

# California showers won't ease drought

By Associated Press

April showers delayed a ballgame and prompted flood advisories as they scooted through California on Saturday, but the overall rain totals won't do much to ease five years of drought, forecasters said.

Light rain began falling Friday, and scattered showers should continue today, with a slight chance of thunderstorms, according to the National Weather Service. Snow is falling in the higher reaches of the Sierra on Sunday, with chain controls in place on some highways.

In San Francisco, a downpour delayed the Giants-Los Angeles Dodgers baseball game for 41 minutes.

In Central California, about 2 inches of rain fell in some places. The National Weather Service issued flood advisories until 3pm for Merced, Mariposa and southwestern Tuolumne counties. Heavy showers hit Bakersfield later in the day, bringing minor flooding.

In Nevada, firefighters rescued four people from flooding caused by heavy rain.

A 50-year-old man got stuck in a flood control channel in Las Vegas, Clark County Assistant Fire Chief Larry Haydu said.

Then a crew discovered three more people trapped in another channel nearby. All three were rescued and one was hospitalized for a minor leg injury.

It was relatively dry in Northern and Southern California. No more than a quarter-inch of rain was expected to fall throughout the day, with the south only beginning to see heavy

showers in the afternoon or evening.

The coast, deserts, valleys, foothills and mountains could see anywhere from a half-inch to 1 1/2 inches of rain as a Pacific weather system moves over southwestern California, according to the weather service.

While the El Nino warming phenomenon in the Pacific Ocean brought rain and snow to California this winter, most of those storms hit northern areas including the Sierra Nevada while bypassing the southern half of the state.