



KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH  
CITY OF KETCHIKAN



## **Joint Media Release: Third Avenue Landslide Update 15**

Date: August 30, 2024, 7:30 p.m.

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

### **For Immediate Release**

#### **Additional Work toward a Transportation Plan for Tongass Avenue**

Discussions continued for a solution to alleviate stress on the construction corridor by reducing tourism traffic. A meeting has been scheduled on Sunday with stakeholders to formalize a plan.

#### **Road Closure Updates:**

- Whitecliff Ave has been opened from Tongass Ave to the first entrance of the White Cliff Building parking lot.
- First Ave has been opened from Tongass Ave to Whitecliff Ave.

The following road closures are in effect:

- First Ave from Whitecliff Ave to Austin St
- Second Ave from Austin St to Whitecliff Ave
- Third Ave 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.

**Recovery Work:** Progress continued today with crews clearing Third and Second Avenues. P&T Construction removed and hauled over 100 loads of debris from Second Ave and made a lane all the way through the debris field to Whitecliff Ave. Two drain basins were located on Second Ave, which will allow for redirection of water flow. Crews continued tree removal and drainage work on Third Ave. Logjam Construction removed hazard trees and debris around the slide zone.

State AkDOT&PF geologists conducted a site inspection of the Third Ave slide area and traversed the body of the slide zone. Materials were gathered in preparation for soil sampling of the slide zone.

The NOAA/NWS meteorologist team monitored the rain gauge and surveyed the landslide site on Third Ave. Citizens are reminded to check for daily weather updates at <https://www.weather.gov/ajk/>

The DGGs geologist began reviewing GIS data for the analysis of the two slide zones.

**Copper Ridge Update:** The DGGs geological team began review of the Copper Ridge slide area.

### **Upcoming Meetings & Events**

Monday, September 2, 2024: Individual Assistance application in-person support will be provided. Call 907-228-2383 to set up an appointment.

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.

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 with modified hours of operation 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**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.

**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>.

### **EOC Objectives**

The Ketchikan Emergency Operations Center Unified Command is operating under the following seven objectives:

1. Develop and implement transportation plan by close of business on Sunday, September 1<sup>st</sup>
2. Complete slope stabilization (up and down) along 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue by September 13<sup>th</sup>
3. Support safe opening of Ketchikan schools by September 3<sup>rd</sup>
4. Clear drains and control flow of water on 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue

5. Restore services on North Second Avenue by September 10<sup>th</sup>
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)

**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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