



KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH
CITY OF KETCHIKAN



Joint Media Release: Third Avenue Landslide Update 17

Date: September 1, 2024, 7:15 p.m.

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For Immediate Release

Additional Work toward a Transportation Plan for Tongass Avenue

The Ketchikan EOC and tourism transportation providers have been working collaboratively to establish a community-wide plan for safe and effective road travel. This is an effort to reduce congestion on Tongass Avenue in anticipation of the return to school on September 3rd. AkDoT&PF will be assisting with traffic control.

Tour operators have made significant progress in reducing the impact of buses on Tongass Avenue:

- Many are ensuring their buses are at least 90% full before releasing them on the road.
- Ward Cove and others are already staggering their bus movements to ensure they are entering the roadways with spacing between bus departures.
- Many have adjusted schedules to avoid congestion.
- Many have made changes to operations to combine multiple vendor tours in order to make the transport vans more full.
- Some have canceled and culled some of their tours to alleviate congestion.

We urge our citizens to avoid unnecessary left-hand turns through the Tongass Avenue corridor, especially in areas where road construction is underway.

Recovery Work: Progress continued today with crews clearing debris on Third and Second Avenues. Two storm drain inlets were located and opened up, and both are operating (taking water.) Over 100 dump truck loads of debris were removed from the area today.

State AkDOT&PF geologists started their day with an assessment of the Third Avenue Slide area, and were delayed by the sound of whimpering from 225 Whitecliff Ave. After reporting their observation to Incident Command, a response team of firefighters was dispatched to the scene. As reported in the afternoon media release, the responders rescued two dogs that had been trapped in a collapsed house since the landslide.

The geologists traversed the ridge from the Third Avenue landslide area to the Copper Ridge landslide and hiked down the Copper Ridge slide zone. They assessed the area and flew the drone to collect imagery. The team inspected retaining walls along the Third Avenue Bypass.

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 traversed over the Copper Ridge and examined the material at the head-scarp. He will be reviewing drone imagery and LiDAR data over the next several weeks. It is anticipated to take several months to develop the final report. Following the final report, the geologist can be available for a community meeting to present the data.

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.

Dogs Rescued from Collapsed Home: After an emotional week of recovering from the aftermath of the Third Avenue landslide, Ketchikan – and most specifically, James and William (Bill) Montiver – got some very good news today. Their two dogs Alani and Cassie were rescued today from their home that collapsed in the August 25, 2024 Third Avenue landslide. Join us to recount the rescue and the reunion of the family.

KPUTv YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sPFRVMfC1nl>

City of Ketchikan Facebook page: <https://fb.watch/ukPdbhuXNE/>

Closures: City of Ketchikan facilities are closed for the holiday weekend. They will resume regular operating hours on Tuesday September 3rd, including the Library

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.

Road Closures and Openings:

- 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.

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:

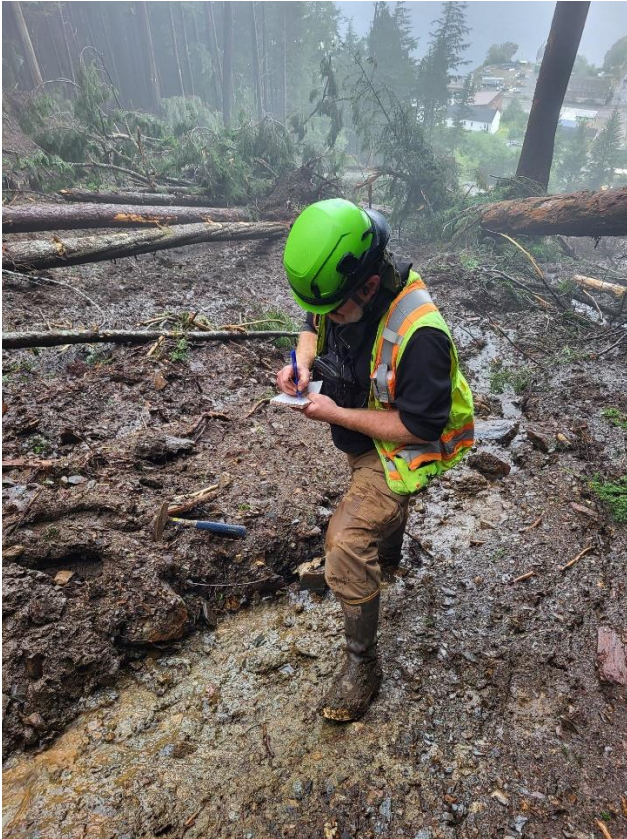
1. Develop and implement transportation plan by close of business on Sunday, September 1st
2. Complete slope stabilization (up and down) along 3rd Avenue by September 13th
3. Support safe opening of Ketchikan schools by September 3rd
4. Clear drains and control flow of water on 2nd Avenue
5. Restore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

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>

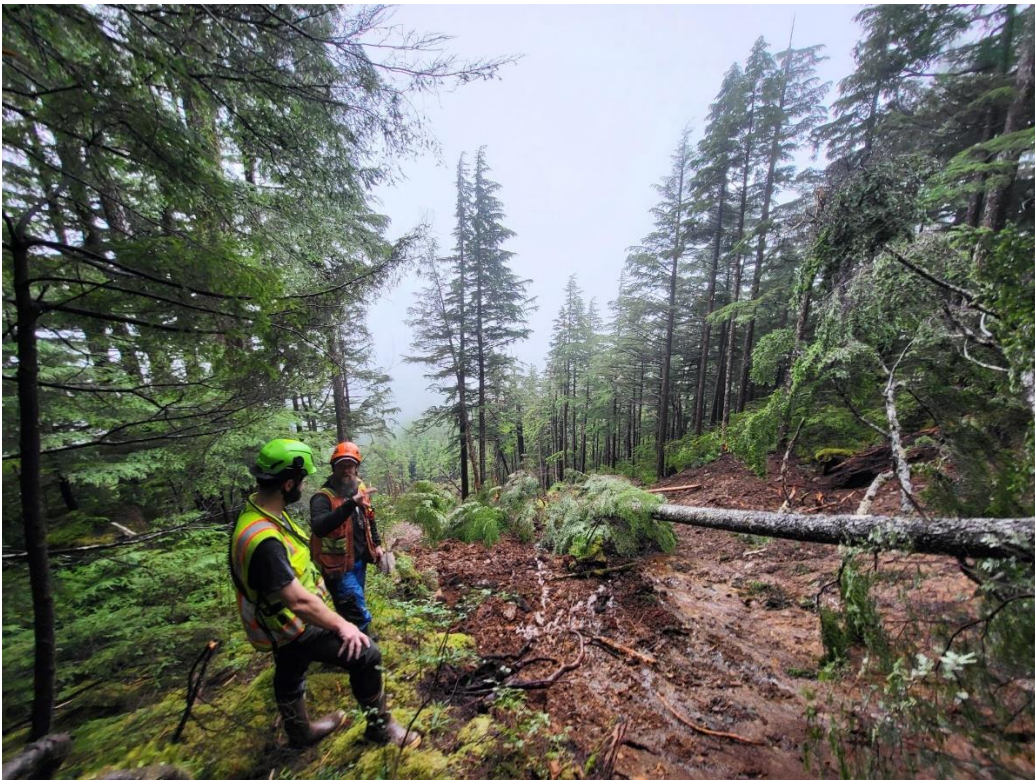
To sign up for Nixle emergency alerts text "99901" to 888777 for updates.

Geological team photos to follow.

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Above: Mitch McDondald, Geologist-AKDOT&PT, taking notes on the different soil types that were observed within the 3rd Ave Bypass Landslide.



Above: Mort Larsen-Geologist-DGGS and Travis Eckhoff- Geotechnical Engineer -AKDOT&PF, at the headscarp (top) of the Copper Ridge Landslide