

Flooding possible in Lake Tahoe Basin



Streets in South Lake Tahoe are flooding a bit after a whole day of rain Feb. 8.
Photos/Susan Wood

The National Weather Service in Reno has issued a flood watch for portions of California and Western Nevada, including the Lake Tahoe Basin and Alpine County from 4pm Saturday through Sunday afternoon.

Some streets in South Lake have standing water, trees are down and drains are clogged. The city is keeping an eye on the situation to determine if more employees need to be called in.

South Lake Tahoe has sand, bags and shovels at the Rufus Allen Boulevard yard through the back gate. Staff will be at the site to help. Truckee also has sand bags available for residents.



Pent up winter took its toll on the flag at American Oil gas station in South Tahoe.

Minor flooding is possible on all small streams in the affected areas. The heavy rain may also trigger rock and mud slides.

The National Weather Service said Bear Creek near Alpine Meadows might have minor flooding. The bike path along the Truckee River between the River Ranch and Tahoe City may flood. Basements and yards of some low-lying homes along the river may also begin to flood.

Small creeks and streams are the most susceptible to flooding.

Snow levels will remain at about 8,500 feet into Sunday morning before slowly falling. However, ski resorts below that elevation are reporting it's been snowing all day. While it's raining in South Lake Tahoe, it was changing to snow at Stateline at 3:45pm.

A winter storm warning has been issued by the NWS in Reno for the 24-hour period starting 4am Feb. 9. Expect 1-4 inches at lake level, 1-2 feet above 7,000 feet.

The U.S. Forest Service has issued an avalanche warning for the backcountry through 7am Sunday. The area covered is between Yuba Pass and Ebbetts Pass.

– *Lake Tahoe News report*