



Municipality of Anchorage
Mayor Dave Bronson

Office of the Municipal Manager

HILAND ROAD AVALANCE
UPDATE 3/27/22

Background:

- Avalanche experts have evaluated the slide that occurred between mile 7 and 7.9 of Hiland Road on 3/24/22 approximately 11:30pm.
- The slide area remains unstable as only a portion of the snowpack (approximately 50%) has released. Release of the secondary impact will occur either naturally or through mitigation efforts.
- Numerous homes are in, or dangerously close, to the slide area.
- An Incident Command (IC) has been set up at AFD Station 13 (just past mile 4 on Hiland Road)

Current Condition Status:

- Multiple avalanche experts have evaluated the slide, and as of late last night DOT finished their evaluation. The area remains too unstable for crews to begin the debris removal.
- A secondary slide is expected with or without mitigation efforts. The MOA has requested mitigation assistance from the State of Alaska (SOA). This morning at approximately 0830, we received confirmation from the SOA that an Avalanche Technician with the Alaska Railroad is willing to perform the urban mitigation effort.
 - Because of anticipated changing weather conditions, if mitigation is going to occur, it needs to happen today before an expected storm approaches on Monday 3/28, which would make any mitigation efforts too dangerous.
- Road clearing operations cannot commence until the slide area is safe for crews. Without mitigation the area may not be able to be passable until June/July.
- AFD has one firefighter who lives past the slide (in the cut off area) who is in constant radio contact with Incident Command

Decision:

- A secondary slide is expected with or without mitigation efforts. However, if the MOA engages in mitigation efforts, we can safely evacuate residents and predict when the second slide occurs. These actions will ensue no one is hurt or killed in a secondary slide.
- Because of the threat to life and property, the MOA has engaged with the SOA to commence mitigation of the slide to ultimately make the area safe.
 - **Because of current weather conditions, and incoming weather, mitigation needs to occur on 3/27.**
- Mayor Bronson has issued an evacuation order to residents of the area, on 3/27/22 from 10am to 8pm to allow MOA emergency crews and SOA crews to perform mitigation efforts.
 - Residents are asked to leave the evacuation zone for the duration of the mitigation efforts.
 - An Emergency Shelter has been established at the Harry J. MacDonald center; the Alaska Red Cross is onsite to provide assistance to residents.



Municipality of Anchorage
Mayor Dave Bronson

Office of the Municipal Manager

- Anchorage Fire and Anchorage Police are on scene and have begun notifying residents of the need to evacuate.
- Residents are being assisted in the evacuation by Parks & Rec and Maintenance & Operations.
 - Point of contact is Saxton Shearer (907) 223-9787. Isolated residents can go to West River Road for pick up and transportation via snow machine to Birdsong. Warm staging area with latrine services are located at the trailhead at Birdsong.
 - Residents can coordinate pick up and supply services at the Birdsong location.
 - Alternatively, residents can communicate with Saxton via the Hiland Road Community Forum on FaceBook.
- Lastly, if a resident declines to evacuate, **all mitigation efforts will stop**. We cannot engage in mitigation efforts, and ultimately start clearing the road and restoring access to nearly 100 homes, until the area is made safe (which means all residents must be clear of the hazard area).