

**STORM** | FROM A1

## Ike's remains wreak havoc in the area

► The powerful storm dumped as much as 6 inches of rain on the St. Louis area before relenting.

About 30,000 AmerenUE and AmerenIP customers in the St. Louis area are expected to wake up today without power. The utility company said power should be restored to all customers by tonight. The storm had knocked out service to 106,000 customers Sunday morning.

The already wet ground from the remnants of Hurricane Gustav two weeks ago could not handle the sudden downpour of rain that Ike delivered, said National Weather Service meteorologist Julie Phillipson.

Through Sept. 6, St. Louis recorded 43.65 inches of rain this year, which is 16.59 inches above normal. That amount does not include Sunday's storm.

Ike's push through the Midwest is leaving St. Louis with a mild forecast for the week.

Temperatures will stay in the 70s for the next few days, then creep back up into the 80s by Thursday. No significant rainfall is in the forecast for the week.

By Sunday afternoon, the sun pushed through the gray sky. Water was receding and streets were reopening.

But across the region, there were reports of delays, disruptions and detours.

Rainwater covered two runways Sunday at Lambert-St. Louis International Airport. Flights were delayed as planes were rerouted to the airport's other airstrips. The runways were open by early afternoon.

Flooded rail lines combined with a power outage shut down MetroLink, but limited service was restored by midday, includ-

ing shuttling riders by bus from East St. Louis to downtown.

The storm also stranded some people in their homes or cars. At least six people were rescued from their homes in Ladue on Overbrook Drive, which is adjacent to the Old Warson Country Club.

Water covered Interstate 70 at Goodfellow Boulevard Sunday morning, forcing detours. At least one motorist was rescued from the water. The road is clear for today's morning commute.

The Affton Athletic Association fields on Gravois Road near Grant's Farm were swamped, inundating nine vehicles that had been parked there, according to Patty Ward, an association board member. "It was complete devastation," she said, and called for volunteers to help clean up the fields today.

Roads in Maryland Heights near Creve Coeur Park and the Page Avenue extension were flooded, and residents were rescued from their homes. Roads such as Highway C north of St. Peters and Highway CC at Long Road in west St. Louis County were among the streets susceptible to flooding during heaving rains that were shut down by the Missouri Department of Transportation.

In Florissant, more than 50 apartments were evacuated, and businesses in a strip mall on Lindbergh Boulevard, including a Schnucks market, were closed, a police dispatcher said.

Fire departments reported rescues throughout central and south St. Louis County. There also were reports of widespread flooding in the Metro East area, including East St. Louis and Granite City.

The Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District got hundreds of calls an hour during the nine-hour storm, overwhelming the customer service line, said MSD spokesman Lance LeComb. The calls ranged from flooded basements and streets to blocked inlets, preventing water from

draining.

"We're receiving so many calls, we can't handle the volume," LeComb said. It could be several days before some residents receive a service call, he said.

MSD crews spent Sunday helping with evacuations and prioritizing calls based on the health and safety of customers, LeComb said.

"These are drainage problems that we haven't experienced in 30 to 40 years," LeComb said.

The heavy rains flooded large sections of Brentwood on Sunday morning, including Manchester Road, cutting off vehicle access to parts of the city. Manchester remained closed Sunday afternoon.

Brentwood firefighters and police officers along with the St. Louis Fire Department borrowed equipment from two sporting goods stores, REI and Sports Authority, and rescued dozens of residents from the Executive Walk Apartments, just south of Manchester, by boat. There were no reports of injuries, police said.

The low-lying apartments sit beside Deer Creek, which regularly floods during heavy rain — but never before like Sunday, said Brentwood Mayor Pat Kelly.

"This is unprecedented," Kelly said. "We took 25 to 30 people out of the Executive Walk Apartments. Water there was 2 feet up on the first floor windows."

Brentwood resident Leroy Russo, 76, got a call from his son early Sunday with news that water had inundated the family's business, Lawn Care Equipment, one of numerous stores under water in the 8300 block of Manchester.

"It's over the countertops. It's a complete disaster," Russo said. "I've lived here 54 years, and this is the worst flooding I've seen."

Crates of flowers floated away from Teson Farms nursery and bobbed in the gray water covering the road. Nearby, taillights eerily glowed on a submerged truck stranded outside the 24-

Hour Fitness facility.

Flooding forced the closure of the busy intersection of Brentwood Boulevard and Manchester Road, and damaged businesses in Hanley Industrial Court and Brentwood Industrial Park.

In Rock Hill, where Manchester dips between Brentwood Boulevard and McKnight Road, the flooding created a lake that swamped the Trainwreck Saloon and Rock Hill Lumber Co.

Overflow from Deer Creek also flooded the intersection of Marshall and Kirkham roads in Webster Groves.

In Lincoln County, more than 20 residents in Silex were evacuated after flash floodwater poured into their homes. Some of them had to be taken from their homes by boat.

The bad weather also changed or canceled several events Sunday. The Tour of Missouri cycling race course was modified, and race officials canceled a health and wellness expo.

Also concerning was the impact the rain was having on rivers, especially the Meramec, the Missouri and the Mississippi.

The Mississippi is expected to crest at 41 feet in St. Louis on Thursday, 11 feet above flood stage.

On Sunday, crews blocked off North Leonor K. Sullivan Boulevard between Carr Street and Washington Avenue and are expected to close the boulevard south to Chouteau Avenue today. Some flood gates were closed Sunday, and more would be closed today, said Todd Waelterman, the city's director of streets.

The National Weather Service said the Meramec was expected to reach major flood stage at Valley Park and Arnold. At Arnold, the Meramec is expected to reach a crest of 42 feet — 18 feet above flood stage — on Wednesday.

The Associated Press and Robert Kelly, Ken Leiser, Michele Munz and Robert Cohen of the Post-Dispatch contributed to this report. dmoore@post-dispatch.com | 314-340-8125 atablac@post-dispatch.com | 314-340-8140

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