Alaska's RISK MAP Program

In order for Alaska's communities to make informed risk management decisions, a consistent risk-based approach to mapping natural hazards is necessary. Recognizing the connection between reliable flood maps and flood damage is essential for protecting life and property in Alaska. This is the central purpose of Risk MAP: to deliver quality data that increases public awareness and promotes local government action that reduces risk to life and property. Alaska Risk MAP activities will focus on the acquisition of data related to flood hazards as well as other types of hazard information.

As proposed in 2009, the *Alaska Mapping Business Plan* identifies gaps in flood hazard data and provides a context for effectively communicating the State of Alaska's mapping priorities. As envisioned, the *Alaska Mapping Business Plan* includes:

- An inventory of existing data;
- Criteria for establishing mapping priorities;
- A prioritized list of mapping needs; and
- Recommendations for future action.

DCRA's overall goals in updating Alaska's mapping business plan and conducting a thorough planning effort is to make the most effective use of FEMA mapping activities, compile and update data on flood and other hazards, provide the greatest leverage from data-gathering and mapping activities by other state and federal agencies, and ensure mapping priorities are based on objective needs and benefits criteria. Furthermore, the *Alaska Mapping Business Plan* provides a framework for future action to become an active Cooperating Technical Partner in the Risk MAP Program, including options, challenges, and resources needed to execute the Risk MAP strategy in Alaska.

Role of the CTP Coordinator

Central to the implementation of Alaska's Risk MAP Program is the CTP Coordinator. The Alaska CTP Coordinator will serve as the intermediary and primary point of contact between Alaska's local governments and FEMA and FEMA's agents for Alaska's Risk MAP Program. Consistent with FEMA's Risk MAP goals, the Alaska CTP Coordinator will collaborate with other state, local, and tribal entities to facilitate mapping partnerships in order to update flood hazard data and maps and to ensure updated information is used in making informed decisions regarding planning, community development, and hazard mitigation.

The CTP Coordinator will support local communities and FEMA Region X by implementing an integrated programmatic strategy to mapping flood hazards, performing risk assessments, informing hazard mitigation plans and acquiring detailed topographic data.

Because the NFIP is also administered by DCRA, the CTP Coordinator is able to work closely with the NFIP Coordinator, to collaborate on common programmatic goals, objectives and tasks and to ensure that the needs and concerns of NFIP-participating communities are integrated into Risk MAP activities.

Figure 20: Ice Jam on the Kenai River, 2007