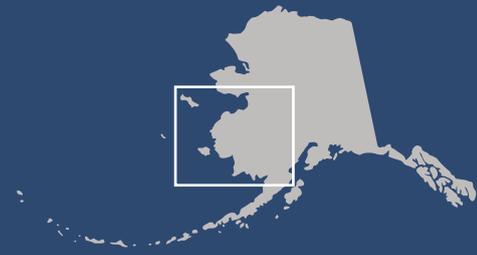


# HALONG

The worst flooding in living memory



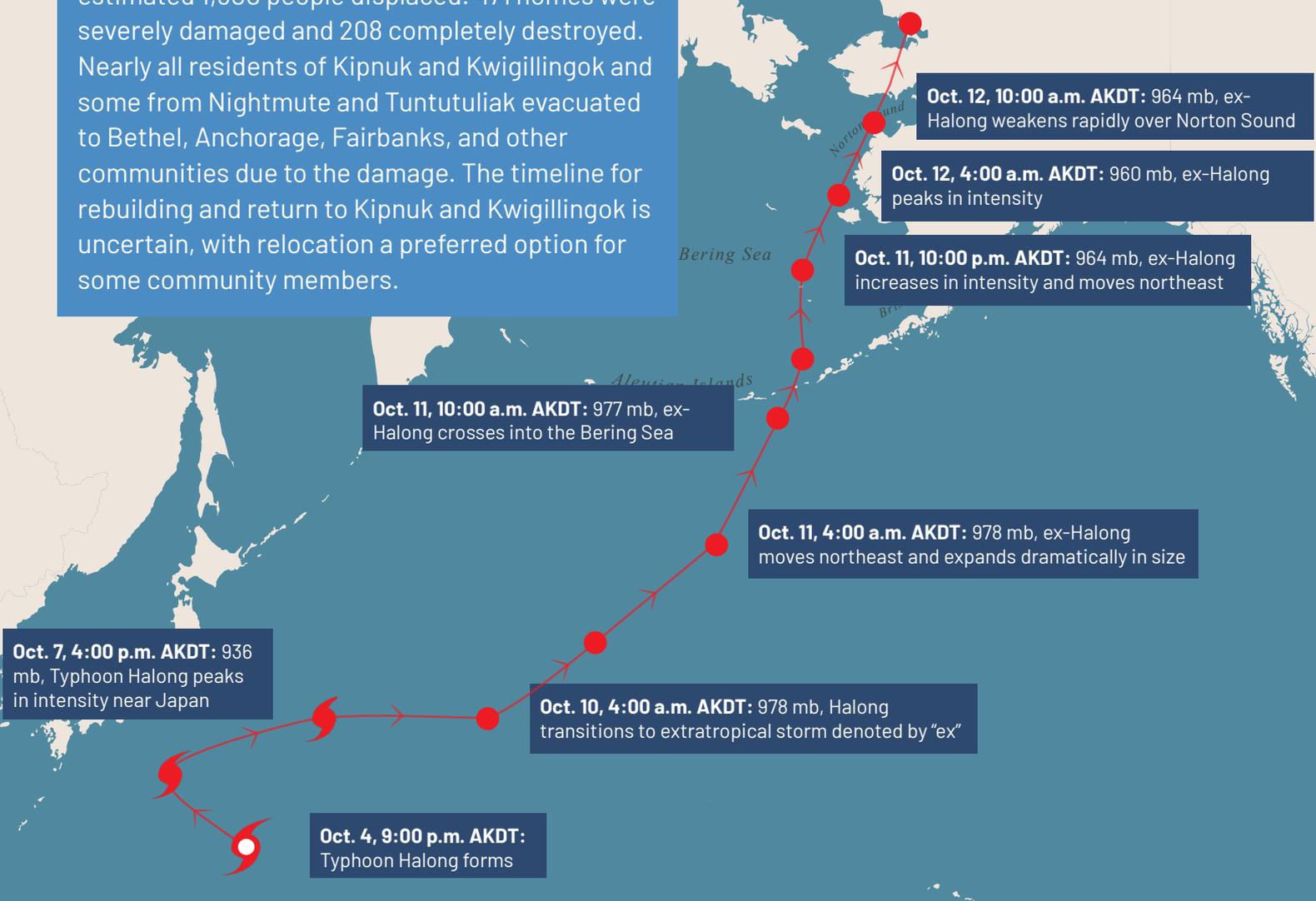
October 10-13, 2025

## Overview

On October 12, 2025, ex-Typhoon Halong rapidly headed northeast and brought damaging winds and coastal flooding to the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region of Western Alaska. The region experienced the worst flooding in living memory, with 49 communities reporting damage and an estimated 1,600 people displaced. 471 homes were severely damaged and 208 completely destroyed. Nearly all residents of Kipnuk and Kwigillingok and some from Nightmute and Tuntutuliak evacuated to Bethel, Anchorage, Fairbanks, and other communities due to the damage. The timeline for rebuilding and return to Kipnuk and Kwigillingok is uncertain, with relocation a preferred option for some community members.

## Halong: an unusual track

Ex-Typhoon Halong took a rare eastward track between St. Lawrence Island and the Yukon Delta, exposing the Western coast to extremely high winds and storm surge. Only one other Bering Sea fall storm this strong took such a route since 1950.



# Community specific impacts

## Disaster Declared

**Oct. 9** Governor Dunleavy declares state disaster emergency

**Oct. 23** President Trump approves federal disaster declaration

**FEMA** has earmarked **\$30.2 million** in individual assistance and **\$4.5 million** in public assistance (as of Jan. 20, 2026) to aid in recovery (2025 dollars)

## Kipnuk

**Estimated population:** 704

Estimated 90% of the village destroyed, major flooding, estimated 8.07 ft above MHHW\*, 79mph peak wind gusts, over 700 people sought emergency shelter, many homes swept off their foundations, power outages, cemetery destroyed, winter food stocks washed away, communications & runway damaged. On **Oct. 15**, the village almost entirely evacuated with no timeline for return.



Photo credits: Alaska National Guard

"Kipnuk's not Kipnuk anymore" said a resident in an Alaska Public Media article

## Kwigillingok

**Estimated population:** 380

One confirmed death, two individuals remain missing, major flooding, estimated 7.46 ft above MHHW\*, over 400 people sheltered overnight, every home damaged and 36 drifted off foundations, 24 people rescued from swept away homes, cemetery disturbed, power outages spoiled winter food stocks. On **Oct. 15**, the village was almost entirely evacuated with no timeline for return. Residents had previously voted to relocate the community due to frequent flooding and resulting problems.



Photo credits: Defense Visual Information Distribution Service

## Bethel & surroundings

Wind destroyed roofs and caused minor flooding, resources stretched as evacuees settled in **Bethel**, 10 homes water damaged in **Napaskiak**

**Napaskiak:** major flooding, 19 houses shifted off their foundations, others inundated with flood water, a dozen people unable to return to their homes

**Tuntutuliak:** major flooding, local rescue efforts helped at least 70 reach local school, a dozen homes knocked from their foundation, many houses damaged beyond livability, 26 people evacuated, damage to winter food stocks, steam baths, and boardwalks

**Quinhagak:** 60 feet of erosion, damage to 10 homes, fish camps and subsistence gear washed away, damaged water line, extensive damage to Nunalleq, a 16th century Yup'ik archeological site

**Kongiganak:** major flooding, several homes damaged, severe damage to boardwalks, water plant out of service

## Norton Sound

High winds caused the most damage rather than flooding. Power outages in **Elim**, wind damage to homes and sheds and evacuations from **Shaktoolik** to **Unalakleet**, wind damage in **Unalakleet** and **St. Michael**, wind damage and power outages in **Stebbins** where some evacuated to **St. Michael**

## Nelson Island & surroundings

**Nightmute:** severe erosion, over a dozen homes lifted off foundations and 19 people evacuated, submerged boardwalks, damaged fuel drums created fuel scent and sheen in water, majority of homes damaged in subsistence camp of **Umkumiut** (which provides 75% of subsistence foods to Nightmute)

**Chefornak:** flooding and submerged boardwalks

**Toksook Bay:** severe erosion, saltwater intrusions, and damage to fish stocks

**Chevak:** severe damage to subsistence sheds, boats, gear, and tools, gasoline spillages, three day power outages on western side of town destroyed food stocks

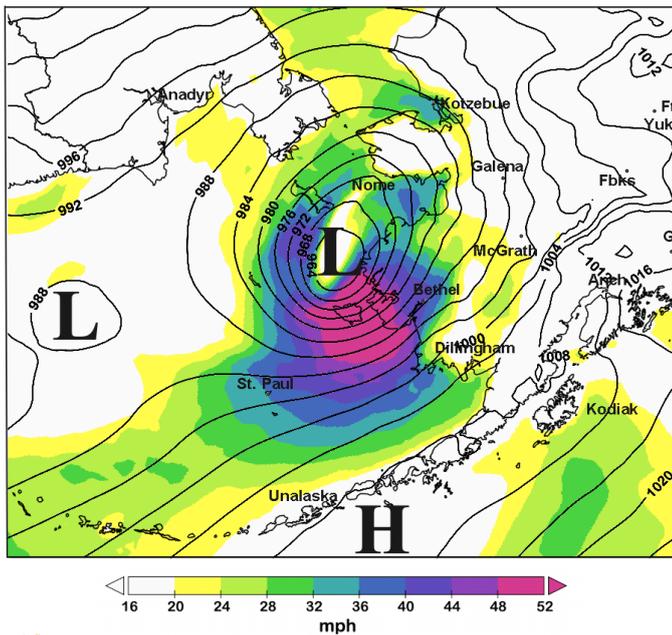


# Winds, floods, and relocation

## Winds

Halong brought over 50 mph **sustained winds**\* to the Yukon-Kuskokwim (Y-K) Delta region, with 100 mph **peak gusts**\* observed in Toksook Bay and 79 mph peak gusts observed at Kipnuk before the power went out. Even inland areas like Bethel saw 77 mph peak gusts.

### Sustained winds on October 12, 2025 at 4am AKDT



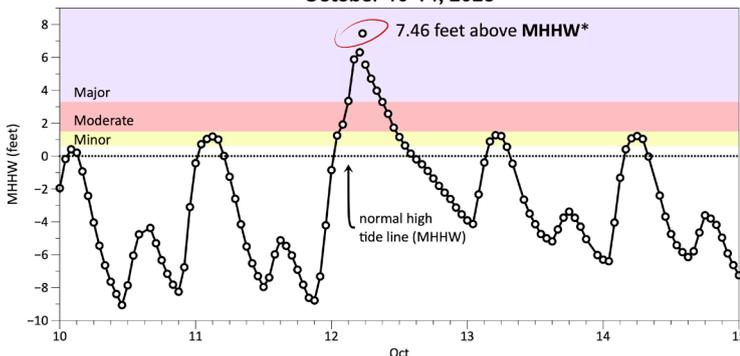
## Relocation Dialogues

The Y-K Delta region experiences floods every fall, but Halong was a **turning point** for many residents of both Kipnuk and Kwigillingok, some of which have expressed fear of returning to their homes and a desire to relocate to higher ground. However, there is nowhere to go since the entire Y-K Delta region is extremely low lying, with the highest point near Kwigillingok just 3 feet above sea level and most of the region within 1.6 feet of the average high tide line (**MHHW**\*). Essentially, there is nowhere to go. Newtok began relocating in the mid 1990s, but the process has taken decades and over \$160 million. All federal aid has been designated for rebuilding rather than relocation.

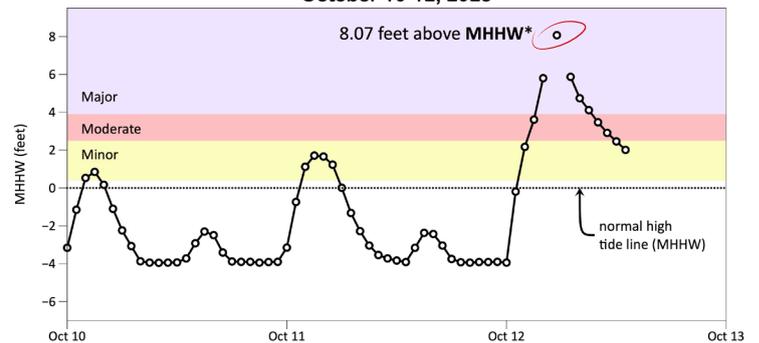
- \***Sustained winds** refer to wind speed determined by averaging observed values over a two-minute period
- \***Peak gusts** refer to maximum instantaneous wind speed since the last observation that exceeded 25 knots (~29 mph)
- \***MHHW** is equivalent to "above the daily highest high tide line"

## Water Levels

Kwigillingok, Alaska  
Water Level Observations  
October 10-14, 2025



Kipnuk, Alaska  
Water Level Observations  
October 10-12, 2025



Peak water levels are estimated based on post storm surveys

Data source: Alaska Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys, JOE Surveys, and Alaska Ocean Observing System

Explore other extreme events at [uaf-accap.org/projects/extreme-events-library](https://uaf-accap.org/projects/extreme-events-library)

Sources: Alaska Public Media, Alaska Wildland Fire Information, Anchorage Daily News, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, FEMA Disaster Declaration and Assistance, ICT News, KTOO, KTUU: Alaska's News Source, KYUK, Nome Nugget, NPR, The Guardian, 2020 US Census Data

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