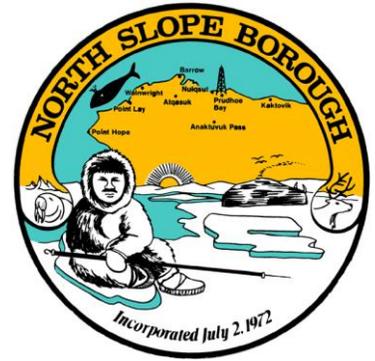


# North Slope Borough

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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*Charlotte E. Brower, Mayor*



## PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**  
**February 13, 2014**  
**Mayor's Office**

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### What A Difference A Road Makes

Even an ice road! And especially in the ice fog! Warmer weather on the north slope usually means fog and the cessation of airplane traffic in and out of our villages. The village of Nuiqsut located within the National Petroleum Reserve (NPR-A) is looking to connect to the Alpine system via a spur road. Meanwhile approval of this connection involves the creation of a conservation easement to offset this development. Ice roads have been standard industry practice to connect the various developments in the winter months, but this cost is repeated annually and actually creates larger footprints than developments connected by roads.

Fortunately for a critically ill patient, the Nuiqsut Clinic was able to work with the Nuiqsut Volunteer Fire Department and Alpine Medical staff to stabilize the patient enough for transport to a medical facility at Alpine, and then ultimately Anchorage. Road connectivity is definitely a health and safety issue that crosses government and corporate boundaries. This connectivity paved the way for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the North Slope Borough and ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc. on emergency response.

Due to foggy weather in Nuiqsut, Prudhoe Bay, and Barrow; the staff of the clinic found that they had to transport the patient to the Alpine oil field facility. This was accomplished through collaboration with the NSB Fire Department. The Alpine oil field facility is approximately 12 miles North of Nuiqsut, by ice road. The Alpine oil field facility had higher medical support through a mid-level provider, a PA by the name of Janette Yingling. The patient, up until that time was cared for by clinic staff and staff of the Nuiqsut Volunteer Fire Department.

Meanwhile the NSB SAR/ Medevac crew was on weather hold, with a plan to intercept the patient in Deadhorse but the weather went down there shortly after that plan was put into place.

The weather changed transport plans from delivering the patient to Fairbanks to flying the patient directly to Anchorage from the Alpine Medical Facility. Because of her EMTIII level training, CHP Mary Margaret Chandler again volunteered in support, to escort the patient, and transfer care over to an awaiting Alpine Medics, who would then bring the critically ill patient to ANMC Anchorage.

The North Slope Borough is responsible for providing emergency response services to the residents of the north slope. ConocoPhillips is a private oil company responsible for incidents arising from its own operations generally. The MOU allows the NSB and CPAI to call on the other for assistance in a case of an extreme situation. We are fortunate for yet another example of industry working successfully with our local government entity.

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