



Alaska Railroad Corporation *News Release*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Locomotive Strikes Truck Near Eklutna

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – At approximately 7:25 p.m., an Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) southbound passenger train struck a pick-up truck after it became stuck on the tracks near ARRC milepost 141, located near the village of Eklutna. No injuries are reported in either the vehicle or on the train but the Chevy pick-up was destroyed. The train locomotive received no damage and did not derail.

An initial investigation reveals three occupants of a pick-up truck were driving illegally on the ARRC track near Eklutna. The pick-up became stuck on the track when the 16-year old male driver tried to turn the truck around. The occupants were attempting to remove the vehicle from the track with the help of another vehicle. The individuals abandoned their efforts as the train approached.

The train crew spotted the vehicle on the track and began emergency braking procedures but with the speed and weight of the train, the train crew was unable to stop until after it struck the pick-up. A fully loaded passenger train can take hundreds to over a thousand feet to stop.

The southbound train, with nearly 700 passengers, has continued on towards its final destination of Anchorage. The train originated in Fairbanks, with stops in Denali Park and Talkeetna.

ARRC Special Agents, with assistance from the Anchorage Police Department, have begun an investigation into the incident. No charges have been filed at this time.

The Alaska Railroad's right-of-way extends 100 feet on either side of the track centerline. Unauthorized individuals within this area can be charged with trespassing.

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