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Storm moves on after dropping more rain in a

STAFF and WIRE REPORTS FEB 8 1994

The latest storm moved out of the Monterey Bay area today, dropping less than an inch more rain in most places overnight.

Some trees and wires came down in strong winds, but no power outages were reported this morning.

The word out on wet roads, however, was "fender-bender."

A few lingering showers were

expected to continue around the Monterey Bay area this morning, with partly cloudy skies predicted this afternoon, said Pete Alesi at the National Weather Service in San Francisco.

The powerful storm gave the dry region a good soaking before moving on, with some stations recording more than 4 inches of rain.

The California Highway Patrol reported 30 rain-related traffic ac-

cidents, all minor, in Monterey County during the last 24 hours.

In Santa Cruz County, one non-injury traffic accident was reported overnight.

Further south, rocks and mud closed Highway 1 yesterday at 1:30 p.m. at Limekiln Creek Bridge, 12 miles north of Gorda in Monterey County.

There is still no estimate of when the road will be reopened. Highway 101 can be used as an

alternate.

The CHP advises motorists use caution on the coast route, and to watch for fallen rocks, especially at night.

Rain, thunderstorms and a few funnel clouds descended on northern California yesterday.

The rain was a welcome change from an unusually dry December and January. Rainfall totals were at 40 to 70 percent of normal.

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Mike McCollum

Marcos Balencia, 8, sings in the rain to his sister Julia, 5, while waiting for their mother to finish grocery shopping.

RAIN

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Santa Cruz recorded the most rain — 1.98 inches — in the county outside the mountains during the last 24 hours. The La Selva Beach station reported 1.74 inches. Some stations in the Santa Cruz mountains reported rainfall up to 4 inches.

Watsonville received an even half-inch of rain, bringing this year's total to 1.30.

Though the usual flooding occurred around town yesterday, no related problems were reported this morning.

Elsewhere, the National Weather Service said isolated thunderstorms produced funnel clouds at Stockton and Pittsburg among other points.

San Francisco, Oakland and San Jose all recorded more than a half-inch of rain ending at 4 p.m.

The storm left more than a foot of snow on mountain peaks and caused power outages in Plumas and Lassen counties.

Pacific Gas and Electric Co., which lost both of its 60,000-volt lines into the Quincy area, blamed snow buildup on the power lines.

Several snow slides were reported yesterday, one of which briefly trapped a CHP car.

Officer Rich Haley said the slide hit his car just west of Meyers in El Dorado County, but he was able to free his vehicle by surging forward.

In southern California, the storm turned fire-stripped hillsides into debris-choked tor-

rents of mud, trapping people in their homes, forcing others to flee and adding misery to despair in disaster-prone Southern California.

RAINFALL

	Last 24 hrs	Season Total	Last Year
Watsonville	0.50	08.20	09.64
Aptos	0.62	11.94	21.90
Aromas	0.60	08.70	19.20
Castroville★	0.71	N.A.	N.A.
Corralitos	0.60	12.11	28.67
Eur. Canyon	0.60	14.59	38.82
Felton	0.91	17.65	38.81
Freedom	0.68	09.26	19.21
Grn. Val. Rd.★	1.05	N.A.	N.A.
La Selva Bch.	1.74	10.29	21.10
Pinto Lake	0.70	11.80	08.20
Prunedale★..	0.91	N.A.	N.A.
Santa Cruz★	1.98	N.A.	N.A.
Soquel	0.80	11.17	N.A.

★ Readings taken at midnight