

Rain on snow causing flooding in Tahoe basin



Water is across all lanes of Pomo Street in the Meyers area on Feb. 7. Photo/CHP

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By Lake Tahoe News

Continued rain on snow is bringing the threat of flooding to areas in the Tahoe-Truckee region.

For Tuesday there are flood, high wind and avalanche warnings in effect. A flood watch is in effect until 4am Feb. 8 for South Lake Tahoe, Truckee, Stateline, Incline Village, Bridgeport and Mammoth Lakes.

“A moderate to strong atmospheric river will bring heavy rain with high snow levels today. This heavy rain and snow melt

will contribute to increasing flows on rivers and streams with an enhanced flooding potential through late tonight," the National Weather Service in Reno warns.

The wind warning is in effect through 10pm Feb. 7 for the Tahoe basin, with south to southwest winds at 20-35 mph, gusts up to 50 mph, and ridge gusts hitting 130 mph.

Storms are expected to continue through the week before a break in storms this weekend, according to meteorologists.



A backyard in the state street area of South Lake Tahoe is flooded Feb. 7 after a sump pump distributed water from under a house to this area. Photo/LTN

As of 9am Feb. 7 here are the 24-hour rain and snow totals provided from the National Weather Service in Reno:

- South Lake Tahoe – 2.03 inches

- Truckee airport – 1.81
- Ward Creek (Tahoe City) – 4.9
- Heavenly – 12
- Mount Rose – 20
- Homewood – 19.

Roads in the state streets area, Julie Lane, Tahoe Sierra and other parts of South Lake Tahoe have standing water of several inches as do other roads around the basin.

“We are cutting and moving berms to allow runoff as we can. The ground is so saturated though,” Jim Marino, South Lake Tahoe public works director, told *Lake Tahoe News*.

Pomo Street in the Meyers area is flooded.

Two large vehicle-sized boulders fell onto Highway 50 on Tuesday in the Logan Creek area. These are in addition to the event on Monday. No injuries were reported and no vehicles damaged.

Both directions of traffic are open, but lanes are reduced to a single lane in each direction.

“The heavy precipitation that the region continues to see brings with it an increased chance of rockslides, mudslides and avalanches. We remind motorists to drive safely and always watch the road ahead,” Meg Ragonese with the Nevada Department of Transportation told *Lake Tahoe News*.

El Dorado County has closed both directions of Mt. Aukum Road indefinitely due to multiple sinkholes. The road is closed at the north end at the North Fork of the Cosumnes River Bridge and at the south end at Happy Valley Road, just north of Grizzly Flat Road.

Highway 50 on Tuesday morning had one-way traffic control from

two miles east of Ice House Road to approximately five miles east of Ice House Road because of a mudslide.

Snow is falling at higher elevations, requiring chain controls in some locations. Mount Rose Highway has been closed for hours because of multiple spinouts.

For updated state highway conditions, click on the state icons on the home page of *Lake Tahoe News*.

Nevada Highway Patrol reported Tuesday morning that flooding closed the Carson Street southbound ramp on Highway 50.

Douglas County on Feb. 6 issued a flood warning.

Sand bags are available at Zephyr Cove Park. They are also available at all North Tahoe Fire Protection District stations, Lake Valley fire station in Meyers, and on Rufus Allen Boulevard in South Lake Tahoe.

Equipment failure has 273 NV Energy customers in the Incline Village area without power.