

(FLOOD)

(RAPID CITY)---RESCUE WORKERS TODAY RESUMED THEIR GRUESOME SEARCH FOR BODIES AMIDST THE RUBBLE LEFT BY FLASH FLOODS THAT SENT WATER RAMPAGING THROUGH RAPID CITY AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES^S FRIDAY NIGHT AND SATURDAY, KILLING OVER ~~100~~¹⁴⁵ PERSONS.

THE SOUTH DAKOTA CIVIL DEFENSE SAYS AT LEAST ~~100~~¹⁴⁵ PERSONS ARE DEAD AND ... "MANY, MANY MORE ARE FEARED DEAD."

THE DEATH TOLL WAS EXPECTED TO KEEP CLIMBING AS THE SEARCHERS WORKED TODAY.

AUTHORITIES SAY THE FLOOD-TORN AREA WAS DIVIDED INTO THREE SECTIONS AND 58 SUBSECTIONS, WITH SEARCH TEAMS ASSIGNED TO EACH OF THE SUBSECTIONS.

WORKERS WERE COMBING A 12 MILE STRIP THAT FOLLOWS THE WINDING RAPID CREEK THROUGH THE CITY.

THOUSANDS OF PERSONS ARE HOMELESS, NEARLY ONE-THOUSAND ARE INJURED ... AND GOVERNOR RICHARD KNEIP ESTIMATED DAMAGE AT 100 MILLION DOLLARS.

AUTHORITIES SAY THEY RECEIVED NUMEROUS TELEPHONE CALLS FROM PERSONS AS FAR AWAY AS NEW ZEALAND REPORTING MISSING FRIENDS AND RELATIVES. POLICE HAD ABOUT FOUR-THOUSAND UNCONFIRMED REPORTS OF PERSONS MISSING IN THE FLOOD. //

THE RAMPAGING WATERS DELUGED SEVERAL ISOLATED HAMLETS IN THE BLACK HILLS AND THE TINY COMMUNITY OF KEYSTONE WAS VIRTUALLY WIPED OUT. SIX PERSONS WERE KNOWN DEAD IN KEYSTONE.

PRESIDENT NIXON HAS DECLARED THE STRIKEN REGION A NATIONAL DISASTER AREA. SOUTH DAKOTA SENATOR MCGOVERN IS IN RAPID CITY TODAY TO MEET WITH CITY AND COUNTY AND STATE OFFICIALS.