

ALASKA

RAILROAD

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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McKinley Fire causes ARRC service cancellation

Work continues on Healy Canyon retaining wall

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — The Alaska Railroad (ARRC) has cancelled all passenger service between Anchorage and Denali Park due to the McKinley Fire north of Willow.

The McKinley fire, which began on Saturday afternoon, jumped the Alaska Railroad tracks on Saturday night near ARRC MP 205 and continues to burn on both sides of the tracks. Numerous burned trees have fallen on the tracks and crews are in the process of removing downed trees and are monitoring the situation.

Approximately 200 Alaska Railroad passengers were transported by motor coach from Anchorage to Denali and Talkeetna on Sunday with another 150 expected to be moved north by motor coach today. 140 southbound passengers from Fairbanks, Denali, and Talkeetna were rerouted to Fairbanks by motor coach after several hours of delay due to Parks Highway closure. Those passengers along with an additional 100 passengers will be moved south by motor coach today, dependent on Parks Highway openings. ARRC expects to utilize motor coach service through Tuesday.

Alaska Railroad crews continue to work on a retaining wall at ARRC MP 355.2 in Healy Canyon north of Denali Park with work expected to be completed by late Tuesday. The retaining wall failed due to a slope failure below the wall causing it to be compromised. The lower slope slipped due to saturated soils from recent heavy rains. Passenger and freight service have been suspended through the area. Motor coach service around the affected area will be provided to passengers departing or arriving Fairbanks.

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ARRC is an Equal Opportunity Corporation. People needing special assistance (including language) to participate in any ARRC service, program, or activity should contact the Alaska Railroad Corporation; P.O. Box 107500; Anchorage, AK 99510; Attention: Legal Department, zappasi@akrr.com, (907) 265-2461; via Alaska Relay Service for hearing impaired – dial 7 11 from inside Alaska, OR dial toll-free from anywhere outside the state 1-800-770-8255 (voice); 1-800 770-8973 (TTY). Upon request, printed materials can be made available in alternate format.