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Commissioner & Adjutant General



Department of Military  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management*

### **Wrangell Landslide Update: 11.23.23**

Multi-agency response effort underway

**JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska** — Multiple state agencies and non-profit organizations continue to assist the community of Wrangell, Alaska after a landslide destroyed three homes off the Zimovia Highway. Three people have been confirmed deceased and one adult was located alive and in good condition yesterday. Two juveniles and one adult remain missing.

**Wrangell Disaster Declaration** – On Nov 21, 2023 Governor Mike Dunleavy issued a disaster declaration for the 2023 Wrangell Landslide. This declaration activated the state's Individual and Public Assistance Programs.

**Department of Public Safety** – The Alaska State Troopers have changed the search and rescue strategy from an active search to a reactive search. Three people remain missing within the slide zone: one adult and two juveniles. After three separate active search efforts, including aerial searching with drones, helicopters, and planes; ground teams with K9 scent detection dogs and trained professionals; and water-based searching with K9 teams and sonar, search teams have reached all areas accessible without the use of heavy machinery. Ground search efforts are being assisted by K9 teams from Wrangell, Petersburg and Juneau. For more information visit the [Alaska State Trooper Facebook page](#).

**Department of Military and Veterans Affairs /Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DMVA/DHS&EM)**– The State Emergency Operation Center (SEOC) is activated to level 2 with multiple personnel actively supporting the Wrangell response and additional incidents including landslide damages to roadways in Coffman Cove. The SEOC has a Division Supervisor in Wrangell supporting state-level coordination for community response and engagement with the Tlingit and Haida, and Wrangell Cooperative Association, tribal community. SEOC will deploy an additional SEOC responder tomorrow to support disaster recovery operations and volunteer coordination. The state's Mass Care Group is coordinating with the City and Borough of Wrangell, tribal organizations, and volunteer/faith-based groups to support community needs. Donations from the community have met the needs displaced residents at this time. The City and Borough of Wrangell reports an additional landslide near Pat's Lake Road and the Division of Geophysical and Geologic Surveys (DGGs) mission has been expanded to assess this slide as well.

**Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT/PF)** – DOT/PF is beginning to methodically remove debris from the roadway to improve search and

power restoration access to the 75 homes on the south side of the slide. DOT&PF experts believe the slide is stable enough to begin cautious work.

The debris removal will start on the north side of the highway, beginning with tree removal, and then work towards the middle of the slide. The initial objective is to create one lane road access. This will allow the power company to restore power poles within the slide zone and reconnect power out the road.

**Department of Natural Resources** – DNR has three DGGs geologists on site assessing landslide conditions by foot, unmanned aerial system, and helicopter to ensure safety of emergency response work.

**City and Borough of Wrangell** – The City and Borough of Wrangell published a list of resources for residents impacted by the landslide.

Behavioral Health Counseling Services (SEARHC)

Please call 877-294-0074

Available Shelters

- Stikine Inn (907) 874-3388
- Sourdough Lodge (907) 305-1095
- Trident Bunkhouse

Power Outage

Power has been restored to 9-mile. A timeline for restoration for south-side beyond the slide will be provided when available.

**Tongass National Forest** – The Tongass National Forest is using a boat to transport supplies to the south side of the landslide.

**Tlingit and Haida Tribe** – The Tlingit and Haida Tribe delivered a Starlink system to the south side of the landslide to help with communications in the area.

**Salvation Army** – The Salvation Army has two members in Wrangell who are working with the community to serve a Thanksgiving dinner to those impacted by the landslide.

**The Red Cross** - The Red Cross is planning to send five or more personnel to Wrangell on Nov. 24 to perform case work with affected residents, conduct damage assessments and provide mental health support.

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**EDITORS NOTE:** Photos from the government agencies participating in the response effort are being uploaded onto the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Flickr account.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/akdotpf/albums/72177720312881408>

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