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Department of
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PRESS RELEASE

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Satellite imagery shows renewed movement of Barry Arm landslide

(Anchorage, AK) – New satellite imagery has shown renewed movement of a large landslide along the Barry Arm of the Prince William Sound 28 miles northeast of Whittier, Alaska.

The U.S. Geological Survey measured 8 inches of downslope creep between October 9 and October 24. It is the first detected movement of the landslide since active monitoring began May 26, and was achieved by comparing earlier Interferometric synthetic aperture radar (InSAR) satellite imagery with [more recent satellite data](#).

While the National Tsunami Warning Center has no current indication a catastrophic landslide failure and tsunami are imminent, landslides are unpredictable. Communities throughout Prince William Sound need to remain vigilant, and mariners should strongly consider avoiding areas near Barry Arm and Harriman Fjord. For more information on tsunami warning and response, go to the [National Tsunami Warning Center](#).

Retreat of the Barry Glacier has removed support for the hillside, which slid 600 feet downslope between 2009 and 2015. Geologists and geophysicists are concerned a massive, catastrophic landslide into the Harriman Fjord could trigger a tsunami that would threaten local communities. An interagency science team comprised of state, federal and other scientists has been monitoring the situation.

“We ask that everyone continue to avoid this part of Prince William Sound,” said Alaska’s Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys Director Steve Masterman. “We take this threat seriously and encourage those in the Sound to have a plan in case of tsunami.”

State and federal agencies continue to monitor the situation and will keep the public informed about ongoing efforts and important updates.

Current information is available at the [Barry Arm Landslide and Tsunami Hazard website](#).

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