



Arrive Alive – a Tribal Transportation Safety Project funded through the Federal Highways Administration



Upriver Route 2 –Kalskag to Aniak is now open – more snow and extremely rough ice conditions made this 30 mile stretch especially challenging

1-15-16 TTSP Report #5:*

“Aniak to the Rescue”

Summary:

Upriver Route 2 – Kalskag to Aniak is now plowed, road markers installed, and all known open water is marked. Even after the holiday warm spell this section of the River still retained heavy snow cover and extremely rough ice conditions.

The original plan was for our crew to break trail to Aniak with one of our old rugged V plows. Under and MOU between the City of Aniak and the Aniak Tribe, the city’s grader, with a tribal operator would then work to improve the road.

But after the extra work it took to establish Upriver Route 1, both our crews and equipment were tired. On the morning of January 13th we set out with our last piece of running ice road equipment to meet the City of Aniak grader which under the perseverance of tribal operator Allen Simeon had already broken through the worst 8 mile stretch the day before. We didn’t get very far – our Little Bull broke down just 3 miles above Upper Kalskag.

Thankfully through some quick phone calls and verbal agreements the Aniak grader was able to come all the way down and complete the opening of the road to Kalskag.

There are now approximately 192 miles of safe, marked ice road on the Kuskokwim from Aniak to Tuntutuliak.

Just in time for the weekend traffic!



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Tired Little Bull above Kalskag pushing towards Aniak – just before he broke down



Meeting the Aniak Grader at Birch Tree Crossing



The Crossing on December 11, 2016



The Crossing on January 13, 2017 after Captain Allen pushed through it



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Middle Kuskokwim Ice Road Expert: Captain Allen Simeon



Plowing past the famous Butt Hill: our crew double checks ice conditions ahead of the Aniak crew



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This is why it's called Butt (Nulluk) Hill



Arrival at Kalskag - Working Together for the Benefit of All: Upper Kalskag & Aniak Tribal Transportation Departments do ice road marking, City of Aniak provides grader, Aniak & Napaimute Tribal Transportation Departments provide personnel, support vehicles and fuel



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Maybe someday we'll post "scenic view" signs along Upriver Route 2: Ephriam White's fish camp



Moonset over Upper Kalskag



Sunset over a steaming but well-marked open hole at Birch Tree Crossing



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Abandoned Vehicle: be prepared for ice road travel - this is what happens when you don't carry a spare tire and...



...drink and drive

Closing: We are glad that Upriver Route 2 is finally open but remind travelers to use caution and be prepared. This is a plowed road and because of the berms will be very susceptible to drifting snow if we get a storm. Please check the weather before traveling. At the minimum carry a shovel, spare tire, warm clothes and please don't drink and drive

Thank you to all that provided support to the establishment of this route: Native Village of Upper Kalskag, Aniak Traditional Council, and the City of Aniak. Also in our last report we forgot to mention the donation of 50 gallons of fuel from Lynden-Alaska Hovercraft.

Our next project is to repair our three broken pieces of ice road equipment and head for Upriver Route 3 and 4: Aniak to Chuathbaluk & Chuathbaluk to Napaimute

Thank you.

****Please note that this report is for informational purposes only. It is not an advisory that it is safe to travel.***



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Nickolai Savage – Middle Kuskokwim Ice Road Chief-In-Training says, "Travel Safe!"

