

John Boyle
Commissioner

dnr.alaska.gov



Department of
Natural Resources

Anchorage, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: December 11, 2024

DGGS publishes Homer landslide hazard susceptibility maps

(Fairbanks, AK) – The Alaska Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys (DGGS) has completed landslide hazard susceptibility mapping for the City of Homer and neighboring Kachemak City. The report is available here: <https://doi.org/10.14509/31155>.

The results are intended to educate officials and the public regarding locations of potential slope failure hazards, provide a basis for regional long-term planning and resilience, and to inform the City of Homers' update of their Comprehensive Plan.

"We're pleased that our partnership with DGGS brought these much-needed FEMA funds to Homer," said Julie Engebretsen, acting City Manager. "Our Planning Commission and City Council will use the new lidar data and landslide susceptibility report as resources while we work on slope stability issues in the coming years."

DGGS received funding in 2018 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Cooperating Technical Partners program to conduct the work, which included collection of new high-resolution light detection and ranging (lidar) elevation data.

"DGGS is excited to make this new study available to the Homer community, which represents the first landslide susceptibility maps and report published by the agency," said Melanie Werdon, DGGS Director and State Geologist. "This project predates the [Alaska Landslide Hazards Program](#), established in 2023 to provide actionable science to communities that are affected by landslides."

These maps do not predict slope failures but depict locations where landslides have occurred and where additional geotechnical investigations are suggested if the area is targeted for development. DGGS is dedicated to mapping and assessing landslides, understanding and quantifying landslide hazards, and improving geologic hazard communication and coordination with other agencies and communities.

This report complements a 2022 coastal bluff stability assessment for Homer, also published through DGGS: <https://doi.org/10.14509/30908>.

The Department of Natural Resources' mission is to develop, conserve, and maximize the use of Alaska's natural resources consistent with the public interest.

Media Contact: Lorraine Henry 907-378-4926 lorraine.henry@alaska.gov

###

Stay connected:

DGGS on Facebook and X: @akdggs

DNR Newsroom: http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/dnr_newsroom.htm

DNR on Social Media: http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/social_media.htm

DNR Public Information Center: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/pic/>