ARRC rerailing locomotives to assess track damage
Work continues to open mainline

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Today ARRC personnel were able to rerail the first locomotive and the northbound freight has been moved out of the slide zone without incident. There was no damage to the train cars or industrial cargo heading for Anchorage during the incident that occurred early Tuesday morning. The second locomotive will be moved back onto the track by the end of today using a side boom (see picture).

Crews will conduct avalanche control work Friday morning before evaluating and beginning track repairs. In addition to repairs, plans are being developed to rerail the final locomotive. ARRC continues to monitor winter storm forecasts and snowfall as progress is dependent on safety conditions at the site.

ARRC Marketing Department is working closely with customers on delivery schedules. Freight train traffic from Whittier is established around barge arrivals and schedules will be updated as work progresses to reopen the mainline track.

The incident began Tuesday when the northbound freight train departing Whittier just after 1 a.m. encountered an avalanche less than an hour later, causing a derailment of two locomotives and partial derailment of a third. There were no injuries.

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PHOTO NOTE: Photo is available as a JPG file. Photo courtesy of the Alaska Railroad