

# SMALL ISLAND, BIG TASK

## FACING EXTREME CONDITIONS AND TERRAIN IN ST. PAUL, ALASKA

CASE STUDY

The tiny island of St. Paul, Alaska is infamous for dangerous conditions and has been featured on several occasions on The Discovery Channel's show *Deadliest Catch*. With proven experience in this remote area, Graebel's on the ground crew from Anchorage was faced with treacherous conditions that required diligence and care in a short timeframe to pack and ship an employee's property of a government agency, (NOAA) National Weather Service.



### THE CHALLENGE

To perform what is considered an international move or 'bush job', commonly referred to in Alaska due to the added challenges of the logistics and often treacherous weather to execute a household goods shipment in such a hard to reach location.

### THE SOLUTION

Experienced crew members were tasked with the dangerous job to travel from the Graebel Alaska center in Anchorage to St. Paul via Dillingham, which is located on the west coast in the Bristol Bay region. In St. Paul, only one flight is served every three days, therefore the crew had to work diligently to meet the tight timeframe. In four days the crew had to travel by plane to the origin location, retrieve the truck, pack and load the shipment and drive to the airport.

The crew began their journey early on a Friday morning with a flight time slated for approximately five hours. Unfortunately, during the flight, the plane developed an

electrical problem that created smoke and fumes in the cabin. The plane was grounded without incident. Five hours later, a replacement plane arrived. Two hours into the flight on the new plane, the weather deteriorated on St. Paul island and the plane was reverted back to Anchorage.

With one day lost, the crew finally arrived at St. Paul on Saturday afternoon. The weather worsened with extreme wind, snow and ice which made for dangerous road conditions. In order to make the return flight, scheduled for the following morning, the goods had to be packed and loaded that night and shuttled to the airport.

### THE RESULT

Packing materials had been delivered one week prior and the crew successfully accomplished the move safely and maneuvered quickly in the midst of unexpected, unavoidable weather and logistic situations. The inbound flight to Anchorage was delayed by six hours and departed that evening and the crew arrived home safely at 1:30 a.m. on Monday.

### THE CUSTOMER

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)  
The National Weather Service | [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov)

### THE SCOPE

To travel from the Graebel center located in Anchorage, Alaska to one of the most difficult locations to reach in that region, St. Paul Island and to pack, load and ship household goods in a strict timeframe amid hazardous conditions.

### ABOUT ST. PAUL ISLAND

With a total population of 532 people, many native Alaskans and life-long residents', St. Paul Island is one of the Pribilof Islands, a group of four Alaskan volcanic islands located in the Bering Sea between the United States and Russia. The city of St. Paul is the only residential area on the island. Fishing boats in the Bering Sea can dock their boats to rest, unload, or get medical help in St. Paul Island.



### WHY GRAEBEL

Because of its on the ground presence and moving experience in Alaska, including St. Paul, Graebel proactively handled the logistics of this unique location. For 62 years Graebel has gone the extra mile to service its clients no matter the location or conditions in a safe and flexible manner. Commitment Made. Commitment Kept.®



### FOR MORE INFORMATION ON GRAEBEL:

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