A bit of mail is open again.

SANTA CRUZ — The mall is open. Or at least a bit of it is.

The fences that had kept people from the Walnut Street entrance to Pacific Avenue were moved back Saturday to let people enter a half-block section of the decimated downtown. Togo's Eatery, Woolworth's, The Gap and even the small pretzel cart on the corner were all open for business Saturday afternoon.

Most of those who discovered the section was open were not shopping, though. Instead, they were getting the first public glimpse of what the mall looks like from Pacific Avenue.

The huge hole that had once been the Hihn building, the field of rubble that Logos, Plaza Books and Fords Department Store had all sat upon, the shattered windows and cracked facades that still adorn many of the buildings in the area—all were seen from a new perspective, and people pressed against the fences for a closer look.