

Heavy rains cause damage in south

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Torrential rain that began on Monday night damaged roads and bridges in central and southern Taiwan yesterday, affecting areas hit by Typhoon Morakot last year particularly badly.

The Directorate-General of Highways (DGH) said it had closed 11 highways and bridges nationwide because of dangerously high river levels or landslides.

The DGH closed the temporary Shuangyuan Bridge on Highway No. 17 and the Sinfa Bridge on Highway No. 27. It said three sections of Highway No. 27 were damaged, which affects traffic between villages in Kaohsiung County's Liouguei (橋頭) Township.

"The damaged sections will not be opened for traffic until there are no more safety concerns," the DGH said in a statement.

Damage was also reported on sections of Highway Nos. 18, 20, 21 and 24, which are under the DGH's authority.

County Highway Nos. 148 and 149 in Yunlin County and Chiayi County were also damaged.

The Central Weather Bureau (CWB) said Sinying (鹽埕) was hardest hit by the rain during the 13-hour period from midnight to 1pm yesterday, receiving 410.5mm of precipitation.

Beimen Township (北門) in Tainan County and Yijhu Township (嘉義) in Chiayi County were drenched by 271mm and 242.5mm of precipitation during the same 13-hour period respectively.

Rainfall in Siaying Township (西港) in Tainan County and Puzih City (朴子) in Chiayi County also exceeded the "torrential rain" level of 200mm in a single day, with 216mm and 208.5mm respectively.

The bureau said the nation would still be under the influence of the Southwest air stream today, with chances of heavy or torrential rain remaining high.

Traffic authorities warned people to stay away from mountainous areas until the rain stops.

The Central Emergency Operation Center opened at noon yesterday.

Shih Tseng-kang (施正康), director of the Executive Yuan's National Disaster Prevention and Protection Office, said the center would accept requests for disaster prevention assistance and relief from local governments.

Noting that more than 20 weather stations had recorded precipitation of more than 200mm as of 10am yesterday, Shih said his office had maintained close contact with the Water Resources

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Agency and the Soil and Water Conservation Bureau.

Meanwhile, the 8th Army Corps stationed in Fengshan (屏東), Kaohsiung County, and the Marine Corps headquartered in Kaohsiung City's Zuoying (左營) said they had dispatched soldiers to various townships in the region to prepare for possible disaster relief work.

The 8th Army Corps said it had deployed 730 soldiers, along with 90 trucks and amphibious armored troop transports to 23 townships, while the Marine Corps said it had dispatched four inflatable boats and four amphibious vehicles to Sinying City, in addition to deploying marines in mountainous areas of Kaohsiung County.

However, the downpours have helped replenish the major reservoirs in the south, filling Zengwun Reservoir (曾文水庫) to 45.75 percent of its capacity and the Wushantou (烏山頭) and Nanhua (楠華) reservoirs to 80 percent of their capacity.

Source: [Taipei Times - 2010/07/28](#)