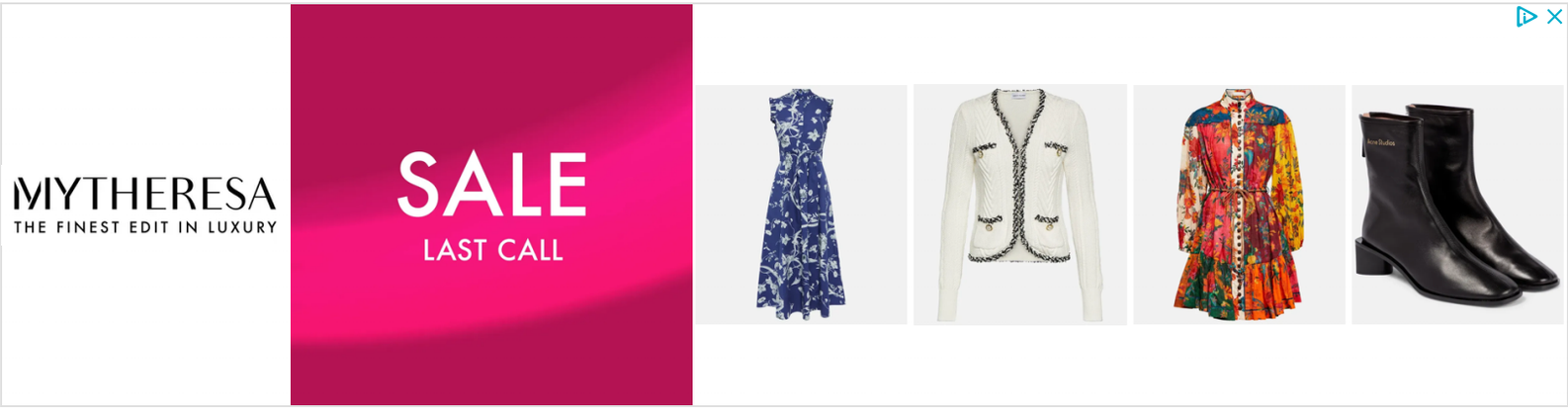


BREAKING NEWS Map: Where wind reached 102 mph, and other peak Bay Area gusts

Deadly storm slides out of Bay Area, leaving debris, damage and darkness

Power outages linger for thousands of customers long after heaviest winds and rain left the region

On Monday, Feb. 5, 2024, crews from Superior Tree Service remove a large oak tree that fell onto a house on Sunday on El Grande Drive in San Jose, Calif. (Dai Sugano/Bay Area News Group)

By **RICK HURD** | rhurd@bayareanewsgroup.com | Bay Area News Group
PUBLISHED: February 5, 2024 at 7:04 a.m. | UPDATED: February 5, 2024 at 4:49 p.m.

Listen to this article

Monday was the calm after the storm for much of the Bay Area, as a powerful atmospheric river system moved to Southern California, but the wallop the deadly system packed in the form of heavy rain and hurricane-force winds still needed plenty of cleanup as the week began.

Beyond the branches, limbs and in some cases whole trees dotting the landscape, the storm's biggest impact Monday was probably the power service lost by hundreds of thousands of customers across the region. Even as the clouds cleared and the wind subsided, many people were left in the dark.

"I think the wind pretty much whipped all of us," National Weather Service meteorologist Brayden Murdock said early Monday.

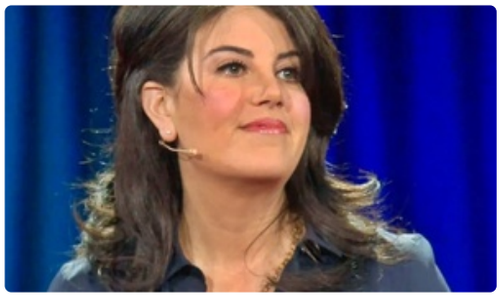
1 of 3

On Monday, Feb. 5, 2024, crews from Superior Tree Service remove a large oak tree that fell onto a house on Sunday on El Grande Drive in San Jose, Calif. (Dai Sugano/Bay Area News Group)

The weather service on Sunday had warned of "hurricane-force" gusts over the Pacific Ocean, with waves reaching over 20 feet. The most potent winds recorded over land were 102 mph at Pablo Point in Mill Valley, and in excess of 95 mph in other areas of Marin County.

In Santa Clara County, gusts were notched at 98 mph at Loma Prieta. On Mount Diablo in Contra Costa County, the winds reached 83 mph, according to the weather service.

Showers on Monday added sprinkles of rain and even the occasional downpour to the large amounts that came in Sunday.


Monica Lewinsky Leaves Behind A Fortune That Makes Her Family Cry
AD Poshland

Near the Big Sur coast, the weather service measured more than 10 inches of rain in the 48-hour period ending at 3 p.m. Monday. At Mount Tamalpais in Marin County, more than two-and-a-half inches of rain fell in the same period.

Also over those 48 hours, San Francisco received 2 inches. San Jose was hit with one-and-two-thirds inches of rain, while Oakland saw between one and one-and-a-half inches in most places. Walnut Creek and Concord got a little bit less than an inch of rain.

The elements combined to cause at least two serious incidents in Northern California. A tree fell into a home with two people inside on Highway 9 in Boulder Creek, in Santa Cruz County. One person made it out, but the other died at the scene, Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office spokesperson Ashley Keehn said.

In Sacramento County, two people were killed, according to television station Fox 40: A 41-year-old man died when a tree fell into his home in Carmichael, and an 82-year-old man died under similar circumstances in Yuba City.

For much of the Bay Area, the power outages were the biggest nuisance Monday. PG&E Chief Operating Officer Sumeet Singh called it "one of the top three most damaging single-day storms on record." Singh said that the power outages in a single day trailed only those created by storms in 1995 and 2008.

The long outages come as the for-profit utility is once again facing strong criticism for its latest large rate increase in January.

As of 4 p.m. Monday, 143,201 PG&E customers remained without power in the nine-county Bay Area. Of that number, 52,707 were in the North Bay, 46,633 in the South Bay, 32,330 on the Peninsula, 5,955 in the East Bay and 5,576 in San Francisco, according to PG&E spokesperson Tamar Sarkissian.

Singh said more than 3,000 PG&E workers were working to restore power Monday, and that PG&E had called in crews from other utilities outside of California. Cal Fire, Cal-OES and Caltrans was working with the utility to give crews access to damaged areas.

Bay Area Home Fashion, one of the businesses near Story...

1 of 7

Bay Area Home Fashion, one of the businesses near Story Road and South King Road in East San Jose that is experiencing a power outage, remains open on Feb. 5, 2024, after an atmospheric river storm brought heavy rain and winds to the Bay Area. (Dai Sugano/Bay Area News Group)

PG&E said problems in remote areas were taking longer to address, but many of the long-lasting outages were in heavily populated areas in the urban Bay Area. As of midafternoon Monday, more than 30 San Jose restaurants and coffeehouses on Willow Glen's Lincoln Avenue were still without power.

Jim Stump, owner of the Table, said earlier in the day that they wouldn't lose much food if the power was restored during the afternoon. His restaurant went dark right after brunch on Sunday.

The winds also blew down an 80-foot eucalyptus tree onto the roof of a home near Scotia Avenue in the Oakland hills, as well as a similar-sized eucalyptus tree in San Francisco. In San Jose, a 60-year-old oak tree crushed a garage and part of a house in the 3500 block of El Grande Drive.

Power lines came down on Ygnacio Valley Road In Walnut Creek, between Walnut Boulevard and Marchbanks Drive. Partial lane closures on the major commute bypass road remained past 11:30 a.m. as PG&E crews continued to make repairs, police said.

"The entire neighborhood right around there was (without power)," resident Rocco Biale said. "We went from about 4 p.m. Sunday until about just after noon (Monday). So about 18 hours. We survived. You just live with it."

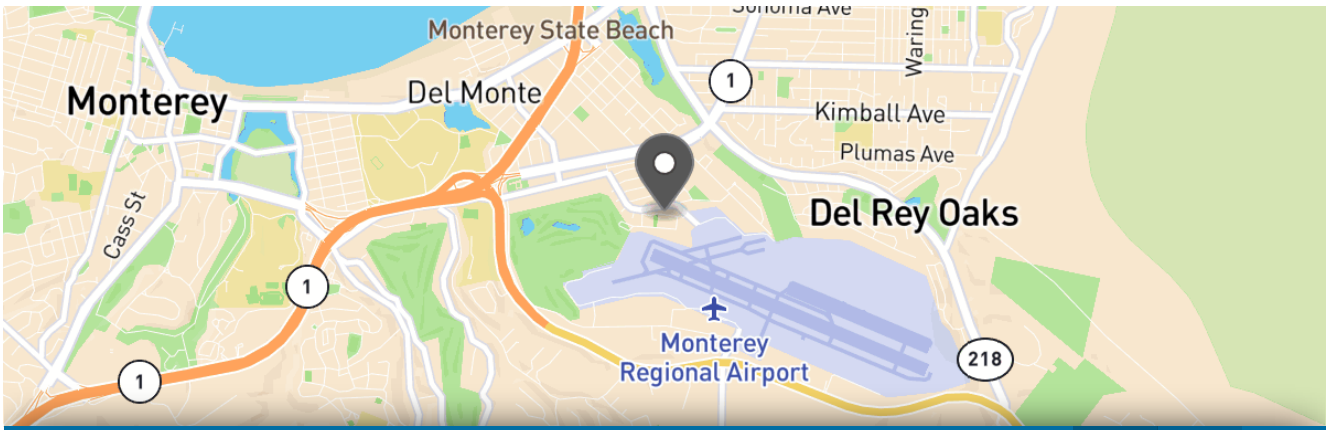
The storm's wrath forced Cal State East Bay to close its Hayward campus, though classes continued to operate remotely, according to the university. It also caused 19 schools in Sonoma County to stay closed, with the Sonoma County Office of Education saying the power outages and hazardous conditions created by Sunday's rains brought about the decision.

It also messed with flights. At 11:30 a.m., 231 flights into and out of San Francisco International Airport had been cancelled in the previous 24 hours, according to FlightAware, a flight tracking company. FlightAware reported 37 flights had been cancelled during that same period at Metro Oakland International Airport, and 28 were cancelled at Mineta San Jose International Airport.

The Bay Area will dry out a bit Tuesday before a new cold-front system from the north arrives Wednesday. That forecast changed from late last week when the weather service said they anticipated at least four or five days without rain following the departure of the the weekend storm.

"We should see that arriving late Wednesday into Thursday," Murdock said. "But this next one, we'll be talking about tenths of inches of rain instead of inches of rain. Once that clears, we should get a decent break."

Staff writer Linda Zavoral contributed to this report.



Grace Hopper Avenue in Monterey, California

The Trust Project

SUBSCRIBE TODAY
GET DIGITAL ACCESS FOR JUST 99 CENTS!

Taboola Feed

Couple Squandered $1.7M On This Motorhome, Take A Look Inside

Little Fries | Sponsored

Controversial "Weight Loss Gummy" Takes Canada By Storm

Rare Ingredients Increase Fat Burning And Metabolism -- But Should It Be Banned?

Her Life & Health | Sponsored

Learn More

Antarctica: Seasonal Incentives on Unsold Cabins

Browse Latest Senior & Seasonal Discounts on Unforgettable Antarctica Cruises

Seekify | Sponsored

Learn More

Orthopedists Amazed: This Shoe Helps with Pain Like No Other

Barefoot Vitality | Sponsored

This 7 Seconds Coffee Trick Turns Your Body Into A Fat-Burning Machine

Do This Coffee Trick And Watch Your Belly Fat Melt!

Burn Belly Fat | Sponsored

Watch Now

This Couple's House Is Only 8 Feet Wide, But Wait Till You See The Inside!

Little Fries | Sponsored

Bank Owned Properties For Sale In Saskatchewan (See Prices)

BrightLifeDaily.com | Sponsored

Learn More

Regina: Many Seniors Unaware of Free Car Insurance Coverage Based on Thei…

WallStreet Viral | Sponsored

If Slot Players Knew This They Would Never Stop Playing

Buzzdaily Winners | Sponsored

Read More

Never store mustard in the fridge, here's why

Why you should never store mustard in the fridge

Foodies 1st | Sponsored

Orthopedists Recommend: This Shoe Eases Pain

Barefoot Vitality | Sponsored

If Players Knew This They Would Never Stop Playing

Buzzdaily Winners | Sponsored

Try Now

Regina: Unsold Eco Houses Are Selling Almost For Nothing!

The best eco house deals of 2024

Eco Houses | Sponsored

Click Here

RECOMMENDED FOR YOU

1. **High winds, heavy rains hit the Bay Area and the rest of California's coast**
2. **San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan issues warning as city declares local emergency over expected Guadalupe River flooding**
3. **Bonsai tree heists are on the rise in California. Are they driven by profit, or "obsession"?**
4. **Photos: Bay Area storm topples trees, leaves thousands without power**
5. **Photos: High winds, rain rage through Monterey County**
6. **King Charles III diagnosed with cancer, will step back from public duties**
7. **Tech company aims to buy old Fry's Electronics site in San Jose**
8. **Dear Abby: I'm fed up with the loud, disrespectful women at the gym**
9. **Bay Area rain chart: Totals from 5 days of atmospheric river storms**
10. **Map: Where wind reached 102 mph, and other peak Bay Area gusts**

TRENDING NATIONALLY

1. Most states have either caucuses or a primary. Why is Nevada holding both?
2. The vast majority of California flood victims' losses won't be covered by insurance
3. Colorado decriminalized 5 psychedelics, but what exactly does that mean?
4. Why are counties, GOP pushing against the Minnesota state flag and seal?
5. Rapper Killer Mike arrested for battery at Grammy Awards ceremony

MORE IN WEATHER

Some experts are proposing a Category 6 storm rating

Photos: Bay Area storm topples trees, leaves thousands without power

A growing climate threat is putting Californians' health at risk

Hundreds missing in Chile after wildfires kill at least 122

2024 > February > 5

The Mercury News

NEWS ALERTS

Email Newsletters

Today's e-Edition

Mobile Apps

Site Map

MARKETPLACE

Place an Obituary

Place a Real Estate Ad

Lottery

CONTACT US

Digital Access FAQ

Join our Team

Special Sections

Sponsor a Group

Get Sponsored Access

Privacy Policy

Accessibility

ADVERTISE WITH US

Network Advertising

Daily Ads

Place a Legal Notice

Public Notices

Best Bay Area Employers

Monster.com

SUBSCRIBE

Member Services

Manage Subscriptions

Store

Archive Search

Reprints

SUBSCRIBE NOW

Terms of Use Cookie Policy California Notice at Collection Notice of Financial Incentive Do Not Sell/Share My Personal Information Arbitration Powered by WordPress.com VIP Copyright © 2024 MediaNews Group

BayArea NewsGroup

BAY AR
HOME PAGE