

# PRESS RELEASE

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**Date:** Tuesday, January 12, 2016  
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## ROUTE 243 BOULDER REMOVAL IN PROGRESS

**RIVERSIDE-** Caltrans District 8 reported yesterday that State Route 243 (SR 243) between Pine Cove and Idyllwild closed on Sunday night due to a fallen boulder. SR 243 will remain closed until further notice, pending removal of the boulder.

Caltrans rented specially fabricated equipment (a fifty thousand pound excavator equipped with a hydraulic breaker), which arrived on scene late last night. Caltrans Maintenance crews began work early this morning to break apart the boulder and remove it from the highway.

Yesterday, Caltrans Geotechnical engineers investigated the slope at the location where the boulder fell onto the highway and determined that once the boulder was removed it would be safe to reopen the route to the public.

Motorists are able to access the Pine Cove community from Interstate 10 (I-10), however not Idyllwild. Motorists traveling to communities north of Pine Cove (such as Idyllwild) must use SR 74 (through Hemet) to SR 243 as a detour.

Visit our web site at [www.caltrans8.info](http://www.caltrans8.info) and sign up for [COMMUTER/MEDIA E-MAIL ALERTS](#). View traffic conditions at <http://quickmap.dot.ca.gov> and planned lane closures at [www.lcswebreports.dot.ca.gov](http://www.lcswebreports.dot.ca.gov). Follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/caltrans8](http://www.twitter.com/caltrans8).



The boulder after 30 minutes of work to break it apart.

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