



NEWS



News Headlines 10/26/2021

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Inland Empire Commuters Dealing With Wet And Dangerous Road Conditions

CBSLA Staff, CBSLA

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CAJON PASS (CBSLA) – With Monday’s storm, drivers in the Cajon Pass have struggled with slick roads and fogged-up windshields.

Southern California freeways are soaked just in time for the evening commute. In the Inland Empire, it was slow going along the 15 Freeway through the Cajon Pass.

“I hate driving in the rain. It’s scary. I take the streets when it’s like this because I’m really close,” said resident Auggie Quirino, who added that he can avoid the traffic by staying off the highway.

Desiree Castaneda, a Fontana resident, said she’s wary of other drivers when it’s raining.

“People do not know how to drive in the rain. They are crazy, especially like in California. We don’t get a lot of rain. So, everyone’s going crazy. They don’t know how to act,” she said.

While there were complaints about other drivers with the wet conditions, most residents had no complaints about the rain itself.

Ruth Albina, from Fontana, said that we definitely needed the rain.

“I love the rain. I’m glad that it’s raining. Finally, God heard some prayers. We need it. Nobody is complaining,” Albina said.

Most of the shoppers came dressed for the rain, wearing hoodies and carrying umbrellas.

“Bring it on, bring it all. We need it all for our grass and everything to get fed,” Quirino said.

There has so far been no major problems reported along the freeways, but with steady rain, officials said that could change quickly.

Both Caltrans and the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department said they’re not anticipating any problems, even in burn scar areas, but those are still being monitored.

However, Highway 38 remains closed from Valley of the Falls Drive to Lake Williams Drive due to a debris flow. Only Angelus Oaks residents with identification will be allowed through if they drive through Big Bear and go to the closure at Lake Williams.

<https://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2021/10/25/inland-empire-commuters-dealing-with-dangerous-and-wet-road-conditions/>

Tail end of strong storm from the north drenches parts of Southern California

Eric Licas, Mercury News

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A man attempts to stay dry while riding along Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena during Monday's rainstorm on, October 25, 2021. (Photo by Sarah Reingewirtz, Los Angeles Daily News/SCNG)

The tail end of a fierce weekend storm descended Monday from the north and drenched parts of rain-starved Southern California.

The storm system, the result of a powerful "atmospheric river" that targeted Northern California and produced astonishing rainfall in some areas in recent days, weakened significantly as it moved south but still brought much needed moisture Monday to Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties which, like the rest of the state, are mired in an extended drought. National Weather Service Meteorologist James Brotherton said measurable precipitation came down Monday on the coasts, valleys, foothills and even the deserts in Southern California.

The wet weather will give way to clearer skies and a warming trend for the rest of the week, forecasters said.

While the storm lost some of the punch that ravished Northern California over the weekend, the system still brought strong winds to the Southland, with gusts reported in some areas topping 70 mph, and other areas getting winds in the 55-60 mph range. But wind advisories that had been in effect in the Santa Clarita and Antelope valleys and the Los Angeles County mountains were allowed to expire by early evening.

"Winds are gusting behind the front out of the west and southwest, but by this evening they should diminish this evening in all areas except for the I-5 corridor," according to the NWS.

"High pressure begins building over the area on Tuesday for slightly warmer temperatures and under sunny skies," forecasters said.

The storm system was the same one that brought extremely heavy rain to parts of Northern California on Sunday. As it moved south and weakened in intensity, the storm was expected to drop between a half-inch and 1.5 inches of precipitation over some communities on Monday, NWS meteorologist John Dumas said. In Los Angeles County, over 1.3 inches of precipitation had fallen by 6 p.m. in La Canada Flintridge and East Pasadena.

That resulted in slick roads and some local flooding, but rain did not fall hard enough to cause concerns over potential mudslides at the site of previous wildfires in Los Angeles County, Dumas said.

Rainfall was less pronounced in Riverside and Orange counties. A total of 0.67 inches of precipitation was recorded in Coto de Caza, 0.59 inches fell in Lower Silverado Canyon and 0.43 inches came down in Anaheim Hills and Temecula, NWS meteorologist Stephanie Sullivan said.

In San Bernardino County, more than 2 inches fell in the area surrounding the Cajon Pass, Sullivan said. And between 0.6 and 0.7 inches came down near the burn scar of the El Dorado and Apple fires in the Yucaipa area, causing flash floods and falling rocks and debris in the area.

Those hazards led to a mandatory evacuation order for residents in North Bench, Forest Falls and Angelus Oaks, Cal Fire officials said on social media at 6:25 p.m. And Highway 38 was shut down between Lake Williams and Valley of

the Falls Drive due to sliding mud and debris, **San Bernardino County Fire Department** officials said in a tweet at 6:03 p.m.

So far this year, portions of the Inland Empire and Orange County have received only about half of the amount of precipitation they would typically get in a normal year, Brotherton said. Communities in Los Angeles County have gotten about three-fourths of the typical 1 inch of rain they would receive in October during a non-drought year; however the heaviest precipitation in that area doesn't usually arrive till January or February, Dumas said.

It's too early to say how much of a dent recent rains can make on the state's drought, Sullivan said. It may persist through the end of the year, as early weather models predict a drier than average winter.

The storm generating showers Monday was expected to pass over Southern California by 9 p.m. Monday, according to NWS reports. A high pressure system will form over the region in its wake, resulting in clear skies and a warming trend that should last from Tuesday through Thursday.

"Any rain is good, but we're in a multi-year drought," Dumas said. "This is beneficial in the short term, but it's not enough to completely alleviate the risk of fire, as we may have highs of 82 and the return of onshore winds by Thursday."

Temperatures should be in between 5-10 degrees cooler than seasonal averages on Tuesday, according to NWS reports. Highs climb back to normal Wednesday and will rise even higher on Thursday, with readings in the 90s possible in some valleys and deserts.

Projected Tuesday temperatures, according to the NWS:

Downtown Los Angeles: 69

Fullerton: 70

Long Beach: 68

Mission Viejo: 69

Redlands: 68

Riverside: 69

San Bernardino: 69

Torrance: 68

Van Nuys: 72

Whittier: 69

Pasadena: 69

City News Service contributed to this report

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