



## KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH, CITY OF KETCHIKAN, AND CITY OF SAXMAN

### **EOC UPDATE TO VOLUNTARY EVACUATION OF AREAS SURROUNDING KETCHIKAN CREEK**

Date: December 5, 2020; 10:20 p.m.  
From: Ketchikan Emergency Operations Center (EOC)  
Contact: Kacie Paxton, Public Information Officer, 228-6604  
Kim Simpson, Deputy Public Information Officer, 228-2464

#### **For Immediate Release**

The voluntary evacuation order remains in effect. There is currently no danger of dam failure, but flow conditions are such that flooding is occurring downstream of the dam. It is still possible for conditions to develop overnight that could lead to additional flooding and potential dam failure. Freeman Street has been closed due to flooding.

It appears the rain has subsided for this evening, but is expected to pick up again around 6:00 a.m. tomorrow morning, December 6. We may not have to issue the mandatory evacuation notice at 3:00 a.m. as we had announced earlier, but the flooding risk remains in effect until December 7. The National Weather Service has issued a flood advisory for Ketchikan that became effective 7:46 p.m. this evening through 12:00 a.m. December 7. Staff is onsite at the dam and is monitoring the water level closely. If a change in the dam situation occurs, the public will be notified promptly.

We continue to urge residents of the areas around Ketchikan Creek to evacuate this evening to be prepared for the additional rain that is forecast for tomorrow.

#### **Affected Areas:**

Properties to evacuate include Park Avenue, Harris Street, Freeman Street, Totem Drive, Nickey Way, Totem Way, Herring Way, Salmon Row, Woodland Avenue, Deermount Street (above Woodland Ave), Creek Street, and areas East of Bawden Street (on Dock Street, Mission Street and Mill Street). The Mary Frances apartment complex is not considered at risk. (See maps below.)

Additionally, properties on Venetia Avenue and Peterson Street are recommended to evacuate due to the likelihood of inability of road access should flooding occur on Park Avenue.

Anyone in the evacuation zone is asked to immediately relocate to higher ground.

#### **Where to Go:**

It is recommended that you first attempt to stay with friends or family. The rainfall is expected to continue, so please take packaged food, and enough medication and clothing for 48-72 hours.

The Gateway Recreation Center is available to anyone who cannot find shelter elsewhere. The Recreation Center is equipped with cots and blankets and a limited number of Red Cross bags with toiletries. If you plan to stay at the Rec Center, please take some prepackaged food, one small bag with clothes and medication for 48-72 hours.

**What to do with pets:**

It is preferred that you take pets elsewhere when you evacuate, but if you cannot take your pet, there is limited space available at the Borough Animal Shelter, at 1111 Stedman. Pets can be taken to the shelter until 3:00 a.m. If you cannot transport your pet to the Animal Shelter, they may be temporarily taken to the Rec Center, but they cannot remain at the center. A Borough employee will transport the animal to the shelter from the Rec Center.

**If a mandatory evacuation becomes necessary, the following will occur:**

1. A Nixle alert will be sent to cell phones registered with Nixle
2. The emergency sirens will sound at Fair Street and the Station 1 Fire Station
3. KPD will patrol with loudspeakers

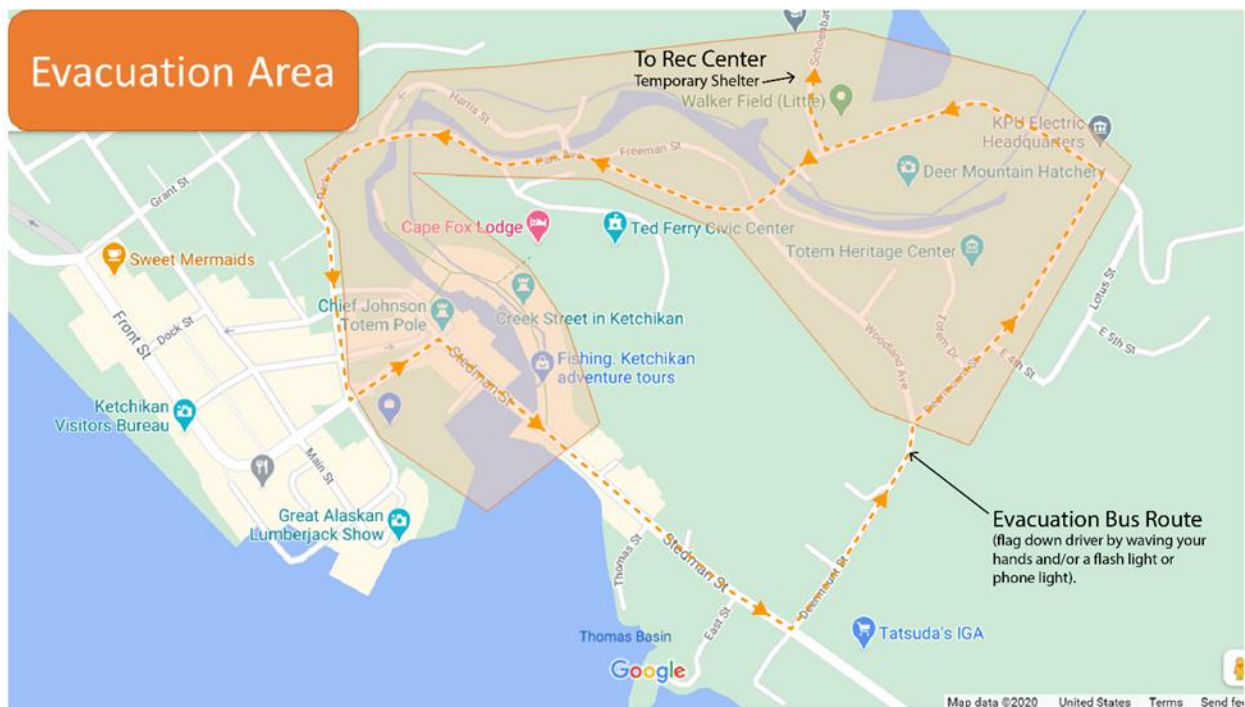
**Bus Route:**

The Emergency Borough bus continued until 10:00 p.m. this evening, and will resume as needed. To see the bus location and route go to: [ktn.doublemap.com](http://ktn.doublemap.com) and select "Flood Evacuation Route". Transit Office number is (907) 225-8726.

**Important Numbers:**

To register for Nixle alerts for Ketchikan: text 99901 to 888777 on your smartphone.

- Transit Office: 907 225-8726
- EOC PIO: 907-228-2464 or 907-228-6604
- Animal Protection: 907-228-6660
- Police Dispatch Non-Emergency: 907-225-6631



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