



NEWS



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Mudslide Envelops Road in Southern California as Hilary Bears Down

By Staff Writer, Storyful

August 21, 2023



A mudslide took over a road in Southern California on August 20 during the dramatic downpour brought on by Tropical Storm Hilary.

San Bernardino County Fire Protection District captured footage of the torrent outside its fire station in Forest Falls, saying the video showed “the power of debris flows.”

“They happen fast, and they’re unpredictable,” the fire department wrote online.

“When evacuation orders are issued, leave immediately. Property can be replaced. You and your loved ones’ lives cannot.”

Mud and debris flows cut off road access to about 700 people in the Forest Falls area on August 21, the department said, but there were no reports of injuries or deaths.

Hilary brought record rainfall to Southern California, Southern Sierra, and Southern Nevada, with one to eight inches above average precipitation recorded for the month to date, the National Weather Service said. Credit: San Bernardino County Fire Protection District via Storyful

<https://au.news.yahoo.com/mudslide-envelops-road-southern-california-044149979.html>

Woman missing in San Bernardino County as officials address freeway and road closures after Tropical Storm Hilary

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



A San Bernardino County search and rescue team was looking for a Seven Oaks woman Monday, Aug. 21, after a surge of water from Tropical Storm Hilary swept her trailer down the Santa Ana River in the San Bernardino Mountains.

She was one of some 30 Seven Oaks residents cut off from rescue when the Santa Ana River overflowed and Glass Road was damaged, said Eric Sherwin, a spokesman for the **County Fire** Department.

The area was among those hardest hit by the storm and rescue workers remained on the scene Monday. Elsewhere across the Inland Empire, workers on Monday were cleaning up from flooding, mudslides, road closures and a major freeway shutdown after Hilary pummeled the region a day earlier.

Riverside and San Bernardino counties each declared local emergencies in response to Hilary, clearing the way for state and federal assistance and reimbursement if necessary.

In Riverside County, the eastbound 10 Freeway, from Haugen-Lehman Way in the Whitewater area to Bob Hope Drive near Palm Springs was closed because of mudslides in the Coachella Valley.

However, as of 3:40 p.m. Monday, one lane westbound of the 10, from Bob Hope to Haugen-Lehmann had opened, according to a Caltrans District X post. Two eastbound lanes had reopened Monday evening.

Check the Caltrans QuickMap and social media for updates.

Mias Canyon Bridge in Banning was washed out during the storm. A video of the site was posted by a user of X, formerly known as Twitter, on Monday morning and showed rushing water.

Caltrans officials could not be reached Monday.

Sherwin, of the county Fire Department, said rescuers are in contact with those stranded by the overflow of the Santa Ana River where the woman was missing. Some were hoisted to safety Monday while others chose to stay while waiting for the water to recede, Sherwin said. Those airlifted were taken to a turnout on Highway 38 and driven to Redlands East Valley High School.

Firefighters with medical kits, food and water are staying overnight with the residents Monday, Sherwin said. One person suffered a lower leg injury.

“To escape with a single minor injury is hard to put into words,” Sherwin said, noting that the fate of the trailer resident had yet to be determined.

Seven Oaks is a community north of Camp Tahquitz and Highway 38 in the mountains and is most recently known as the site of a siege with fugitive homicide suspect Christopher Dorner in 2013 during which he killed himself as a cabin burned around him.

Mud, debris and boulders the size of small cars are blocking roads in the area.

“It looks like a forest came across the road and reclaimed it,” Sherwin said.

In Forest Falls, 700 residents were sheltering in place, he said.

Mud several feet deep was covering roads in that community and in Oak Glen.

In San Bernardino County’s High Desert, more than a dozen roads remained closed Monday because of flooding, including a handful west of Hesperia, Victorville and Adelanto. A few roads in and around Barstow were shut the day after the storm.

Flooding, as well as mud slides, debris flows and rock slides, was seen across San Bernardino County on Monday, mainly in Forest Falls and Oak Glen, county spokesman David Wert wrote in an email.

“Crews are out in force surveying the situation and helping residents,” Wert said.

Thoroughfares leading into Needles were closed, as well, including National Trails Highway, which saw damage to multiple bridges.

Officials did not know when closed roads in San Bernardino County might reopen.

As for evacuations, Wert said the sheriff’s department on Monday lifted the order for the Serrano Square neighborhood, south of Oak Glen, east of Second Street, in the Yucaipa area.

Cal Fire crews spent much of Monday clearing roads in the San Bernardino Mountains so emergency vehicles could access heavily impacted communities.

Oak Glen residents also were sheltering in place Monday afternoon as Cal Fire crews focused on making access through Potato Canyon Road because of the impact on Oak Glen Road at Birch Street, Cal Fire wrote.

Elsewhere in the mountains, heavy equipment was working toward getting Valley of the Falls Drive in Forest Falls open Monday for emergency vehicle access.

Approximately 800 residents in those communities remained sheltered in place Monday afternoon, according to Cal Fire.

An interactive county road closure map can be seen [here](#).

In Riverside County, between 1.5 and 4 inches of rain fell during the 48-hour storm period. Some areas, including San Jacinto, reported more than 11 inches of rain, according to the National Weather Service.

San Bernardino County officials on Sunday welcomed Gov. Gavin Newsom to its Emergency Operations Center, where they discussed emergency planning. Impacted roads and interstates in the Inland Empire include the 10, a Banning bridge and roads in San Bernardino County.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2023/08/21/inland-empire-sees-freeway-and-road-closures-mudslides-after-tropical-storm-hilary/>

San Bernardino to get fire station

By Staff Writer, IE Business Daily

August 22, 2023



For the first time in nearly 20 years, San Bernardino will get a new fire station.

Earlier this month, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors voted to replace Fire Station 226 at 1920 Del Rosa Ave. according to a statement on the city's website.

A groundbreaking ceremony is expected to be held in mid-September. The new station 226 will also be at 1920 Del Rosa Ave.

The current Station 226 has provided emergency services since it was built more than 60 years ago. However it is no longer able to provide modern fire service, and it does not meet modern building codes and safety standards.

The new station will cover 10,267 square feet, more than twice the size of the current station. It is expected to cost \$10 million and be ready for operations in about one year, according to the statement.

Since 2016, the **San Bernardino County Fire** Protection District has provided fire and other emergency services to San Bernardino.

https://iebusinessdaily.com/san-bernardino-to-get-fire-station/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=san-bernardino-to-get-fire-station