



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ARRC repairs derailment-damaged track to re-open mainline to train traffic

Freight trains to run tonight, passenger trains to operate Saturday

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – The Alaska Railroad (ARRC) will reopen the mainline track to train traffic between Anchorage and Fairbanks, beginning with freight service tonight, Jan. 18. The *Aurora Winter Train* will operate its regularly scheduled weekend service, beginning Saturday morning. A single car derailment on Tuesday caused significant damage to the track and caused a closure of the mainline south of Cantwell.

Trains will operate under slow orders (under normal speed limits) through the area, causing some delays. ARRC personnel will continue repair work and monitoring operations in the damaged area today and throughout the weekend. Final repairs are expected to take several weeks.

The derailment occurred at 3:14 a.m. Tuesday, when a railcar the middle of a 76-car freight train derailed at ARRC milepost (MP) 316.8, approximately 3 miles south of Cantwell. The car is a DOT-111 tank. There were no injuries or fuel leaks. The car was part of the regularly scheduled northbound freight train traveling from Anchorage to Fairbanks.

Several thousand railroad ties were damaged by the derailed railcar's truck – the apparatus underneath a railcar that holds the axles and wheels. The truck dropped onto the ties while the train was moving. The cause of the derailment is still under investigation but the investigation is focusing on a wheel bearing that failed on the derailed car.

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Photos on next page courtesy of the Alaska Railroad

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.



Alaska Railroad crews empty Jet A fuel from a derailed tank car on Thursday, Jan. 17. The transferred fuel was later transported to Fairbanks.



Alaska Railroad heavy equipment is used to help place a derailed tank railcar back on the track.