

# Thousands evacuated as some await floods, others begin cleanup

By JENNIFER KAY  
Associated Press Writer

Though the rains ended many hours before, the remnants of Hurricane Ivan haunted Pennsylvania on Sunday as flooding grew more widespread and officials got their first look at damage where the water had receded. Gov. Ed Rendell pegged the losses at hundreds of millions of dollars.

The heavy rains that devastated communities in the southwestern corner of the state Friday night swelled rivers in central and eastern Pennsylvania on Sunday, forcing at least 14,000 residents to flee their homes, according to a survey of county emergency management officials by The Associated Press. And officials warned that the waters would continue rising until nighttime.

Six deaths were attributed to the storm, state emergency management officials said.

On a helicopter tour of the Susquehanna River, Rendell saw many houses under water and several sewage plants that had been wiped out. On City Island, a spit of land in the middle of river next to Harrisburg, the city's minor league baseball stadium was completely under water.

More than 1,000 residents along the Delaware River in eastern Pennsylvania were evacuated as the river began overflowing its banks Sunday. Flooding along the Susquehanna River forced evacuations from Scranton to Harrisburg. Rescuers made several dozen water rescues, officials said. Low-lying towns near

Pittsburgh, such as Etna and Carnegie, spent Sunday cleaning up from Friday night floodwaters that caused massive damage to business districts. Dozens of boats broke loose from their docks as Pittsburgh's three rivers rose and crested Saturday, some coming to rest on the flooded Point State Park.

"We have no idea the extent of the damage," Rendell told an afternoon news conference outside Harrisburg. "But it's going to be significant."

Rendell, who toured hard-hit Allegheny County and parts of the Susquehanna by air Sunday, requested federal disaster aid for 42 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties. Sunday night President Bush declared disasters in 19 of them, freeing up federal money to help individuals and business owners recover.

The American Red Cross said Sunday it had opened 70 shelters statewide to provide meals and medical care to residents. About 1,200 people spent the night in shelters Saturday night and the agency served 7,000 meals Sunday, said Joyce Casaldi, a Red Cross spokeswoman.

The heavy rains left over from Hurricane Ivan dumped up to nine inches of rain on some parts of the state late Friday and Saturday.

The Delaware River was cresting Sunday at about 10 feet above flood stage, but it wasn't expected to fall below flood stage until sometime Monday, according to the National Weather Service. The Susquehanna River crested in

most places Sunday afternoon, but it too was forecast to remain above flood stage into Monday. "We're playing a waiting game right now. We're just waiting for these rivers, the Susquehanna (and the Delaware) to crest," Justin Fleming, deputy press secretary for the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, said Sunday afternoon.



Photo Courtesy of WGAL

This picture was captured by WGAL camera crews during the flooding in Harrisburg. Residents of Harrisburg were advised to stay indoors during the flood.

"It's very difficult because you know it's going to happen but there's nothing you can do to stop it."

The flooding was among the five worst since record-keeping began in the 19th century for the Susquehanna, National Weather Service senior forecaster Mike Dangelo said. New

meteorologist Ray Kruzdlo of the NWS office in Mount Holly, N.J.

The flooding damaged or destroyed thousands of homes, businesses and public buildings across Pennsylvania, according to a survey of county emergency management officials by The Associated Press.

Mobile homes took a heavy hit from the flooding. Seventy-five were destroyed in Canton Township in Washington County, in western Pennsylvania, while 21 were destroyed at a park in Unionville, Centre County, officials said.

An overflowing creek behind the Armstrong County Courthouse in Kittanning sent four feet of water through the courthouse's steel doors, county Emergency Management Agency Director Randall Brozenick said. Five feet of water also flooded the Gilpin Township police department and municipal building, Brozenick said. "Everything there is pretty much damaged or gone," he said.

Flood waters washed out eight bridges in Fulton County, in south-central Pennsylvania, county Emergency Management Director Lisa Sherman said.

In Coburn, in Centre County, the overflowing Penns Creek flooded Martin's Feed & Fertilizer Inc. with two feet of water, knocking the mill out of business for three to four weeks. Owner Ed Martin said neighboring mills would pick up the slack and supply local dairy farmers.

Scores of people suffered minor injuries in the rain and its aftermath, mostly in car accidents.

Six deaths were blamed on the storm, Fleming said. A 35-year-old hearing-impaired man was swept away in Carnegie on Friday. Rescuers waiting for a helicopter to arrive watched in horror as Dennis Santiago, who had been cling-

ing to a tree for about 45 minutes, fell into the raging floodwaters. One person suffered a fatal heart attack while another adult and a 2-year-old drowned, state officials said. Details of the deaths, and the circumstances of the other two deaths, were not immediately available.

Fulton County's Sherman said an Ayre Township man died of asphyxiation when he was overcome with gas fumes from a generator while pumping water out of his basement early Saturday morning. State officials weren't certain if the death was among the state's tally. The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency said about 77,000 customers statewide were without electricity Sunday morning, down from a peak of about 250,000.

Rendell asked 10,000 to 20,000 nonessential state employees who work in Harrisburg to stay home Monday.

Though most of the water had receded in western Pennsylvania, many streets remained closed Sunday and thousands of customers were still without power. Residents and business owners began the messy cleanup by salvaging what they could and shoveling out the thick layers of mud that the floodwaters left behind.

The American Philatelic Society in Bellefonte received a scare: Floodwaters surrounded the stamp society's new headquarters and soaked the carpet on the ground floor, but didn't reach the valuable stamp collection or research library.

PSU cont. from 5

pulled a typical Penn State and was set back 25 years. Gone were any hopes the offense would evolve into what fans and media were told would be a new offense.

There is a reason why they scheduled Akron and Central Florida in two of the first three weeks. It was done in order to give fans a false hope and a bright outlook on the season.

Truth of the matter is there are capable playmakers such as Michael Robinson, Lowry himself, and sophomore running back Tony Hunt. But the team has no proven leader, no fire the troops up type quarterback.

What they have is statistically the best quarterback to play at the school, yes, but being the leader in passing yardage translates to nothing on the field if you are incapable of making a big play anymore.

When the season is all said and done and 5-6 or still possibly 6-5 is what we all see, Paterno will comeback with his usual array of excuses and claim that they were a play or two away from being really good, blah blah this and yada yada that.

In reality, with Mills, they aren't any better than fifth place in a

depleted Big East conference.

Lowry never mentioned a name, and Paterno got agitated when more beat writers pushed him on Mills. Just once Joe, weid like you to admit, no matter how good of a person Mills is, no matter how much character he has, whatever, admit that he isn't any

good and you need to make a change. Admit he wasn't able to lead you to a meaningful victory since 2002.

Maybe Lowry sees the writing on the wall, maybe not, but at least he has a clue, which is more than anyone can say for Mills or Paterno.

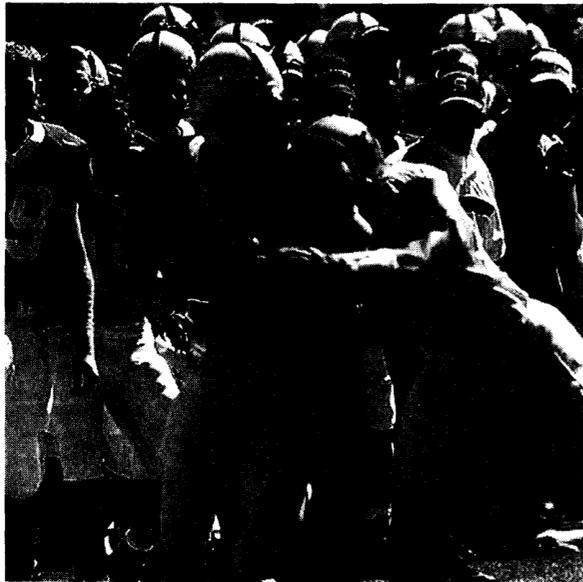


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