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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 17, 2009

State Documents Damaged by Rainwater at Archives

JUNEAU – Approximately 400 to 500 boxes of documents in the Alaska State Archives were damaged by rainwater sometime late Sunday or early Monday.

A contractor, CBC Construction of Sitka, has been repairing the roof at the State Archives on Willoughby Street in Juneau. The contractor's inflated plastic bubble that allows workers to repair roofs in the rain blew off its fastenings sometime Sunday evening or early Monday morning.

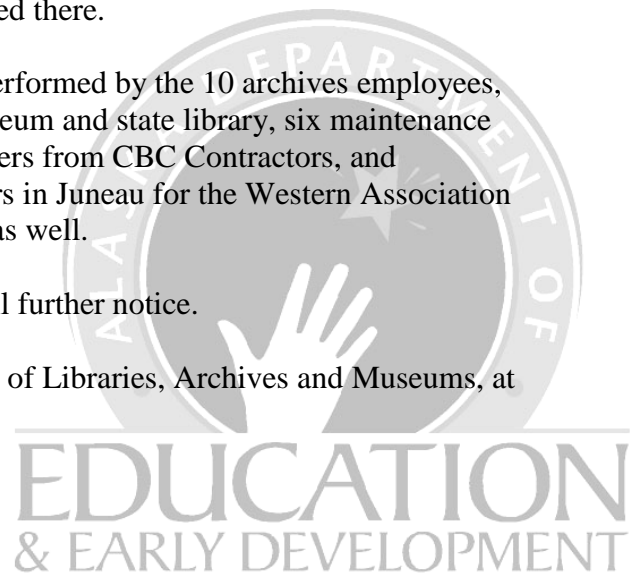
In two areas, rainwater entered a second-story room that contains archives. A lesser amount of rainwater dripped down to the first-story vault, which also contains archives, and onto the nearby loading dock. Approximately 400 to 500 cardboard boxes containing court, legislative and Governor's Office records have been damaged, as were some maps.

Archives staff first noticed the water damage at 7 a.m. and implemented the emergency response plan. The bubble has been repaired and no new water is entering the archives. By 10 a.m. nearly all of the standing water on the floors had been removed, principally by vacuums. Dehumidifiers and fans are operating in the affected areas. Some of the damaged boxes have been removed to the Juneau Arts & Culture Center, which is near the archives. The boxes' contents will be air-dried there.

The various types of recovery work are being performed by the 10 archives employees, approximately 15 employees from the state museum and state library, six maintenance employees of the state facilities office, six workers from CBC Contractors, and community volunteers. Professional conservators in Juneau for the Western Association for Art Conservation conference have assisted, as well.

The archives have been closed to the public until further notice.

For information, call Linda Thibodeau, Director of Libraries, Archives and Museums, at 907-465-2911.



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