

Flood victims long for home

GRAND FORKS, N.D. (AP) — They told Henry Howe to get out of town. It was no use.

"I've got a home and business, and I've got to get in here," Howe said.

He is one of hundreds of people who have defied evacuation orders and skirted lax martial law to get at their property since the Red River flooded this city of 50,000 people 11 days ago.

"I don't know what else I'd do," Howe said. "I'm really worried about my home."

Some people are even living at home again, despite having no tap water or sewer service.

"Anybody that knows the city and has a brain right now can get in," said Scott Carlson, a National Guardsman manning the only traffic checkpoint in town during the weekend.

During the night, police crisscross the city and helicopters circle desolate neighborhoods, using high-tech infrared and night-vision scopes to look for looters.

By day, homeowners bustle about, all of them in on the worst-kept secret in town: Security is loose.

Most of the authorities are locals, sympathetic to people's need to get home.

"If they're in their homes, we're not going to bother them," Carlson

said. Residents of drier sections of the city were allowed to visit their property Sunday for a fourth day, and residents of some parts of neighboring East Grand Forks, Minn., were allowed back for the first time.

But many others entered areas still officially closed.

"There's no way they can keep people from coming over here," said Barb Faulkenberry, inspecting her home behind security lines Saturday. "Since about every road is open, you don't have the manpower to do that."

Guardsmen and police who randomly patrol the neighborhoods are turning a blind eye to residents too anxious to keep away.

"I think it's pretty easy to tell the good guys from the bad guys," Faulkenberry said.

Water continued to recede Sunday, revealing more of the thick layer of mud covering the streets. Abandoned cars sat askew on sidewalks. Trash was strewn everywhere.

"Everyone along here lost the sandbag battle," said Jason Gierszewski, as he slid on mud coating the basement of his grandfather's home.

The throb of generators could be heard throughout the neighborhood.

Roy Beard sat in a chair in the bright morning sun while a pump labored to drain his basement. Nearby, furniture floated in the gray-green water, along with one of his daughter's shiny black shoes.

Officials have said some areas are clearly unsafe, and they have even put off searching part of the downtown that was gutted by a mid-flood fire.

Fears that some people might have been overlooked in the evacuation were heightened when a dehydrated, disoriented man was rescued from his flooded home Friday and taken to a state mental hospital.

"I think we've had two people rescued who didn't fully know what was happening," said Jack Stevens, a volunteer at the American Red Cross medical center at the Grand Forks Air Force Base outside the city.

Meanwhile, the front edge of the flood crest on the northward-flowing Red River moved through the little farming communities of Pembina and St. Vincent, Minn., a few miles from the Canadian border. The Pembina River, which joins the Red at Pembina, also was surging, aggravated by water flowing in from the Red.

The two-dozen residents of Leroy, N.D., about 25 miles west of Pembina, had to be evacuated.

SWAT team arrests man making threats

By MATTHEW WAITE
Senior Reporter

A man was arrested without incident after he brought the Lincoln Police SWAT team to his house by threatening himself and police officers over the phone with a gun Saturday afternoon.

However, the man did not have a gun as he walked outside his house and was arrested by members of the SWAT team. Officers on the scene would not comment on any weapons found inside the man's residence, other than to say there were guns in the house.

Sgt. Stan Kubicek refused to release the man's name, citing state law concerning the mentally ill. Kubicek did say the man was white and in his 30s and was an on-and-off resident of the house.

Police had been called to 701 S. 84th St. on a service call by a man who said he had mental health and alcohol problems, Kubicek said.

Officers called the man, and after a few minutes, he went through some violent mood swings, Kubicek said. During that time, he also threatened officers and himself with a shotgun and a large bore rifle that he said he had inside.

After the threats, officers called the SWAT team, a specially trained force made up of Lincoln police volunteers.

Kubicek said the man was delusional and intoxicated, and officers were concerned about the mental health issues.

The man was arrested, and resisted being put into a cruiser. Once inside, he kicked the doors and windows, so officers then had to bind his legs.

Eventually the man was taken away in a cruiser, but Kubicek refused to say where he was going.

He said police concerns now were on the man's mental health issues and that all reports will be forwarded to the county attorney for review.

Red spares most of UND campus

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students April 19 when President Kendall Baker called off classes and graduation as the town began to evacuate.

Only a handful of administrators are operating the abandoned university. Most of them are living and sleeping in the headquarters of UND's physical plant, said UND spokesman Peter Johnson.

Now that the flooding is beginning to go down at UND, the university faces immediate problems, not the

least of which is contacting staff, faculty and students and beginning to coordinate cleanup.

"Definitely, the worst is past," Johnson said.

Despite the damages it sustained from the flood, UND is lucky compared to most of the swamped, fire-gutted city and will play an important role in the recovery of the town, Johnson said. Residence halls, classrooms and the gym may be used to house evacuees returning to their homes.

"UND will act as a beachhead for

moving back to town," Johnson said.

Johnson said he hoped students will be able to return to Grand Forks in the next few weeks to pack their remaining belongings from dorms and apartments but is unsure how soon that will be.

"I don't think anyone was prepared for what happened," Johnson said.

Anyone wishing to help the North Dakota residents impacted by the flood can call the University of North Dakota at 1-800-342-8230 or 1-800-225-5863.

Law & Order

A look at crime on campus and in the community

SHOTS FIRED

Lincoln Police recovered a shotgun Sunday morning that was used during a fight near the intersection of Winthrop Road and Colonial Drive, Lincoln Police Sgt. Steve Imes said.

Imes said a fight broke out in the area, and someone fired the gun, breaking a window at a house at 2400 Winthrop Road.

When police arrived, a number of cars and spectators were leaving the area. Police do not know who fired the gun.

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