

Heavy Snow Traps Trains Atop Pass

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Twenty-six men and two trains were snowbound Sunday atop 10,922-foot Cumbres Pass on the Colorado-New Mexico border.

Nearly four feet of new snow has fallen on the pass since Saturday night. It was still snowing late Sunday.

Trapped in 15-foot drifts were two Rio Grande Railroad freight trains with crews of 14 and 12 men.

ONE SIGHTED

Railway officials in Chama, N.M., said a third unit — a rotary snowplow powered by three engines—was within sight of one trapped train, but it would be Monday before it reached them.

Officials said all the men were well supplied with food and shelter. They have been stranded on the pass since Saturday night.

One train is atop the pass. The other is about a mile below it on the west side.

Amos Cordova, railroad agent in Chama, said the first train left Chama at about 9 a.m. Saturday. It was sent up the narrow gauge line with a spreader type plow to clear the track of snow.

Pulled by two engines it managed the 12 miles to the top. One of its engines was derailed attempting to turn around in the drifts.

RESCUE FOILED

A second twin-engined train left late Saturday night. It bogged down a mile west of the top.

The rotary plow powered by three engines and manned by approximately 25 crewmen — left Chama Sunday afternoon.

Cordova said at first it was hoped the trapped men could be rescued Sunday night. How-

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Relief in Sight

Denver may break out of the deep freeze Monday.

Weather officials forecast a high of 30 to 35 after the near-zero temperatures that have gripped the city since Friday.

Sunday's high was 23 with a low of 5 to 10 expected Sunday night.

The city was expected to have fair weather most of Monday, with a few possible snow flurries Monday night. Sunday's early morning low was 3.

ever, crewmen called later and reported the train had traveled only about eight miles in four hours.

Cordova said he had talked with the trapped men in the second train by dispatcher's telephone. He said they could see the rescue train far below winding up the twisting rails.

They said the first crew was comfortable in the section house on the pass.

PLAN OUTLINED

The other crew is remaining on the second stranded train.

Officials planned to have the rescue train pull the second train back to the first sidetrack, three miles below where the engines are stuck.

Then the rescue train will continue on up to the top of the pass to get train No. 1 back on the track.

HEAVIER SNOW

The pass annually receives one of the heaviest snowfalls in the United States with 200 inches the normal winter depth.

The railroad does not schedule regular service in the area.

Main freight is oil equipment for the oil-rich Four Corners area. There is no passenger service.

Meanwhile, two major highways leading to Durango were still blocked Sunday by a series of slides.

Highway crews were working Sunday to remove drifts—some 20 feet high—from U.S. 160 at 10,850-foot Wolf Creek Pass.

Also clogged was U.S. 550, covered with a 9-foot blanket at 11,018-foot Red Mountain Pass.

The Highway Department said it probably would be Monday before the blocked passes were reopened. Other major passes were reported open.

Mountain towns Sunday were reporting snow level in feet instead of inches.

Among the hardest hit was the tiny mining community of Crested

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Two Trains Trapped Atop Cumbres Pass

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Butte, 20 miles north of Gunnison.

Townpeople there were shoveling their way out of drifts that almost covered 1-story houses.

Total snow Sunday morning after three days equaled 17 feet, Mayor Frank Starika said.

Other towns reporting heavy snows were Durango with $2\frac{1}{3}$ feet and Eagle with $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet.

The 12 feet of snow on Wolf Creek Pass approached the record 16 feet which fell there in 1952. New snow was measured Sunday at two feet, with one foot at Red Mountain.

The U.S. Weather Bureau forecast more snow for the mountains and north Monday, with generally fair weather in the east.

Occasional gusty winds were forecast for Eastern Colorado and Wyoming Monday.