Neither blizzards, winds nor power outages could stop this couple from enjoying their newly insulated cabin home in the heartland of South Dakota’s Black Hills National Forest.

The town of Lead in South Dakota, situated in the middle of the picturesque Black Hills National Forest, is more than 44 miles away from the metropolis of Rapid City. The area is prone to extreme weather conditions throughout the winter including blizzards, strong winds and massive snow dumps.

One South Dakota couple, Cory and Annie, had their home insulated with Icynene spray foam insulation, which immediately started paying back dividends in comfort and protection when the winter weather hit.

Protecting from extreme weather
In early October 2013, the strong winter blizzard Atlas hit the western part of South Dakota dumping more than four feet of snow in some areas. Together with the snow, the blizzard brought brutal wind chills and thousands of homeowners across the region were left without electricity for weeks. Furthermore, the severity of the blizzard also killed thousands of cattle in the region.

When the winter blizzard hit, the ferocity of the blizzard knocked out the electricity leaving Cory and Annie without power for six whole days.

Investing in spray foam insulation
Rewind to August 2012, when the homeowners had their home insulated with Icynene spray foam insulation and then again had their garage insulated with Icynene spray foam insulation in August 2013.

Cory and Annie worked with licensed Icynene spray foam contractor, Five Star Insulating Inc, to have their 4,000 sq. ft. home sprayed with Icynene Classic™. Five inches of the open cell spray foam was sprayed in the roof to achieve an R-value of 18.5 with a further four inches in the walls and three inches sprayed in the basement walls.

Impressed with the performance of the insulation, Cory and Annie had the team from Five Star Insulating work on their 3,300 sq. ft. garage one year later, mere weeks before blizzard Atlas hit.

Staying Comfortable & Warm
Left in the dark for six whole days, the homeowners used their natural wood fireplace to keep the house warm. The house maintained a comfortable 70oF throughout allowing the homeowners feel warm in their home despite the freezing temperatures outside.

The newly insulated garage impressed the homeowners even more so. Even without a heat source installed, the garage was able to maintain a temperature of 52oF thanks to the air-sealing and insulating properties of the Icynene spray foam insulation.

Footnotes:
1. Icynene Inc. would like to thank Joe and Cheryl Schonebaum of Five Star Insulating for their assistance with this document. Photos are courtesy of Cory Dietz.

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