



NEWS



News Headlines 08/18-21/2023

- WATCH: 'Massive Boulder-Filled Mudslide' Traps Firefighters in California
- Structure burns during hurricane rains in 29 Palms Sunday (8/20)
- Tropical Storm Hilary's effects seem minimal for many, but others face evacuations and road closures
- Nine San Bernardino County Fire Department employees are helping people of Maui

WATCH: 'Massive Boulder-Filled Mudslide' Traps Firefighters In California

By Logan DeLoye, iHeart

August 21, 2023



Photo: Moment RF

San Bernardino County firefighters found themselves running for their lives in Forest Falls amid record-breaking weather patterns brought on by Tropical Storm Hilary as a "massive, boulder-filled" mudslide barreled towards them. According to KTLA, crews at Fire Station 99 heard a loud noise near the station and went to inspect the area. During their search, they came face to face with a giant mudslide that looked to be racing towards them. Video footage shows firefighters running for safety as the mudslide tore through the land with enough force to down trees, and other debris in its path.

The mudslide continued onto the road, blocking a way out and temporarily trapping the firefighters at the fire station.

Heavy rain and strong winds from Tropical Storm Hilary continue to batter Southern California, leaving many areas flooded, and many residents without power. Hours before the storm arrived, the National Weather Service warned locals of the possibility of "life-threatening" flooding and "record-breaking rainfall," despite the storm being downgraded from a Category 4 hurricane to a tropical depression before hitting California.

NBC News shared that Hilary is the first tropical storm to strike California since 1939.

No one was injured as a result Sunday afternoon's mudslide. As of late Sunday night, the firefighters remained trapped and the road had not been cleared off.

<https://www.iheart.com/content/2023-08-21-watch-massive-boulder-filled-mudslide-traps-firefighters-in-california/>

Structure burns during hurricane rains in 29 Palms Sunday (8/20)

By Staff Writer, Z107.7 News

August 21, 2023



Despite consistent rainfall yesterday, a structure fire in Twentynine Palms sent billowing black smoke into the sky.

San Bernardino County Fire responded to a fire in the 7100 block of Woodward Ave near Baseline Road at around 5:45 p.m. yesterday (August 20).

Engines arrived to find a 900 sq. ft structure fully involved in flames. County Fire say that the structure was surrounded by large amounts of discarded materials and numerous inoperable vehicles, obstacles which made fire-fighting more difficult.

Units from Twentynine Palms, Joshua Tree, and Combat Center Fire worked together to bring the fire under control in 45 minutes. There were no injuries, and no owner or resident was reported to be home at the time of the fire. County Sheriff's Deputies removed three dogs and two cats whose custody was transferred to Animal Control.

The cause of the fire has not yet been determined.

<https://z1077fm.com/structure-burns-during-hurricane-rains-in-29-palms-sunday-8-20/>

Tropical Storm Hilary's effects seem minimal for many, but others face evacuations and road closures

By Brian Rokos, The Press-Enterprise
August 21, 2023



Southern California residents dealt mostly with an array of inconveniences on Sunday — high water in spots, road closures and even the suspension of some DoorDash deliveries — as they braced for Tropical Storm Hilary to enter its most intense chapter that night.

“It’s just like a normal storm. It’s a little bit rainy and windy,” Lynette Paoli, a resident of the San Bernardino Mountains community of Forest Falls, said late Sunday afternoon as she looked out her windows. “I hope it’s nothing like they are saying it’s going to be. I’m praying it bypasses us.”

The inland mountains and deserts, however, were expected to receive the storm’s most punishing rain and strong winds on Sunday night and into Monday morning, and flash-flood warnings and evacuation orders were in effect.

Other Southern California counties were also expected to receive heavier rainfall than during the daylight hours, the National Weather Service said.

The rain is likely to move out around noon on Monday.

Just how much damage could result from the region’s first tropical storm in 84 years was anyone’s guess. Emergency officials in Riverside County took note of previous large storms, but Shane Reichardt, a spokesman for the Emergency Management Department, indicated this one was different.

“There is no history to know what to expect,” he said.

As a precaution, evacuation warnings were issued for burn scar areas in Beaumont, Banning, Hemet and Highland Springs, as well as other spots around the region.

Oak Glen Road, in an area of the San Bernardino Mountains that is prone to damage from natural disasters, washed out between Oak Mountain and Pine Bench Road, trapping several motorists. A shelter-in-place order was issued Sunday night for Forest Falls and residents of Oak Glen Road from Casa Blanca Street to Harris Road because of mud and debris blocking the road. Separately an evacuation order was issued in Yucaipa.

Transportation troubles continued Sunday night, Caltrans said, with Highway 395 closed between Adelanto and Kramer Junction because of mud and debris on the road. And a 7.2-mile stretch of the 10 Freeway was closed in both directions by flooding in the Palm Springs area.

Check Caltrans District 8 social media for updates on the closures.

Swift currents of water could be seen flowing down streets in the Coachella Valley. And the emergency room at Eisenhower Medical Center in Palm Desert flooded.

What started out as a hurricane in Mexico decreased to a tropical storm that moved slightly to the east as it crossed into the southwestern United States on Sunday. Residents remarked on the sauna-like conditions.

“It feels like Florida. It feels icky and sticky,” Keisha Washington said around noon as she loaded up on water at the Costco on Day Street in Moreno Valley.

By afternoon, roadways in Orange County and the Inland Empire were beginning to see major effects from the storm hammering the region, with debris and flooding making traveling in several areas difficult.

A group of people was escorted away from their trapped vehicle in Devore, a remote neighborhood of San Bernardino located in the city’s northwestern arm along the 215 freeway.

San Bernardino County Fire Battalion Chief Mike McClintock said they became trapped in mud when they tried to drive over a water-logged area near Kenwood Avenue and the 15 freeway. Firefighters picked up the group in a fire truck and ferried them away.

That was one example of the madness playing out on Southern California’s roadways. McClintock said the volume of crashes his firefighters were responding to was far higher than normal.

“Our fire engines have been exceptionally busy,” he said. “Any of our freeways — you name it. Everybody’s been very busy. We’re seeing two to three times our normal calls. We have seen an incredible amount of traffic collisions on our freeways.”

In Orange County, Caltrans shut down portions of Pacific Coast Highway between Warner Avenue and Seapoint Street after some flooding and dangerous driving officials said they observed on Sunday.

“We were trying to prevent any accidents from occurring there,” said Sheila Fortenberry, a spokeswoman for Caltrans. “We’re trying to keep that area safe. People are pretending like it’s not raining.”

Other areas of flooding were reported on the 55 Freeway at Dyer Street in Santa Ana by the afternoon, though overall Fortenberry said officials had not seen catastrophic flooding across the area yet. Still, Caltrans was preparing for waters to rise everywhere throughout the night as Hilary got closer to the Los Angeles area.

She said just in Orange County, Caltrans had 96 workers out on storm patrol, with 20 on standby. They also had 10 dump trucks ready to deploy to clear local roadways.

There were already several reports of swift water rescue operations. In Pomona, a Los Angeles County Fire Department helicopter lifted a person out of the surging San Antonio Creek storm channel at around 5:30 p.m., officials said.

The victim was sent to Chino Valley Medical Center. Their current condition was unknown.

Power outages due to equipment problems in Orange County neighborhoods were reported in Fullerton, Costa Mesa, Orange, Santa Ana and La Habra. Less than 800 residents were affected.

Beginning early Sunday morning, some 1,700 people were affected by the 29 outages in Los Angeles County. Storm conditions and equipment problems affected West Covina, Torrance and unincorporated areas within the county. Corona residents suffered power outages, as did residents of Chino and Ontario.

Parents and students can check with their schools, colleges and universities on the status of classes on Monday. Some districts — including Los Angeles Unified, Pasadena Unified, Rialto Unified, Fontana Unified, Bear Valley Unified and Redlands Unified — announced closures. Anaheim schools and Mater Dei High canceled in-person classes for Monday,

The storm also altered plans for fun-seekers.

Knott's Berry Farm and other amusement parks never opened Sunday; the Disneyland Resort announced that its parks were closing a couple of hours early.

The Manhattan Beach Open, the premier stop on the AVP pro volleyball tour, found itself saddled with a historic occurrence — not just an August rainstorm, but a first-ever tropical storm warning hovering over the event.

“Not every day you get a tropical storm in Manhattan Beach for the MB Open, the biggest volleyball tournament of them all,” said Rob Christie of Manhattan Beach, who braved the rain to join fans in the jammed stands. “So it’s kind of an adventure to be here.”

The usual swimsuits and sandals that filled the stands at the popular annual beachfest were joined by rain gear and umbrellas.

Rainfall totals in Orange County were less than an inch to almost an inch and two-thirds, with 1.41 inches in Garden Grove and .98 in Anaheim as of 6 p.m. The highest rainfall was seen in Silverado Canyon, with 2.05 inches and 1.61 in Brea, said weather service meteorologist Brandt Maxwell.

For the Inland Empire, rainfall varied with 1.22 reported in Temecula and .87 inches in San Bernardino. The Palm Desert area experienced some of the heaviest rainfall, with 2.92 inches, which is extreme for a desert location, according to Maxwell.

Rainfall also varied in the San Gabriel Valley in Los Angeles County, with 1.29 inches in Pasadena and .76 in Alhambra.

Although officials warned of a possibly “catastrophic” storm, shoppers in at least one location were not lined up out the doors of stores as they did during the COVID-19 pandemic to purchase water, toilet paper and paper towels.

In Moreno Valley, 15-year-old Christian Washington labored to push a flatbed cart to his mother’s car. The cart was loaded with 16 cases of 40-count bottles of water — that’s 640 bottles — that Keisha Washington had just purchased at the Costco in that city.

“We want to be prepared, just in case,” said Washington, 39, who for good measure bought five cases of Capri Sun fruit juice.

Even though there were no long lines, shoppers nevertheless were mindful that Hilary could be troublesome. Employees lugged pallet after pallet of water onto the sales floor, and shoppers would grab a case or two. (Or 16).

A few shoppers interviewed said they were doing mostly regular shopping, with maybe an extra case of water thrown into the cart.

Jose Lopez and wife Maria Lopez of Moreno Valley were also doing their normal shopping Sunday, except they purchased a rechargeable flashlight and a tripod-mounted LED light.

“No panicking,” said another shopper as she loaded two cases of water into her car.

Two other shoppers, John Valdivia and Jessica Valdivia of Moreno Valley, rushed to load their car while the rain held.

“It’s the calm before the storm,” Jessica Valdivia said, about a half hour before the wind picked up and the sky fell.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2023/08/20/just-in-case-as-tropical-storm-hilary-makes-its-approach-shoppers-load-up/>

Nine San Bernardino County Fire Department employees are helping people of Maui

By Staff Writer, Fontana Herald News

August 21, 2023



Personnel from the San Bernardino County Fire Department are being deployed to Maui to provide disaster assistance.

Nine members of the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department have deployed to Lahaina in Hawaii with California Task Force 6 - Urban Search and Rescue to provide disaster assistance.

Serving in the roles of a plan manager, rescue specialists and hazardous materials specialists, the firefighters will likely be deployed for two weeks.

Devastating fires in Maui have killed more than 100 people and destroyed more than 2,000 businesses, homes, and structures this month.

Urban Search and Rescue is a "multi-hazard" discipline that may be needed for a variety of emergencies or disasters, including earthquakes, hurricanes, typhoons, storms, tornadoes, floods, dam failures, technological accidents, terrorist activities and hazardous materials releases.

CA-TF6 is one of 28 National Task Forces and one of eight in California that respond as either FEMA or as a California EMA resource during emergencies requiring highly skilled search and rescue personnel.

https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/inland_empire_news/nine-san-bernardino-county-fire-department-employees-are-helping-people-of-maui/article_1ede3926-3f79-11ee-a79e-9f19c2f18b78.html