

Extent of flood damage to Black Hills Power and Light Company:
Black Hills Power and Light Company flood notes for James Winchester, the
reader's digest:

About 11:47 p.m. Friday, June 9th, 93 percent of the electrical load in
Rapid City was out of service because of the Rapid City flood. The outages
were due to main transmission feeder lines destroyed by high water washing houses
down Rapid Creek.

OUTAGES: 93-percent of the Rapid City load was lost at 11:47 pm.
seven percent of the Rapid City electric load was not interrupted during
the flood. An additional 20 percent was picked up in three minutes.
After 51 minutes, 50 percent of the Rapid City load was returned to the
lines by sectionalizing. The remaining 50 percent was out for 24 hours
and came back slowly as lines were built and customers readied for service.
By the end of the week 90 percent of the load was again back on the line
and the remainder as they request service.

(addition to second paragraph: St. John's Hospital was one of the emergency
customers without service. For emergencies the hospital uses a natural gas-
fueled generator which was also knocked out when the entire natural gas
supply to the city had to be cut off. That was necessary because of dozens of
broken gas lines creating dangerous conditions in many areas.)

22 96 linemen worked 24 hours a day the first two days and then proceeded
for a week on 12-hour shifts.

From "Ellsworth Air Force Base response to the Rapid City Disaster. Item 3:
SYNOPSIS OF EAFB EMERGENCY RESPONSE: An emergency command post was
established shortly after midnight, 10 June, to conduct disaster response operations-
Hours before, over 40 Ellsworth volunteers had responded to the flood area and were
assisting in rescue and recovery operations. Within the first 48 hours nearly 1500
Ellsworth volunteers aided victims in Rapid City and Box Elder. The response
included rescue and recovery teams who aided stranded residents, searched
for bodies and gave safety directions and hazard warnings to local citizens.
As part of the rescue and recovery support, Ellsworth dispatched 126
vehicles including buses, wreckers, dumps, cranes, tractors, loaders, a
pumper, water trucks, and a variety of other type vehicles and equipment
such as generators and mobile lights. Civil Engineers and the
Transportation Squadron provided operators. The USAF Hospital coordinated the
entire medical logistics including supply of vaccines, solutions, and other medical
supplies to aid centers and hospitals. Hospital personnel volunteered hundreds of
hours in the local community to aid flood victims. Special Services provided
boats to aid in the rescue and recovery of bodies as well as towels, cups and other
items. The base gym, dining hall, and community center were made immediately
available. The Services Division began preparing meals and washing laundry
from hospitals and a nursing home. It provided billeting space for
169 persons from the town of Box Elder. Many base residents offered their
homes to these flood victims. A base clothing and food drive was started
and Family Services volunteers handled the distribution.

Ellsworth support include: personnel: over 3200...equipment over 300 vehicles
and associated equipment...12 helicopters.

ELLSWORTH SUPPORT(CONTINUED):

(medical) 100,000 ~~doses~~ doses typhoid vaccine, 4600 inoculations administered

report from Harlan Schmidt, District Manager, Northwestern Bell Telephone,

On Friday, June 9, 1972 at 7 p.m. the Rapid City exchange of the Northwestern Bell Telephone Company began flood preparations. By 11:30 pm, the flood had disrupted communications to nine Northwestern Bell exchanges, two Independent Company exchanges, five Minuteman Missile sites and the central office equipment was in an overloaded condition. When ~~xxxx~~ morning arrived we estimated that one-fourth of the Rapid City exchange was out of service, that we were isolated from other local exchanges, but that we were able to maintain long distance toll communications with the Bell System Network. ...Rapid City operators handled nearly 21,000 calls on June 10 compared to a normal volume of about 4,000. By 9:00 Saturday morning, mobile units were placed at Central High School for the Police Department and emergency telephone services. By 3:00 pm one-third of the out-of-service telephones were repaired and toll services to the Northern Hills telephone exchange and the EAFB Missile sites was restored. ... Rapid City operators handled local calls for the National Guard and the Red Cross on a manual basis on Saturday, June 10th, and Sunday, June 11, to speed calls during severe overloads in the dial equipment and slow dial tone. On Sunday June 11, mobile telephone units from Sioux Falls provided emergency telephone services in the flooded areas, including the Independent Company exchange at Keystone. Telephone services were established for the Red Cross, Civil Defense, CBS, Office of Emergency Preparedness, City of Rapid City and Bennett-Clarkson Hospital. Coordinators had been sent to the local, state and federal governments, military branches and Civil Defense offices to determine communications requirements. On Monday June 12, nearly 20 percent of the Rapid City exchange telephones remained out of service, but the toll calling network had been expanded and the overloaded situation in the central office was returning to normal levels. Services also restored this date to South Dakota Department of Health, Red Cross, County Court House Emergency Operating Center, the Camp Rapid National Guard Emergency Operating Center and St. James Hospital. Free emergency telephones were installed for the convenience of the public in the disaster areas. On Tuesday June 13, 12 additional free emergency telephones were placed throughout the disaster areas. On Wednesday, ~~and~~ the Thursday, June 13 and 14 significant progress was made in constructing and repairing telephone plant in Rapid City. More than one-half of the telephones out of service were restored and enormous business services were installed for the agencies assisting the Rapid City effort. A directory of disaster phone services was compiled, printed and distributed. At this time, interview teams were dispatched into the damaged areas to determine the service requirements and plans of the homeowners. At this wiring (June 22) approximately 780 of the original 12,545 telephones remain out of service. Most of these are in Rapid City).

INFORMATION FOR RON STEPHENSON FROM AMERICAN RED CROSS. Two weeks have passed since tragedy struck Rapid City. In that short time, the immense resources of the American Red Cross, including 154 disaster specialists from across the nation and hundres of volunteers, have been mobilized to assist disaster victims by providing emergency services and immeidate aid in rebuilding their lives

The Red Cross so far has server 37,704 meals and snacks and provided sheldter for 2,611 persons. Two Red Cross shelters--at the Cathedral School and St. Matthews Church--are still open.

Statistics on families requesting Red Cross assistance change daily, but as of Friday morning (June 23) more than ~~2,000~~ 2,050 families were registered. The total operation is expected to cost \$3 million. The number of ~~registrations~~ registrations is expected to rise sharply as teams of Red Cross workers comb the R Rapid City area, knockin on doors to offer Red Cross assistance to flood victims.

This search and aid drive to contact all disaster sufferers is in addition to se#vices provided to flood victims at Rapid City disaster service centers located in Rapid City and in Keystone, Strugis and Ellsworth Air Force Base.

Red Cross assistance to families includes food, clothing, shelter, household furnishing, building repair materials and needed occupational supplies and tools. Trained caseworkers work with families to determine their needs

As of Friday morning, the Red Cross Disaster Welfare Inquiry Center had received 7,175 inquiries from anxious relatives and friends of Black Hills area residents and tourists. Of these, 6,975 have been answered.

The red Cross nurses have been providing emergency medial assistance and providing heathh counseling to diaster victims. More than 100 staff and volunteer nurses have been at work during the pst-disaster period.

MRS. RUTH NORDBYE, Executive Director of the Black Hills Area Red Cross Chapter

During the long hours of that fateful Friday night and Saturday morning, it was over 50 Red Cross volunteers from this community who were on duty. They number of volunteers grew to more than 300 including 60 nurses as the weekend progressed.

KEY STAFF PEOPLE TELEPHONE LIST: LARRY LYTLE, Lloyd St. Pierre, RON STEPHENSON, DR. CHARLES LINDLY, PAUL NESS, DICK TRANKLE, POLICE DEPT. (WHISKEY 5), EQUIPMENT, HENRY BAKER, PUBLIC WORKS, MILITARY SUPPORT, ~~INSPEK~~ INSPECTORS, HAROLD IRISH.
