

California Department of Water Resources NEWS

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First Snow Survey of Season Arrives in January

Snow surveyors from the California Department of Water Resources will take reporters on the first manual snow-water measurement of the winter on Thursday, January 4.

Frank Gehrke, chief surveyor, and Dave Hart will lead willing reporters on snowshoes on one of many snow measurement "courses" in the Sierras to gauge the amount of water in the snowpack. Snow water content is important in determining the coming year's water supply. The measurements help hydrologists prepare water supply forecasts as well as provide the recreation industry with much needed data. Measurements will continue monthly through April.

To get to the snow course, drive east on Highway 50 to the Sierra-at-Tahoe turnoff, about 90 miles east of Sacramento. Park about 100 yards down the road.

Reporters wanting to trek with Frank and Dave should arrive at the entrance to the snow course by 10:30 a.m. to fasten on snowshoes. The surveying party will leave at 11 a.m. and be out on the course for about an hour. Results will be available by noon from an information representative on site (sitting snugly in the four-wheel) or by calling our Sacramento office (916) 653-6192.

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