

STORM KNOCKS OUT GAME, ELECTRICITY

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SECTION: NEWS, Pg. 18

LENGTH: 402 words

* Meteorologists said a squall line moved through the area. Flooding and high wind were reported across the state.

Friday the 13th lived up to its reputation for bad luck as rain postponed the first interleague game between the Cardinals and the Cleveland Indians at Busch Stadium.

The postponement came after a rain delay of nearly 3 1/2 hours.

Throughout the day, line after line of heavy rain and wind swept through the state, causing power outages and flooding.

At 5 p.m., the National Weather Service issued a tornado warning for St. Francois County. About 15 minutes later, damage was reported to a trailer; meteorologists were unsure if a tornado or high wind was the cause. No one was injured, and the warning was lifted at 5:45 p.m.

In the metro area, between a half-inch and an inch of rain fell in about 30 minutes Friday morning. Storm sewers overflowed in some areas, forcing water onto the streets. Temporary flooding resulted.

The rain resumed later Friday. Meteorologists at WeatherData Inc., which provides forecasts to the Post-Dispatch, predicted downtown St. Louis would get about 2 inches of rainfall, with the suburbs getting an additional half-inch.

St. Louis County police and the Missouri Highway Patrol reported several minor traffic accidents throughout the day.

Meteorologists described the storm as a squall line - a line of storms, some severe, that moves rapidly through an area. Warm, moist air displaced the cool, dry air that had been in the area. That change can lead to severe weather.

Flooding was reported on Oakland Avenue between Hampton Avenue and Kingshighway, St. Louis police said. County police reported no flooding.

Wind and lightning disrupted electrical service to many on both sides of the Mississippi River.

About 20,000 customers, mostly in south St. Louis County and the southern reaches of St. Louis, lost power due to high wind, lightning strikes or fallen tree limbs, said Susan Gallagher, a Union Electric spokeswoman. She said the utility was expected to restore service by late Friday.

Across the river, more than 1,000 businesses and homes, scattered from Columbia to Edwardsville, lost power for several hours. Otis Cowan, regional manager of Illinois Power Co., said lightning strikes caused many outages.

Roy Malone and Colleen Bradford of the Post-Dispatch staff contributed information to this story.

LOAD-DATE: June 16, 1997

LANGUAGE: English

GRAPHIC: PHOTO, Photo by Jane Rudolph/Post-Dispatch - Motorists plow through the flooded intersection of Page and Grand boulevards after a storm at midmorning Friday.

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