

# Slide cuts off residents in Uvas Canyon

**Mark Gomez, San Jose Mercury News, 3-30-11**

MORGAN HILL -- Several dozen residents in a rural area of Morgan Hill remain stuck inside their homes for a third consecutive day after a large mudslide came crashing down on the only road linking them to the outside world.

The mudslide happened overnight Saturday and sent several large redwood trees, mud and debris onto Croy Road in southern Santa Clara County, blocking the only entrance into Uvas Canyon County Park, according to resident Joanne McPhee.

A Santa Clara County spokeswoman confirmed the slide Tuesday morning but could not immediately provide additional information.

"The slide has just taken over the entire road and the mud is like quicksand," said McPhee, who lives on a property behind the slide. "You can't walk through it. ... There's just not another viable option to get out of here.

McPhee estimates about a dozen redwood trees, most of which were "100-footers," are making the cleanup efforts difficult.

The slide happened sometime Saturday night or Sunday morning, following days of heavy rains in south Santa Clara County. Jan Null, a meteorologist who runs Golden Gate Weather Service, said Uvas County Park has received more than 16 inches of rain in March. For the season, the Uvas area has been drenched with 61.57 inches of rain, more than twice the yearly average.

Croy Road is the only path into Uvas Canyon County Park and cuts through Sveadal, a private resort belonging to the Swedish American Patriotic League.

McPhee estimates that at least 50 people are trapped behind the mudslide, many of whom are older than 65.

McPhee is concerned that residents may be running out of food, water and gasoline used to power generators. She said county work crews have been at the site since Sunday.