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For Immediate Release

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RAILROAD WORKER INJURED DURING TUNNEL REPAIRS MEDIVAC IN FLIGHT

An Alaska Railroad supervisor working on the repair of Moody Tunnel near Healy sustained head and shoulder injuries when he was struck by falling debris. He is being evacuated by Providence LifeFlight helicopter.

The injury occurred at approximately 7:30 a.m. Local Healy emergency medical technicians responded and stabilized him until the helicopter arrived. The identity of the supervisor is being withheld until all family notifications have been made.

We are still trying to determine more details regarding the injury and how it occurred. Further media updates will be provided throughout the day.

Repairs to prevent further rock slides and stabilize Moody Tunnel are ongoing with passenger and freight service still planned to resume on Thursday if it is deemed safe to operate trains. Rail passengers will be bussed today 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 rock slide 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 Wednesday will be identical to Tuesday'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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