



PRESS RELEASE

09-055

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2009
District: 08 – San Bernardino County
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CALTRANS CONTINUES WORK TO OPEN SR-18 IN ARCTIC CIRCLE

San Bernardino County – State Route 18 (SR-18) from Snow Valley to Big Bear Dam, also known as the Arctic Circle, remains closed due to snow slides and avalanches. The route closed on Monday, February 16, and is expected to remain closed until Friday evening, February 20.

Caltrans Maintenance crews have been working since Monday to clear snow on the roadway, however an emergency contract has been established to clear the slide and avalanche material. The emergency contractor is at work and is pushing to get the route open for the busy resort weekend.

More than 30 slides and snow drifts crossed the roadway, some over 15 feet high. Caltrans has been using up to three snow blowers, several loaders, and snow plows just to keep a path for emergency access and the contractor.

There was a closure a couple weeks ago in this same area due to another large snow storm, which caused approximately 15 avalanches, two of them about 20 feet high. This storm brought up to an additional three feet of snow to the slopes and caused more slides and avalanches.

For updates on this closure and other road information, please go to www.caltrans8.info or call (866) 383-4631 or (800) 427-ROAD.

Be prepared when you go to the mountains and bring chains. You will not be permitted without them.

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