

## Channel 2 stayed on air as Hugo approached

By **TOM PORTER**  
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WCBD Channel 2 was the only local television station on the air as hurricane Hugo approached the Lowcountry late Thursday night.

The station broadcast from its transmitter in Awendaw, keeping it on the air some seven hours longer than WCIV Channel 4 and WCSC Channel 5.

"Channel 2 pre-planned for the emergency," WCBD General Manager Bill Evans said Monday from the station's heavily damaged studio in Mount Pleasant. "We began broadcasting from our transmitter site in Awendaw at 6:30 p.m."

"We made a commitment to the community to provide a service and

we delivered on it," Evans said. "By staying on the air we lost a hundred thousand dollars worth of equipment, but we did the job we were committed to do."

Channel 2 weatherman Rob Fowler was able to provide information on the hurricane's path until the storm surge forced the station off the air at about 11:45 p.m. Thursday.

Don Feldman, Channel 5 news director, said that his station went off the air around 5:30 p.m. Friday when high winds damaged its microwave tower. At about 4 p.m. the downtown station was evacuated and plans were made to broadcast from the Emergency Preparedness Center in North Charleston. The microwave malfunction cancelled those plans.