



# Alaska Railroad Corporation *News Release*

DATE: December 3, 2009  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Wendy Lindskoog, 265-2498

## Holiday Train Canceled Due to Avalanche Danger

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – The Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) has canceled the Holiday Train to Seward scheduled on Saturday, Dec. 5, due to extreme avalanche danger. Passengers will receive full refunds and the Holiday Train will not be rescheduled.

“For many Alaskans this has become an annual tradition and a great way to kick off the holidays. But this year we cannot take chances with the safety of our passengers and crew under these risky conditions,” said Pat Gamble, President and CEO.

Freight trains have also been delayed this past week due to severe weather and avalanche conditions. The decision to move freight trains will be made on a case-by-case basis.

The ARRC has already experienced two track closures since last weekend, between Portage and Seward, due to avalanches. ARRC avalanche crews are continuously working to mitigate further heavy avalanche activity as well as clear slide zones south of Anchorage. The National Weather Service is forecasting more snow and rain through the weekend, further increasing the potential for avalanches.

Alaska Railroad reservation agents will be calling all passengers booked on the Holiday Train to notify them of the cancellation and process full refunds. Any questions can be directed to the ARRC Reservations department at 907-265-2494.

The Seward Chamber of Commerce still plans to hold their traditional holiday activities. The Seward Chamber of Commerce can be reached at 907-224-8051.

-30-

The ARRC is an Equal Opportunity Corporation. If you need special assistance in order to participate in any ARRC service, program, or activity, please contact The Alaska Railroad Corporation; P.O. Box 107500; Anchorage, AK 99510; Attention: Ouida Morrison- [morrisono@akrr.com](mailto:morrisono@akrr.com); 907-265-2529; via Alaska Relay Service for hearing impaired - Dial 7-1-1 from anywhere inside Alaska, OR dial toll-free from anywhere outside the state (800) 770-8255 (voice); (800) 770-8973 (TTY.) Upon request, printed materials can be made available in alternative formats.