



KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH
CITY OF KETCHIKAN



Joint Media Release: Third Avenue Landslide Update 11

Date: August 28, 2024, 5:00 p.m.

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

For Immediate Release

The evacuation areas previously identified remain the same, and all road closures remain unchanged. We continue to request all drivers to minimize the use of Tongass Avenue wherever possible.

Updates for August 28, 2024

Copper Ridge Update: Crews continue to assess the slide area on Copper Ridge Lane. Today, crews conducted an aerial reconnaissance using drones and helicopter and captured images of the landslide. Tomorrow, crews will assess the toe (bottom) of the slope and finalize the risk assessment for that area.

Recovery Work: Recovery work continued on multiple fronts today along with strategy sessions to set short- and long-range priorities. While recovery is going to take some time on Third and Second Avenues, the goal of the recovery efforts is to return to normal as efficiently as possible.

Debris clean up on Third and Second Avenues was paused due to weather conditions. Priorities shifted to addressing drainage in both areas. With the help of the Alaska State Defense Force, Alaska National Guard, and the U.S. Coast Guard, sandbags were filled and deployed to help divert water.

Meteorologists continue to provide up-to-the minute weather conditions, which has supported Alaska DOT and State geologists with site assessment. This information helps with safety risk assessments for the recovery crews.

The geologic teams shared that movement continues to be observed in the slide path as streams form. This movement is normal and expected after an event like what occurred on Sunday. They will continue to monitor and update their evaluations.

Electrical lines continue to be cleared with much of the work being wrapped up by end of day today.

Ketchikan High School served 75 lunches today to recovery teams and evacuated families. Kayhi continues to provide food and supplies to evacuated families as needed.

At this time, Kayhi has ample supplies, and the community is appreciated for its generosity.

Transportation: Transportation managers have a meeting scheduled to identify efficiencies as school prepares to reopen. We understand driving through town is an ongoing issue and are prioritizing it as we are able.

This evening Dawson Construction will be filling potholes through town with cold mix to improve the roadway.

Borough Transit buses continue to be free through the holiday weekend.

Trusted Sources

Misinformation is a constant in our social media-driven world. Please seek trusted sources for any information related to the slide. The City of Ketchikan and Ketchikan Gateway Borough's Facebook pages and <https://www.kgbak.us/1098/3rd-Avenue-Bypass-Landslide> will continue to be updated regularly with the most accurate and trusted information. Please do not share information that has not been verified by a trusted source.

Landslide Awareness and Safety Panel - TONIGHT

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 KPUTV YouTube 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>

Closures

City of Ketchikan facilities are open with normal business hours except for the Ketchikan Public Library, which will be closed on Thursday, August 29.

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

Reminder of Resources for Evacuees (No change from 8/27 release)

Evacuation Area

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.

Road Closures Continue

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.

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

Page 4

(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>

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

#