



SITUATION REPORT

Incident: Winter Weather Update
February 27, 2023
7:00 p.m.

KEY ISSUES/CONCERNS

Current Storm is Extremely Dangerous: The National Weather Service (NWS) issued a Blizzard Warning starting at 1 p.m. this afternoon, and lasting until Wednesday, March 1, at 10 a.m. The main concern is blowing snow, which is severely limiting visibility on roads and within communities. Temperatures in the teens are expected, and below zero windchills are another concern.

Stay Home/Stay Off the Roads: With nearly all roads in Mono County closed except for local community roads, the public is urged to remain in place and avoid travel. Inaccurate GPS and mapping applications can inaccurately show alternate routes that are not viable. There are no viable alternative routes in and out of Mono County if U.S. 395 is closed.

Medical Emergency Care Limited: Limited emergency medical flights will be available through the storm due to the recent fatal accident with Careflight; the company has grounded flights for the foreseeable future. Other air resources are very limited as well. Most roads are closed, making emergency medical evacuation difficult or impossible.

Avalanche Danger: Avalanche danger is very high on many of the county's steep slopes, and getting higher each hour as the snow accumulates. There have already been multiple avalanches that crossed U.S. 395, including one today north of Lee Vining that took out a section of the metal retaining fence that was installed in the burned area above Mono Lake; the debris from this slide could take into Friday, and perhaps longer, to remove. Two areas in June Lake (see below) remain under a mandatory evacuation order.

EVACUATIONS AND EMERGENCY/TEMPORARY SHELTER

Evacuations: Evacuation orders remain in place for June Lake's Dream Mountain Drive and the south side of S.R. 58 between the Fire Station and Reverse Creek Campground.

Temporary evacuation point: A temporary evacuation point remains set up at the June Lake Community Center. It is unclear how long the evacuation order will be in effect. Call 760-924-4633 for more information.



EMERGENCY ALERTS

A Blizzard Warning was issued at 1 p.m. today, lasting until 4 a.m., Wednesday, March 1. A Backcountry Avalanche Warning for HIGH avalanche danger for the eastern slopes of the Sierra between Virginia Lakes to the north of Bishop Creek remains in place until Wednesday, March 1 at 7 a.m.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

Blizzard conditions will remain through the night tonight, and last into most of Tuesday, February 28. The conditions will begin to calm late Tuesday and overnight into Wednesday morning. Total snow accumulations above 8000 feet will be 4 to 5 feet, with 2 to 3 feet in lower elevations of the county, and 8 to 16 inches on the east side of U.S. 395. Winds could gust as high as 60 mph.

TRAFFIC/ROAD CONDITIONS

395 is closed from Gorge Road to Bridgeport. Several county roads, including the Benton Crossing Road, Virginia Lakes Road, Saddlebag Lake Road, Lundy Lake Road, Upper Rock Creek Road, Lower Rock Creek (closed at the U.S 395 junction to Swall Meadows), remain closed. U.S. 6 is open.

UTILITIES

There are no outages at this time.

RESOURCES

Mono County Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/countyofmono>

National Weather Service – Reno: <https://www.weather.gov/reno>

CHP Activity – Mono/Inyo Counties: <https://cad.chp.ca.gov/Traffic.aspx>

Easter Sierra Avalanche Center: <https://www.esavalanche.org/>

Mono County Webcams: <https://www.monocounty.org/plan-your-trip/weather-and-road-conditions/webcams-in-mono-county/>

Caltrans - Road Information: <https://roads.dot.ca.gov/roadscell.php>