



NEWS



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- Rainy Day Surprise

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Wet weather was a factor, the CHP said, in this early Monday morning rollover of a 2006 Pontiac G6 sedan heading westbound on Highway 173 near Cottage Grove Road that tied up traffic in both directions for more than a half hour.

After months of drought, the bottom portion of a low pressure trough stretching down from the Pacific Northwest passed through the San Bernardino Mountains Sunday night into Monday morning, leaving just enough precipitation to make travel dicey for some drivers.

According to the CHP, about four traffic incidents might have been attributable to wet road and fog conditions, including a single-car rollover along Highway 173 near Cottage Grove Road.

Jordan Kristopher Howden, 24, from Cedarpines Park was driving westbound on Highway 173 at around 8:10 a.m. on Monday, the CHP said, when he apparently lost control of a gray 2006 Pontiac G6 sedan and flipped, with the car ending up on its roof.

Traffic was closed in both directions for more than a half hour while the CHP and **County Fire** crews from Station 91 in Lake Arrowhead responded to the incident.

Howden reported having minor pain but was not transported, the CHP said. There were no passengers, and no other vehicles involved. Passersby stopped and helped direct traffic around the rollover until CHP and fire units arrived.

The CHP said the rollover could have been attributed to a combination of speed, the wet road surface and rear bald tires on the car.

Details of the other three traffic incidents in the mountains were not available at the time. Fog remained a concern through much of Monday morning along Highway 18, and several vehicles could be seen driving without their lights on.

The National Weather Service measured roughly four-tenths of an inch of rain from the low pressure system.

CHP spokesperson Officer Juan Quintero said the early-season rainy conditions was a good reminder to make sure your vehicle is ready for winter weather.

“I recommend you take time now to make sure your vehicle is mechanically sound for winter weather driving,” Officer Quintero said. “Make sure your tires are in good condition, as well as windshield wiper blades, brakes and your vehicle’s lights.”

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