

**TOPAZ ELECTRIC REP DAVENPORT AND ASSOCIATES:
BACK TO BUSINESS AS USUAL AFTER RECORD TENNESSEE FLOOD**

July 19, 2010, Nashville

The weekend of May 1st 2010 was a devastating time for Kermit Davenport, and his business. Middle Tennessee had a record breaking 13 to 15 inches of rain in just 48 hours. The average rainfall for the whole month of May is normally 10 inches. It has been named a 1000 year flood.

This was a once in a lifetime event for Kermit, who runs a manufacturers rep agency, along with wife Linda and son Nathan. Overflow from Old Hickory Lake and Percy Priest Lake caused the Cumberland River to crest over its banks and put Davenport and Associates' 20,000 square foot warehouse under 8 feet of water. Their offices, computer equipment and 31 years worth of business records were all eradicated in one weekend.

The Davenports got to see the damage 4 days later when the flood waters finally receded. Everything in their office and warehouse lay under a ½" thick layer of mud and sewage from the flooded filtration plant nearby. No one could enter the premises without a tetanus shot; other hazards included mold, bacteria and an unrelenting odor from the sewage left behind.

Davenport and Associates has the distinction of being the first rep to sign on with Benny Di Donato and Topaz Electric some 18 years ago. As the cleanup was getting started Kermit looked up and was surprised to see Ken Gomes, one of the founders of Topaz Electric, standing at his warehouse door. Ken, in town for his granddaughter's graduation from Vanderbilt, had no idea Nashville had been affected so hard. Topaz moved quickly to authorize the disposal of all Topaz fittings ruined in the flood so the Davenports could begin rebuilding. "Just to find Kermit and Linda working on a card table, with a small lam, in the back of a darkened warehouse trying to 'regroup', broke my heart. It's great to know they've come all the way back now. I salute them!" said Ken.

Kermit credits the entire Topaz team and Pam Walter in particular, for keeping the orders flowing and the customers happy during the 8 weeks it took to dispose, sanitize and rebuild the premises. Danielle Strandvold put extra stock in the Jacksonville DC, and fellow rep Bob Andrews of Berry Elsberry Company beefed up stock in his Atlanta warehouse to support Tennessee orders. Benny Di Donato stated, "We were committed to doing whatever Davenport needed to get back on their feet."

Thanks to the Davenport's hard work and the support of their many customers, manufacturers and business friends, their agency has reopened in record breaking time. Original estimates were at least 6 months to clean and rebuild. They are now fully restocked with all of their lines including a complete inventory of Topaz fittings and electrical supplies.

If there's a silver lining to this cloud - the business is now laid out in a more efficient floor plan, and the equipment is all state of the art. Kermit and his family have a new viewpoint too: "Watching as a front end loader scoops your life's efforts into construction dumpsters makes you realize life is so much more than stuff. I have been given the opportunity to continue life with a new zeal for family, friends, customers and manufacturers. Along with this opportunity I want to thank God for seeing us through this ordeal and for allowing all of us affected to understand that He will see us thru all our problems."

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