

S.R.

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# Powerfull

## *WWP sets consumption record*

Washington Water Power Co. reported a power consumption record Monday as Arctic air continued to dominate outdoor activity in the Inland Empire.

Spokane's official temperature dipped to minus 4 at 8:15 a.m. and climbed no higher than a chilly 14 during the day. Not since Jan. 17 has the temperature been above freezing in Spokane.

It was even colder in northcentral Washington where the mercury fell to 26 below zero at Winthrop and 22 below at Leavenworth, the Associated Press reported.

A two-hour power shortage hit Salem, Ore., beginning at 7:10 a.m.

In Spokane, Stanley G. Witter Jr., WWP spokesman, said the firm's customers used 1,606,000 kilowatts of power between 7 and 8 a.m. Monday. That was 7,000 more kilowatts than ever recorded before by WWP for a 60-minute period.

To meet the heavy demand WWP borrowed power from Southern California Edison in Los

Angeles, Calif., and Pacific Power & Light Co. in Portland, Witter said.

He appealed to customers to save power in every way possible.

"If this continues for a week, we could be in trouble," Witter said.

The previous power record was set Jan. 8, 1979, Witter said, during the same period of the day. During 1978-79 Spokane had 21 days when the minimum was below zero. Monday's minus 4 wasn't even the lowest for the season. On Jan. 7, also a Monday, it was minus 6.

While many Spokane motorists held their breath as chilled batteries reluctantly yielded electrical sparks to get motors operating, commuters in the Seattle area where the low reading was 27 may have had less difficulty.

However, those entering the city via the Interstate 90 tunnel from Lake Washington noticed icicles as long as 30 inches hanging from the ceiling, Emil Ponce, assistant traffic control supervisor said, the AP reported.

Engineering crews spent the day removing the stalactite-like icicles.

Jim Richards of Inland Automobile Association said 150 requests from motorists for assistance to get their cars started were received between 6 and 10 a.m.

Spokane City Water Department said residents reported 70 frozen meters during the weekend and Monday. Crews worked throughout the weekend.

Meanwhile warm air was reported moving inland from the Pacific Ocean. The encounter between the Arctic and coastal airs is expected to slowly raise the temperatures with clouds expected to be over Spokane this afternoon.

The coldest weather of the winter in Portland contributed to the death of an elderly man who wandered away from a nursing home, police reported.

He was dressed only in pants, shirt and slippers and apparently froze to death. The low in the Oregon city was 23.