

UPDATE: Campers Swept Away in Flooding, High Country Roads Closed

Written by Steve Frank
Saturday, 16 April 2011 10:11

Campers on Brown Mountain Beach--occupied campers--were swept away into Wilson's Creek early this morning from Killians' Campground, according to Caldwell Emergency Management. Swift water rescue teams arrived from Charlotte, joining rescue squads from Caldwell and adjoining areas, working to try to get to the campers.



(Photo by Annie Rutenberg) Other persons are being rescued from the far side of the rushing waters.



(Photo by Andrew Pennestri)

The latest tally is that one victim has been rescued from an island, another from inside one of the swept away campers, five others made their way to shore and had to be rescued, while seven made it to safety on their own--one with an arm injury.

In the High Country, roads were underwater, under mud and rocks. Deerfield Road at the Moose Lodge were closed off in Boone, Boone Docks Street, closed, and Winkler's Creek Road reported under water in a number of places. Boone Mall front access was swamped, but is now open, albeit with mud across the front entrance. And just down from the Green Park Inn in Blowing Rock, US 321 had a rock slide blocking the north-bound lane near Blackberry road.

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Ashe reported mud slides on several sections of NC 88, near J.N. Franks in Warrensville, near Weaver's Tree Farm in Smethport, Radio Hill in West Jefferson, and trees were down on NC 88 at Silas Creek and Wagner Baptist Church. Avery has a number of flooded areas, but most roads remained open there, with only low water bridges flooded out in reports from the Avery Sheriff's Office.

