



KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH & CITY OF KETCHIKAN



MEDIA RELEASE | Wolfe Point Landslide Response Continues | Update 6

Date: March 21, 2025, 1700

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For Immediate Release:

KETCHIKAN, Alaska – Crews made progress today in safely clearing debris from the Wolfe Point landslide, with Secon continuing removal efforts and the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (ADoTPF) geotechnical team on-site assessing slope stability.

The highway remains closed tonight as work continues. ADoTPF and Secon crews will work throughout the weekend on debris removal. According to ADoTPF if conditions allow, limited traffic may be permitted under controlled access (e.g., pilot cars, flaggers).

The Emergency Operations Center remains fully activated and continues to coordinate response efforts under the following objectives:

1. Ensuring the safety of the public, responders, and workers
2. Clearing debris without disrupting utilities
3. Maintaining transportation across the slide area until the road reopens
4. Reopening the road as soon as it is safe to do so

ADoTPF reports that the debris field has been cleared enough for Secon equipment to maneuver within the slide area, allowing work to begin on clearing the north end.

"When the slope failed, several RV-sized boulders ended up perched on top of the debris pile. The debris pile is like a giant, rocky game of Jenga. Crews must strategically remove the material supporting these boulders to prevent them from falling onto workers or impacting adjacent power lines," said Travis Eckhoff, ADoTPF geotechnical team engineer.

Water shuttle services will continue tonight, with the final shuttle departing Taquan for KETCH at 9:15 p.m. and the last return trip from KETCH to Taquan at 9:45 p.m. The final bus of the night will depart KETCH at 9:30 p.m., traveling to Tyler Rental and then on to Clover Pass.

Service will resume Saturday at 7 a.m., with water shuttles departing KETCH for Taquan every 30 to 45 minutes. Additionally, a paratransit vehicle is now available north of the slide zone to assist those in need of transportation.

A Joint Information Center has been established between the Ketchikan PIO team, ADoTPF PIO, and Secon Public Information Coordinator to streamline public updates.

This remains a developing situation, and further updates will be provided as new information becomes available throughout the weekend.

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