



COUNTY OF INYO
ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE/OFFICE OF
EMERGENCY SERVICES/SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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JOINT PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Avalanche Hits South Lake Rd.

Danger Remains High Throughout Eastern Sierra

An avalanche released above South Lake Road this morning at approximately 9:30 a.m., covering a portion of the route as it remains closed to the public. Alpine Drive in Aspendell is also still closed due to avalanche threat.

No injuries have been reported. With ingress and egress blocked, residents in the South Lake area are advised to shelter in place while the damage is assessed and the road is cleared. Crews have been able to secure emergency access to the region and continue to work on reopening the road.

Avalanche danger remains high across the Eastern Sierra and recreation in the backcountry is discouraged. The Eastern Sierra Avalanche Center (ESAC) warns that copious amounts of loose surface snow and strong winds continue to create dangerous conditions in the upper elevations.

The ESAC reported that today in particular, large natural and human-triggered avalanches are likely and they may run long distances, into lower angle or treed terrain typically considered "safe."

"Be cognizant of what is above you today," the ESAC forecast states. "Travel in and below avalanche terrain is not recommended."

Several Inyo County roads are still closed due to flooding, debris, and risk of avalanche. Do not attempt to bypass road closures. There is a lot of large equipment staged around the county as road crews and other agency personnel respond to and mitigate storm damage. Be aware of driving hazards. Additionally, all Inyo County waterways are running full and fast and should be avoided.

For more avalanche information, visit www.esavalanche.org.

For the latest information related to winter storm incidents, visit <https://ready.inyocounty.us>.

Individuals who do not have access to the internet and ability to use the Ready Inyo website are encouraged to call 2-1-1. This non-emergency phone service will provide information similar to what is maintained on the Ready Inyo website, as well as the ability to access other County resources via phone.

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