



155 S. SEWARD STREET ▪ JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801
PHONE: 907-586-5240 ▪ FAX: 907-586-5385

Mendenhall Glacier – “Suicide Basin” On-Watch for Potential Flooding

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The water level is rising in “Suicide Basin,” near Mendenhall Glacier. This was the source of flooding during the 2011, 2012 and 2013 high water events. CBJ, the U.S. Forest Service, the National Weather Service and the U.S. Geological Service are monitoring the situation.

To view the Suicide Basin Lake Level Gauge, go to:
<http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=pajk&gage=jsba2>

People are encouraged to use caution while recreating in the park area. Kayakers and rafters should stay away from the face of the Glacier. Hikers should watch for waves from calving and play it safe at the terminus of Nugget Falls.

If Suicide Basin releases, it is difficult to determine how much flooding, if any, may occur. In 2011, power was shut off to View Drive residents, and several evacuated their homes for a day during the high water levels experienced on July 21.

Persons living anywhere along the river corridor should think about personal plans for flooding and be prepared. Everyone in the community, regardless of location, is encouraged to have a personal “go bag” of emergency supplies.

To learn more about preparedness, go to: <http://ready.alaska.gov/>

Contacts:

Tom Mattice, CBJ Emergency Programs Manager, 907-586-0419, tom_mattice@ci.juneau.ak.us
<http://www.juneau.org/emergency/index.php>