



KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH
CITY OF KETCHIKAN



Joint Media Release: Third Avenue Landslide Update 13

Date: August 29, 2024, 7:00 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.

Anyone who had disaster-related expenses to their primary residence because of the event on August 25, 2024, is encouraged to complete the Individual Assistance application. The application can be accessed via <https://ready.alaska.gov/Recovery/IA>.

Copper Ridge Update: The DNR and ADoTPF Geological teams captured photos and began assessment of the Copper Ridge Slide area. Work will continue to capture lidar imaging to be used for mapping and risk assessment. The area is still being reviewed but was determined to pose no immediate threat to the property below.

Recovery Work

Public Works and contractor crews worked to install pumps and redirect drainage on the Third Ave Bypass. A pump was installed on West Third in preparation for an access road to be built on the undeveloped right-of-way. The new access road will be used to access the debris field on the Third Ave Bypass and on Second Ave. Vehicles were relocated away from the area so clean up work can begin on Second Ave N. A building official is working to assess houses in the evacuated area. Hazardous trees and stumps were removed from the downhill slope of Third Ave. Additional security measures, blockades, and signage were added to the Rainbird Trail access points to keep individuals from using the trail.

The NOAA/NWS meteorologist team set up the rain gauge in preparation for the expected rain this weekend. 3-4 inches of rain are expected between Friday and Tuesday. Citizens are reminded to check for daily weather updates at <https://www.weather.gov/ajk/>

DNR and ADoTPF Geological teams plan to capture another set of drone images of the Third Avenue slide area this evening.

Downed electric and communication cables were removed from the Second Avenue North site today.

The National Guard team filled around 350 sand bags today to be used to divert water in rain events.

Transportation: Discussions with transportation companies and tour operators continue with a collective imperative to reduce use where possible and to keep traffic moving. Please see the previous release for additional transit updates.

It is critical that when emergency vehicles have lights on, vehicles must keep moving through the construction zone until there is a safe and large enough space to pull over to let the responder safely pass.

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

Landslide Awareness and Safety Panel – Recap: The EOC hosted a panel discussion with state weather and geological experts to provide landslide awareness, response and prevention information on August 28, 2024. The session video is available here: <https://ketchikan.primegov.com/Portal/Meeting?meetingTemplateId=3400>

Session summary notes: <https://www.kgbak.us/DocumentCenter/View/13239/Landslide-Awareness-and-Safety-Panel-Event-Recap?bidId=>

Drone Imagery and GIS Mapping of Slide Area

View the Flickr account for a photographic record of the August 2024 landslide in Ketchikan as captured by Alaska DoTPF Geologists on the scene: <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjBEN5g>

The ArcGIS Mapper for the August landslide in Ketchikan provides an interactive visualization of the landslide area: <https://akdot.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/ed87612229b84a18ad5979d387117b3f>

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Monday, September 2, 2024: The Ketchikan Ministerial Association will be hosting a community gathering at Fire Station 1 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Chief Hines will fire up the grill. All are welcome to attend.

Tuesday, September 3, 2024: Individual Assistance application in-person support will be provided. Call 907-228-2383 to set up an appointment.

Wednesday, September 4, 2024: A National Crisis Response Canine team – Tia and Bear, and handlers Terry and Eleanor – will be available to provide comfort to community

members affected by the landslide. Call 907-228-2383 to request a visit with Tia and Bear.

Closures: City of Ketchikan facilities are open with normal business hours, including the Library which will be open on Friday, August 30.

Borough services are available via phone during normal business hours and online. Borough offices remain closed to the public and will open on Tuesday, September 3, 2024. 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>

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: An evacuation site remains available to people residing in the evacuation areas. Meals, household supplies, and personal items are available for pickup.

The evacuation and supply center will be relocated from the Ketchikan High School to the Ketchikan National Guard Armory on Friday, August 30. Meals will continue to be served for evacuees and response staff. On Friday, breakfast will be served at Kayhi, and lunch and dinner will be served at the Armory.

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>

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

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