

More Cold Weather Predicted

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By The Associated Press

A parting burst of freezing rain left cars and trucks skidding off Southern highways today as the worst cold wave of the century receded, while a West Coast storm that threatened more mudslides covered the Sierra Nevada with a layer of snow.

Highways were covered with ice this morning from Virginia to Alabama and in eastern Oklahoma. Many schools remained shut, although after a week of subzero cold, temperatures were easing across the eastern United States.

The 11-day cold wave, which has left 289 dead nationwide, was moving off the East Coast, but the National Weather Service said Monday the Midwest and Northeast

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can expect more of the same.

The service's 30-day forecast calls for below-normal temperatures for the eastern two-thirds of the nation.

"The Siberian Express is just temporarily derailed," said Harold Gibson, the weather service's chief meteorologist in Manhattan.

Fog at the busy Hartsfield International Airport in Atlanta this morning reduced visibility to zero and forced dozens of flights to be diverted.

In Virginia, snow, freezing rain and sleet began falling early today and turned roads in the western, central and southern parts of the state into a rush-hour nightmare.

Richmond police reported a 17-car pileup on the Interstate 95 bridge over the James River. They had stopped taking accident reports unless there was at least \$700 in damage.

The airport in Roanoke was closed.

The freezing rain and sleet also caused trucks to jack-knife and touched off chain-reaction smashups in West Virginia. Many schools were closed.

Fog and freezing rain that left visibility

at near zero in eastern Oklahoma closed roads and highways in the Tulsa area this morning and caused numerous accidents.

"In upper East Tennessee, nothing is moving," Mike Caudill of the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency said after five fuel tankers overturned on icy roads, eight tractor-trailer rigs crashed in one massive pileup and a Knoxville thoroughfare was strewn with cars from a dozen-vehicle accident. "Anything that's moving is going into a ditch," he said.

About 50 people moved out of their houses in Pacifica Sunday night and eight families vacated their homes in Lagunitas because of predictions of rain. Three children in Pacifica died when a section of a hillside collapsed during heavy rains Jan. 3-5. They were among at least 31 people who died in mudslides and heavy rain in Northern California.

It only drizzled Sunday night, but more rain pelted Northern California on Monday, mostly in San Francisco and eastward, and not in the heavily damaged areas south of the city.