

State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources



Public Information Center
550 W. 7th Ave., Ste 1260
Anchorage, AK 99501

Phone: 907.269.8400
Fax: 907.269.8901
TTY: 907.269.8411

October 5, 2016

State geologists to map landslide hazards in Sitka

(Fairbanks, AK) – The Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys will receive a \$110,000 grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to conduct a comprehensive landslide hazard assessment of the Sitka area. The two-year Risk MAP grant will allow DGGS geologists to combine field observations with new high-resolution elevation data and computer-aided modeling to produce maps of existing landslides, shallow landslide susceptibility, and hypothetical landslide runouts. The maps will be used by community planners, emergency managers and residents to develop action plans for mitigating the risk from potential landslides.

This project was spurred by the Kramer landslide, which claimed three lives in Sitka on August 18, 2015. The new study is possible because high-resolution elevation data was collected over Sitka earlier this year through a partnership between the National Park Service, the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory, and DGGS. The elevation data has been released and is currently available online at CRREL's Geospatial Repository and Data Management System site (<http://lidar.io/>) and will soon be accessible on the repository for all publicly available elevation data in Alaska, DGGS's *Elevation Datasets in Alaska* interactive web map (<http://maps.dggs.alaska.gov/elevationdata>).

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