



COMMUTER ALERT

16-110

Date: Friday, July 1, 2016

District: 8 – Riverside/San Bernardino

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATE ROUTE 243 CLOSED FOR ONE DAY FOR ROCK SCALING

RIVERSIDE – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) will close State Route 243 (SR 243) next Wednesday, July 6, to complete a rock scaling operation. The work was identified earlier this year when on January 10, 2016, an 18-20 foot boulder fell onto the highway near Sunrise Drive/Overlook. It took Caltrans crews three days to break down the boulder using specialized equipment and remove it from the highway.

At that time, Caltrans Geologists investigated the slope where the rock fell from and determined that the slope was safe to reopen the roadway to traffic once the boulder was removed. Although the highway was safe to reopen to the traveling public, the geologists identified a couple areas on the slope that would require future rock scaling.

Caltrans Geologists and Rock Climbing Crews will begin a scaling operation to remove rock and debris on Wednesday, July 6, from 8:00 a.m. to approximately 3:00 p.m. **During the work hours it will be necessary to completely close SR 243 between Franklin Drive and Sunrise.**

Caltrans expects to reopen the roadway by 3:00 p.m., however there may be issues with the scaling work which may extend the opening of the route until after 3:00 p.m.

Motorists will be able to utilize SR 243 to the Pine Cove community from Interstate 10 (I-10) in Banning. People traveling to Idyllwild must use SR 74 (through Hemet) to SR 243 as a detour.

Caltrans will update information as it becomes available in regards to reopening SR 243. We thank everyone for their patience during the scaling operation. The continued safety of the traveling public and access to the communities along SR 243 is the priority.

Know before you go! To stay informed of roadwork in the Inland Empire go to www.caltrans8.info and sign up for commuter alerts. View traffic conditions at <http://quickmap.dot.ca.gov>.

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