

Mudslide closes Highway 41, authorities say

Mark Powell, San Luis Obispo Tribune, 1-6-17

Update, 10:10 p.m.

Highway 41 remained closed between Morro Bay and Atascadero late Friday evening following a mudslide, according to the CHP and Caltrans.

Caltrans said it would reassess the road during daylight hours but would continue to man the closure along the highway overnight.

The highway is closed for about 6 miles between Two Tunnel Road and Los Altos Road, authorities said.

Motorists are advised to take Highway 46 as an alternate route.

The mudslide occurred about 6:30 p.m. near Cerro Alto Road, according to the CHP incident information page.

No injuries have been reported. At least two vehicles reportedly were stuck in the mudslide, the CHP said.

The potential for more mudslides could increase this weekend, as the Central Coast is expected to see high winds and heavy rainfall, according to forecasts.

This story will be updated as more information becomes available.

Update, 7:35 p.m.

Caltrans has issued a SIG Alert for Highway 41 between Morro Bay and Atascadero after a mudslide covered the road Friday night.

It is not clear how long the road will be closed, though initial reports indicated the highway could be shut down all night, according to the CHP.

The mudslide occurred about 6:30 p.m. near Cerro Alto Road, according to the CHP incident information page.

The highway is closed for about 6 miles between Two Tunnel Road and Los Altos Road, authorities said.

The CHP said at least two vehicles were stuck in the mudslide — a tan Chevrolet Tahoe and a semi with double-trailers.

SIG Alerts generally are issued when a road is expected to be closed for at least several hours, according to Caltrans.

Police in Morro Bay and Atascadero were assisting with the closure on their respective ends of the highway.

Original story:

A mudslide is blocking Highway 41 between Morro Bay and Atascadero, according to the CHP and Caltrans.

The mudslide was reported about 6:30 p.m. Friday near Cerro Alto Road, according to the CHP incident information page.

Initial reports indicate the highway could be closed all night.

At least one vehicle, a tan Chevrolet Tahoe, may have driven into the mudslide, the CHP said.

Police in Morro Bay and Atascadero are assisting with the closure on their respective ends of the highway.

The road is closed to westbound traffic at Los Altos Road, according to the Atascadero Police Department.

The Morro Bay Police Department is allowing residential traffic through on its end, but only to Bear Ridge Road, according to the CHP.

The eastbound closure point has been set up at Two Tunnel Road, the CHP said.

The potential for more rock and mudslides could increase this weekend, as the Central Coast is expected to see high winds and heavy rainfall, according to forecasts.