

Required vendors to stock a certain amount of goods to prevent booths from

The Rains Came And Came . . .

Rain, rain and more rain. And the next storm may show up in your basement because of prime conditions for flash flooding.

So far this month, 4.5 inches have fallen, more than four times the normal for the first seven days of July and almost an inch more than the normal total for the whole month of 3.69 inches.

The soggy start to July follows a saturated June when 5.96 inches of rain fell on 14 of the month's 30 days. The normal for June is 4.42 inches.

The National Weather Service reports there has been recorded precipitation at its Lambert Field station for 17 out of the last 30 days. But meteorologists note that many of the thunderstorms of recent weeks have been extremely localized. Wednesday, for example, the rain gauge at the airport showed only two hundredths of an inch of rain, while "south St. Louis and south St. Louis County got a lot more than that," a meteorologist said.

A heavy storm saturated the South Side about 10 a.m. Wednesday, causing flash floods in an 8-square mile area bounded by River des Peres on the south, Delor Street on the north, Kingshighway on the west and I-55 on the east.

Among those who are spending today cleaning up is Donna Lingle of Affton. Ten inches of muddy water had backed up into the basement of her home in the 4400 block of Turquoise Drive.

"An Atari set and three cartridges were floating," Mrs. Lingle said. "The carpeting in two rooms was ruined. We cut it up into 4-foot sections and took it out to dry and it was so full of water it looked as though someone had run a hose where we carried it. Two sets of golf clubs and bags were ruined, the paneling is all buckled. It's a disaster. We had to hose for three hours to get the mud off the walls."

Boyd C. Mills, district maintenance supervisor for the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District, described the flooding as the worst of the season. He said he believed "2 inches or more" had fallen on the South Side.

"The Mississippi (River) is pretty full, River des Peres is pretty full," Mills said. "Consequently you get a big storm and the water has no place to go."

He said that the melting of the 2-foot snow that fell on this area in January had thoroughly saturated the ground throughout the area.

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