



ALPINE COUNTY UNIFIED COMMAND

DATE: March 10, 2023
RE: Public Safety Update

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: ALPINE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES (ASSESSOR, CLERK, FINANCE) AND BEHAVIOR HEALTH SERVICES WILL BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC TODAY, MARCH 10, 2023 DUE TO THE THREAT OF FLOODING IN THE AREA. SERVICES WILL STILL BE AVAILABLE ONLINE OR BY PHONE.

THE COUNTY RECOMMENDS RESUPPLYING, LIMITING TRAVEL, AND PREPARING FOR POTENTIAL FLOODING IN THE AREA DUE TO SIGNIFICANT MIXED PRECIPITATION EVENTS FORECASTED THROUGH MARCH 15, 2023.

An Atmospheric River has been forecasted for the Alpine County region starting **Thursday, March 9th** and will remain in effect until **Saturday, March 11th**. It is recommended that residents **significantly limit travel** due to significant travel impacts from mixed precipitation events. Due to potential road closures and public safety access, travel is only recommended for necessary reasons. Additionally, **due to flooding in Douglas County, Alpine County Unified Command recommends securing supplies as soon as possible to prevent access issues in and out of Alpine County.**

The County will be providing sandbags and sand at Station 91 and Station 92 in the Markleeville and Woodfords areas. For more information on sandbags please contact Community Development at 530-694-2140.

The County also encourages residents to secure supplies that will allow them to be self-sufficient for multiple days due to the potential of service interruption and road closures. Supplies include but are not limited to:

- Food
- Water
- Medication
- Propane
- Fire Wood
- Pet Food
- Batteries
- Fuel
- Generators
- Charge Cell Phones

Finally, Alpine County recommends residents clear as much snow as possible around tail pipes, exhaust vents, propane tanks, drainages, and roofs to prevent any threats to your personal safety. The County recommends assessing roof snow loads prior to the rain event in order to minimize risks to your safety.

County Service Phone Numbers for Closed Offices:

Assessor / Recorder's Office

(530) 694-2283

Jacob Rasberry – Assessment Technician

jrasberry@alpinecountyca.gov

Jeanette Millar – Auditor Appraiser & Recording Technician

jmillar@alpinecountyca.gov

Steven Sklar – Senior Appraiser

ssklar@alpinecountyca.gov

Donald O'Connor – Assessor / Recorder

doconnor@alpinecountyca.gov

Department of Finance

Klaus Leitenbauer - Director

kleitenbauer@alpinecountyca.gov

(530) 694-2284 ext. 134

Debbie Oberlander - Assistant Auditor-Controller

doberlander@alpinecountyca.gov

916-834-6199

Susan Lapin – Tax Collector (Markleeville)

slapin@alpinecountyca.gov

Mary Wenner – Assistant Tax Collector (Woodfords)

mwenner@alpinecountyca.gov

Clerk's Office

Teola Tremayne - Clerk

ttremayne@alpinecountyca.gov

530-721-5197

Library, Museum & Archives

Rita Lovell

rl Lovell@alpinecountyca.gov

530-721-5097

Behavioral Health Services

530-694-1816

Crisis Hotline: 1-800-318-8212

Emergency Services

Alpine County Sheriff's Office Dispatch: 530-694-2231

CalTrans Road Conditions: <https://dot.ca.gov/travel>

National Weather Service Winter Storm Warning:

Area Forecast Discussion

National Weather Service Reno NV

253 AM PST Fri Mar 10 2023

.SYNOPSIS...

A potent atmospheric river will bring strong winds, heavy mountain snow, and lower elevation rain through today, with possible flooding in poor drainage areas. Additional waves of moisture will keep rain and snow chances going at times from this weekend into next week.

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.SHORT TERM...Through Sunday Night...

A potent atmospheric river storm will continue to bear down on the region today, with continuous showers in the Sierra through the weekend. Peak precip rates, wind speeds and impacts are expected to continue through this afternoon. Expect widespread road/air travel impacts to continue today.

Here's the breakdown of what's to come today and tonight:

* WINDS: Ridge winds will remain gusty today and tonight out of the southwest, while valley winds are expected to turn light in the evening. The subtropical and polar jet streams have briefly merged over the West Coast to create a 150 kt jet at 300 mb, resulting in a 700 mb jet pushing 80 kts. This 700 mb jet is positioned perpendicular to the Sierra across northern CA/NV. Gusts along the ridges today will be upwards of 110 mph, sustained 65-75 mph. Western NV valleys could see gusts up to 50 mph this afternoon, except in wind prone locations, especially along US-395, could gust up to 75 mph.

* QPF: Starting with the areas with the most remaining QPF, the Sierra crest (above 8000') from the Tahoe Basin down through Mono County has an 80% chance of 4-7 inches of liquid, with the remaining 20% leaning more towards 7-8". Next up is Mono County below 8000', which could see 4" of liquid along US-395, and a

gradient going from 3" to 1" east of US-395. NE CA west of US-395 has a 90% chance of 1-2", while east of US-395 will only see 0.5". Far western NV, including the Reno/Carson/Minden areas, are expected to get another 1-2", though Washoe Valley could see upwards of 3". The rest of western NV and NE CA, including Surprise Valley/Fallon/Lovelock/Hawthorne, have an 80% chance of up to 0.5".

* SNOW LEVELS/AMOUNTS: Thanks to some low-level WAA, snow levels this morning will start off around 8000-8500', just as the heaviest precip is expected to occur. Snow levels will then start to come crashing down later in the morning, as a cold front pushes down into western NV. There remains some uncertainty as to exactly how far south the cold air will get pushed before the front stalls out, though blended guidance currently has a snow level gradient of 4000'(NE CA) to 8000'(Mineral/Mono). Then later tonight, that snow level gradient decreases as surface temperatures begin to drop. Snow levels will bottom out around 7000' in Mono County, 6500' in the Tahoe Basin, and at the surface in Lassen/northern Washoe counties. Additional snow accumulations for this storm through tonight: Tahoe Basin 5500-7000' has a 90% chance 6-18" and an 80% chance of 30-48" above 7000'. Sierra crest in Mono County above 8000' could see anywhere from 4-7 feet. NE CA west of US-395 could see up to 6" and east of US-395 up to 2". Very little accumulations can be expected for the rest of western NV, except up to 3" in Virginia City and northern Washoe County.

The cold front moving through the region will pivot across northern NV/CA and stall out, becoming more of a stationary front on Saturday. The upper level flow becomes more zonal through Sunday, except for a few shortwaves cruising by. Winds will taper off and become light overnight tonight through Sunday night, though Sierra ridges will remain breezy at around 45 mph gusting to 60 mph.

Additional showers are expected to continue through Sunday, which will become more convective in nature Saturday evening. Total snow accumulations from Saturday through Sunday night are currently 2-4 feet in the Tahoe Basin above 6000', 2-4 feet above 8000' in Mono County (2-6 below 8000'), 6-12" in NE CA west of US-395 (up to 1" east of US-395), and up to 1" across western NV. Most of western NV will see rain showers through Sunday, with total QPF up to 0.5".

-Justin

.LONG TERM...Monday through late next week...

A Second Atmospheric River Monday through Wednesday:

* Overview: Medium range model guidance continues to show another dynamic, warm, and wet atmospheric river affecting the region Monday through Wednesday. There will not be much of a break in the heavy, wet precipitation in the Sierra between the current system and the next.

* Winds: A strong mid-to-upper level subtropical jet will push into the Sierra Monday afternoon into Tuesday. The core of this jet, according to the latest guidance, is more oriented south-southwest to north-northeast, which would hinder the potential for higher winds in the lower elevations of western Nevada compared to the current storm. The ECMWF extreme forecast index also shows this, with values of less than 0.60 for western Nevada. Nevertheless, strong winds are expected across northeast California and the Sierra Nevada, with ridges projected to gust above 100 mph.

* Rain and Snowfall: Waves of subtropical moisture will push across northeast California and the Sierra Nevada beginning Monday morning and lasting through Wednesday morning/early afternoon. The southerly orientation of the incoming subtropical jet will cause shadowing across western Nevada, at least during the beginning of this system Monday evening. Once the heart of the atmospheric river moves over the Sierra Nevada Monday night, spillover rainfall will push into western Nevada. Current NBM guidance shows far western Nevada receiving 0.75-1.00" of QPF through Wednesday morning. Current NBM guidance shows snow levels rising rapidly Monday night to around 7000-7500 ft and hover around this level through mid-Tuesday afternoon, before plummeting to 4500-5000 ft Wednesday morning. If this comes to fruition, most of the heaviest snow will be limited to areas above 6500 feet across northeast California and the Sierra Nevada, with current projections of 2-4 feet above 7000 ft, with the higher peaks of the Sierra seeing as much as 5 feet. Prepare for travel impacts and delays over Sierra passes early next week. Some light snow will be possible Wednesday morning "down here," however, this all depends how far snow levels drop.

* Potential Flooding: The possibility of higher elevation rainfall will require close monitoring, as the current storm will help to prime the snowpack and subsequent stream responses. If higher elevation rainfall does occur, we could see rises on lower elevation creeks and streams, and higher flows on mainstem rivers. We will continue to monitor the potential for flooding next week.

Late Next Week:

* Extended ensemble guidance shows diverging solutions regarding

the timing for more waves of Pacific moisture affecting the Sierra and western Nevada. The ECMWF-ENS has another wave of Pacific moisture affecting us next Friday into Saturday, whereas the GEFS has this wave entering the region Thursday, and the CMC-ENS has the wave entering the region late next Friday. Regardless of the timing, the progressive pattern looks to continue over the Eastern Pacific, bringing above normal chances for precipitation to the Sierra Nevada and western Nevada into the third week of March.

Media Inquiries Regarding Alpine County

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