

Mudslide in Tiburon, tree blocks road in Corte Madera

Jessica Bernstein-Wax, Marin Independent Journal, 3-29-11

The rain has stopped for now, but Marin workers and residents were still dealing with the aftermath of last week's storms: In Tiburon, a man coped with a weekend mudslide that inundated his driveway and in Corte Madera, workers removed a 60-foot oak tree that fell and damaged power lines Monday.

Luigi Baker arrived at his Tiburon home on the 300 block of Trestle Glen Boulevard around 3 p.m. Saturday to find a hillside on his property collapsed. Neighbors at an adjacent property, which was also affected, reported the mudslide occurred about 1 p.m., Baker said. The noise was so loud that Tiburon firefighters heard it at a nearby station and headed to the scene immediately without receiving any calls.

When he parked in his driveway Saturday, Baker saw a chaotic scene with mounds of dirt and a tree covering his patio and lawn and his storage shed pushed 10 feet from its original location.

"I thought it was the wrong driveway," Baker said. "My shed was moved."

About 6:45 a.m. Monday, a 60-foot oak toppled in Corte Madera on the 400 block of Redwood Avenue, downing power lines and shutting down the street, Corte Madera fire Capt. Jordan Russell said.

"It was a large oak that fell probably because of the saturated soils and what not," Russell said. "It fell onto some power lines. The lines came across a couple vehicles."

No one was injured and there was no property damage, Russell said.

Pacific Gas and Electric Co. workers were repairing the cables Monday morning, and the tree was being removed, he said. About 80 customers lost power because of the downed cables, although all but 10 had their electricity back by Monday afternoon, PG&E spokeswoman Katie Romans said. The company hoped to restore all electricity in the area by 10 p.m., she said.

In an unrelated blackout, about 160 Novato customers lost power at around 9 a.m. Monday because of an equipment failure near 2528 Laguna Vista Drive, Romans said. Their power was back on by 2:15 p.m.

PG&E was still investigating the cause of a transmission-level outage that caused widespread blackouts in Marin, Sonoma and Solano counties Sunday afternoon, as well as along the Monterey coast. Some 165,000 customers lost power.

The outlook for the week is for dry, mostly sunny weather, said Rick Canepa, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service. San Rafael had a high of 63 on Monday, and temperatures reached 64 in Kentfield, he said.

"It looks pretty nice going into the next few days: high pressure, northerly winds and drying conditions," Canepa said. "By Wednesday it should feel noticeably warmer just a few miles away from the bay waters. ... We'll probably see some 80s on Thursday."

There is a small possibility of light showers next weekend, he said.