



NEWS



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Landslide in San Bernardino County mountains threatens homes, fire station and major road

Veronica Rocha, LA Times

Posted: February 17, 2017, 10:29 AM



A landslide was reported in Forest Falls. (OnScene.TV)

A landslide the size of three football fields in the San Bernardino County mountains is threatening several homes, a fire station and a major road used by hundreds of residents, fire officials said.

Four homes and a **San Bernardino County** fire station in the unincorporated community of Forest Falls are directly in the path of the hillside, which started moving about 10 a.m. Thursday, fire department spokesman Eric Sherwin said.

Two homes were vacant, and residents in the other two homes have voluntarily evacuated. Fire officials have removed equipment from the station to protect it from damage, he said.

The landslide is 300 yards wide and extends 1,000 feet from top to bottom in the Slide Canyon area, according to Sherwin.

Like a glacier, pieces of the hillside have been slowly breaking off and dropping into a drainage below.

“It’s a lot of material,” he said, “but it has a long time to come down.”

But firefighters worry that Friday’s powerful storm could hasten the process.

If the hillside — a mixture of snow, rock, soil and timber — travels down, it will spill onto Valley Of The Falls Drive — a major road for residents living in the area. The blockage could trap a couple of hundreds of residents for several days, Sherwin said.

The San Bernardino County road crews were placing concrete barriers along the drive to help divert mud and debris, he said.

Meanwhile, the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department issued a reverse 911 call Thursday evening to residents in the area, warning them of the landslide, Sherwin said.

<http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-live-powerful-storms-moving-l-area-landslide-in-san-bernardino-county-1487355377-htmlstory.html>

Forest Falls landslide sounded like ‘a freight train,’ resident says

Doug Saunders, San Bernardino Sun

Posted: February 17, 2017, 12:36 PM



Authorities are keeping an eye on a landslide in the Forest Falls area Friday. Stan Lim/Staff Photographer

FOREST FALLS >> The landslide that started Thursday appeared to be stable Friday, but a storm heading into Southern California could further impact the area.

An approximate 300-meter section of the hillside in Slide Canyon began sloughing Thursday afternoon, according to Eric Sherwin, spokesman for the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

James Wright, one of three local ministers in town, and his wife, Michelle, said it sounded like a freight train when the mountain started to come down. The couple, who have been living in Forest Falls since October, were filling sandbags to protect their home from the winter storm when the landslide began.

Sherwin said Thursday that four homes and county fire station 99 are in the slide area path. Two of the homes are vacant, and residents in the two other homes evacuated voluntarily. Fire equipment was moved out of the station.

Wright, a retired US Air Force veteran, said the community will stand together braving the elements and come together as one.

A town hall meeting about the landslide, held Thursday at Valley of the Falls Community Church, was packed with residents, Wright said.

Forest Falls has had its share of natural disasters. In September 2015, a couple reportedly on their first date were caught in a flash flood in Forest Falls. The body of Brett Alan Usher, 25, of Rancho Cucamonga was later recovered from Mill Creek Wash.

In July 1999, after heavy rains, a high-speed debris avalanche killed a woman and destroyed several homes. And in 1969, floods tore out a bridge and the town was cut off for 10 days.

<http://www.redlandsdailyfacts.com/general-news/20170217/forest-falls-landslide-sounded-like-a-freight-train-resident-says>

Deadly Inland storm expected to die down by Saturday

Anne Millerbernd, The Press-Enterprise and Brian Rokos, The Press-Enterprise

Posted: February 17, 2017, 7:30 AM



A boat that broke from its moorings in Fawnskin, has run aground as a storm moves into Big Bear area Friday. Photo by Eric Reed

The heavy, wind-driven storm that resulted in the drowning of a motorist in the High Desert, flooded roads and road closures, and led to cancellations of airline flights was expected to almost exhaust itself in the Inland Empire early today, reducing the danger for commuters and residents.

Still, the National Weather Service issued a flash-flood watch for the region that was set to expire at 4 p.m. today.

Philip Gonsalves, a meteorologist at the NWS office in San Diego, estimated that 85 percent to 90 percent of the precipitation from this storm would come by about midnight Friday.

“We do expect to see showers continuing. It’s not going to be like it is now, where there is widespread rainfall covering most of the area,” Gonsalves said about 4:30 p.m. Friday, when heavy rain began to fall across the Inland Empire. “The showers will be hit-and-miss through (today), and possible through early Sunday.”

FRIDAY’S DANGERS

On Friday, one person died in swift waters in Victorville.

About 6:30 p.m. Friday, the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** sent its swiftwater rescue team to Pebble Beach and La Paz drives, where several cars had been swept downstream.

A sheriff’s helicopter rescued one person from atop a partially submerged vehicle, but another vehicle was reported fully submerged at Doris Davies Park and contained the drowning victim.

And Friday night, voluntary evacuations were put in place in West Cajon Valley south of Highway 138 from the 15 to Hess Road; residents to the north were advised to stay in place.

Residents choosing to evacuate were directed to Serrano High School at 9292 Sheep Creek Road in Phelan, where the Red Cross tweeted at 6:26 p.m. it would set up a care and reception center.

TRANSPORTATION TROUBLES

A crew of San Bernardino County firefighters Friday night safely escaped when their fire engine was caught hanging off the edge of the southbound 15 Freeway near Highway 138, according to a tweet by the department just after 8 p.m. Asphalt was reported crumbling and, according to the CHP, the right two lanes would be closed.

Highway 138 in the Blue Cut fire burn area was shut down Friday afternoon because of rising flood waters. Shortly after 3 p.m., San Bernardino County firefighters were in the area west of the 15 Freeway where a reported 12 vehicles were stuck in flash floods.

“All parties out of vehicle. Water flowing over K-rails in the area,” a Fire Department Twitter message said.

About 1 p.m., witnesses said, a gust of wind picked up a semi and caused it to jackknife on the northbound 15 just south of Oak Hill Road in the Cajon Pass. The San Bernardino National Forest, in a Twitter message, urged motorists not to use Lytle Creek Road to bypass the 15 because all dirt roads were impassible.

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Wind gusts reached 50 mph in the Inland Empire on Friday, the National Weather Service said.

At 5:16 p.m., a California Highway Patrol log entry indicated chains were required on all non-four-wheel drive vehicles on Highway 18 in Snow Valley to the west of Bear Lake.

As the commute progressed, numerous traffic incidents throughout Inland cities were reported to the California Highway Patrol. Many appeared relatively minor.

But a Jeep fell into an underwater sinkhole and turned over onto its side near Chateau Road and Cedar Street in Phelan shortly before 6 p.m., according to a California Highway Patrol log entry.

Road closures included northbound Benson Avenue between Francis and Philadelphia streets in Ontario and Schaefer Avenue from 4th Street to Central Avenue in Chino.

The U.S. Forest Service advised motorists to avoid dirt roads — even if their GPS apps told them to use those roads.

All dirt roads are closed and unpassible, the U.S. Forest Service said in a tweet.

Southwest Airlines canceled or delayed flights out of Burbank, Los Angeles, Long Beach, Oakland, Ontario, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco and San Jose.

Additionally, United Airlines at least canceled six inbound and seven outbound flights on Friday, airport spokesman Dan Adamus said.

“We’re taking all the precautions,” he said. “It’s Mother Nature. We’re hoping for the best and preparing for what’s coming.”

Other effects

Bear Mountain and Snow Summit resorts at Big Bear Lake remained open, as did Snow Valley Mountain Resort near Running Springs.

But officials sidelined some chair lifts out of concerns about the severe winds. And spokesman John Brice said Snow Valley canceled night skiing.

However, in anticipation of the ominous forecast, the Mountain High ski-snowboard resort closed in Wrightwood.

The gusty winds blew down trees all over the region, many of them smashing into electric lines and knocking out power.

Sally Jeun, spokeswoman for Southern California Edison, said throughout Southern California 37,500 of its customers lost power during the afternoon.

STORM SLOW TO ARRIVE

The storm came from the south and was slowly headed east.

The National Weather Service at 5:15 p.m. Friday published these rainfall totals from the previous 24 hours: 1.22 inches in Cucamonga Canyon, 0.74 in Ontario, 0.63 in Chino Hills, 0.55 at Glen Helen Regional Park and at Cal State San Bernardino.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20170217/deadly-inland-storm-expected-to-die-down-by-saturday>

Firefighters escape engine before it falls off 15 Freeway in Cajon Pass

John M. Blodgett and Beatriz E. Valenzuela and Alex Groves, SCNG

Posted: February 17, 2017



San Bernardino Battalion Chief Kelly Anderson walks around San Bernardino Medic Engine-2 part of the south bound I-15 south of the HWY 138 - two lanes washed out due to erosion from heavy rain runoff near Devore, CA. Saturday, Feb. 18, 2017. TERRY PIERSON, THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE/SCNG



UPDATE (Saturday, Feb. 18): Updated with comments, information from San Bernardino County Fire Department.

A fire engine that went off Interstate 15 south of Highway 138 on Friday evening had not yet been retrieved as of Saturday morning, according to a fire spokesman.

Eric Sherwin, a spokesman for the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**, said that being able to retrieve the fallen engine will be dependent on an inspection by the California Department of Transportation.

He said the inspection will allow the fire department to know whether the roadway is safe enough to take heavy equipment onto.

"That's the big question," said Sherwin, "Is can it support the weight of a recovery vehicle and a recovery effort?"

Sherwin said the fire engine's three-person crew was on the 15 when members of the crew believed that the roadway might be failing underneath them as they drove.

They were able to get the fire engine over to the No. 4 lane, where it hung for a while before going over, said Sherwin.

Sherwin said that because the engine has not been retrieved yet, it's impossible to know how much damage it sustained.

In a Twitter message, Caltrans estimated that the cost of emergency repairs to the roadway would be about \$3 million.

ORIGINAL STORY:

A crew of San Bernardino County firefighters escaped when their engine got caught hanging off the eroded shoulder of southbound 15 in the Cajon Pass on Friday night, Feb. 17.

A KABC/7 video posted on Twitter later showed the fire engine falling completely from view off the roadway south of Highway 138.

Water coming down from the nearby hillsides overflowed the creek between the railroad tracks and the 15, Caltrans spokeswoman Terri Kasinga said. That water then eroded the shoulder before undermining the right, or No. 5 lane, and then the No. 4 lane.

The California Highway Patrol said late Friday that only the far left, or No. 1 southbound lane, was open. There was no estimate on when the lanes would reopen.

Kasinga worried that if the rain continued, erosion could eat one lane at a time. "People just need to not go that way," Kasinga said.

Potential detours to the east and west are problematic with other roads washed out or flooded, she said. Check Caltrans websites for road closures.

The fire engine was returning to the Devore station from working the flooding in the West Cajon area, said firefighter Eric Sherwin, a department spokesman. The engine was in the far right lane of the 15 when the roadway began to fail.

"The engineer managed to steer the engine enough into the No. 4 lane to keep it on the roadway and to get all for personnel out," he said. "The engine was left dangling and a short time later it went completely over the side. It's sitting in the creek right now."

A semi truck was also being reported submerged, though details were unclear.

Contrary to what is being reported on some social media, a bridge has not collapsed in the area, a CHP spokesman said. Kasinga said someone got that confused with the shoulder crumbling.

Earlier in the day, Highway 138 in the Blue Cut fire scar was completely shut down because of rising flood waters.

<http://www.pe.com/articles/engine-825783-bernardino-safely.html>

Fire Engine Falls 50 Feet Down the Side of Freeway

Kristina Bugante, NBC 4

Posted: February 18, 2017, 12:15 AM



Storm damage has severely impacted a 200-foot stretch in the Cajon Pass.

Three firefighters managed to safely escape before their fire engine fell down 50 feet off the side of the freeway Friday in the Inland Empire.

The **San Bernardino County firefighters** were returning from a swift water rescue in the West Cajon Valley when they drove into a far right lane on the southbound 15 Freeway that was undermined due to runoff from the storm, said fire department spokesman Eric Sherwin.

The engine was hanging onto a portion of the remaining lanes, which gave the firefighters enough time to escape before it fell off the side, Sherwin said.

All three firefighters were taken to the hospital for evaluation.

There was a long-term closure of the southbound 15 Freeway from the 138 to Cleghorn as Caltrans assessed the damage.

West 138 reopened Saturday but the east 138 remains closed.

Friday's storm was forecast as the biggest storm Southern California's had in years. Flooding, downed trees and power lines, sinkholes and numerous closures were reported all across the region.

<http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/Fire-Engine-Tumbles-Off-Side-of-Freeway-Cajon-Pass-414152133.html>

Portion of southbound 15 Freeway collapses in the Cajon Pass

Irfan Kan and Sonali Kohli, LA Times

Posted: February 18, 2017, 9:35 AM



Two right lanes of the southbound 15 Freeway remain closed near Highway 138 on Saturday after a portion of the roadway collapsed Friday night, sending a fire engine toppling into a creek below.

A crew of three was aboard the engine driving in the right lane around 8:30 p.m. Friday night when they felt the engine's back tires sinking into the road, said **San Bernardino County Fire** Capt. Mike McClintock. They evacuated through the driver's side of the fire engine before the road gave way, taking the truck with it.

The engine was still running and its emergency lights were on as it fell, McClintock said. The firefighters were transported to a hospital as a precaution, he said, but none were seriously injured.

<http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-live-powerful-storms-moving-1-area-portion-of-southbound-15-freeway-1487436394-htmlstory.html>

Southbound I-15 becomes commuter nightmare because of road erosion

Monica Solano and Steve Hunt, Daily Press

Posted: February 18, 2017, 9:50 AM



The scene on Saturday, Feb. 18 where a tractor trailer and a San Bernardino County Fire Department fire engine fell on Friday night from southbound Interstate 15 where part of the freeway collapsed due to heavy rain in the Cajon Pass, Calif. [David Pardo/The Daily Press via AP]

Fires, floods and falling pavement. Interstate 15 in the Cajon Pass has seen its share of dramatic events in the past couple of years, between multi-million dollar construction projects and the North and Bluecut fires.

But Friday night's situation bordered on the unbelievable. Following heavy rainfall that Caltrans officials dubbed "an epic storm event," a 200-foot-long portion of the southbound freeway collapsed just south of Highway 138, taking with it a big rig and a **San Bernardino County Fire Department** engine. All those on board both vehicles escaped before the rig and engine slid down into the creek bed below.

"A dry creek bed that runs along the southbound side of the interstate overflowed and washed away the rock slope protection below the roadbed," Caltrans spokeswoman Terri Kasinga said in a news release. "It then eroded the lower slope and caused the shoulder and number 5 lane to collapse for a 200-foot section of the route."

Crews spent Saturday trying to figure out if the vehicles could be removed. While that was going on, the southbound I-15 was reduced to two lanes between Highway 138 and Cleghorn Road. That created a massive jam north of the location, with bumper-to-bumper traffic from before Main Street in Hesperia. What usually takes drivers about 20 minutes, turned into well over an hour of frustration.

Complicating the situation for drivers was the lack of alternate routes. Because of flooding, debris flow and storm damage on Highway 138, it was closed from 2.8 miles east of the junction of Highway 2 to about a half-mile west of the junction of Highway 173.

"The biggest thing is making sure we're doing a thorough evaluation on both trucks that fell," County Fire Capt. Mike McClintock said. "We're working close with Caltrans and other companies to get the truck out and it's all based in the foundation and structure of the ground."

Kasinga said Caltrans District 8 Director John Bulinski signed a Director's Order in the early morning hours to begin emergency repairs to I-15. The \$3 million project was awarded to Skanska, Inc. and the contractor immediately began mobilizing equipment and staff.

Skanska is already Caltrans' contractor on one of its Highway 138 projects, according to San Bernardino County 1st District Supervisor and Board Chairman Robert Lovingood.

Kasinga said Caltrans construction engineers and maintenance crews devised a plan to restripe lanes on southbound I-15 to allow four lanes of traffic to motorists while the pavement repairs take place. That plan was to reduce the southbound 15 to one lane from Highway 138 to Cleghorn Road beginning at 9 p.m. Saturday to allow for restriping of the freeway. Caltrans said the restriping would continue until Sunday morning, depending on the weather, and even could be delayed because of weather conditions.

Caltrans said it would alert the public once lanes reopened on Sunday via Twitter @caltrans8.

In her news release, Kasinga said the four lanes will be reduced in size from the normal width, but once they are open, Skanska will work behind k-rail to repair the fallen roadbed and damaged slope. "This will allow a longer period of time to make permanent, rather than temporary repairs, with concrete instead of asphalt," Kasinga said in the release.

It's unknown how long it will take Skanska to make the freeway repairs, Caltrans said.

In the meantime, Caltrans urged motorists to reduce their speed through the work zone and to not change lanes in the restriped portion of I-15. Trucks must only use the right lane.

Caltrans expects the west side of Highway 138 to reopen Sunday morning. However, the east side of 138 will be closed indefinitely.

SR 138 east of I-15 will remain closed to Summit Valley Road until further notice so the contractor can move material from a current construction site to I-15 for backfill," Kasinga said in her release.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170218/southbound-i-15-becomes-commuter-nightmare-because-of-road-erosion>

Region dries out, cleanup begins after Friday's storm

Monica Solano, Daily Press

Posted: February 18, 2017, 11:18 AM



The scene on Saturday, Feb. 18 where a tractor trailer and a San Bernardino County Fire Department fire engine fell on Friday night from southbound Interstate 15 where part of the freeway collapsed due to heavy rain in the Cajon Pass, Calif. [David Pardo/The Daily Press via AP]

The biggest storm in years brought muddy mayhem to the High Desert and other parts of Southern California on Friday, but Saturday was mostly dry, allowing authorities and residents to start cleaning up.

City and San Bernardino County workers manning bulldozers were out in force throughout the High Desert on Saturday, clearing away mud that had accumulated on roadways. Phelan Road was a mess for much of the day, and traffic backed up in both directions because of traffic signals that were out. Rancho Road in Hesperia also saw heavier traffic than normal for a weekend.

Weather experts say showers may persist over the weekend and perhaps into Wednesday.

"We've been seeing a lot of reports on social media about trees falling and cars being swept in the flood waters in Victorville," said Meteorologist Pathway Intern Derek Schroeter. "This is definitely the biggest and heaviest storm fall that has occurred here in the last six years."

According to Schroeter, Victorville received 0.54 inches of rainfall, Hesperia had 1.03 inches and Barstow received 0.19 inches on Friday night. The heavy showers caused a portion of southbound Interstate 15 to collapse late Friday, which sent a tractor-trailer and San Bernardino County Fire Department engine tumbling over the side.

San Bernardino County Fire Capt. Mike McClintock told the Daily Press the Pilot Fire area in Summit Valley received heavy mud flow and flooding throughout the night and the area remained closed Saturday.

"We received reports of mud flow both east and west of the I-15 near Summit Valley Road and reports about people's cars being stuck on the 138 and Summit Valley," McClintock said. "Thankfully no one ended up needing rescuing."

The National Weather Service maintained a flash flood warning for the High Desert until 4 p.m. Saturday, but the chance of rain decreased to 30 to 40 percent Saturday night.

High winds also could return, the NWS said, including gusts that could reach 50 to 60 mph. Commuters were advised to take precautions as they traveled the rest of the holiday weekend.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170218/region-dries-out-cleanup-begins-after-fridays-storm>

Cajon Pass Saturday Night Update

Victor Valley News Group

Posted: February 18, 2017

VICTOR VALLEY – Motorist attempting to make their way down the Cajon Pass Saturday evening are experiencing gridlock traffic.

The cause for the delays is mainly due to a portion of the southbound I-15 freeway that collapsed, swallowing a semi and a **San Bernardino County Fire Engine**.

At 6:40 p.m., Victor Valley News member Renee Gruwell said, "it took me an hour and a half to go from Main Street to Oak Hill Road just now on the 15-SB."

"Beginning tonight, February 18, at 9:00 p.m. the southbound I-15 will be reduced to one lane from SR 138 to Cleghorn Rd. to allow a striping contractor to complete the necessary work to provide the four lanes of traffic," according to Caltrans.

"One lane will remain available throughout tonight into tomorrow until the restriping is completed. Weather conditions may delay the restriping efforts and Caltrans will alert the public once the lanes reopen tomorrow."

At 6:24 pm., Caltrans District 8 advised State Route 138 is now open from I-15 to State Route 2.

Be advised, "the back way" using Highway 138 as an alternate route to get to the I-15 freeway is closed at Summit Valley.

Traffic on the northbound is flowing and no restrictions or major accidents have been reported.

<http://www.vvng.com/cajon-pass-saturday-night-update/>

Four lanes open on 15 Freeway through Cajon Pass between Highway 138 and Cleghorn

Ali Tadayon, The Press-Enterprise

Posted: February 19, 2017, 10:52 AM



San Bernardino fire fighters remove parts of San Bernardino Medic Engine-2 before trying to up right the engine after parts of south bound I-15 south of the HWY 138 washed out due to erosion from heavy rain runoff near Devore, CA. Saturday, Feb. 18, 2017. TERRY PIERSON, THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE/SCNG

Four southbound lanes are now open on Interstate 15 through the Cajon Pass, which sustained significant damage from Friday's heavy rain.

Caltrans officials tweeted about 7 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 19, that four lanes were open between Highway 138 and Cleghorn Road, but with "reduced lane width." Officials urged motorists to drive with caution through the Cajon Pass.

A 200-foot section of the southbound freeway's No. 5 lane collapsed Friday night due to an overflowed creek weakening the road's base, according to a Caltrans news release. A big-rig and a **San Bernardino County fire** engine were taken out during the collapse.

Caltrans spokeswoman Terri Kasinga said the fire engine acted as a dam to prevent the road from being further eroded. If it hadn't been a fire truck or similarly large vehicle, Kasinga said, the road would probably have sustained more extensive damage.

Southbound traffic on the 15 was funneled into two lanes because of the road collapse, but two more lanes reopened Sunday morning.

Traffic appeared to be flowing smoothly, according to the Caltrans Quickmap.

Early Saturday, Caltrans authorized \$3 million in emergency repairs. Authorities have not said how long they expect it to take to fix the road and reopen the fifth lane, but Kasinga said contractors are working around the clock.

Meanwhile, Highway 138 east of the 15 will remain closed until further notice, Kasinga said. An active construction project in that area was halted because the same contractors are working on rehabilitating the storm-damaged portion of the 15.

Kasinga said workers are moving material from the 138 project to the 15 to rebuild the embankment.

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20170219/four-lanes-open-on-15-freeway-through-cajon-pass-between-highway-138-and-cleghorn>

Caltrans official says 'two to four weeks' to repair collapsed I-15

Shea Johnson, Daily Press

Posted: February 19, 2017, 12:06 PM



The scene on Saturday where a tractor trailer and a San Bernardino County Fire Department fire engine fell from southbound Interstate 15 when part of the freeway collapsed due to heavy rain in the Cajon Pass. [David Pardo, Daily Press]

As dangerous as the collapse of the edge of the freeway that shockingly engulfed two massive vehicles was, Kasinga said the incident might have also fortuitously saved other portions of the at-risk I-15 stretch.

A bottlenecked stretch of southbound Interstate 15 was restored to four narrower lanes early Sunday, signaling some relief for holiday weekend travelers and the High Desert's legion of Cajon Pass commuters, Caltrans spokeswoman Terri Kasinga told the Daily Press.

The freeway, between Highway 138 and Cleghorn Road, had been reduced to a single lane at 9 p.m. Saturday while crews restriped the four lanes to enable better traffic flow as a contractor begins the tall order of repairing fallen roadbed and damaged slope on a 200-foot-long portion of the southbound I-15 — an effort now estimated to take two to four weeks dependent on weather.

The four lanes are more narrow than the standard 12 to 14 feet — two 10-foot-wide lanes on the left, two 12-foot-wide lanes on the right — and Kasinga warned that motorists traveling into the Cajon Pass should treat the stretch as an active construction zone.

It means reduced speeds to 20 mph and no lane changing between Highway 138 and Cleghorn.

"People need to pick a lane before they get into that lane configuration," she said, then later: "It's going to be sluggish through there until people get used to it."

Heavy-duty vehicles, such as buses, RVs and tractor-trailers must travel in the right two lanes. Meanwhile, the west side of Highway 138 reopened Saturday evening, but east of the I-15 to Summit Valley Road will remain shut down for an "uncertain" period of time, except for emergency vehicles.

The contractor for \$3 million in emergency repairs to the I-15, Skanska, Inc., will use the east side of Highway 138 for backfill.

Skanska crews will work two 12-hour shifts each day behind a K-rail barrier in an effort to repair roadbed and slope that was catastrophically damaged during Friday night's epic rainfall that spurred chaos in the Victor Valley and elsewhere. The freeway shoulder and No. 5 lane collapsed, dragging with it a **San Bernardino County Fire Department** engine and a semi without a trailer.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170219/caltrans-official-says-two-to-four-weeks-to-repair-collapsed-i-15>

Shoring up the slope: Construction crews working around the clock on freeway repairs

Matthew Cabe, Daily Press

Posted: February 20, 2017, 5:51 PM



Interstate 15 traffic moves around the closed portion of the southbound lanes in the Cajon Pass on Monday. A 200-foot portion of the freeway collapsed on Friday night. [James Quigg, Daily Press]

CAJON PASS — As construction crews work around the clock to repair a 200-foot collapsed chunk of southbound Interstate 15, Caltrans officials are assessing the eroded slope to plan future protections for the affected area.

Geologists with Caltrans met on site with Army Corps of Engineers officials Monday to discuss armoring the lower section of the washed-out slope, according to Caltrans spokeswoman Terri Kasinga.

"We're planning pretty aggressive protection down at the bottom with riprap once we get to that phase," Kasinga said.

Friday's deluge wore away a section of the sloped foundation of I-15 just south of Highway 138, resulting in the shoulder and No. 5 lane giving way and falling into the suddenly full creek below.

A semi without a trailer and a **San Bernardino County Fire Department** engine fell into the creek, as well, but Kasinga previously told the Daily Press the fire engine saved the remaining at-risk lanes by redirecting floodwaters away from the eroded area.

Once installed, the riprap, which consists of rock, grout and other material, will shield the lower section of the freeway's slope from future erosion, according to Kasinga, in an attempt to prevent similar catastrophes in the future.

The riprap won't be installed until the slope is replaced, however, and Kasinga said much of the physical work performed Monday behind K-rails included trucks and bulldozers moving earth into place for a forthcoming backfill.

"Right now they're just bringing in a lot of dirt," Kasinga said. "We're discussing how we're going to put in the backfill (with that dirt)."

The backfill will encompass most of the week's work, according to Kasinga, with the entire \$3 million emergency project estimated to take two to four weeks, depending on weather.

Construction began Saturday with a restriping of lanes to ensure better traffic flow, and Kasinga reminded people to use caution while trekking up and down the pass.

"There was a multi-car collision at the top of the pass (just south of Oak Hill Road) today," she said before urging motorists to slow down.

Meanwhile, Caltrans officials will assess a larger swath of the freeway adjacent to the creek in the future to determine whether additional preventative projects are needed, according to Kasinga.

"This is not the only area that the creek hit," she said. "It's just the area with the most erosion, but we're not even there yet. Right now our contingency is to fix and repair what collapsed. It's on our radar, of course, but we have to work within the parameters of the funds we've been given to spend."

A Caltrans hydraulics unit will be on site Tuesday, Kasinga said, and officials will meet to further discuss how to build "a better slope."

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170220/shoring-up-slope-construction-crews-working-around-clock-on-freeway-repairs>

One Person Confirmed Deceased in Victorville Flood

Christie Martin, 24/7 Headline News

Posted: February 17, 2017

VICTORVILLE – One person died as a result of a flood in the City of Victorville on Friday evening. Deputies from the Victorville Station and the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** were dispatched to a flooded area where vehicles had been swept away by storm water just before 6:00 p.m.

Two vehicles were located in the area of Pebble Beach and Arrowhead Drives. Swift water rescue arrived at the scene to rescue those stranded in the deepening rain water. The Sheriff's helicopter (40 King) was able to rescue one man who was able to exit his partially submerged vehicle and get on top of the vehicle to escape the fast-moving water.

The body of a driver who was located inside a fully submerged silver sedan was recovered from the wash that runs through Doris Davies Park.

The identity of the deceased person is unknown at the time. Information will be updated as it becomes available.

<https://247headline.com/one-person-confirmed-deceased-in-victorville-flood/>

Motorist who died in flooding Friday night identified as Victorville man

Monica Solano, Daily Press

Posted: February 18, 2017, 11:55 AM



San Bernardino County Fire Department's Swift Water Rescue Teams attempt to save a victim trapped in the Oro Grande Wash in Victorville CA's Doris Davies park on Friday Feb. 17, 2017. The victim died before rescuers could reach the car. [James Quigg, Daily Press]

VICTORVILLE — Authorities on Saturday identified the motorist who died in a flash flood in Victorville on Friday night.

San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department spokeswoman Jodi Miller said Michael Douglas Williams, 41, of Victorville, died after his silver Mercedes was swept away by rushing waters at Pebble Beach and Hughes Road.

Authorities initiated a swift-water rescue at that location just after 6 p.m. Friday after Williams' Mercedes and another vehicle were swept away. **San Bernardino County Fire Department** spokesman Eric Sherwin said authorities arrived and found one partially submerged vehicle and the Mercedes completely under water.

"(San Bernardino County) Sheriff's helicopter 40King successfully rescued one victim from the top of that vehicle," Sherwin said. "A deceased occupant was found in the fully submerged vehicle."

Williams was pronounced dead at the scene by County Fire officials, Miller said.

Authorities had their hands full as the powerful winter storm flooded roadways throughout the area Friday night. Another swift-water rescue occurred after a vehicle became stuck in a flooded roadway on Rodeo Drive and Hughes Road around 6:30 p.m. Sherwin said Sheriff's deputies were able to rescue its occupants.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170218/motorist-who-died-in-flooding-friday-night-identified-as-victorville-man>

Authorities Identify Victorville Man Who Died in Friday Night Flood

Christie Martine, 24/7 Headline News

Posted: February 18, 2017

VICTORVILLE – Authorities have identified the man who died as a result of a Victorville flood as 41-year-old Victorville resident, Michael Douglas Williams. At around 5:55 p.m. on the evening of Friday, February 17, 2017, during a period of heavy downpour, two Victorville residents were driving in the area of Pebble Beach Drive and Hughes Road. The vehicles were swept away by the fast-moving flood water. Deputies from the Victorville Station, the Sheriff's Dive Team, and the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** responded to the location.

When they arrived they located 46-year-old **Jerry Parker**, of Victorville sitting on top of his vehicle as the water moved quickly around it. The Sheriff's helicopter, 40 King 3 arrived to the scene to assist. Hovering over Parker and his vehicle, the helicopter hovered low, the detective on board grabbed Parker and pulled him safely into the helicopter. Parker did not sustain any injuries as a result of the incident.

Michael Williams was located inside his almost fully submerged vehicle. Emergency personnel including the Sheriff's Dive Team and San Bernardino County Fire Department Swift Water Rescue Team attempted to rescue Williams from his vehicle. Williams was pronounced dead at the scene and despite the dangerous conditions, Fire and Sheriff's personnel, risked their safety to pull his body from the flooded vehicle.

<https://247headline.com/authorities-identify-victorville-man-who-died-in-friday-night-flood/>

1 dead, another rescued from swift waters in Victorville

John M. Blodgett, Press Enterprise

Posted: February 17, 2017, 7:42 PM

At least one person died and another was rescued from swift waters on Friday evening, fire officials said.

Additionally, several vehicles had been swept downstream, the San Bernardino County Fire Department tweeted.

About 6:30 p.m., the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** tweeted several high swift water rescues near Pebble Beach and La Paz drives in Victorville.

About 6:45 p.m., the Fire Department a San Bernardino County sheriff's helicopter had rescued one person from atop a partially submerged vehicle – and several other cars had been swept downstream.

Another vehicle was reported fully submerged and contained the victim who died.

<http://www.pe.com/articles/officials-825769-died-vehicles.html>

Motorist dies after vehicle submerged in swift waters in Victorville late Friday

Paola Baker, Daily Press

Posted: February 17, 2017, 7:56 PM



A car remains trapped in water flowing in the Oro Grande Wash at Hughes Road in Victorville CA on Friday Feb. 17, 2017. Two cars were trapped in the rushing water, one victim was killed. [James Quigg, Daily Press]

VICTORVILLE — The powerful winter storm that pummeled the Victor Valley claimed the life of a motorist who was found dead inside a submerged vehicle late Friday.

A swift-water rescue for two vehicles swept away by a downstream at Pebble Beach and La Paz drives was requested just after 6 p.m. **San Bernardino County Fire Department** spokesman Eric Sherwin said authorities arrived and found one partially submerged vehicle and one vehicle completely under water.

"(San Bernardino County) Sheriff's helicopter 40King successfully rescued one victim from the top of that vehicle," Sherwin said. "A deceased occupant was found in the fully submerged vehicle."

Sherwin didn't have more details on the person, and his or her identity is being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

It was one of two reported storm-related fatalities Friday. A 55-year-old man was electrocuted in the Sherman Oaks area after a falling tree downed power lines and hit a car.

Officials had their hands full as the storm flooded roadways throughout the area Friday night.

Another swift-water rescue occurred for a vehicle stuck in a flooded roadway on Rodeo Drive and Hughes Road around 6:30 p.m. Sherwin said Sheriff's officials were able to rescue its occupants.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170217/motorist-dies-after-vehicle-submerged-in-swift-waters-in-victorville-late-friday>

Body found in submerged vehicle in Victorville

Alex Wigglesworth, LA Times

Posted: February 17, 2017, 8:22 PM

A swift-water rescue in Victorville ended in the recovery of a body from a submerged vehicle, the **San Bernardino Fire Department** said.

Authorities were called to Pebble Beach and La Paz drives for a report of vehicles swept downstream, the Fire Department tweeted.

Authorities rescued one person from the top of a partially submerged vehicle. A rescue team then entered a vehicle under the water and found a person dead inside.

The person wasn't immediately identified, and there was no word on the precise cause of death.

<http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-live-powerful-storms-moving-l-area-body-found-in-submerged-vehicle-in-1487391614-htmlstory.html>

Man Found Dead Inside Car Submerged in Flood Waters Identified

Heather Navarro, NBC 4

Posted: February 19, 2017, 11:26 AM

A man found dead inside a car fully submerged in storm waters on a day of widespread flooding and torrential downpour across Southern California that claimed two other lives was identified early Sunday, officials said.

Michael Douglas Williams, 41, a resident of Victorville, was identified Sunday by the San Bernardino County Coroner's Office.

The victim's car was in the area of La Paz and Pebble Beach drives, a Victorville residential neighborhood, Friday evening, the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** said.

Crews responded to reports of flood waters sweeping cars off the roadway.

When a rescue group reached the car, they found the victim dead inside.

One other man, 46-year-old Jerry Parker of Victorville, was rescued by the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department from the top of a partially submerged vehicle nearby, firefighters said. He was sitting on his car while flood waters swept around it, authorities said.

A rescue helicopter hovered over Parker and he was hoisted up. He was not hurt.

Williams' death was one among three in Friday's storm. In Sherman Oaks, a man died after being shocked by downed power lines.

On Saturday, a rescue crew found a teen's body in Arroyo Conejo Creek. He was reportedly swept into the gully amid the downpour.

<http://www.nbclausangeles.com/news/local/Man-Found-Dead-Inside-submerged-flood-waters-victorville-identified-414199733.html>

1 Dead After Vehicle Goes Over Cliff Along 18 Freeway; Search for Possible Second Victim Underway

Cindy Von Quednow, KTLA 5

Posted: February 18, 2017, 12:43 PM



One person died after a crash along the 18 Freeway in the Arrowhead area and officials were searching for a second possible victim on Feb. 18, 2017. (Credit: KTLA)

One person died after a vehicle rolled down a cliff along the 18 Freeway in the Arrowhead area and officials are searching for a second possible victim, according to the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**.

The crash occurred about 9:05 a.m. off Old Waterman Canyon Road, according to the California Highway Patrol.

The vehicle went down a cliff where there is a lot of brush, making it difficult to search the area. A San Bernardino County Sheriff's helicopter is assisting in the search.

Aerial video from Sky5 showed several rescuers down the canyon searching in heavy brush. Down the cliff, a white vehicle appeared to be extensively damaged from the crash.

<http://ktla.com/2017/02/18/1-dead-after-vehicle-goes-over-cliff-along-18-freeway-search-for-possible-second-victim-underway/>

Motorist dies after vehicle tumbles off mountain

Paola Baker, Daily Press

Posted: February 20, 2017, 5:37 PM

CRESTLINE — Authorities said a motorist died after a crash sent a vehicle tumbling off the roadway early Saturday.

The crash, which occurred at Highway 18 near Panorama Point, was reported at 9 a.m. Saturday. **San Bernardino County Fire Department** officials said on Twitter the reporting party said an SUV had tumbled over the side of the mountain.

County Fire spokesman Eric Sherwin said authorities arrived and found that a single vehicle had gone over the side. A search was initiated through thick vegetation for the vehicle, its driver, and other possible victims.

"We initially had reports that there were other people that were thrown out of the vehicle as it tumbled off the mountain," Sherwin said. "There's waist-high brush in the area, so the possibility of that was very real."

Sherwin said several fire personnel, including a hand crew and a search-and-rescue team training in the area, combed the area Saturday but found no other victims.

The driver's identity is being withheld pending positive identification and notification of next of kin.

Further details on the crash were not provided, and Daily Press messages to the Arrowhead California Highway Patrol office were not immediately returned Monday.

This story is developing and more information will be updated as it is received.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20170220/motorist-dies-after-vehicle-tumbles-off-mountain>

New Deputy Chief Assigned at SB CoFD

1st Responder News

Posted: February 16, 2017



San Bernardino, CA - **San Bernardino County Fire** Chief Mark Hartwig is honored to announce the promotion of Assistant Chief John Chamberlin to Deputy Chief of Administration, assigned to Department Headquarters (San Bernardino). As Deputy Chief of Administration, Chamberlin will oversee human resources, day-to-day fiscal operations, and special projects.

Fire Chief Mark Hartwig stated, “Chief Chamberlin has been an exceptional leader for our department. Throughout his career, he has demonstrated the ability to successfully manage resources and help others reach their full potential.”

Deputy Chief John Chamberlin began his full time career with SB CoFire with the contracting of services for the City of Adelanto in September 1999. Prior to this, he served as a Fire Dispatcher and Paid-Call Firefighter for both the County of San Bernardino and City of Victorville.

During his time with County Fire, Chamberlin has worked his way through the ranks, becoming a Captain in 2004, Battalion Chief in 2013, Division Chief in 2015 and Assistant Chief in 2016. Chamberlin has served on various committees and special projects including oversight of the department’s Hazardous Materials Response Team and county fire’s behalf of CONFIRE Communication operations.

“I am honored to accept this new leadership role with the department.” stated Chief Chamberlin. “My focus will be to improve our department from the inside out, and find new and innovative ways we can continue to provide the highest level of service in our communities.”

Chamberlin is currently assigned to Southern California Incident Management Team 1 in the Logistics Section and is a qualified Type 2 Safety Officer, Type 3 Incident Commander, Operations Section Chief and Logistics Section Chief. He also holds a Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Administration, a double

Associate of Science in Fire Technology and Paramedic Studies, and received his Chief Officer Certification from the California State Fire Marshal. Chief Chamberlin is currently attending the National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer Program in Emmittsburg, Maryland.

Chamberlin will succeed Deputy Chief Don Trapp, who recently transitioned to Deputy Chief of Operations.

<http://www.1rbn.com/webpages/news/displaynews.aspx?ID=727ce697-db89-4c0a-a15e-dd5ec60ddcb2>

New assistant fire chief to lead High Desert Division

Hesperia Star

Posted: February 17, 2017, 10:37 AM



Dan Mejia of the San Bernardino County Fire Department has been promoted to Assistant Chief to Division 3 in the High Desert. [Photo courtesy of the San Bernardino County Fire Department]

The **San Bernardino County Fire Department** recently announced the promotion of Dan Mejia from Battalion Chief to Assistant Chief overseeing the High Desert Region.

"Chief Mejia demonstrates the skills and knowledge we seek in our chief officers," Fire Chief Mark Hartwig said. "He has mentored many future leaders during his career, Division 3 will be well-served under his leadership."

Mejia began his career with the San Bernardino Fire Agency in 1987 as a firefighter in Lake Arrowhead and was then promoted to Engineer with County Fire in 1993, captain in 2000 and then promoted to battalion chief in 2013. Officials said Mejia has served in all facets of County Fire and has been a member of the Urban Search and Rescue team since 2004.

"It is an honor to be given this new role in our department and communities," Mejia said. "I look forward to helping lead the dedicated men and women of San Bernardino County Fire who serve the High Desert."

The High Desert Region, or Division 3, is one of the most challenging geographic areas within San Bernardino County and also home to the largest off-highway vehicle recreational area in the United States, according to County Fire.

Other areas located in Division 3 include the Mojave Desert National Preserve, Afton Canyon, Dumont Dunes Recreational Area, Rainbow Basin, the Trona Pinnacles, the Mojave River and the community of Baker, which serves as the gateway to Death Valley National Park.

Officials said Division 3 is a demanding service area for firefighters who contend with obstacles such as Interstate 15, a logistics gateway that sees over 220,000 vehicles and 60 trains which pass through every day.

Assistant Chief Dan Munsey, who previously led the High Desert Division, was also recently reassigned to the East Valley Division, or Division 6. The change took effect Saturday.

<http://www.hesperiarstar.com/news/20170217/new-assistant-fire-chief-to-lead-high-desert-division>

Upland moves forward dumping its fire department, annexing to county fire department

Liset Márquez, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

Posted: February 19, 2017, 9:49 PM



A fire engine pulls out of Upland Fire Station 163 on Benson Avenue Wednesday November 27, 2013 for an assignment. The city of Upland is moving forward on negotiating an agreement with Montclair to merge administration at both departments, meaning they will share the Upland Fire Chief and a couple other positions. They will drop the boundary lines between the cities over the summer to allow each department to answer calls in each city. (Will Lester/Inland Valley Daily Bulletin)

UPLAND >> A clearer picture is beginning to emerge on what exactly will go into Upland's effort to disband its more than century old fire department and annex to **San Bernardino County Fire**.

If approved, it will transfer fire station properties, employees, assets, obligations, as well as liabilities. The move could be completed within the next six months.

City officials formally began the process in November as a cost-cutting measure for the financially strapped city. To move forward, both the city and county fire had to adopt a resolution that authorizes the transfer of Upland's property tax revenue, a mechanism that will help the city pay the county fire department for its services.

San Bernardino County Fire adopted its resolution in December. It specifically requests that Local Agency Formation Commission — an agency that oversees annexations — begin the transfer process, Upland Deputy City Manager Jeanette Vagnozzi said.

An Upland City Council resolution unanimously approved last week would allow the city to transfer \$6.7 million from its property tax revenue to the county's Fire Protection District. The exact amount could be anywhere from \$6.7 million up to \$7.5 million by 2021-21 fiscal year.

"It's definitely not a sale," Vagnozzi said. "We are annexing into an established fire protection district, which means we become part of something larger than us. We have access to greater resources and greater services."

In the first year of county fire control, expenditures are projected to be \$9.9 million and revenues would total \$3.3 million, according to a five-year financial analysis prepared by county fire. A majority of the expenditures would be covered by the property tax revenues, while the remaining \$3.3 million will be covered by a new annual \$148 parcel tax imposed for the annexation, as well as from first-responder fees, fire prevention, and cost-recovery fees, Vagnozzi said.

The city of San Bernardino recently went through a similar annexation. There, residents also pay a \$148 parcel tax to support the transfer.

Of Upland's \$6.7 million portion from property tax revenues, 6 percent would go toward administration costs and the rest would go to into what is known as the Valley Service Zone.

San Bernardino County Fire deputy chief Don Trapp said the Valley Service Zone includes its coverage areas in San Antonio Heights, Fontana, San Bernardino City out to Mentone.

Interim City Manager Marty Thouvenell said when he began to look into options to save the city money, he wanted to make sure it didn't impact the level of service.

Trapp assured him that won't be the case.

"We will not be reducing the staff that's on duty every day in the city, but we will be shuffling them around a little bit, and try to make it a little more consistent coverage throughout the city," he said.

For example, the fire station at Euclid Avenue and 24th Street, which is in the Valley Service Zone, is currently staffed with two firefighters on duty. Starting in July, that will increase to three firefighters, Trapp said.

It will also provide financial benefits to the city, as Councilwoman Carol Timm pointed out. The city currently spends \$12 million on fire services, Timm said, adding those figures are bound to escalate in the next five years.

The city's budget breaks down to \$9.1 million is in salaries and benefits while the remaining \$2.7 million is in operating expenses.

Meanwhile, salaries and benefits under county control, are projected to be \$7.7 million in the 2017-18 fiscal year and then increase to \$8.7 million in five years.

During public comments, former councilman Glenn Bozar alleged the city had not gone through the proper process to request proposals.

Bozar said the last time the city got a proposal from CalFire, there was no option for annexation. The city maintained control, he said, an option he would prefer.

The comments prompted Thouvenell to respond, by correcting Bozar.

"We did get a proposal to you and it was presented to you," Thouvenell said, referring to when Bozar still sat on the council.

Ultimately, the city did not pursue CalFire because there were no cost savings, he added.

Other residents questioned the city's reasoning for the decision, saying it will only be a quick fix to the city's financial issues.

“This is a very difficult decision for all of us up here on this dais, as it is for our residents. I can’t tell you how much everyone of us have worked very hard to get the information to understand this process,” Mayor Debbie Stone said.

<http://www.dailybulletin.com/government-and-politics/20170219/upland-moves-forward-dumping-its-fire-department-annexing-to-county-fire-department>

Coroner ID’s Children Killed In Victorville Accident

Victor Valley News Group

Posted: February 19, 2017



Two juvenile occupants inside the red Hyundai died as a result of injuries sustained. (Gabriel D. Espinoza, Victor Valley News)

VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com) A family is mourning the loss of two beautiful children that were killed in a tragic accident on Mojave Drive.

Pedro Basua Jr., 12, and his 10-year-old sister **Teresa Basua**, both of Adelanto, suffered traumatic injuries as result of the accident, confirmed the San Bernardino County Coroner’s Office. At 8:45 PM, they were both pronounced dead at the scene.

On February 18, 2017, at 8:37 PM, deputies with the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department and paramedics with the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** responded to a two-vehicle collision at the intersection of Amethyst Road and Mojave Drive in Victorville.

Per witness statements, a white Ford Taurus was traveling at speeds of 55-60 MPH eastbound on Mojave Drive when it T-boned a red Hyundai sedan. The Hyundai was said to be traveling northbound on Amethyst Drive and pulled out in front of the Taurus.

The impact caused Pedro Basua Jr to be ejected from the Hyundai. Teresa was pulled from the vehicle unresponsive. A third juvenile from the Hyundai was airlifted to a trauma center in critical condition.

The mother and father were in the vehicle and both transported with non-life threatening injuries.

“Stay Strong cousin Gloria and Peter may God comfort you in this time of need. Praying that you will pull (through) this cousin Joshua. RIP little cousins,” writes family member Mini Mendoza.

The Ford Taurus was occupied by three occupants that were all transported to area hospitals with unknown injuries.

Those familiar with the area have commented and urged The City of Victorville to add more signal lights to Mojave Drive.

“That area is horrible. My Parents died right down the street from there. Come on City of Victorville do something. How many more lives have to be lost?” commented Leann Owensby.

“The speed limit is 55-60 mph, and I’ve had people pass me at that speed on Mojave, so if you misjudge a car’s distance while turning from/to Amethyst (easy to do at night), it ends up being a tragic situation like this. So, yes, the city of Victorville does have a responsibility here,” stated Jason Bringhurst.

Authorities said drugs or alcohol did not immediately appear to be a contributing factor in the accident.

A Gofundme account is in place to help the family with financial assistance and burial expenses. Anyone wishing to help can donate by clicking the following link: Memorial for Pedro Jr & Teresa Basua

The San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department is investigating the incident.

<http://www.vvng.com/coroner-ids-2-children-killed-victorville-accident/>

Power Outage At Mt High Leaves Skiers Hanging

Victor Valley News Group

Posted: February 20, 2017



(Facebook)

WRIGHTWOOD, Calif. (VVNG.com) Several Skiers and snowboarders are back on solid ground after a power outage left them stranded on the chair lifts at Mountain High Ski Resort.

The outage caused the beginner lifts at Mountain High West to stop completely around 8:45 Monday evening, prompting several riders to call 911.

“The first 911 call was from a rider saying the rider had been stuck out there for the past 15 minutes, talking to Mountain High it sounded like they were having some difficulty getting their backup generator online,” said **San Bernardino County Fire Department** spokesman Eric Sherwin.

About 35 riders were stuck on the chairs for over an hour and a half Sherwin told Victor Valley News.

San Bernardino County Fire personnel from the Phelan and Wrightwood stations responded to assist in case riders suffered any environmental cold injuries.

An auxiliary generator went back online around 10:15 p.m. and the ski lifts started moving again. “Fortunately, it sounds like nobody needed any advance medical attention,” Sherwin said.

<http://www.vvng.com/power-outage-mt-high-leaves-skiers-hanging/>