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(SD)-Custer Cleaning Up From Friday Flood

By: John Axtell Posted at: 08/05/2019 11:47 PM

CUSTER, S.D. (AP) - Residents of Custer are cleaning up after what an emergency services official calls a hundred-year flood that shut down the Black Hills town.

Custer County emergency services director Mike Carter says the flooding hit when the city of fewer than 2,000 residents had swelled to more than 7,500 because of the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. Carter says at least a dozen people had to be rescued from the water, but no one was hurt.

The National Weather Service says thunderstorms stalled over Custer Friday afternoon and dumped more than 5 inches of rain in 2-to-3 hours. Rainwater swelled French Creek, causing severe flooding that prompted road closures and some evacuations in Custer.

Carter says he closed the city until late Friday night, not letting anyone in or out. About 700 residents lost electricity, but power was restored by Saturday..