



# disaster preparedness report

National Weather Service

NOVEMBER 1981

By now, all stations with disaster preparedness responsibilities should have received:

1. A TV 30-second public service announcement on Tornadoes.
2. A TV 30-second public service announcement on Floods.
3. A TV 30-second public service announcement on Winter Storms.
4. A commentary and slide show on "A Look at the Tornado and other Local Storms". This slide show is intended for public showings, service clubs, school groups, etc., but not as a spotter training tool. This slide set is a non-technical version of the 163 slide series to Tornado: A Spotter Guide.

You should also have received by now a copy of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) motion picture catalog. You will note that FEMA has produced a large number of films. The address for FEMA has been changed to: 500 C Street, S. W., Washington, D. C. 20472 (Page V). Your regional office should have some of these weather related films offered by FEMA.

Everything appears "GO" for a Presidentially Declared National Flash Flood Awareness Week, May 17-23, 1982. We will have a new 30 second TV spot with heavy emphasis on driving around barricades and/or driving into flooded washes, rivers, streams, etc., children playing around flooded sewers, culverts, and camping too close to streams. There will also be a new radio and NWR spot, plus news releases and a new flash flood brochure. This National Flash Flood Awareness Week is now in its formative stages and we will keep you informed of further developments in future issues. We hope you find this to be a worthwhile project, and will give us your full support; this is the only way it will be fully successful.

The Department of Energy (DOE) publishes a fine brochure called Winter Survival, A Consumer's Guide to Winter Preparedness. (18 pages) You can order up to 50 copies from the DOE, Technical Information Center, P.O. Box 62, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830 or call (FTS) 626-1305.

Fred Cramer, MIC WSO Tallahassee, recently provided spotter training to a class of 48 members of the Florida Highway Patrol. The completion of this class means that Fred has trained over three-fourths of the Florida troopers in tornado and hurricane preparedness.

. Working with WSFO San Juan, the Department of Education in Puerto Rico published a 16 page spanish brochure on hurricanes. It was distributed to 185,000 4th, 5th, and 6th graders throughout Puerto Rico. It even included pictures of Dr. Colon and other WSFO staff members.

. WSO Abilene recently manned an exhibit for 2 days at a local Home Improvement Show. The Abilene Cable Television Company provided them with a color monitor which displayed the Abilene radar with the NWR broadcast as the audio.

. C.B. Masters, WSS, WSO Athens, reports a unique preparedness idea. The Athens Observer ran the two notices indicating that free DP material was available from the WSO in their want-ad section free of charge.

. Clarence Lee, MIC, WSFO Honolulu, in order to alert the public to the damages of high surf during the winter season, is placing "weather hints", in various publications on the islands. Among natural hazards tips which have been prepared and published in monthly publications and addressed to safety rules and guidance include hurricanes, floods, high winds, thunderstorms, lightning, tornadoes, and NOAA Weather Radio, etc. One publication printing weather hints and safety rules is the Leeward Cable publication, "Country Living" which featured "Winter Storm" tips in the September issue.

. The International Tsunami Information Center (ITIC) in collaboration with the State of Hawaii Civil Defense co-sponsored a statewide tsunami disaster exercise on August 11, 1981. The exercise was based on a major tsunami situation, designed to test the effectiveness of the State of Hawaii's plans for emergency preparedness, and its primary purpose was to stimulate a statewide awareness of Civil Defense functions, facilities, and procedures. The pre-wave phase emergency response actions by government and civil agencies and organizations were monitored. The exercise was based on a scenario prepared by ITIC depicting a major event and providing data on the earthquake and expected tsunami wave arrival and runup at different points of the coast.

. George Carte, ATWC's Community Preparedness Specialist, visited southeast Alaskan coastal communities during the period of August 25 through September 5. This is an ongoing program to help the various communities prepare for earthquake and tsunami hazards. During his visits, he was aided in local arrangements by Bob Bonner, OIC Yakutat; Lief Lie, MIC Juneau; and Dick Tippin, OIC Annette.

He met with many individuals in the southeast who have disaster warning responsibilities such as city managers, mayors, fire chiefs, civil defense coordinators, and police chiefs. During this two week period, George made eight different stops in areas ranging from Yakutat to Ketchikan. As is customary, his trips were coordinated with the Alaska Department of Emergency Services.

This program involves the gathering of information concerning each community's communication capabilities, preparedness procedures, and their potential tsunami hazard. To each community, he presented a detailed briefing of the TWS functions, seismicity of the area, past historical tsunamis, and estimates of what might happen if a tsunami were to occur.



In the near future, George intends to visit the U.S. Coast Guard on Kodiak to brief the military personnel and their dependents.

. Harry Spohn, OIC, North Platte, feels strongly that disaster preparedness activities by this office paid off this year!

The night of June 13, at Arnold, a family of four heeded the statement, "if you live in a mobile home in the path of these storms seek shelter elsewhere"... and they did. Their mobile home was totally destroyed!

On August 24, near Arnold, a family of three took refuge in the bathroom of their farmhome moments before a tornado struck. The house was totally destroyed, but the people were unscathed. They had attended a community preparedness meeting at Stapleton the evening of May 6 -- and had also seen Harry's program on KNOP-TV in June, both which mentioned going to interior rooms or bathrooms for shelter!

. Preparedness works again! Robert Corbett, DPM, Des Moines, reports eleven new spotter networks have been established in Iowa. Two were quite timely as tornadoes struck their communities one to three months following the training session. Clarke County was one of these. This county lacked a Civil Defense Director and had a Board of Supervisors serving in that capacity. The County Sheriff and local amateur radio people realized they were vulnerable to severe weather and proceeded to locate a CD Director and set up a network. Exactly two months after the spotter training was conducted a tornado, plus a downburst, struck the county causing considerable damage, but no injuries. Wayne County was struck twice by tornadoes within three months of the Spotter Training, with the same results; damage but no injuries.

. Karl Silverman, DPM, Bismarck, says that North Dakota will have a Winter Storm Awareness Week, November 1-7, 1981, the first state with a Winter Storm Awareness Week this year.

. Lynn Maximuk, WPM, Cleveland, reports Ohio will hold theirs December 6-12, 1981.

. Karl Silverman received the Gold Award from the Dakota Northwestern Bank for his work in establishing the "SKYWARN" system in North Dakota in general and throughout Bismarck in particular. The Gold Award is given to those who perform outstanding community services. Congratulations, Karl.

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