



Dan Coyro/Sentinel

Bob Montgomery carried plant out his Felton home this morning.

Sentinel - 4-2-82

Weather

Felton Mudslide Imperils Highway

By JOHN McNICHOLAS
Sentinel Staff Writer

A rain-sodden and slowly-shifting hillside just south of Felton drove three families from their homes Thursday and threatens to send a 250-foot section of Highway 9 down toward the San Lorenzo River.

"It almost appears to be a sinkhole, but we're not sure what it is or what's causing it," the county's supervising building inspector, Dick Stubendorff, said of the 300-foot-wide, 900-foot-high area.

The section has "moved tremendously since last night," said Felton Fire Chief John McDonnell. Large cracks are visible

in the earth and across the highway in the threatened road section between Glengary Road and the Toll House.

The county declared three houses off Glengary Road unsafe. In one of the houses, a room has moved more than six inches, it was reported. Large cracks are visible in another as moving earth is pulling it slowly apart. Ince Monday, more than six inches of rain have fallen in Felton. By comparison, 15 inches fell there during the Jan. 3-5 storm.

Bob and Julie Montgomery, who moved to the area just six months ago, said they knew about the rains in the area, but had been told it was a stable sector. The
SEE BACK PAGE

MUDSLIDE

FROM PAGE 1

Montgomerys and other residents were moving out some of their belongings this morning.

Geologists had inspected the area before the house was built, they said, and the area experienced no problems during the Jan. 4-5 storm.

Owners of the other two homes were identified by McDonnell as "Ken Smith and Saint Pierre."

County crews will monitor the the area, Stubendorff said. They have been on alert since midweek, ready to respond to storm-caused problems.

"We've got the rain and potential problems if it keeps coming down. Everybody's standing by, but so far most of the county is holding together.

"(The potential slide at) Love creek hasn't moved, and the more major slides (from previous storms) seem to be holding their own. But they could go at any time."

Highway 9 remained open this morning to Saratoga Gap, where a slide has closed it. All other roads in the county were reported open.

Only minor problems were reported by

Pacific Telephone and PG&E.

Today's forecast calls for cloudiness, with chances of showers and thundershowers increasing tonight and Saturday, with contiued low temperatures.

The rainfall for the last 24 hours, the season's total and last yera to date are as follows:

Rainfall reports for 24 hours ending at 8 a.m. today and including the season's totals (since July 1) and those of last year at this time, are as follows:

	24 Hrs.	Season	Last Year
24 hrs todate 81-82			
Aptos	.58	40.37	18.48
Bonny Doon	.85	77.03	31.29
Boulder Creek	.80	85.81	38.09
Ben Lomond	.55	7.56	34.03
Capitola	.79	45.85	19.59
Corralitos	.38	44.83	20.65
Empire Grade	.64	90.13	35.49
Felton	.55	67.56	29.19
Graham Hill	.65	58.40	28.05
Happy Valley	.80	71.00	30.12
Lompico	.80	89.60	35.35
N a t u r a l			
Bridges	.51	34.46	18.46
Rio Del Mar	.62	40.77	18.78
Santa Cruz	.50	42.55	21.18
Soquel	.66	45.92	20.08
Swanton	.63	46.71	26.15
Scotts Valley	.70	66.53	30.68
Watsonville	.37	34.72	18.28
Summit	.61	67.66	32.88