



Workers from the Union Pacific railroad worked on cleaning up a train wreck west of Winona on Monday morning.

Photo by Becky Samuelson/The Western Times

Union Pacific coal train derails west Winona

By Jan Katz Ackerman

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An early morning train derailment dumped 18 coal cars on the ground a mile west Winona, along U.S. 40 in Logan County. "This all happened about 4:40 a.m. this morning," said George "Pappy" Lies, Logan County emergency management director. "The Union Pacific line is shut down, and

the company is sending three crews in to clean up the mess." Lies said there were no injuries, and no hazardous materials were involved. No details about what caused the empty coal train to derail were available. Cars that did not derail were pulled back from the site by rail crews. "The train had about 100 cars in

it," Lies said, "but the railway has taken away some of them." Margie Ausmus of Winona, who lives three blocks from the railroad tracks, said the fire siren alerted her that something had happened. "The siren blew about 5 a.m.," Ausmus said. "I went down there, and one coal car kept the train from hitting the (Frontier Ag) Co-op." Ausmus said apparently the first

car to derail landed in such as way as to block the cars from behind it from sliding into the elevator. "The rail is tipped up in the air," Ausmus said. "The railroad will be shut down for a long time," Ausmus said other train cars stopped on both sides of the accident, and that at one point the train was spread from Winona to about six miles east of town.

Winona resident Karen Barrett said she did not hear the train leave the tracks, but the siren woke her. Barrett, who works at Winona Feed and Grain, said the accident is about a block from her office. "You can't see it out the window," Barrett said, "but if you walk down there, there's a jumble of stuff on the tracks. You can usually see right through, but not today."

Barrett said crews from Union Pacific were on the scene early Monday and residents have been told a crane will be brought in to help remove debris. "They've pulled off cars that didn't derail and we are expecting a crane to come and get the rest," Barrett said.

The Goodland Star News Service Directory

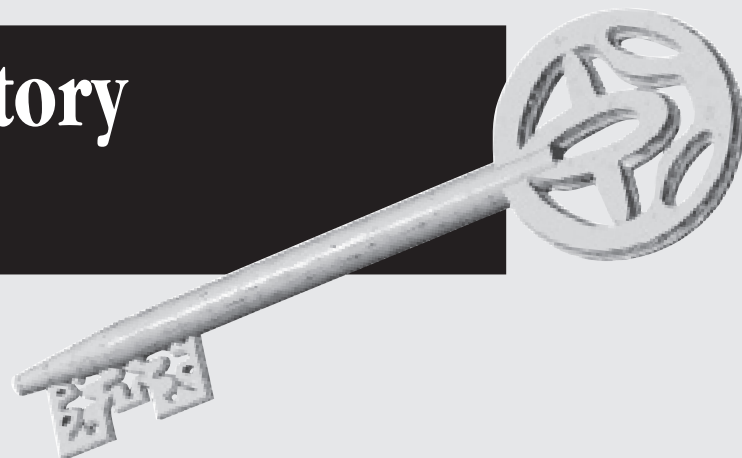
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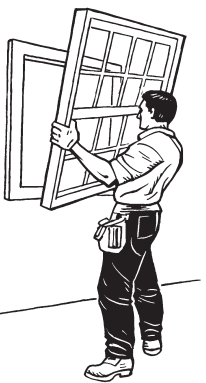
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