

UPDATE: Flooding Hitting High Country--Roads Closed

Written by Steve Frank

Ashe County Emergency Services have sent crews to the Laurel Knob area off NC 194 to a report of flooding inside a home. The woman told dispatchers she may not be able to get out of the house, and help has been dispatched. She reported water flowing into her garage and into the living area of the home. Flooding is starting to take its toll on area roads, with several hours of heavy rain starting to cause road closures. First reported is in far western Avery County, where areas off US 19E are underwater, specifically the Roaring Creek area to Molly's Branch, Henson's Creek and other areas. Reports say over a foot of water is across roadways in the Frank and Burleson areas. Avery emergency services are evacuating campgrounds, blocking off roads in the area, now deemed too dangerous to cross, with rapid rise reported in the Toe River and feeder streams. One man reported that the dirt portion of Roaring Creek washed away just below his location, and he may be stuck on the higher ground, with Avery emergency crews trying to determine how to get him out. The area is being hit by a large band of heavy rain, traveling from south to north, and hitting the mountains, it is dumping its load of moisture. Reports from just east of the mountains is that just behind this band of rain is sunshine—and hopes for some break in the heavy precipitation. But the question is the amount of water dumped on the mountainsides, and whether the grounds can absorb any of it after days of soaking rain.