

[rabbitz](#) Mar 15, 2019 4:13pm

What an absolute mess on so many levels. If there were truly an emergency to happen on the coast, clearly our local officials have no idea where to even begin. None of these agencies communicate with each other. The tree trimming added insult to injury. Thank god for our level headed coastsiders because had this happened anywhere else, major road rage would have ensued!!

[Petsnotmeds](#) Mar 15, 2019 9:44am

"As for why there is no back-up generator to supply power in case of outages, Weiss explained that tunnel designers went with a more environmentally friendly choice.

"If we used a generator it would be as big as a tractor trailer and use diesel," Weiss said.

With traffic restored to normal, Caltrans officials are considering what to do if this occurs again."

Okay - Fire the current Caltrans officials since they don't even know what to do if it occurred again. This should be the #1 item even before the tunnel was bored. And the designer is an idiot - environmental my foot - people idling waiting and burning gasoline is probably more environmentally friendly than a environmentally friendly choice of nothing.

[John Gruver](#) Mar 15, 2019 9:35am

I personally oppose the generator idea for the reasons stated. I also am not happy with the "S*** happens!" attitude of the folks involved. Early on CHP was talking about SIG alert... do not know if any were sent out (should have been for sure), but if it had been I'm hoping the tree trimming would have been alerted cancelled, maybe by the SM Sheriff???

It was faster (MUCH!!!) to return from Menlo Park via Hwy 84 than attempting Hwy 92. And many of the mapping programs definitely were wrong still recommending Hwy 92 while people were sitting there completely stopped for > hour.

[Petsnotmeds](#) Mar 15, 2019 9:35am

Wonder what those annual emergency drills there is all about? Probably just a bunch of people smoking weeds and drinking you-know-what all night while the Tunnel was closed for "drill". What a waste of taxpayers' money and nothing worked when it's needed. Caltrans district 4 should require a layoff and refresh a DOT ables.

[Montara native](#) Mar 14, 2019 4:19pm

So happy to finally see some info here - I agree with the comments so far - Was thinking after sitting in traffic after 3 hours, only to pass through tree trimming, that maybe it would be possible to establish as part of protocol that any project of this sort should immediately be halted/cleared in the event of a Devil's slide closure like this. I'm guessing there's no reason why a few phone calls couldn't have been made to the tree trimmers to say, Hey, Not tonite, Devil's Slide is closed and has been for several hours, with no estimate of re-open in sight... Please - for the safety of our community!

[Rodgeryoung1](#) Mar 15, 2019 12:32pm

I agree with Montara native and add a "yes, and...": County needs to know about what other services are doing as well. I called HMB dispatch to find out if tree trimming was happening the following night and all I got was "call CHP". Poor institutional awareness, and we pay a fortune for this in our property taxes - let alone the apparent siloization of services around the tunnel.

[MoreInfoPlease](#) Mar 13, 2019 10:13pm

HMB Review: I hope you will continue to press hard for answers to reveal where, exactly, the miscommunications occurred and who was at fault for this mess. Who dropped the ball and didn't pass on the Caltrans updates? Why on earth is it okay for an official to say "I don't know" without also explaining WHY he doesn't know the answer: "Weiss wasn't sure whether tree-trimmers were alerted to problems on the Coastside's other main artery." Then, tell the public how we can help these people communicate- can we call non-emergency numbers? What are they? An inconvenience is one thing but some day there will

be a real emergency- fire, earthquake, a stranded motorist with life threatening illness... let's figure this out now.

[CarolynT](#) Mar 13, 2019 8:38pm

And another question: Was there *ever* a thought of opening Devil's Slide to let traffic go around the tunnel? It *is* paved after all....

[Foggy Dew](#) Mar 13, 2019 4:43pm

Caltrans: "Caltrans officials are considering what to do if this occurs again." Like maybe buy a backup generator for a key evacuation route!

[Coastside](#) Mar 13, 2019 5:23pm

The crack in the roadway near Gray Whale Cove could cut off the Coastside for more than a day or two if the rest of the soil gives way.

[George](#) Mar 13, 2019 5:27pm

I'm with Foggy Dew.

It is inconceivable to me that a project, initially estimated at \$200 Million and reaching at least \$439 Million by completion (2013) didn't plan and budget for a generator ... in case of emergency (perhaps like this one).

"If we used a generator it would be as big as a tractor trailer and use diesel," Weiss said.

Yeah, generators are noisy and drink fuel, but then they'd only turn on when an event like this one occurs and would shut down once power is restored.

Wasn't this tunnel built on the foundation of public safety?

Btw, I listened to KCBS from about 3:00 to about 6:15, and while the closure was noted several times an hour, there were no "updates" that I heard.