnerable to earthquakes and tsunami, Alaskans have been quick to offer assistance following Japan's tragedy. Our National Guard is currently supplying transportation to American forces aiding Japan, and individuals are making donations through such organizations as the Salvation Army (www.salvationarmyusa.org) and the Red Cross (www.redcross.org).

Today the Community and Regional Affairs Committee heard an overview on the impacts of the Japanese earthquake, tsunami and nuclear crisis on Alaska and Alaska's emergency response systems.

Here's what we learned:

- There is no current or anticipated radiation threat to Alaskans. We have four radiation monitoring stations online currently, in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Dutch Harbor, and Juneau (measuring γ radiation), with two more in Nome and Juneau (measuring β radiation) anticipated to come online shortly. These stations continue to show normal background levels of radiation.
 - You can check these monitors and levels at www.hss.state.ak.us



A sign in Homer. Are you tsunami ready?

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- There is no current or anticipated affect to Alaska’s seafood. The FDA said, “The great quantity of water in the Pacific Ocean rapidly and effectively dilutes radioactive material, so fish and seafood are unlikely to be affected.”
 - The Division of Environmental Health is working with the FDA to continue monitoring Alaska’s seafood.

We also heard an overview of Alaska’s extensive emergency response systems, from the federal level all the way down to local communities’ plans and preparations. Japan’s experience has been a wakeup call for Alaskans. We have individual responsibilities to prepare ourselves for disaster as well and each household should do the following:

- Create a home and a car emergency supply kit containing food, water, clothing, medicines, toiletries, flashlights, batteries, radio or cell phone, cash, important documents and anything else you think you might need.
- Develop a family response plan and practice it.

More detailed suggestions can be found:

<http://www.muni.org/departments/oem/prepared/Pages/default.aspx>

I'm Berta and I'm still listening,



Berta
