

Thunderstorms Bring Morning Darkness

Day turned into night as severe thunderstorms, accompanied by intense lightning, passed through the St. Louis area into Illinois in mid-morning today.

The weather observation station at Lambert Field recorded just under two inches of rain by noon, as rain was still coming down. The heaviest reported downpour was 3.45 inches in 45 minutes

near Dupon, Ill., about five miles southeast of downtown St. Louis. Some local flooding occurred after the morning wave of storms and a flash flood warning was issued for Monroe and St. Clair counties in Illinois.

The intersection of Grand Boulevard and Gravois Avenue was flooded by backed-up storm sewers unable to handle

the heavy rains, and some basements of nearby homes in the 3700 block of Tholozan Avenue were reported flooded.

The power plant at the St. Louis State Hospital, 5400 Arsenal Street, was flooded early forcing the hospital to switch to an emergency power supply from Union Electric Co., said Dr. Hilary Sandall, assistant superintendent of the hospital.

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Flood

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large amount of runoff in such a short time, the spokesman said.

A Union Electric spokesman said at least 8,000 customers lacked service for various periods Friday night, with the heaviest concentration of power outages in western St. Ann. Power failures were reported in other scattered areas, including the Shaw's Garden neighborhood in south St. Louis and in Clayton.

Most of the power failures were caused by lightning, high winds, and tree limbs falling on wires, the spokesman said.

Residents of Godfrey and north Alton in Illinois were without power for about 1½ hours when an underwater cable across the Mississippi River was damaged, St. Clair County authorities said.

Roads closed temporarily because of flooding were reported all over the St. Louis area. In Maplewood, one family was evacuated when Folk Avenue and West Point Drive flooded. Lindbergh Boulevard was closed in Hazelwood.

Interstate 55 was closed at the Park Avenue underpass and traffic was backed up on Interstates 70 and Interstate 270. Streets were reported closed by flooding in Brentwood and Berkeley.

At the peak of the downpour, some cars along I-70 in North County stopped dead in the traffic lanes. "You couldn't see to get to the shoulder," said one

motorist driving in from St. Charles County, where only minor problems were reported.

KSD-TV (Channel 5) was forced off the air for about 10 minutes at 10:20 p.m.

The worst of it, though, was the damage caused by the river Des Peres in University City.

Therrell and Evelyn Rush, 1121 Mount Olive Street, were awakened by a call from neighbors afees Peres, normally a trickle or a dry gully, lapped 100 feet into their back yard and flooded their basement with a foot of water.

"Three years ago, my husband went to a revenue-sharing hearing and suggested that the city do something about the River Des Peres," Mrs. Rush said.

She added bitterly, "They told him that they had higher priorities for the money."

In some parts of Hazelwood, Coldwater Creek put 2 feet of water in basements. Robert H. Landis of 245 Palm Drive said early today that he and his neighbors had been notified that the City Council would meet in a special session Monday night.

"I guess they're going to try to put pressure on the Metropolitan Sewer District to do something about this," Landis said.

Hafner

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flooded their homes. A University City Fire Department spokesman said he agreed that the lining, installed recently to provide flood protection to a bank and other businesses, contributed to the flooding on Hafner and Westover.

Frederick Scott, stood in the middle of the pile of mud-caked furniture in front of his apartment at 8015 Hafner and said, "Everything is ruined. It came up in about 15 minutes and I decided to

abandon ship. I'm sure going to need some help now. Money."

Marshall Brown was also in a somber mood. "After 18 months working on the Alaskan pipeline, I worked hard for this," he said. He held up one of his "irreplaceable" record albums. It dripped. His stereo and bed also were ruined by the water, which rose to a level of 3 feet in his first-floor apartment.

Robert Johnson, of 8021 Hafner, managed to keep his spirits, however. He said he did not get home until after midnight, when the damage to his apartment had already been done. His neighbors watched as he opened his door, knowing what he would see. Laughing, he said, "I opened the door and the water knocked me down."

His wife, Angela, explained Johnson's good humor. "It keeps you from crying," she said.

St. Clair Deputies Sue For Overtime

Twenty-two St. Clair County sheriff's deputies have filed suit in St. Clair Circuit Court at Belleville, seeking a total of nearly \$300,000 in overtime pay.

Named as defendants were Sheriff Paul Klinciar and St. Clair County.

Citing a January 1972 agreement with Teamsters Local 50, the suit, filed Thursday, alleges that each deputy has accumulated 1,872 hours of overtime since the agreement was signed. The suit asks for \$14,983 for each deputy and \$16,200 for one sergeant.

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