



News Release

DATE: Jan. 15, 2019

CONTACT: Tim Sullivan, 265-2357, 907-223-7372

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Single railcar derails south of Cantwell

Incident interrupts train traffic; no injuries or spills

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — At approximately 3:14 a.m. today, the Alaska Railroad (ARRC) a received a report of a single railcar derailment in the middle of a 76-car freight train at ARRC milepost (MP) 316.8, approximately 3 miles south of Cantwell. The car is a DOT-111 tank car carrying approximately 23,000 gallons of turbine engine fuel. There were no injuries. No leaks from the tank car have been reported. The car was part of a regularly scheduled northbound freight train from Anchorage to Fairbanks.

ARRC has notified the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, the Federal Railroad Administration, the National Railroad and Maintenance Association, and the Environmental Protection Agency. The cause of the derailment is under investigation by ARRC personnel.

The derailment has caused significant damages to a number of ties between MP 314 and 316.8 as well as to the ties on a bridge at MP 316.4, over the Cantwell River.

The freight train consisted of 71 mixed freight cars and five locomotives. About half of the cars were separated from the derailed car and have headed north to complete the trip to Fairbanks. Approximately 35 cars are still attached and are south of the derailed car and on both sides of the damaged bridge. The cars will need to be removed before repair work can be made to the bridge and before heavy equipment can be brought in to repair and re-rail the derailed car.

ARRC estimates that repairs will take a minimum of 48 hours after removal of the train cars. Further information regarding the resumption of freight service and this weekend's Aurora Winter Train passenger service will be determined in the next 24 hours.

-end-

ARRC is an Equal Opportunity Corporation. If you need special assistance (including language) to participate in any ARRC service, program, or activity, please contact the Alaska Railroad; 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 anywhere 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 formats.