

Climate and Health E-News

Connecting People and Raising Awareness in the Interests of Public Health

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Research News:

Hooper Bay Begins Flooding Risk Study: The Native Village of Paimiut has received funding for a study to look at the health and safety risks associated with flooding from storm events and sea level change. The project is funded by the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, through an EPA Community Demonstration Project Grant. The tribal government is partnering with Purdue University to develop a process for documenting, mapping and assessing threats to infrastructure, subsistence resources and water supplies. Residents are concerned about the intensity of storms observed in recent year, and the potential because of climate change that the storm threat will increase. A storm on September 25, 2005 flooded major sections of Hooper Bay driven by 60 knots and sea levels about 2 meters above normal high tide. Subsequent storms in November 2006 and January 2008 also resulted in significant flooding. The project would involve the establishment of survey benchmarks and calibrated flood gauges to record quantity of storm surge water, as well as local observers to operate and maintain equipment and to monitor storm events. The findings from the initial one year study will be presented at the 2010 Alaska Forum on the Environment. The project aims to demonstrate a community based participatory research model that could be applied to understand vulnerability in other coastal communities around Alaska.

Permafrost Line Recedes 130 km in 50 Years, Canadian Study Finds. The southern limit of permanently frozen ground, or permafrost, is now 130 kilometers further north than it was 50 years ago in the James Bay region, according to two researchers from the Department of Biology at Université Laval.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/02/100217101129.htm>

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Safe, Healthy, Sustainable Communities

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