



## **FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Statewide Exercise Prepares the Interior for Extreme Winter Weather**

*Alaska Shield 2012 unites Alaska's Emergency Team for Joint Exercise*

Representatives from state and local governments, the military, utilities, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector will participate in a statewide joint exercise on February 6-12, 2012. Alaska's harsh winter weather, long and tenuous supply lines, and small remote communities present unique challenges not experienced anywhere else in the United States. This exercise has been in the planning process for more than a year and will test Alaska's ability to respond to an extreme winter weather event.

"The Borough welcomes the opportunity to participate in this exercise as it will help us to prepare for a real emergency situation in our community" stated Borough Mayor Luke Hopkins.

Alaska Shield 2012 scenario begins with a powerful winter storm that cuts power to large population centers and remote communities throughout Alaska. This scenario is designed to test the Borough's capabilities to provide mass sheltering, medical surge, Emergency Operations Center management, restoration of lifelines, communications, emergency public information and warning, and other facets of emergency management.

"Our state, communities and partner agencies have established emergency plans and policies that guide our actions during an emergency. Statewide exercises like Alaska Shield allow us to evaluate what works, what needs to be improved, and perhaps discover innovative new ways to respond to emergencies," said John Madden, director of the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

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