

# MEDIA RELEASE

El Dorado County Sheriff's Office

DATE: 1/1/06  
4:00 pm

SUBJECT: New Year's Storm Recap

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El Dorado County was struck by a series of wetting storms over the holiday weekend that confronted the community with strong winds and unusually heavy precipitation not seen since 1997).

This resulted in a rain gauge range of 3 to 7 inches of accumulation, with an average of 5". Of great concern is heavy accumulation in central county region which caused landslides in the Coloma area and created conditions for slides in the American River Canyon.

The county was inundated with requests for service. These numbers are being assessed currently. Due to the potential of this event and the tourist impact of the holiday in the Tahoe area, the El Dorado County Emergency Operations Center opened at 0230 hours on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

During the next 24 hour period, the snow level dropped from 7000' to 5000'. Agencies responded to approximately 300 weather-related calls for service. These requests were in addition to the normal call volume and the impact of New Years Celebrations. To facilitate the response the following agencies coordinated operations:

- El Dorado County Sheriffs Department
- California Office of Emergency Services
- Caltrans
- California Highway Patrol
- City of Placerville
- El Dorado County Development Services
- El Dorado County Search and Rescue
- El Dorado County Fire Protection District

- United States Forest Service
- Diamond Springs/El Dorado Fire Protection District
- El Dorado Hills Fire Department
- Georgetown Fire Protection District
- Garden Valley Fire Protection District
- Latrobe Fire Protection District
- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
- American Red Cross
- El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
- El Dorado County Surveyor

During the first 24 hour period, the following actions were taken:

- Six people in distress were assisted.
- Approximately three commercial structures were flooded.
- Twenty eight homes residents were assisted with flooding.
- Two mobile home parks were evacuated.
- Three evacuee shelters were opened.

The El Dorado County Department of Transportation (DOT) responded to roadway slide and flooding issues on:

- Mosquito Road, north of the bridge. (closed indefinitely)
- Church Mine Road (damaged repair in progress)
- Bayne Road (damaged, assessment pending)
- Mt. Murphy Road (closed, assessment pending)
- DOT reports approximately 100 requests for service to remove debris and close or open roads due to rain.

Damage Assessment Teams are in the field assessing damage to private and public infrastructure. At 1430 hours on December 31 the totals were:

- 2 RV's destroyed
- Three commercial structures damaged
- 31 residential homes damaged