

Utility crews scrambling to restore power after winter storm

TOPEKA (AP) — Utility crews worked to restore electrical power to thousands in western Kansas after a winter storm covered the area in snow and ice, but warming weather in some cases worked against them.

As temperatures climbed above freezing Wednesday, snow and ice melted, turning the ground into mush and causing problems for heavy utility trucks trying to get through the mess.

Melting ice, sometimes 5 or 6 inches thick around power lines, often dropped to lower lines, bringing them down again and slowing progress.

Earl Steffens, general manager of Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative in Dighton, said about 30 farmers used their tractors to help pull the utility's bucket and digger trucks through the mud and snow. The storm toppled more than a thousand of the cooperative's power poles.

All 3,000 of the co-op's customers in seven western Kansas counties lost power for three days. By Wednesday, power had been restored to 300 to 400 customers.

"This is the worst storm we've ever had," Steffens said.

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, who declared a disaster emergency for 44

counties, toured the area Wednesday from the air and on the ground. While going through storm-damaged areas in Colby, Ulysses and Satanta, Sebelius said, "The size of this storm has brought more damage to this area than we've seen in years."

Spokeswoman Nicole Corcoran said the governor planned to ask for federal disaster assistance.

About 60,000 people were without electricity at the peak of the storm, largely because 9,700 utility poles were toppled by the storm that blew into Kansas on Dec. 28 and intensified the following day.

Kansas National Guard spokeswoman Sharon Watson didn't have an estimate Wednesday of how many people remained without power, but said it was slowly being restored by utility crews.

Utility officials suggested those in outage areas turn on front porch lights so they can be seen once power is restored, allowing crews to bypass those homes to move to areas where power is out.

Watson said it could be weeks before things get back to normal.

Many worried about the fate of thousands of head of cattle trying to survive after the storm that dumped up to 3 feet of snow, with 15-foot

drifts, and left thick ice around limbs and power lines. Kansas ranks No. 2 behind Texas with 6.65 million cattle on ranches and in feedlots.

The storm also had led to the deaths of cattle, as animals either froze to death or asphyxiated as snow became packed in their nostrils.

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body uses to store energy. It comes from food and your body also makes it.

As people get older, fatter or both, their triglyceride and cholesterol levels tend to rise. Regular physical activity helps to lower high triglycerides.

- **Liver Profile-** The portion of the comprehensive profile that is considered a liver profile is important for individuals taking drugs that may affect liver functions serum glucose is a measurement of blood glucose and is often the first test done to help detect diabetes. Glucose is a type of sugar found in many foods. It is the main source of energy used by the body. Most

Kansas Livestock Association spokeswoman Scarlett Hagins said it was too early to tell what the long-term impact will be.

"We have no idea how widespread it is. We haven't heard a lot of reports of animals being lost," Hagins said. "Most of the reports we're getting are from the southwest part of the state."

of the carbohydrates that people eat are turned into glucose, which can be used for energy or stored in the liver and kidney as glycogen.

A hormone called insulin helps the body use and control the amount of glucose in the blood. Insulin is produced in the pancreas and released into the blood when the amount of glucose in the blood rises.

People who do not produce enough insulin develop diabetes. People can also develop diabetes if they do not respond normally to the insulin their bodies produce. This occurs most commonly when a person is overweight.

- **Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA)-\$20**

Prostate-specific antigen is a substance released into a man's

Haskell County Commissioner Gene Ochs said dead cattle were piling up in feedlots in his far southwestern Kansas county.

One Haskell County feedlot owner told The Associated Press he had lost 450 cattle out of the 155,000 he has on feed preparing for slaughter and 20 dairy cows out of his herd of 7,500.

blood by his prostate gland. This type of test measures the amount of prostate-specific antigen in the blood.

Low amounts of PSA may be found in the blood of healthy men. The amount of prostate-specific antigens in the blood normally increases as a man's prostate enlarges with age. It is also increased by inflammation of the prostate gland and by prostate cancer.

- **Thyroid-Stimulating Hormone-\$15**

A test for thyroid-stimulating hormone is a new offering of this year's Wellness Fair. The thyroid-stimulating hormone often used to detect a problem affecting the thyroid gland.

An under-active thyroid gland (hypothyroidism) can cause symp-

Still, Roy Brown, co-owner of Cattle Empire near Satanta, said his losses were not as bad as he thought they would be given the severity of the storm.

He noted his insurance would cover his losses, which he estimated at about \$350,000. In a 1997 storm, he said, he lost 2,500 head out of the 130,000 he had on feed.

toms such as weight gain, tiredness, dry skin, constipation, a feeling of being too cold, or frequent menstrual periods.

An overactive thyroid (hyperthyroidism) can cause symptoms such as weight loss, rapid heart rate, nervousness, diarrhea, a feeling of being too hot, or irregular menstrual periods.

- **HbA1c -** This is a test available for Wellness Fair participants who have been previously diagnosed with diabetes.

This is a test that measures the amount of glycosylated hemoglobin in the blood. The test gives a good estimate of how well diabetes is being managed over time.

For questions, call Jeanene Brown, education director at Citizens Medical Center, 460-4850.

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