

FOOD RUNS LOW

Many In De Luz Still Morooned

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all officials said, but they warned that high winds this morning could down power lines.

"We're just trying to share what we have and pass the food around," Rose said.

"We're going back to pioneer days," said Helen Daily.

"If it rains for several more days, there will definitely be a food shortage up there," said Alan Mendrala, a volunteer with the county Office of Disaster Preparedness. He and Daily said road crews will not be able to clear roadways to DeLuz for 12 hours after the rain stops.

In the DeLuz Canyon area, 3 miles north of the more recently built homes of DeLuz Heights, rain gauges showed 20.23 inches of rain since Feb. 14, said Felix Garnsey, 71, a retired rancher and conservationist who grew up here.

"That's the third highest rainfall in 70 years," said his wife, Theodora.

"DeLuz Creek has been higher than I've ever seen it," said Garnsey. "Boulders from the size of your head to three and four feet across rolled off the hills and onto the road."

Garnsey lauded a San Diego Gas & Electric Co. crew for swooping into the canyon last week in a helicopter to restore storm-damaged power poles. The crew airlifted out a frightened family that was taking care of a ranch, he said.

"They were city folks, and seeing the raging water kind of got to them," Garnsey said. "We got a grocery list as long as your arm, but if we don't get out for a week, we'll still eat — not what we want, but what we've got."

Meanwhile, Daily attempted to clear interior roads with a skid loader — the only operable piece of heavy equipment — while Philip Berg, water district manager, negotiated boulder-strewn roads on a three-wheel motorcycle, scouting for water main breaks. His entire crew was isolated in Fallbrook.

"All that work will probably be down the tubes by this morning," said Capt. Milt Davies of the Fallbrook Fire Department.