

## WARNING

Initial information from the Weather Service indicated that heavy rains would be occurring in the Rapid City Area; however, the broadcasts were not specific in indicating the amount of rain fall. Radio and TV spot announcements were put out to the general public in the early evening. Telephone calls to the Police Department and radio and TV stations indicated flooding in the upper Hills area and this information was put out to the general public over radio based on reports from people in the upper Hills area. REACT, 4-wheelers, the Rapid City Police and Fire Departments, and the National Guard were making door-to-door warnings in the Canyon Lake Area. Some people failed to respond to the warning, others did respond, fortunately.

## COMMAND AND CONTROL

The Pennington County EOC was opened at approximately 8:00 P.M. by the Operations Officer. REACT activated the CB unit in the EOC about 9:00 P.M. The Law Enforcement was already operating from the EOC as the Sheriff's office operates out of there daily. Upon activation of the EOC, standby radios were activated and the emergency telephone system was activated. There were 7 private lines, a direct line to St. John's Hospital <sup>and Mount Carmel</sup> County Commissioner Ron Stephenson and Sheriff Glenn Best were in immediate charge of the EOC and coordinated rescue from the EOC. The State Support Area Emergency Center at Camp Rapid was activated at approximately 8:00 P.M. on a cadre basis and under full operational level by approximately 9:00 P.M. The State Support Area Emergency Operations Center was manned by personnel from State Headquarters, Department of Military Affairs, with coordination to State Radio, operating from the Emergency Operations Center.

Public utilities representatives were in contact with officials at the Pennington County EOC and State Support Area EOC. Telephone maintenance representatives were in both the Pennington County and State Support Area EOC's early Friday evening. A "hot" line was installed direct from the Pennington County EOC to State Support Area EOC during the night.

Saturday afternoon, at the Governor's request, President Nixon declared the counties of Lawrence, Custer, Meade and Pennington to be disaster areas and a Presidential Disaster Declaration was issued at 4:00 P.M. on June 10, 1972.

A representative of the Office of Emergency Preparedness arrived in Rapid City for the initial survey on June 10th at 12:00 Noon. Upon Presidential Disaster Declaration, Federal agencies were alerted and a joint Federal-State-Local disaster meeting was scheduled at 1:00 P.M. <sup>June 11,</sup> in the Armed Forces Reserve Center to effect coordination.

#### PRIORITIES

During the period of Friday evening, major efforts were made by the various emergency services, i.e. Police, Fire, REACT, 4-wheelers, the National Guard and volunteer groups, in the rescue of persons trapped by the flood situation. Evacuees were provided temporary shelter at the schools, city auditorium, National Guard Armory and the churches. As the magnitude of the flood became apparent by the discovery of bodies, the Coroner established a mortuary, and the second priority was the recovery and handling of the dead.

Because of damage to public utilities, gas, electricity, and water, the entire city was out of all three. An early priority was the identification of damage to the public utilities and an assessment of repairs necessary to restore these essential facilities as soon as possible. Priority was

also given to the feeding of people and congregate care facilities. It was necessary to utilize water containers and sanitary kits from the Civil Defense shelter supplies and water trailers from the National Guard and other private sources.

It was necessary to handle reports of missing persons the first night and volunteers were utilized to perform this service in the EOC.

Security was established for the area and unauthorized persons were kept out during the search for and recovery of bodies. Search teams were organized by the National Guard personnel under the coordination of the Pennington County Sheriff. The County Coroner was in charge of handling and care of the flood casualties.

One of the first priorities early Saturday morning was the mass inoculation for tetanus and typhoid. Centers were established at various locations throughout the city and the inoculations were provided by local doctors, nurses, the State Health Department and the National Guard Medical Company.

Another important priority was the re-establishment of the water system in the Rapid City area. Problems encountered were broken hydrants, plugged intakes, ruptured main lines and extensive damage to mechanical portions of the entire system. The city was out of water through Sunday in 99% of the area. Water was re-established Sunday evening and early Monday morning in the high pressure lines; however, due to overloading of the pumping system, problems were encountered in equalizing the water pressure in the low pressure lines. This was overcome by the Public Works Monday evening or Tuesday morning. Throughout the operation, even to date, priorities

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are established, based on the needs; primary goals being directed to the safety and well being of the citizens in the area.

SUPPORT TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT

1850

National Guard - Approximately ~~2,500~~ <sup>800</sup> troops were engaged in summer field training and/were immediately engaged early in the evening to assist in warning, rescue and search, and security. They also provided communications. *and pure water supply to City of Rapid City. 2950 Guardsmen*  
State Agencies *eventually react.*

The State Agencies immediately available on Friday evening assisted either at the Pennington County or State Support Area EOC. The State Highway Dept removed obstacles from the highways, structures on waterways assisted motorists on the State Highway System and made immediate repairs where damage occurred. State Highway Patrol were involved in the rescue, search, traffic control and general law enforcement in assisting the Sheriff's office and local Police Department. The State Game, Fish & Parks provided boats, personnel for rescue operations, lighting, communications, and various other pieces of equipment for rescue during the early hours. The State Radio System was the primary command and control net for the entire operation.

Early Saturday morning, other agencies were alerted for assistance in damage estimation, and included in addition to those State Departments mentioned, the State Health Department, State Engineer's Office, and the Water Resources Commission.

Community service agencies were also engaged and included the Red Cross, Salvation Army, Seventh Day Adventists, Mennonites, and other volunteer groups, who performed their traditional services.

KOTA established their remote broadcasting capabilities through the Emergency Broadcast System and were on emergency power ~~at~~ the transmitter site.

Representatives from the Department of Game, Fish & Parks, State Highway Patrol, State Highway Department, were located in the EOC for the purpose of coordinating their field activities. Communications were <sup>immediately</sup> established between Pennington County EOC and the State Support Area EOC. Coordination was also effected with the Civil Defense Directors in the Counties of Custer and Lawrence.

The State Warning Point at Pierre notified State Civil Defense duty officer of the general situation about flooding in the Hills and Rapid City areas at approximately 10:00 P.M. on June 9th. The State EOC in Pierre was opened by the duty officer and contact made with the Support Area EOC in Rapid City. It was not determined necessary to activate the State staff at that time; however, the Governor was notified and information was collected at the State EOC for the purpose of keeping the Governor advised of the situation. At 10:15, the State EOC notified the Regional Duty Officer of general flooding and OEP was advised. At approximately 2:30 A.M. on June 10th, the Governor declared a State Disaster to exist in the Counties of Lawrence, Meade, Pennington and Custer.

The Pennington County and State Support Area EOC in Rapid City maintained constant operations throughout the night. Very early Saturday morning, the Rapid City-Pennington County EOC was fully staffed with department heads and temporary volunteers where department heads were not available.

The second representative of the Office of Emergency Preparedness arrived in Rapid City the evening of June 10th.

Individual Assistance

A one-stop assistance center was opened at 5:00 P.M. on Sunday at Central High School. Services provided include:

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>AVAILABLE</u>	<u>FROM</u>
Food	Emergency meals Food Packages or Food Orders Food Stamps Food Vouchers	Red Cross, Salvation Army Red Cross USDA Food & Nutrition Service Community Action (OEO)
Clothing	Clothing or an Order  Loans to Replace Personal Prop	Red Cross, Salvation Army, Seventh Day Adventists, Others Small Business Administration
Housing or Home Furnishings	Place to sleep Temporary Housing Household furnishing Loans for repair or replacement of household furnishings	Red Cross Housing & Urban Development Red Cross, Community Action Small Business Administration
Medical Care	Emergency Medical Care & Health Service Help in Getting Medical Care Immunizations	Public Health Service, State Health Department Red Cross Local Health Agencies
Emergency Funds	Pay While Jobless Social Security Veterans Benefits Emergency Assistance	State Employment Social Security Adm. Veterans Administration Red Cross
Legal Assistance	Legal Advice in Solving Disaster-Caused Problems	County Bar Assn, Office of Economic Opportunity
Employment Advice	Job Help	State Employment Security
Income Tax Assist	Tax Help for Disaster Victims	Internal Revenue Service
Property Cleanup	Help to Clear Awar Debris Debris Clearance from Farm or other rural property	Corps of Engineers Agricultural Stabilization & Conservation Service
Home Repair or Reconstruction	Loans to Rebuild or Repair your Home Insurance or a Mortgage to Fix Your Home Supplementary Funds for Repairing your Home Small carpentry repairs and cleanup for Aged or Infirm	Small Business Administration Federal Housing Administration Red Cross Mennonites

Business Repair or Maintenance	Loans to Repair or Replace Your Business Loans to Help you keep your business going Workers for Home Repair	Small Business Administration Small Business Administration Community Action Program
Farm Repair or Maintenance	Loans to Repair or Replace your farm home & bldgs Emergency conservation measures Help in Getting Feed for your livestock	Farmers Home Administration ASC ASC
Official Info	General Public Info and Asst.	Office of Emergency Preparedness
Day Care Services	Daytime Child Care Help	Community Action Program YMCA St. Martin's Academy-Rapid City
Transportation	Emergency Community and Personal Interstate	Community Action Program

Assistance to Local Government in the Repair and Restoration of Public  
Facilities

Assistance through Public Law 91-606 was initiated to provide the following:

1. Clearance of debris and wreckage
2. Emergency protective measures
3. Emergency repair or replacement of roads, streets, and highway facilities
4. Emergency repair or replacement of dikes, levees, irrigation works and drainage facilities.
5. Emergency repair or replacement of public buildings and related equipment
6. Emergency repair or replacement of publicly-owned utilities.

Assistance will also be provided for the permanent restoration of the categories listed above.

On Monday, June 12th, Federal, State and Local damage assessment teams began the initial damage surveys. The Office of Emergency Preparedness representative and the State Civil Defense Office held meetings with local government officials on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for the purpose of outlining assistance available to both individuals and public facilities damaged as a result of the flood.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Local news media maintained constant contact with the EOC's established and kept the public advised as to the extent of damage, actions that were being taken, and other health and safety information, plus information for getting in contact with relatives and survivors, on a 24-hour basis. On Thursday, the radio stations went back to commercial broadcasting but would interrupt at any time for emergency information.

KOTA TV and Radio set up a public information program for 2½ hours for the purpose of a telethon question and answer program relative to assistance available from state and federal agencies and other health and safety information. The Office of Emergency Preparedness and the Governor's Office prepared a brochure outlining individual assistance programs available.