



KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH
CITY OF KETCHIKAN



Joint Media Release: Third Avenue Update 6 Status of Evacuation Area

Date: August 26, 2024, 5:00 p.m.

Contact: Kacie Paxton, Public Information Officer, 907-228-2383

For Immediate Release

The Third Avenue Landslide on the afternoon of August 25 critically damaged four homes, with damages still being assessed for homes adjacent to the slide area. Several residences and businesses downhill of the slide area have reported flooding. The immediate response ordered the evacuation of approximately 60 homes on West Third Ave, Second Ave, and First Ave.

Residents on First Ave may return to their homes, and First Ave is open to the public.

The evacuation order remains in effect for homes on West Third Ave and Second Ave. from Austin Street to 1898 Second Ave. until further notice. Return to these areas will be based, by address, on recommendations of geologists.

Meteorologists are onsite reviewing weather conditions and providing guidance for responders. Geologists have been working at the slide area assessing the soil stability and conducting measurements. The Third Ave landslide area was measured to be 1100 feet long, beginning at 650 feet in elevation and ending at 97 feet in elevation. At its widest point, the slide measured 250 feet. Drones are being flown to provide 3D and infrared images and topographical mapping. Based on the soil assessments and mapping review, geologists will make a recommendation for an action plan for debris removal, storm drain cleaning, and opening of residential homes.

Power was restored to the area of First Ave from Austin Street to Tongass Ave at approximately 3:00 pm today. Power is expected to be restored to the area of Second Ave from Whitecliff Ave to the 1700 block of Second Ave. late Monday. Power to the area of Austin St to Whitecliff Ave.—the area most impacted by the slide—cannot be accessed to replace broken power poles until the debris field is cleared. This process is expected to take several days.

First Ave has been opened. The following road closures are still in effect:

- Third Avenue from Library to Washington Street
- 1700 Block of Second Avenue to Austin Street
- Whitecliff Avenue

A map of the Third Avenue Landslide original evacuation area is attached.

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The smaller landslide that occurred on Copper Ridge Lane is being evaluated by geologists to determine level of risk for that area.

Ketchikan High School remains open as an evacuation site. Supplies and food are available for individuals to pick up as needed. Social workers are on site.

City facilities will be open on Tuesday, August 27. The White Cliff Building will remain closed until further notice.

Additional information about the August 25, 2024 Third Avenue Landslide is available at <https://www.kgbak.us/1098/3rd-Avenue-Bypass-Landslide>

To sign up for Nixle emergency alerts text "99901" to 888777 for updates.

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