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After rainy and wet Saturday, Santa Cruz County could see break in storms

Eight zones received evacuation orders



During a break in the rain, a couple watches as tree branches and debris float down a swollen San Lorenzo River Saturday morning. Credit: Aric Sleeper

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SANTA CRUZ — After a series of atmospheric rivers pounded the Monterey Bay, causing floods, mudslides, sinkholes and evacuations across the region, the seemingly perpetual torrent of heavy rain may turn to a trickle as early as Monday, according to National Weather Service Meteorologist Colby Goatley.

"Sunday morning into the early afternoon hours, there should be chances of some scattered showers to isolated showers, but they should be few and far between across the region," said Goatley. "Then starting Sunday afternoon, we do have one more system that is going to move inland across the region, so we're going to get another big shield of rain like we had Saturday morning, and that's going to move inland through Sunday evening and overnight into Monday morning."

But then, Monday morning, the low pressure system that caused the last round of storms moves inland and away from the bay.

"And by Monday afternoon we should finally start to see some clearing," said Goatley. "And then, once we get into Monday night and into Tuesday, it looks like we finally should have some clearing through the region, for the most part. In fact, I would say our next chance of rain doesn't even show up until Wednesday afternoon or evening."

The National Weather Service has also [issued](#) a coastal flood advisory that is active until 9 a.m. Monday. A flood watch is also in effect until 4 p.m. Monday.

The intense storm overnight Friday and into Saturday morning was enough to rapidly raise the San Lorenzo River, Soquel Creek, Salsipuedes Creek and Pajaro River enough to merit flood warnings and evacuations in multiple [zones](#) of Watsonville, Corralitos, Capitola, Felton and the Rio Del Mar Esplanade. [Emergency shelters](#) are open at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds and Cabrillo College.

The zones under evacuation orders include Felton Grove (FEL-E008), Paradise Park (CRZ-E081), Rio Del Mar (CTL-E051) as well as South County zones (PAJ-E015, PAJ-E024, PAJ-E026, PAJ-E027 and PAJ-E028).

Road closures were found all over the county with portions of East Cliff Drive experiencing flooding issues, a downed tree in Live Oak shut down Thurber Lane, and in Capitola, Park Avenue was closed from Coronado to Washburn due to a downed tree and power lines. In Rio Del Mar, a downed tree on Sumner Avenue caused the road to be closed alongside the flooded Esplanade. Watsonville, portions of San Andreas Road and Buena Vista Drive were closed due to flooding along with Paulsen Road and a debris slide on Mount Madonna caused one lane to be closed, among others.

Forecast

Sunday: Rain likely, after 11 a.m. with patchy fog in the morning. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a high near 55 degrees. Sunday night, expect rain before 5 a.m., and possibly a thunderstorm after 5 a.m. It will be breezy with gusts as high as 28 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%.

Monday: Expect showers and a possible thunderstorm before 11 a.m., then a chance of heavy rain after 11 a.m. There will be a high near 56 degrees and west, northwest wind with gusts as high as 22

mph. The chance of precipitation is 70%. Monday night, there will be a 40% chance of rain, before 5 a.m.

Tuesday: There will be a 20% chance of rain before 11 a.m. and it will be mostly sunny, with a high temperature near 57 degrees. Tuesday night will be partly cloudy, with a low temperature around 41 degrees.