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For Immediate Release

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RAILROAD WORKER INJURED DURING TUNNEL REPAIRS IS RELEASED FROM HOSPITAL

An Alaska Railroad supervisor injured while working on the repair of Moody Tunnel near Healy was treated and released from Providence Hospital this evening. The employee was airlifted from the area after being struck by falling debris.

The injury occurred at approximately 7:30 a.m. Wednesday. Local Healy emergency medical technicians responded and administered first-aid until a Providence LifeFlight helicopter transported him to Anchorage.

An investigation is underway to determine how the incident occurred. Initial reports show that about 2 to 3 cubic feet of debris, made up of gravelly sand and rock, knocked the supervisor down.

Repairs to prevent further slides and stabilize Moody Tunnel are ongoing with service still planned to resume on Thursday if it is deemed safe to operate trains. Rail passengers will be bussed Thursday through Healy Canyon and south from Denali to Anchorage.

A 12-foot section of timber support frames in Moody Tunnel was damaged Sunday evening when a railroad train loaded with equipment too high for tunnel clearance passed through the tunnel. Temporary repairs were made Sunday evening. Activity to perform permanent repairs Tuesday morning caused a rockslide that closed the track to train traffic.

Steel support frames to replace damaged timber frames have arrived in Healy and will be placed in the tunnel throughout the day.

The program for moving passengers on Thursday will be identical to Tuesday and Wednesday's operations. The northbound passenger train leaving Anchorage at 8 a.m. and bound for Fairbanks will travel as far as Denali Park on its regular schedule. Those passengers will be bussed through Healy Canyon where they will meet the southbound train and continue to Fairbanks by rail.

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The Southbound passenger train leaving Fairbanks at 8 a.m. and bound for Anchorage will travel as far as Healy where passengers will be bussed through Healy Canyon to Denali Park. Those passengers traveling beyond Denali Park will be bussed to their destinations including Talkeetna and Anchorage.

Passengers needing information regarding train schedules should contact the Alaska Railroad reservation number at (907) 265-2494.

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