

Home destroyed by landslide

Jon Chown, Watsonville Register-Pajaronian, 4-1-11

Bob Mangels and his wife, Jane, lived at their home at 14 Manfre Road for 27 years. They struggled to keep it after Bob lost his job, ran out of unemployment insurance and then went on Social Security. On Monday, they received the papers to refinance the home.

But on Saturday, the hill behind the home collapsed during the storm and 3 feet of mud slid down and filled their house, destroying nearly everything inside and killing two of their cats. On Friday, the house was red-tagged and they found out that insurance was not going to cover any of their loss.

“The only thing I grieve is the loss of life,” Bob Mangels said. “All the material stuff can be replaced. ... We’re homeless. I guess this is how it happens.”

Neighbors saved his two bloodhounds that were in the house and four cats escaped unharmed.

The mud is about waist-deep throughout the house, and its force crushed furniture and other goods.

“I was at church Saturday morning and I came home about noon to find this,” he said. “What a mess.”