



KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH
KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT



**MEDIA RELEASE: Remediation Efforts Underway at Point Higgins Elementary |
Update 2**

Date: August 22, 2025, 5:00 p.m.

Contact: Anthony Pio, Public Information Officer, 907-228-2340

For Immediate Release

KETCHIKAN, Alaska — Remediation efforts have begun in the areas surrounding Point Higgins Elementary. Out of an abundance of caution, the school property and surrounding Borough areas have been closed to the public until further notice. This closure includes Weiss Fields and the Coast Guard Beach trail entrance.

Site assessments and air quality testing by Nortech are scheduled to begin Tuesday, Aug. 26. Facilities will remain closed until the Alaska Department of Health, Department of Environmental Conservation, State Fire Marshal, Ketchikan Gateway Borough, and School District officials confirm the area is safe.

The spill, estimated at approximately 2,750 gallons of diesel, occurred below ground at the school and has since migrated underground beyond the initial site. Diesel was located surfacing in a nearby ponding area, which has been cordoned off for remediation.

Contractors have started remediation work that includes brush clearing, installation of soft booms at the spill point, and pumping of contaminated drainage areas. Alaska Commercial Divers is scheduled to install hard booms in the marine environment adjacent to drainage areas identified on the included map. The U.S. Coast Guard will continue to monitor nearby waters during routine patrols. Contractors are expected to continue working through the weekend.

Additional information will be released as it becomes available.

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