



KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH
CITY OF KETCHIKAN



Joint Media Release: Third Avenue Landslide Update 14

Date: August 30, 2024, 6:15 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.

EOC Objectives

The Emergency Operations Center Unified Command is operating under seven objectives as we move through this situation. The following are the objectives guiding our recovery response:

1. Develop and implement transportation plan by close of business on Sunday, September 1st
2. Complete slope stabilization (up and down) along 3rd Avenue by September 13th
3. Support safe opening of Ketchikan schools by September 3rd
4. Clear drains and control flow of water on 2nd Avenue
5. Restore services on North Second Avenue by September 10th
6. Provide assistance to displaced residents (ongoing)
7. Ensure the financial stability of the City of Ketchikan while managing the costs associated with the landslide response and recovery (ongoing)

Transportation Plan for Tongass Avenue

Preliminary plans are underway for a solution to alleviate stress on the construction corridor by reducing tourism traffic. More information to come.

Recovery Work: Progress continued today with crews clearing Third and Second Avenues and controlling drainage. A road is being roughed in on West Third Avenue in the undeveloped right-of-way to access the landslide debris field for further clearing. Safety remains a priority among the recovery crew, and debris removal will continue daily as conditions permit.

State DOT and DNR geologists continue to survey the scene both on foot and via drone. Lidar data has been gathered and is being analyzed. A high-resolution drone has been flown over the Third Avenue debris area multiple times since the slide. These images are overlaid to do a change detection analysis to see what, if anything, has moved within the slide. This process will be continued to assess any changes over several days.

The US Forest Service is collaborating with the EOC to provide guidance on re-seeding the slide area to support forest restoration.

The NOAA/NWS meteorologist team set up the rain gauge at the site. Citizens are reminded to check for daily weather updates at <https://www.weather.gov/ajk/>

Copper Ridge Update: Local crews completed a site inspection at the Copper Ridge landslide area. Additional geological review should happen over the weekend.

Weekend Operations: On-scene recovery work will continue through the weekend. The EOC is operating with reduced staff, and phone lines will remain open. Full operations will resume on Tuesday, September 3rd. Updates of the response and recovery efforts will be provided each day on Borough and City social media platforms.

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 except the Library, which is closed to the public until September 3rd.

Borough offices will reopen on Tuesday, September 3, 2024.

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.

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.

Services for Evacuees and Displaced Families: Services remain available and have moved to the National Guard Armory. Please call 907-228-2383 to request overnight assistance.

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>.

Information and Disaster-Related Resources: 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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