



Alaska Railroad Corporation *News Release*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alaska Railroad determines cause of derailment

Sharp curve, long flatcars and switching motion combined

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – Alaska Railroad maintenance and operations personnel have determined that yesterday's freight train derailment in the Anchorage Rail Yard was due to lateral in-train forces in this sharply curved section of track, which caused one end of a lightly-loaded car to come off when the train was switching from one track to the other. In a chain reaction, a total of three of the 40 flatcars were derailed.

A contributing factor was is the length the flat cars needed to move the military equipment. Moving the longer 89-foot flat cars is more difficult, and when a number of them are moved together along a snaking track, it becomes even more difficult. When using the longer flatcars in the future, the railroad plans to shorten the train length while moving over this section of sharply curved yard track.

The June 5 derailment caused minor damage to the three derailed cars and to the track. Crews were able to repair the track by yesterday evening, allowing the military's planned morning equipment unloading to occur without delay.

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