



COMMUTER ALERT

19-082

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Date: Tuesday, March 12, 2019

District: 8 – Riverside/San Bernardino

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EMERGENCY PROJECT UPDATE FOR STORM DAMAGED STATE ROUTES 74 AND 243

SAN BERNARDINO – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is providing an update for the emergency repairs to State Route 74 (SR-74) and State Route 243 (SR-243) near Idyllwild and Mountain Center.

On February 14 these state routes sustained significant storm damage; making these routes unsafe for public use. Since the February 14 storm event, Ames Construction has been on site working twelve (12) hour shifts to expedite the rebuilding efforts.

An \$8 million emergency contract combined for both routes is making repairs to damages including but not limited to: complete road loss, culvert repair/replacement, wash outs, slip outs, sink holes, slope instability resulting in rock fall, mud and debris flows, and damaged pavement. Unfortunately, weeks of continuous storm activity has resulted in further damage to both routes. The cost of the emergency contract will likely increase due to additional damages sustained from storm events since February 14.

There are over 25 locations on SR 243 with damage including two locations with complete road loss. SR 74 has over 40 locations that will require repairs. At this time, Caltrans is estimating at least four (4) months before public access or reopening of both SR 74 or 243 can take place. Reopening will be contingent upon delays due to weather or other unforeseen damages or circumstances. There are limited lane widths on SR 74, however in the event of an emergency that would require community evacuation, Caltrans, in coordination with the California Highway Patrol (CHP), Riverside County Sheriff and Emergency Management, will make arrangements for evacuation if it becomes necessary between Mountain Center and Valle Vista.

Caltrans is making every effort to expedite repairs and restore the routes to the community, businesses, lodging industry and tourism. The safety of the traveling public remains a concern on both routes, therefore no access will be provided until the routes have become safe for travel.

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Motorists may use SR 74 from the desert region or from Temecula to access Mountain Center and Idyllwild. Please stay connected with current information regarding these closures by following Caltrans District 8 on Facebook and Twitter @caltrans8.



SR 243 near Lake Fulmor – running water impeding roadbed repair.



Newest wash out on SR 243.



SR 74 near post mile 51 (unpaved segment of roadway with limited lane width).

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