



KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH
CITY OF KETCHIKAN



Joint Media Release: Third Avenue Landslide Update 9

Date: August 27, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

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

For Immediate Release

Evacuation Area Update

The evacuation order remains in effect for homes on Second Avenue from 2122 Second Avenue to Whitecliff Avenue. Return to these areas will be authorized after slide debris is cleared and power poles are replaced.

Evacuation orders are lifted for all of W Third Avenue, all of Austin Street, all of First Avenue, Second Avenue south of Whitecliff Avenue, and Second Avenue from Austin Street to and including 2134.

Geotechnical, Clean-up, & Recovery Work

Today was a busy day with work being done by local and State entities. Significant progress has been made on clearing Third Avenue with more work planned to restore proper drainage to the bypass and below. Once Third Avenue is cleared, engineers will need to evaluate and address structural damage to the roadway and hillside. Because of the magnitude of the slide and the work required to ensure the safety of the roadway, Third Avenue is expected to be closed for an extended period.

State geologists spent time walking and flying over the slide path to evaluate it for further risk. They will be bringing in additional technology to further evaluate the surface structure. From today's assessment, the geologists did not identify immediate threats for further slides adjacent to the Third Avenue landslide.

Meteorologists continue to review weather conditions and placed a weather station at the slide site to provide additional guidance for responders. Precipitation is expected to pick up overnight. Response crews will continue to monitor the changes in weather and assess any additional risk to the area.

Capital City Fire and Rescue (CCFR) were onsite to assess the structures impacted by the slide. They confirmed four homes were a total loss with additional damage to several others.

Teams will begin assessing the Copper Ridge Lane slide on Wednesday, August 28.

The Alaska National Guard is being deployed to Ketchikan next week to help with residential clean outs.

Road Closure Update

The following road closures are still in effect:

- Second Avenue from Austin Street to Whitecliff Avenue
- Whitecliff Avenue
- Third Avenue from the Library to Washington Street. This area is expected to be closed for an extended period as debris is cleared and the area is assessed by engineers for structural integrity.
- Please avoid Copper Ridge Lane to allow access for cleanup operations.

Power

Power has been restored to all areas except where there continue to be broken poles. KPU continues to clean up electrical debris.

Closures

City of Ketchikan facilities are open with normal business hours except for the Ketchikan Public Library, which will be closed on Wednesday, August 28.

Borough services are available via phone and web during normal business hours.

Borough offices remain closed to the public. The Finance Department will be available to take payments on the phone at 907-228-6620 between 9:00 am and 4:30 pm.

Payments can be made online at <https://www.kgbak.us/762/Pay>.

Permits can be applied for online at <https://www.kgbak.us/244/Apply>.

Borough services are available at <https://www.kgbak.us/9/How-Do-I>

Landslide Awareness and Safety Panel

The EOC will live-stream a panel discussion with state weather and geological experts to provide landslide awareness, response and prevention information on August 28, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. Questions are being sought via an online survey. This is not an in-person event. The event will be live-streamed on the KPUtv Facebook page, the KPUtvYouTube channel, KPUTV+ app for Roku, Firestick, Apple and Android phones and tablets, and on the City of Ketchikan Website at <https://www.ketchikan.gov/current-agendas-and-minutes>

Services for Evacuees and Displaced Families

Ketchikan High School has supplies and food available for individuals to pick up as needed. Social workers are available. Hot meals continue to be served for evacuees and response staff at Ketchikan High School.

An evacuation site remains available to people residing in the evacuation areas. Please call 907-228-2383 to request overnight assistance.

Volunteers and Donations

An assistance account for the Sean Griffin family has been established at First Bank. General cash donations to help the community are being accepted at the Ketchikan Visitors Bureau location on Berth 2.

Additional donation sites have been established and shared throughout social media for impacted families.

Individuals with material items for donation or those looking for volunteer opportunities can contact Kelly Brown at kellybrown@ketchikan.gov

Disaster assistance for individuals and families

With the disaster declaration by the Governor, Individual Assistance becomes available. Alaska's Individual and Family Grant (IFG) Program and Temporary Housing Program (THP) provide timely assistance to individuals or families to meet disaster-related necessary expenses and serious needs. Together, these programs provide essential support when other resources are unavailable or inadequate. The application can be accessed via <https://ready.alaska.gov/Recovery/IA>.

There will be a representative available in Ketchikan next week to assist with paperwork for the Individual Assistance program. More details are forthcoming on the time and location for this resource.

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