



Alaska Railroad Corporation *News Release*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Military aircraft crash continues Railroad closure on Elmendorf *Railroaders extend condolences to crew families and military neighbors*

Anchorage, AK — A section of the Alaska Railroad's main line remains closed as accident investigators examine the site of a military C-17 cargo aircraft crash Wednesday evening on Elmendorf Air Force Base. Duration of track closure is still unknown, pending the military's assessment and permission to access the site.

"Alaska Railroad employees extend our condolences to the families of the aircraft crew members and to our military neighbors," said Alaska Railroad Interim President/CEO Bill O'Leary. "We understand this is a very difficult situation and we are cooperating fully with on-site investigators and responders."

Freight train traffic is temporarily suspended until the tracks can be repaired. Movement of several freight trains carrying fuel, coal, gravel and general freight are delayed. Rail passengers continue to be transported around Elmendorf by motorcoach between Birchwood and the Anchorage Historic Depot near Ship Creek. The railroad is working with motorcoach and bus operators to minimize potential impacts to passenger travel schedules. Passengers needing information regarding train schedules can call the Alaska Railroad reservations line at (907) 265-2494 or 1-800-544-0552. The *Hurricane Turn* train traveling between Talkeetna and Hurricane Thursday through Sunday and the daily *Coastal Classic* and *Glacier Discovery* trains traveling between Anchorage, Whittier, Portage, Grandview and Seward are not affected.

Track maintenance crews estimate the main line can be repaired in four to six hours. Railroad officials are coordinating with the military to initiate repair as soon as on-site response and investigation activities allow.

In response to media inquiries about rail delay impacts:

- Freight train delays are having some impact on local business and commerce.
- On average, about 1,500 passengers travel through the crash site on northbound and southbound *Denali Star* trains operating between Anchorage and Denali/Fairbanks. Additional trains travel between Whittier, Anchorage, Talkeetna and Denali on peak days (Saturday, Sunday and Monday), when an average of 3,000 passengers would travel through the area.

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