



KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH  
CITY OF KETCHIKAN



**Joint Media Release: Third Avenue Landslide Update 23: Recovery Progress**

Date: September 10, 2024, 6:30 p.m.  
Contact: Kacie Paxton, Public Information Officer, 907-228-2383

**For Immediate Release**

**Landslide Recovery Work Continues:**

City Public Works crews, contractors, truck drivers, and flaggers worked diligently through the weekend on landslide recovery efforts.

**House Demolition and Removal:**

Demolition of the three homes destroyed by the landslide was completed on Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. Excavators cleared the house debris from the lots, and dump trucks transported the debris to the landfill through Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. The house lots were fully cleared by Sunday afternoon. Throughout the process, the contractors continued to carefully sort through debris to find personal household items for the owners. The owners, along with family, friends, and neighbors, were on site during the demolition process.

**Thank you to Tour Operators and the Public** for avoiding the landfill and Fair Street areas on Saturday, making way for the dump trucks to have easy access to the landfill.

**Hydroseeding Completed**

Secon Construction completed hydroseeding of the slope above Third Avenue and the slope below Third Avenue on Saturday, September 9. The area will be monitored for growth and additional seed may be applied in the future, if needed.

**Removal of Hazard Trees and Debris**

On Sunday, work crews removed hazard trees and debris from the West Third Street access road area above Second Avenue. On Monday and Tuesday, additional debris was removed from the West Third and Second Avenue areas.

**Parking Restored on Second Avenue with Road Closures Continuing:**

- Second Ave from Austin St to Whitecliff Ave is closed to through traffic.
- A portion of Second Ave South remains closed as identified by closure signs.
- The upper portion of White Cliff Avenue remains closed.
- Third Ave from the Library to Washington Street is closed. This area is expected to be closed through the end of September while safety measures are put in place.

**Rainbird Trail remains CLOSED.** All sections of the trail have been closed since August 25, 2024. Entering the Rainbird Trail is prohibited. People's unauthorized presence on the trail or the ridge causes the shutdown of clean-up and stabilization efforts and diverts the efforts of the workers and emergency responders. Additional caution tape and signage was placed on the trail in the areas of the slide. Please respect this closure and do not attempt to access the trail.

### **EOC Objectives**

While many of the Ketchikan Emergency Operations Center Unified Command objectives have been met, the following objectives are ongoing:

1. Restore services on 2nd Avenue by 9/13/2024.
2. Complete necessary repairs/updates to open 3rd Avenue by 9/30/2024.
3. Maintain and update Tongass Transportation Plan. Ongoing.
4. Ensure the financial stability of the City of Ketchikan while managing the costs associated with the landslide response and recovery. Ongoing.
5. Provide landslide awareness and public outreach. Ongoing.

### **Landslide Awareness and Safety**

As information is received from consultants and the State Geohazard Program team specific to Ketchikan, local officials will make that information available to the public. In the meantime, the EOC urges citizens to utilize landslide preparedness tools available through the American Red Cross, the Federal Emergency Management Administration and on the Landslide page of the Borough website. Below are links to tools and resources for families to be prepared for a disaster:

Red Cross Landslide Safety: <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/landslide.html>

Ready.gov Landslides and Debris Flow: <https://www.ready.gov/landslides-debris-flow>

Alaska Landslide Hazards Program: <https://dggs.alaska.gov/hazards/landslides.html>

**NOAA/NWS:** Citizens are reminded to check for daily weather updates at <https://www.weather.gov/ajk/>

### **Services for Families Affected by the Landslide:**

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 via <https://ready.alaska.gov/Recovery/IA> or calls may be made to the IA hotline at 1-844-445-7131 Monday-Friday.

**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.

Photos to follow.

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Robert McRoberts loads house debris into a dump truck on Second Avenue. Photo courtesy of KGB.



A panoramic view of the freshly hydroseeded slope below the Third Avenue Bypass with the house demolition underway on Whitecliff and Second Avenues below. Photo courtesy of City of Ketchikan.