

Snow slides close Santiam Pass for second day

by Cheryl McDermott

Massive snow slides have closed U.S. 20 near Santiam Junction for the third time in less than 24 hours, at times trapping vehicles in snow 12-15 feet deep.

Massive snow slides have prompted intermittent closures of US 20 near Santiam Junction during the past 2 days - OSP photo Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) reported that a slide yesterday trapped three vehicles, although no injuries were reported.

Two more slides reported late Tuesday and early Wednesday covered the U.S. 20 again, between milepost 78.5 and 80, prompting closure of ORE126 at McKenzie Bridge, ODOT said.

Crews had hoped to have a single lane of traffic open by 9 a.m. this morning, but no reports have confirmed any clearing.

Oregon State Police troopers from Bend, Salem and Albany have assisted ODOT at the scene.

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