

20th Anniversary of Hurricane Hugo's Impact on
MUSC
Oral History Project

Interview with M. David McDaniel
July 1, 2009

Interviewer: Brooke Fox, MUSC University Archives

Location: Colbert Education Center and Library, Room 407

Brooke Fox: The following is an interview with David McDaniel for the Hurricane Hugo Twentieth Anniversary Oral History Project. The date is July 1st, 2009. The interviewer is Brooke Fox.

Okay the recorder is on.

David McDaniel: Good.

Brooke Fox: Let me start first by just asking you general background questions; how long have you been here at MUSC? When did you start?

David McDaniel: Okay, I started here as a student in 1976, finished school in '78, went away for two years, came back in 1980, was here from '80 to '91, left in '91, came back in '96 and have been here ever since. So, of my thirty-one years as a pharmacist, I've been in this locale for twenty-four years.

Brooke Fox: How long have you been in the Children's Hospital, the pharmacy?

David McDaniel: Actually, I was there when we moved to the hospital in '87 and I was there until I left in '91, came back again in '96 and have been in Children's since 2001, October 2001.

Brooke Fox: Describe the days leading up to Hurricane Hugo's land fall here on campus. When did you start realizing that okay, the hurricane is really coming towards the South Carolina coast?

David McDaniel: But we were pretty convinced, as an organization, that the hurricane was going to land fall close if not right on top of us, on Tuesday. So, the emergency plan was sort of set in place on Tuesday evening, Wednesday morning. Those of us that were deemed essential, which I was one of those deemed essential, was given time to go home on Wednesday to batten down and get out families taken care of and we knew absolutely on

Wednesday that it was coming very close to us one way or the other: either the north or south, we weren't exactly sure. The science at that point in time was not as exact, well it's not that exact today, but were pretty confident that it was going to hit us in one way or the other.

So, as I say, on Wednesday, those of us that were deemed -- we had an A and B plan where the A team was going to stay during the course and then the B team will relieve us whenever possible after the storm. So, Wednesday I went home, got my house as secure as I could, woke up on Thursday morning. We were asked to report by ten or eleven A.M. at the latest. Got up Thursday morning early, packed my wife and two-year-old son in the car and sent them onto Spartanburg, which is where my wife's family lives. Unfortunately, my only real loss during the hurricane was my dog and I let her out that Thursday morning early, about six-thirty I guess, and she just took a beeline east away from it, or actually west.

Brooke Fox: She must have sensed it was coming.

David McDaniel: Oh, absolutely, she sensed something was coming so I never saw her again. So, put them in, got them on the road and then reported to work about I guess ten-thirty-eleven on Thursday morning. And by then -- well on Tuesday and Wednesday, after Tuesday, when we decided -- when the organization decided that it was coming our way, plans were put in place and actions were taken to transfer as many patients as possible from the university. At that time, we probably had 140 -- 120 patients in the Children's Hospital. I'm not sure about the adult side but we were able to transfer a vast majority of the patients to other institutions so our patient population was greatly reduced of what it had been.

We had -- our biggest population was in the neonatal intensive care unit where we couldn't transfer any of those kids because nobody else -- being what we were, which was the regional NICU; we had no place to transfer

those sick, sick kids. So, on the Tuesday and Wednesday before the storm hit, we laid in plans to -- our most critical need was hyperal total parenteral nutrition for these children. So, we set about producing a three-day supply of this particular product for these children.

Brooke Fox: It's an intravenous kind of nutrition?

David McDaniel: Intravenous nutrition is basically what it is. Parenteral nutrition. It's what we use to maintain these neonates at that time, and still today. So, that was a big crunch on Wednesday to try and get that done because we had no idea how long this was going too last. So, we chose, my supervisor at that time Gail Johnson -- she's now Gail Caulder-- came out with the idea of a three day supply so we had information that allowed us to make a three-day supply of the drug. We knew it would be stable chemically and physically so that was a big push for that Wednesday to get everything ready as far as we could and to prepare those medications that we knew were going to be needed in the next three days.

Brooke Fox: What floor was the pharmacy on at that time?

David McDaniel: The pharmacy was on the fifth floor of the Children's Hospital. It was on the Ashley Avenue side, which was of great concern because there were two major windows right on the I.V. Room that faced Ashley Avenue. And we knew we had to vacate that area during the storm because it leaked already and it -- so we were pushed to get everything done as far in advance as we could.

When I reported on Thursday morning, pretty much the three-day supply of drugs had been prepared and we were ready to evacuate that portion of the pharmacy which we did by mid afternoon. Those of us, those able-bodied men that were available were assigned to vacate the first floor of the hospital, the main hospital. It was deemed that there was a great risk

of flood, if the storm surge was of any size and all day Wednesday, all day Thursday, the reports were getting worse and worse and worse in terms of the power of the storm.

So, Thursday morning, there was about six of us and the pharmacy stock room, or distribution center was located on the very first floor in One West down, northwest actually, down back behind the cafeteria. Our job was to move everything off the first floor and so we spent most of the early morning and early afternoon -- or late morning, late afternoon -- moving the items from the stock room up to the ninth floor which at that point in time had not been, it was actually under renovation. It was totally gutted actually -- it was empty. So that's where administration deemed that all of the products from the pharmacy stock room and central supply, and laundry had to go.

So, six or seven of us spent most of the day -- most of the morning and early afternoon moving this stuff upstairs. And that was a Herculean effort on the staff because -- one thing we've learned from this, at that point all of our stock was on rolling shelves, they just roll back and fourth. Stationary, but they would roll on rails. And we learned after that, to put stock on rolling shelves, ones that we can actually push down the door but you know, that's hindsight, it's twenty-twenty. But we got all that moved up and probably eleven-twelve-one P.M., sometime in there, we actually finished that and it was only a matter of waiting until what happen next.

Brooke Fox: So you were on the ninth floor during the day?

David McDaniel: My job assignment, once the winds started picking up, which was I want to say in the late afternoon; six, seven in the afternoon. Everyone was trying to decide what we're going to do next, who's going to do what. I was assigned the task of babysitting drugs on the ninth floor and that's,

where I spent the height of the storm from about eight P.M. until about eleven-thirty, and out there by myself with my little cooler, listening to that storm and it was quite a noise.

Brooke Fox: Were you in a room that had windows or were you in the central [windowless area]?

David McDaniel: No,

Brooke Fox: Okay.

David McDaniel: I was in the central part of it. There really were no windows at that point in time, the university already installed the unmovable windows [unintelligible] this predates the North Tower, predates the Storm Eye Institute. As I say, the Children's Hospital had been opened two years, we opened at '87. But the ninth floor was pretty much gutted and we had congregated most of the stuff by the central elevators on the ninth floor so I was far removed from any window. You couldn't see anything anyway, as it was dark and it was all wind and noise-nonstop. I don't know if you have ever stood by a train as it goes by at high speed, but that was the sound I listened to for two and half hours. So, it was an experience. It was an experience.

The emergency broadcast systems all signed off about ten-thirty so we were without any communication from anyone, anywhere. Everything was word of mouth and I suppose, I don't know if it's a good thing or not, but it was a lot of those things -- we didn't know what was going on outside and no one knew what was going on inside.

Brooke Fox: During the storm, you stayed on the ninth floor?

David McDaniel: Correct.

Brooke Fox: So, once the height of the storm passed, was this after the eye kind of [unintelligible]?

David McDaniel: The eye came in about eleven-thirty and the winds just went away. You know, I'd been up and down a couple of times just to check on the folks on the fifth floor and to see somebody else because I'd been by myself for awhile.

Brooke Fox: Did you have electricity?

David McDaniel: No.

Brooke Fox: Okay.

David McDaniel: No, the -- another thing we learned from the storm, we had the power plants, the backup generators were all located on the first floor of the old hospital and they shorted out shortly after the major storm started. So, we learned, we moved them to the second floor, but we were pretty much without electricity; we had flashlights in stairwells. But once the eye broke, once the front wall came through, everything was just absolutely silent: there was no noise; there was no wind, there was no anything. And of course, having been through hurricanes before, I knew that that was the time the storm surge came in.

So my friends, Walt and Bruce and I -- those two guys were down on the -- actually they'd stay on the first floor just to make sure that if anything happened on the first floor, they would be there to assist but we went back to the loading dock, on the first floor in One Center used to be a loading dock, it's not the loading dock anymore but it's in the back on what is now Sabin Street and watched the storm surge come in. And it was coming -- it was going up about an inch a minute and got to within

about four inches of the edge of the loading dock and then started to recede, which was good because that kept the first floor from flooding. So we didn't really get much water in the first floor of the hospital, which made us angry at that time because we spent all day moving everything upstairs, but you know in hindsight, it was a good thing because there was a lot of equipment that could not be moved that would have been absolutely destroyed with that water. And forty-five, fifty minutes later, the second wall came through. Of course, the wind was from the opposite direction of the first one and we had more sort of collateral damage in...

But that's when the rumors started to spread through the university. What I remember was that Trident Hospital had collapsed. But having no way to confirm any of this; first of all we had no idea where this information was coming from and second, we just sort of set off a little panic amongst the staff that was here. I can remember going from the Children's Hospital across the first floor to the main hospital, we had moved all the patients from their rooms out into the halls so as to protect them as best we could.

We did that as well in the Children's -- we didn't have as many patients in the Children's Hospital as they did in the Adult's but it was quite a time; everybody was getting very nervous come one A.M. and one of the things that I remember, my director, Bill Miller, was on site and his two co-directors were on site -- Ken and Greg -- and the word had come down from the top bosses that everybody on site had to be identified for obvious reasons.

Brooke Fox: This was during the storm?

David McDaniel: This was during the storm. This was after the eye had passed as I recall. Again, I haven't really talked to anyone about this in twenty years, but what I remember was Ken and Dr. Miller coming around, taking our

name, our next of kin and issuing us arm bands with our social security numbers on it. These were patient ID arm bands but I had it for years I don't know what happened to it. That's when you could feel -- I could feel the panic set in on the staff because here we are being identified in case something happened. We were in the safest building you could possibly be in; this was -- that building was built in fifty-five to withstand an atomic bomb. So, I had all confidence in the structure of the building and those folks that didn't think about that, or didn't know about that, were very much afraid all of a sudden. Not that they weren't afraid before but to have someone put that arm band on you, it sort of really got your attention.

It blew for another -- the second wall took a lot longer to get by than the first wall, which is when you look at hurricanes, the front edge tends to be smaller than the back edge. And because it was sort of heading -- it came on shore right here but it veered to the north, we got a lot of the wind and it was probably four or five in the morning before it really stopped blowing again. And really, no major damage to the university building that I recall beyond the trees and the cars; there's a photo I need to show you about the cars. We learned several things.

Brooke Fox: I heard that because the Children's Hospital had been recently built and those windows that you referred to, the ones that don't open, I guess they open a little bit so you could clean them. They realized that they weren't installed properly or they didn't fit properly because a lot of the rain came through.

David McDaniel: The ones on the Ashley Avenue side, mostly the bigger pane, this size or bigger [points to chalkboard], all had been leaking in after the storm they leaked still. They probably still leak because the winds just pushed them in. And that was true with the windows. I can recall at the height of the storm, I went up to PICU which is on the eighth floor of the Children's

Hospital. And the wind -- I guess this is the second part, because the wind was coming from this side and Dr. Techlenberg, Fred Techlenberg who was one of the attending physicians in the PICU – little guy, he’s smaller than I am. I came in, and there’s Fred standing up in the window -- now the window is a good three feet up, four-feet up from the floor -- and it’s a big window; it’s probably four or three-by-eight window and it’s all one piece of glass. The maintenance guys are there, trying to put plywood up and there’s Fred, throwing himself against the window, all 130 pounds -- like that’s going to make a difference.

But that image has always stuck with me about him and his attempt to stop it. And fortunately, none of the windows actually came in. We were worried on the onset of the storm that the windows in NICU were going to come in and then, on the other side of the storm, we were worried about the ones in the PICU because they’re on the opposite side of the building. But fortunately, none of the windows really came in enough to - - I mean, they didn’t shatter, they didn’t collapse and they did leak profusely but nothing major in terms of the damage into the hospital proper that I recall.

Brooke Fox: Okay. In the PICU, I assume that’s Pediatric ICU?

David McDaniel: Pediatric intensive care unit, I’m sorry.

Brooke Fox: Oh, no, that’s okay. And “N” is neonatal. What was the average age of the children?

David McDaniel: In PICU, they were probably under twelve, and in neonatal they were all newborns, but newborns could be as old as twenty days, as old as thirty days, but only the sickest of the sick did we actually keep. And I can only recall a couple of kids in PICU. In neonatal, it may have been as many as fifteen. The big challenge that the intensive care units had is when we lost

power then all the respiratory therapists had to hand bag these patients until they reestablished power.

Brooke Fox: And that was about four, five hours or something?

David McDaniel: It was like at least three hours that they had to do this because the ventilators were gone and the oscillators, we didn't use much then but that was a big challenge for RT guys -- they all came through. We did not lose a single patient during the course of the storm which was, in my mind, a huge accomplishment. In the end, some things happened shortly after the storm that helped save even more lives but that's another story.

Brooke Fox: So after the storm comes through, the second part, second side, and morning starts to come around and things quiet down, what is the first thing you do?

David McDaniel: Well, once we checked that everything was okay and once the sun came up, the first thing I did was I went on the roof to see what I can see and what was most striking to me when I looked out from the top of the Children's Hospital, which I wasn't supposed to be there but you know, who cares -- was I could see rooftops, all the trees were gone, all the canopy that had always covered the rooftops was gone.

Brooke Fox: For all of downtown, everywhere you looked?

David McDaniel: Everywhere you looked, everywhere you looked. When I went home the next day, the same thing in Mount Pleasant; all the trees were gone. They're just gone and you saw rooftops. And that just was such a remarkable thing to see. I've lived here most of my life and the canopies have always been a huge part of -- and they're back now to almost to where they were then, and again I have a photo that sort of shows that. But that was the big thing we did was to first check for damages, make

sure that everybody was accounted for, and sent out a couple of people to check on cars; they came back with really bad news for people who had parked facing the Clinical Science Building. At that time we had the President's Street garage and we had the garage across the street from central clinical science and any and all cars that were parked either on the top or anywhere facing this way, all of their windows have been shattered because -- there's something else we'd like. On the roof of the Clinical Science Building, we had tar paper and then you had rocks that you put down on top of them, well actually tar and then pebbles, big river rocks.

Well, the storm had blown all those rocks off into the garage and shattered most of the windows of most of the cars on the streets and in the garage. The President Street garage was not affected because there was no building near by that had that type of roofing. So since then, we've learned not to do that; but that was pretty much a standard way of doing roofs, flat roofs, was to have tar and tar paper and then put pebbles and rocks on top of it.

Brooke Fox: What are the pebbles and rocks supposed to do?

David McDaniel: They just hold it down and reflect the heat. Like I said, they also destroyed, well not destroyed but put out windows and windshields of only those people that parked this way. I fortunately parked in President's Street and was in the interior just by chance -- happened to be in the interior. So, there were some, there was some damage to cars who parked on the outer sides of President Street as well just from flying debris because there was a lot of flying debris; a lot of things blowing around in the air.

Brooke Fox: After you checked on the building, when you went outside, what did you see? Did you go to the Horseshoe Area?

David McDaniel: Went out to the Horseshoe Area, and a couple of trees were down. Another thing that struck me in this, I can remember as a child from Gracie, which hit in the late '50s here in Charleston, is when I went out and you looked around and everything was as green as you would ever see it in the early morning. I don't know if it's just a post storm phenomena or if it's all in my head, or what, but the vegetation that was left was just so green; it was remarkable, I remember it so well.

But the Horseshoe was, of course flooded, as it was for most of the morning on Friday; a couple of trees that had gone down in the Horseshoe itself but all the trees everywhere else were down. And most of Rutledge, Ashley rather, was flooded, as was Calhoun. It took probably till mid morning, midday, for the water to go down, enough for people to actually venture out. By that time, the police had pretty much opened up the main corridors in and out. But the side streets were still pretty much a mess between the debris and the roof tops, and the tree limbs; again, no physical damage to any individual that we knew of, and we were happy that we survived it.

Brooke Fox: Now the storm is over. When did you start cleaning up, or what did you do? What did your department do?

David McDaniel: What the department did was they made an assessment of individuals that were onsite who needed to take care of their family, who needed to go take care of their houses, because we were getting handed anecdotal reports back from our neighborhoods about the damage done to the different houses. And so, as people came in to relieve us, we were allowed to go home, check on our -- stop on our homes and report back so I left late Friday afternoon. I had heard from a friend of a friend of a friend that my neighborhood was pretty bad because I lived in a place that we had a lot of pine trees, a lot of pine trees. So, I was relieved of duty about four, four-thirty-five, somewhere in there. Don't remember exactly

but I can remember going home and it was still light when I got home and that just -- couldn't call back because we didn't have phones; phone lines were down but I was told that if my house was in bad shape, just stay until I can get it squared away and then come back.

Which I did, and I hadn't heard from my wife and child yet, but there was no communication, there were no phone lines; this was the day after, this was Friday. I got home late Friday afternoon and my house was an absolute catastrophe but I worked on it. I came back Sunday morning, I think, after I got things in -- I lived in a cul-de-sac and we sort of bonded together and decided. By the time I got home Friday afternoon, a path had been made through the roads so I could actually get to my house.

That was late Friday afternoon. I checked with the neighbors that everything and everybody was okay, nobody was hurt, nothing major was damaged. We threw a few tarps on the worst house which was at the head of the cul-de-sac and battened down for the night because this was all new to all of us. And then got up Saturday and prioritized the five houses on the cul-de-sac and attacked the worst one first and then moved down; I was the third one. Got most everything covered in tarp and as water proofed as best we could.

And then I reported back on Sunday and because I was north of here and that's where the storm was stronger. The folks that lived south of us were not as badly damaged and they volunteered to take over and control things while we went -- while those of us that had to deal with the big damage at home were allowed to go back and spent the next couple of days just doing the absolute, necessary things to our house. And here, the maintenance department and the -- well, the maintenance crew pretty much shored up everything that was damaged and as I recall, there was no major structural damage. We had like say-- the trees in the horseshoe

were down, and of course G Lot -- all those were down but they just got it all out of the way pretty quick.

I got back Saturday, or Sunday, everything was pretty much cleaned up. We were still assessing the window damage because that took place throughout the house, it was not just the Children's Hospital but... And then I don't know, if they've ever fixed the Ashley Avenue side of the Children's Hospital so, there was a major project, three, four years ago I think it was, about that very same problem. It was just an architectural defect that didn't become apparent until we had 160 mile per hour winds, or whatever it was, I don't remember exactly what it was.

Brooke Fox: You had to probably move everything from the ninth floor once everything [unintelligible]...?

David McDaniel: Oh, we had to move everything back.

Brooke Fox: You went back to the first floor, is that were everything is still?

David McDaniel: Right, everything went back to the 1st floor. I was fortunately relieved of that duty so...

Brooke Fox: Well because you had to take it all up there...

David McDaniel: We moved it all up the first time so...

Brooke Fox: Have any changes been made in your department on how you respond or the next response for a storm or any other?

David McDaniel: No, not really because most departments, nursing primarily is what I'm talking about, they have A teams and B teams; where the A team is

assigned to come in and ride through the storm and the B team comes in and relieves A team.

In pharmacy, everything is schedule dependent. So if you're scheduled -- if you happened to be scheduled to work on the day the storm hits, then you're the A team which, because of the narrow margin that we had in staffing within the university, that to me is a totally responsible way of doing it. If there was any reason they had to draw up guidelines that if for specific reasons, valid reasons, you cannot be onsite during the storm then you can appeal to be on the B team, or on the backup team.

But as far as the department goes, no major changes because it works. I've been through Hugo, then Floyd, and then Charlie, and then Gustaf and it has worked each time.

Brooke Fox: You've been on campus for each of those?

David McDaniel: Yes.

Brooke Fox: You must have tracked...

David McDaniel: I don't like to think that but perhaps, perhaps. Just luck of the draw -- just luck of the schedule.

Brooke Fox: So, you have some photos you want to show me?

David McDaniel: I have some photos, I could find -- unfortunately, I couldn't find the negatives and these are all taken from the top of the Children's Hospital right after that Friday morning. And again, what you see is rooftops. I wish I had a before and after. You know, this roof at one time is covered with those rocks I was telling you about.

Brooke Fox: Is that nursing? Or that's [unintelligible]?

David McDaniel: That's the quad building. This is looking south, that's the Ashley, and there's a sailboat on the road.

Brooke Fox: I've seen pictures of that.

David McDaniel: Oh, there is Lake Calhoun.

Brooke Fox: Lake Calhoun?

David McDaniel: And this is looking, again, that would be Calhoun and this would be Ashley.

Brooke Fox: Okay, yeah that's pretty much a lake there.

David McDaniel: And again, you just see the rooftops. If you go up there today, you wouldn't see any of those, all you would see is trees. And this is a photo just a little north of that. Here's the Quad building again with the sailboat.

Brooke Fox: How long was that sailboat there?

David McDaniel: About a week. It took a while to get some stuff. This was the top of the atrium where all the windows had been shattered. And this is looking north; this is the Wickliffe house.

Brooke Fox: Yes.

David McDaniel: There's the horseshoe.

Brooke Fox: Did you happen to go and look at Saint Luke's?

David McDaniel: No, I did not. I did not, I did not want to.

Brooke Fox: Oh, you've heard about it?

David McDaniel: And that was my house when I went home. And that's a farther back, picture of my house.

Brooke Fox: They all snapped off at the top, the trees.

David McDaniel: This is about eighteen-twenty feet up – they all snapped right off. I had 22 in my yard but I did a lot better than some of my neighbors. The guy behind me, well actually behind the guy to the left of me, had four huge trees come down just totally destroyed his house. It just crisscrossed, it was a giant “x.”

Brooke Fox: How long was it before you would say that everything in your department returned to business as usual, once you moved everything back down to the first floor?

David McDaniel: We were back and running – let's see it happened on Thursday; I would say within five days, we were back to normal. We had -- the patients started coming back on Sunday or Monday and things were pretty much - - because of the lack of major damage, we were able to get right back into it pretty quickly. And most of the -- by the way, the staff shared the load at work.

Those of us with the most damaged homes were able to do as much as we could to get that secure and then be able to come back in and participate in the job. So, I mean I had one colleague, Nick Black, lived on Sullivans Island. He couldn't even get to his house for nine days so he lived in between the -- poor Nick -- between the waiting room and clinic room and he stayed in my house a night or two for he was a man without a

home for awhile so, some of us were more fortunate than others in terms of the total damage. But we were back in as usual as business could be. I would say within five, six days.

You know, I was without power for nine days, and I was one of the first in Mount Pleasant to get power back so business as usual here, yeah, but not at home. I can remember the lines of people coming in to take hot showers because nobody at home had electricity, nobody at home had hot water, so it was as usual as it can be under the circumstance.

But everything was, you know, back to normal within two weeks for sure, because by then, most everybody's power had been restored. Most everybody's insurance had been addressed at home, because when you talk about business as usual, you know, the home side has got to be usual before business can be close to that. So, within two weeks, within three weeks for sure, everybody had pretty much gotten close to being settled with their insurance people.

You know, the reconstruction lasted for several years but most everybody that I worked with either missed everything, or the damage was repairable so no one I know that worked with me lost everything. Nick almost did, but you know that's -- he was the one that was most displaced for the longest period of time. Another guy, Sid Smith who was on James Island, he lost a couple of trees in his yard and that was it. And no damage to his house at all, that I recall. So it was just a couple of miles difference makes a huge -- made a huge difference in the outcome of the storm.

Brooke Fox:

So, overall, how would you -- what is your impression of MUSC's response to preparing for the hurricane and cleaning up? You think everything went as well as it could in that situation?

David McDaniel: I think so, I think so. The university, at least my folks in the department of pharmacy, had a plan. They put the plan in place and the key administrative people were here onsite during the storm. My supervisor was here onsite during the storm and I thought that everything went as well as it could be expected. It was all new territory. None of these folks - I, as an adult, had never experienced anything of this magnitude so looking back on it, I think the department of pharmacy and the university administration responded as best they could. I could remember Dr. Darby the day after, on Friday, coming around and taking photographs. Darby - Dr. Darby was the head of pediatrics and I think he's retired.

Brooke Fox: Is that who the building is named for, the Children's Research Building?

David McDaniel: That's him. But I can remember coming around, taking pictures of people sleeping everywhere because you know, we were just sleeping wherever you can find anything to sleep on. So I never - you know I wasn't given a choice, actually. I was deemed essential and I was told to report and yeah, that was twenty years ago; I was recently married and had a child and needed a job so I did what I was told to.

I finally got in touch with my wife on Sunday. Of course, it would be different today with cell phones. At that point in time, cell phones really - there were car phones but there weren't cell phones. And the only way I was able to get in touch with my wife was my neighbor had a cell phone, a little car phone and he allowed me to use it. It took me a couple of days to make that connection. She knew more about what was happening here than I did being in Spartanburg and the ETV folks kept everybody abreast of what was going on throughout the storm.

Of course we didn't have television, we didn't have radio, we didn't have CB [radios], we didn't have anything so I had no idea what was going on. Like I say, it took a while to be able to get in touch with her. That

wouldn't happen today with cell phone technology as it is. Well, I say that wouldn't happen if the tower blows over, it's not going to do any good.

But I thought the university responded appropriately and they took care of us as best they could; they made allowances for those of us that needed to take care of the damaged homes. You know, I thought they did a good job and I don't know that they made any major changes because I don't know that you could make really major changes in it.

Brooke Fox: Do you have any final stories you could want to share that you remember about being on campus during the storm and in the Children's Hospital, or do you think we covered everything?

David McDaniel: Well, we talked about the locomotive [sound]. Talked about the water rising and no those -- and the greenness of the next day. That's really -- having to go through this for the first time in the long time. First time ever, that's what stands out to me and I can almost taste the panic with the arm band thing. Even now, that was still sort of an eerie thing to go through but all in all, it turned out well. Nobody was hurt and nobody died. I had mentioned earlier about something that happened immediately after the storm; a man, I don't know where exactly but I think it was on John's Island, hurt himself, and actually killed himself with a chainsaw. He was cutting, as everybody else was cutting trees and it backed up and jacked back on him and cut his femoral artery and he bled to death.

But that made the news immediately and it sharpened everybody's attention to how dangerous chainsaws were and I think that that poor man losing his life, saved dozens of other people because it was -- right after the storm, it was pretty much a cowboy atmosphere, "let's get those chainsaws, cut down those trees, and be the big guys," and all that stuff; and those are very dangerous machines. So, I hate to say I'm glad it happened but I'm glad that happened and not dozens of people killing

themselves with chainsaws because.... It's funny, the people that were here at that time could -- after a week or so -- identify a chainsaw by the sound, and a generator by the sound of the generator -- because each one has a slightly different sound.

Brooke Fox: Kind of like a Harley [Davidson motorcycle]?

David McDaniel: Very similar. Good analogy, good analogy. The Husky had this sound, and the Coleman had this sound and it was interesting, I tell you. That was one of the things I can still pick out by sound, a chainsaw.

Brooke Fox: You'll never know when you need that skill.

David McDaniel: I've got one. I've got a generator and a chainsaw in my garage right now as a result of that storm so, I've never used them, either one of them; but they're there so -- that was the one thing, nobody had generators at home. We had them here [MUSC campus] but nobody had them at home so all the food went bad within three days and then it was a... I had a neighbor, my next door neighbor actually -- three of my trees on his house and Robert Pinckney is his name. He is a Cajun cook, an authentic Cajun cook, he had a restaurant up on Highway 41 and I must say for the three days after the storm, I've never eaten so well in my entire life because he had this freezer full of stuff that he had do something with so he cooked. He cooked for the entire neighborhood. That was something else -- I've never worked so hard, or eaten as much, or felt as good as I did physically for the time after Hugo because it was all work.

We had all these trees, we had all this stuff to move, and all this food to eat so it was quite an event. The wife and my son came home, well actually the wife came home on Monday and I remember Monday night -- no, it was Tuesday morning she came home. Monday night, the television stations had come back on the air by Monday. So, I had a portable

television, battery-operated television, and I can remember going down to my friends on the corner, my neighbor on the corner, and watching Monday night football. And what a big deal that was. It was sort of a return to normalcy which the previous four days had been anything but normal. That one little act really helped bring things back to normal; for me, and for him, and for his next door neighbor. I can remember we're walking down the street, because he's maybe seventy-five yards away, I can remember walking down the street with a television in my arm and a police man came up and asked me what I was doing.

Brooke Fox: Thought you had looted it?

David McDaniel: Yeah, I'm standing there trees down everywhere and you know, of course I explained who I was and showed I.D. and he was fine. I mean, that's what they were doing, they were there. First day, we got mail. Everybody's in the street dancing. These are small things. First day we got phone, I had phone back about five days later; it took nine days to get power, but I go the phone back pretty quick. So you don't realize -- I didn't realize until then how I took these things for advantage, took advantage of it, didn't recognize the significance of being able to pick up the phone and make a phone call, or being able to turn on hot water and have hot water.

So, it made me appreciate what I have a lot more than before and I think it did that for all of us that were here and that went through it. There was no one person suffered more than anybody else kind of thing because we were all in it together and everybody here at work were all in it together. And if you escaped any injury or any damage to your house, then they stood up and covered those. Those of us that had to go take care of things were able to go take care of things. I thought it as a very -- I mean I still have friends, still work with a couple of people, not many, but a couple of people that I actually worked with at that point. And it formed a bond that

I never had before, and I've never had since because they were there when I needed them, and I was there when they needed me, so it's not something I would want to necessarily go through again, but I'm not sad, I'm not disappointed that I did go through it because it taught me a lot about human nature. It taught me about just what we as individuals, can really do for each other. That's all.

Brooke Fox: Well, thank you for sharing your story, I appreciate it.

David McDaniel: Sure, absolutely.

Brooke Fox: I'll turn the recorder off now.

David McDaniel: Okay.

End of recording.