Two killed; property demolished in California storm

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A storm hit California with heavy rain, snow and wind Monday, spawning a tornado, derailing railroad cars, closing Disneyland and freeways and flooding homes. Two deaths were blamed on the weather.

The tornado touched down in San Diego County, destroying three carports at a mobile home park in Carlsbad, the National Weather Service said. Funnel clouds also were sighted in the Rancho Cucamonga and Upland areas of San Diego County.

Up to 30 inches of snow fell in the Sierra Nevadas. Schools closed due to snow in Oregon and Nevada.

Heavy rain undermined the track on an overpass south of downtown Los Angeles, causing four freight cars of a train to derail, Southern Pacific Lines reported.

One of the cars contained sodium hydroxide, which the railroad described as a moderately toxic material, and the California Highway Patrol shut down a section of the nearby Harbor Freeway in both directions as a precaution.

The section of the freeway linking downtown to the Los Angeles Harbor was expected to remain closed until Tuesday morning, the CHP said.

California water officials said the storm was a step — but only a step — toward ending the state's lingering drought.

"This is encouraging. There's a beginning of a snowpack in the mountains," said Dean Thompson, spokesman for the state drought center. "But it's a long way from what we need."

Average rainfall at statewide mountain recording stations is still only 68 percent of normal since October, Thompson said.

Heavy rain fell throughout the Los Angeles area. The National Weather Service reported a half-inch of rain in just 15 minutes in Woodland Hills and 5.28 inches by midday on Topanga Summit, overlooking Malibu.

In the Sierras, the storm had dumped 30 inches of snow at Donner Summit and Mammoth Lakes, 23 inches at Echo Summit, 17 inches at Dagget Pass, 16 inches at Meyers, and 12 inches at Incline Village, the weather service said. The Heavenly Valley ski area reported 48 inches during the weekend. Schools were closed around Lake Tahoe.

The California and Nevada highway patrol reported dozens of accidents on both sides of the Sierras.

Along the storm's projected path, winter storm watches were posted for Tuesday over southern Utah, the northern half of Arizona, northwestern New Mexico and the mountains of southwestern Colorado.

Nixon tapes may provide new evidence in assassination attempt

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — A spokesman for former Gov. George Wallace on Monday called for the release of every tape from President Nixon's White House on the 1972 assassination attempt on Wallace, following a report that such tapes exist.

Unreleased White House tapes show that Nixon wanted to use the attempted assassination of Wallace to discredit George McGovern's 1972 Democratic presidential campaign, *The New Yorker* magazine reported Monday.

Elvin Stanton, Wallace's chief aide, said the former governor believes "higher-up officials" were involved in a conspiracy to eliminate him from the 1972 presidential race. Stanton said the *New Yorker* report underscores the need for an investigation.

Wallace, who was seeking the Democratic presidential nomination, was shot May 15, 1972, during a campaign stop in Laurel, Md., leaving his legs paralyzed.

The New Yorker said Nixon and White House counsel Charles Colson discussed planting McGovern campaign literature in the Milwaukee apartment of would-be assassin Arthur Bremer within hours of the shooting.

The expectation was that the discovery of the Democratic campaign material in the apartment could be leaked in such a way as to appear to link McGovern and his allies to the Wallace shooting, the magazine said.

But the idea fizzled because the FBI quickly sealed off Bremer's apartment, according to the article by journalist Seymour M. Hersh.

Nixon lawyer R. Stan Mortenson declined to comment on *The New Yorker* story.

The tapes reportedly are among hundreds of hours of recordings from the Nixon's White House recording system that are held in secret at the National Archives.

Stanton said efforts by Nixon's White House to get operative E. Howard Hunt to Bremer's apartment have been reported previously. But he said Wallace had not known that recordings existed of Nixon talking about it.

Stanton said Wallace, 73, who is in poor health, would have no comment on the report. But he said Wallace "is not satisfied that everything has been revealed that should have been revealed" concerning the shooting.

"I'd like to see every bit of the tapes and other evidence ... and those involved in obstruction of justice prosecuted," said Stanton.

He said Wallace "has said on occasion there are faces he has in his mind of higher-up officials who were involved in such a conspiracy. But he would not mention any names because he doesn't have any proof."

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