



KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH
CITY OF KETCHIKAN



Joint Media Release: Third Avenue Landslide Update 24: Chris Riley Recovery

Date: September 13, 2024, 6:00 p.m.
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For Immediate Release

On August 25, Chris Riley, Senior Maintenance Technician for the City of Ketchikan Public Works Streets Department, was working to clear storm drains when he was caught in the landslide. His rescue and recovery have been nothing short of miraculous, and the EOC shares his gratitude for the first responders, medical staff, and many others who have aided his recovery.

"I can't express how much I appreciate all the fire and EMS responders on the scene, the medical staff at PeaceHealth, from the Emergency Room, the Surgical Team, and the ICU, everyone was great. I'd like to especially thank Dr. Ryan, who was amazing. I am so impressed with the care I was given." – Chris Riley

Chris continues to improve each day. He was in the intensive care unit (ICU) for seven days, then transferred to a regular room for three days before being released to go home September 4th. His full recovery is expected to take about six weeks.

"I am blown away by the community support that I've received. I want to thank everyone who has called, or stopped by, or made a meal for us. Having visitors has helped me recover, and receiving meals has been a huge blessing to us." – Chris Riley

Chris has worked for the City of Ketchikan since 2010 and is known for going above and beyond to keep the streets safe and drivable. From snowplowing, salting, and clearing gutters, to constructing signs and pavement maintenance, his coworkers say that he can always be counted on. Chris also wants to thank his coworkers and the members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) for their ongoing support and donations since the landslide.

A list of opportunities to support the Riley family, as well as other families affected by the landslide, is available on the Borough Landslide page at:
<https://www.kgbak.us/1099/Helping-Your-Neighbors>

Additional information about the August 25, 2024, Third Avenue Landslide is available at
<https://www.kgbak.us/Landslide>

Photos to follow.

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Chris Riley with daughter Lizzy and granddaughter Kennedy after returning home.
Photo courtesy of Wendy Riley.



Chris Riley, center, escorted out of the PeaceHealth Medical Center by his work crew on September 4, 2024.
Photo courtesy of Wendy Riley.



Chris and Wendy Riley at the 2019 City of Ketchikan Christmas party. Photo courtesy of Wendy Riley.