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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Utqiagvik Responds to Assistance Request at Facility Fire and Ensures Safety of Residents

Utqiagvik, Alaska - January 26, 2024 – The North Slope Borough is actively responding to a fire incident that broke out in the early morning of January 26 at a nearby facility. As a result of the prevailing weather conditions, the smoke from the fire has spread over Block A, prompting the North Slope Borough to initiate an evacuation of the area to ensure the safety of residents.

In response to the evacuation, the City of Utqiagvik is working diligently to provide emergency shelter for evacuees at various locations throughout the city. These locations have been carefully selected to ensure the well-being and comfort of those affected by the evacuation. The City acknowledges the inconvenience caused and expresses its gratitude to the community for their understanding and cooperation during this challenging time.

As a precautionary measure, the City's recreational facilities will be closed until further notice. This decision has been made to prioritize the safety and security of residents, as well as to allow the City to focus on providing necessary support to those affected by the evacuation. The City will continue to assess the situation and provide updates on the reopening of recreational facilities as soon as it is deemed safe to do so.

For the latest updates and information, residents are encouraged to visit the City of Utqiagvik's official website at www.utqiagvik.us or follow our Facebook page. These platforms will be regularly updated with important announcements, resources, and contact information for assistance.

The City of Utqiagvik is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of its residents. We extend our deepest gratitude to the North Slope Borough, emergency responders, and all those involved in the ongoing efforts to address the situation. Our thoughts are with the affected individuals and families, and we stand ready to provide the necessary support and assistance during this challenging time.

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