



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Governor Surveys Richardson Highway Avalanche

February 1, 2014, Juneau, Alaska – Governor Sean Parnell today traveled to Valdez and surveyed the Richardson Highway, where massive avalanches closed the roadway between milepost 12 and 64 last week. The governor met with Valdez Acting Mayor Mike Wells, City Manager John Hosey, and Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) Superintendent Robert Dunning, and renewed his pledge for additional state assistance if needed.

"This effort represents a strong partnership between DOT&PF, the City of Valdez, and the State Emergency Management Office," Governor Parnell said. "DOT&PF is doing a remarkable job and should be commended for its efforts to clear these massive slides. The department has taken the necessary measures throughout the closure to ensure the safety of the traveling public and that of the crews working to clear the avalanche debris."

The highway between milepost 12 and 18 remains closed. DOT&PF crews continue to work around the clock to safely clear the highway.

DOT&PF reminds drivers to exercise extreme caution if traveling through mountain passes in this region, as there is an increased possibility for more avalanches to occur, and to be aware of flaggers and heavy equipment in the roadway.

Road condition updates are available at 511.alaska.gov.

Photos from the governor's aerial survey are available at:
<http://gov.alaska.gov/parnell/multimedia/photo-album.html?album=673>

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