

JUNEAU POLICE DEPARTMENT

6255 ALAWAY AVENUE ○ JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801

Greg Browning
Chief of Police

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INFORMATION RELEASE

Subject: Landslide

Date: November 15, 2009

From: Cindee Brown-Mills

Case or Incident: 2009-037763

Summary:

Update 11/15/09 at 11:00a

Conditions on the hillside above Gastineau Ave have improved overnight. Residents, with the exception of those in the Strasbaugh apts. at 231 Gastineau, are being allowed to return to their homes. All residents on the hillside are being advised that they need to be prepared to vacate at a moments notice if conditions change and the hillside becomes unstable again.

There are quite a few cars parked on Gastineau Ave that need to be removed. The streets department will post no parking signs along the roadway. This is to facilitate the large equipment that will be needed to clean up the slide area. Vehicle owners are advised to move their vehicles as soon as possible. The dirt parking lot behind the State Museum and next to the A&P Grocery store is available for long term parking. Vehicles that are not moved from Gastineau Ave by Wednesday will be relocated to the Yacht Club parking lot.

Gastineau Humane Society is housing several animals for displaced residents in their shelter. If they have your animal and you are ready to bring them home, please call GHS and they will be happy to deliver your animal to you.

Update 11/14/09 5:00p

Gastineau Ave will remain closed throughout the night. The City Streets Department was able to unplug several storm drains to allow water to flow out however the slide area continues to be very unstable. City crews will reassess the slide area at 8:00a tomorrow morning and a community briefing will be held at 10:00a with updated information.

The Strasbaugh apartment building has been closed by City Engineers due to concerns of possible structural damage. Once the area stabilizes engineers will assess the damage and more information will be released about the status of that building. The building will remain closed until that time. Residents of the building are asked to contact the Red Cross if they need lodging.

Update 11/14/09 12:00p

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Gastineau Ave residents are under a mandatory evacuation order and are being advised that the hillside is very unstable. CCF/R also recommends that the residents who live between Gastineau Ave and Franklin St evacuate their homes or be ready to evacuate on short notice. The evacuation notice will remain in effect at least overnight and will remain in effect until the hillside stabilizes.

Red Cross has set up in Centennial Hall which remains open for those who are displaced. CCF/R will hold a briefing this afternoon at 3p at Centennial Hall to update residents on the status.

This morning at about 7:00a the Juneau Police Department received a call from a person in a home in the Gastineau Avenue area reporting that there was mud and water entering the house. The residents were evacuated and the building was damaged by the landslide. There is no report of injuries at this time. A second landslide was reported at the far end of Gastineau Avenue. No structures were damaged in the second slide.

Capital City Fire & Rescue and JPD personnel responded and evacuated the Chanel View and State Apartment buildings. They also notified the residents in nearby buildings of the slide.

Gastineau Avenue and Franklin Street below Gastineau Avenue are closed. There is water running across Franklin Street as a result of the second slide. The roads will remain closed while crews work on stabilizing the area and clearing the slide.

More information will be posted as we have more information.

Any charges reported in this press release are merely accusations and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

*** END OF STATEMENT ***

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