

Winter Storm Pummels U.S.

This article is from the "Among Friends" section of the Church of God Big Sandy's website, churchofgodbigandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of Feb. 20, 2021.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—Cold winter weather this week caused havoc across much of the United States. While the Northern states (especially those in higher elevations) are familiar with inclement winter weather, many Southern states were plagued with low temperatures over several days.

The lower-than-normal temperatures placed stress upon systems that were not designed for the conditions and that were already needing updated maintenance.

Half a million people

Following are quotes from an article by Phil Helsel, Saphora Smith and Wilson Wong titled "Power Comes Back for Most in Texas, but Other Problems Pile Up" that was posted at nbcnews.com on Feb. 19, 2021.

The article said: "As of Friday morning, more than half a million people in the U.S. did not have electricity—Texas topped the list with less than 200,000 power outages, according to tracking website poweroutage.us."

It also said: "At least 46 people from 10 different states have died because of weather-related fatalities since Thursday, the majority in Texas."

The number of deaths in Texas was reported at 24 people—including six people who died in a massive pileup on a highway in Fort Worth on Feb. 11.

Challenges in Texas

The article mentioned the following information about Texas.

- "In Texas, more than 14 million people were under boil-water orders in the wake of a winter storm that froze and burst pipes, creating chaos for water-treatment facilities."
- "On Friday, Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner said the number of people affected by power outages in the state's largest city had dropped from 1.4 million to just 10,000."
- "Temperatures in Fort Worth, Texas, and Houston and other parts of the state are forecast to be freezing in the overnight hours until Saturday, according to the National Weather Service. That is expected to cause ice and snow that melts during the day to refreeze and create slick roads."

Challenges in Mississippi

The article mentioned the following information about Mississippi.

- "Winter storms have left parts of other states powerless as well: Mississippi had more than 100,000 customers out and Louisiana more than 70,000."

■ “Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves compared the damage to a hurricane. On Thursday, Mr. Reeves tweeted: ‘Unlike a hurricane or tornado, where the event comes furiously and then ends, this has been a slow-moving disaster. We have been in response mode, not recovery, constantly.’ ”

Challenges in Louisiana

The article mentioned the following information about Louisiana.

■ “In Louisiana, around 20,000 people had been without power since Monday, Gov. John Bel Edwards said at a Thursday news conference, although he expected most of those people to have power later that day. More than 245,000 people in the state were affected by dozens of water outages, Edwards said. Boil-water advisories affected around one million, he said.”

Challenges in other states

The article mentioned the following information about other states.

■ “In Tennessee, Memphis International Airport said it was forced to temporarily close its passenger terminal due to water-pressure issues. Airlines have canceled all passenger flights for Friday, the airport said in a statement on its website.”

■ “In Kentucky, two women died from hypothermia after their residences lost power, according to Boyd County Coroner Mark Mammond.”

■ “In Arkansas, a 69-year-old man was found dead earlier this week after falling into a frozen pond while trying to rescue a calf.”

■ “In Oregon, around 73,000 customers were without power Thursday night after last week’s storms, utility Portland General Electric said. It expected all but 15,000 to be restored by Friday night.”

Citizens helping others

In conclusion, I want to make a few comments.

■ The actions of the mainstream media and the politicians who are sensationalizing the deaths of this weather challenge for their own political gain are despicable.

■ Many of the media and politicians were quick to hide their eyes to their fellow politicians who directly contributed to 13,000 coronavirus deaths in nursing homes in the state of New York. Yet media and politicians seem eager to blame their opponents over the 46 deaths in states that don’t match their agenda.

■ God bless the people who lost family members during the recent winter weather.

■ God bless all the family members who took care of their elderly.

■ God bless all the citizens who showed remarkable courage in helping friends, neighbors and strangers.