



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alaska Railroad Completes Initial Response to Curry Derailment and Fuel Spill

Locomotives re-railed; impacted soil excavated to secondary containment

TALKEETNA, Alaska – At roughly 3:15 a.m. on Friday, June 6, an Alaska Railroad (ARRC) work train derailed from the Curry loop track, roughly 22 miles north of Talkeetna. No injuries were reported among the three ARRC employees operating the train at the time, and damage from the derailment was limited to a punctured 2600-gallon diesel fuel tank on the derailed locomotive. ARRC staff worked quickly to notify Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and deploy absorbent mats, with additional support from section crews arriving shortly thereafter.

By Friday night, the two derailed locomotives had been re-railed and the work train was repositioned to Anchorage. The damaged locomotive has been fully secured and remains on site at Curry, with secondary containment in place until a full inspection can be completed.

Following the departure of the work train, ARRC removed roughly 200 feet of parallel loop and ramp track to allow for the excavation of contaminated ballast and soil. With the supervision and assistance of spill cleanup contractor Alaska Chadux Network, approximately 500 yards of ground material was excavated to secondary containment. ARRC will continue working with environmental response contractor Restoration Science & Engineering, LLC and DEC to complete testing and remediation of the area.

The Curry loop track provides rail access to a quarry used for ballast, riprap and gravel, and is not accessible via the road system. ARRC expects to complete reconstruction of the Curry loop and ramp track this week. The response effort is not anticipated to impact operations on the Alaska Railroad's main line.

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