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Governor Dunleavy declares state disaster following Ketchikan storms and landslides.

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska — Governor Mike Dunleavy has issued a state disaster declaration in response to severe landslides, high winds, and flooding within the Ketchikan Gateway Borough. The declaration activates the State of Alaska's Public Assistance disaster recovery program for the 2026 October Southeast Storm and Landslide.

Beginning October 16, an atmospheric river brought torrential rain and powerful winds to Southeast Alaska. In Ketchikan, a landslide damaged the Ward Cove electrical substation, causing widespread power disruptions. Additional damage has been reported at local harbor facilities, roadways, and culverts. No injuries have been reported, and no search and rescue operations were required.

The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) initiated contact with Southeast Alaska communities prior to the storm and remains in continuous communication with emergency personnel, including the Ketchikan Incident Command. The City of Ketchikan and the Ketchikan Gateway Borough has issued a joint local disaster declaration.

To support Ketchikan Incident Command, the SEOC deployed an Division Supervisor to Ketchikan to coordinate the state response and two Alaska Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys geologists to provide technical assistance on slope assessment.

An additional storm is impacting Southeast Alaska today with heavy rainfall and winds, while additional storms are in the coming days.

The State's Public Assistance program provides funding to restore critical infrastructure including roads, utilities, bridges, and public buildings, to pre-disaster conditions.

Eligible local jurisdictions, tribal organizations, and qualifying non-profits, within the Ketchikan Gateway Borough, with documented disaster damages, may apply for Public Assistance recovery grants.

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