



community preparedness report

JANUARY 1976

National Weather Service

EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY RESPONSE has saved hundreds of lives in the past few years---Saline-Clay Center; Tulsa-Drumright; Sumner and McComb, Mississippi; Neosho, Missouri; and Omaha. All were tornadoes.

Now we have another success story. This time it's HURRICANE ELOISE making landfall along the Florida Panhandle coast on September 23. Following is one of several glowing editorials.

Daily News
Jennings, LA

September 23

U.S. Weather Service earned pay on Eloise

The weatherman - actually those meteorologists who spend their working hours observing the heavens, seas and earth, certainly proved their usefulness to the nation in the tracking of two-weeks old Eloise the wild and reversible hurricane which got to the Florida-Alabama coast today.

For those intervening days the U.S. Weather Service experts kept all interested persons informed on the activities of the billowy Eloise and it appears as if they called every gust correctly and made a bull's eye forecast on where she would hit land.

This type of service is one of the few governmental agencies which more than pay back the citizenry for their tax dollars

expended.

Eloise is listed as one of the "bad" hurricanes of modern history and we hope she comes to a timely end just as quickly as nature can arrange.

From her spawning days off the Dominican Republic to her demise, whenever it comes, the citizens owe a debt of gratitude to the Weather Service.

They hit the violent miss "on the nose" and while lives were lost in those Carribean islands, no lives have been reported lost in her visit to the U.S. mainland.

Thank God for the weatherman.



NOAA WEATHER RADIO received a real testimonial from a devoted listener:

"Gentlemen:

My husband and I are delighted with your hourly weather bulletins. We are both sportsmen and farmers and just purchased another radio last week specifically for the weather frequency. We fully realized its value Tuesday when you broadcast the severe thunderstorm watch. We had put our thoroughbred mares out for the night (one of which is in foal to Secretariat). Needless to say, they were immediately put in the barn. When hunting season comes, your broadcasts will be of tremendous help. Keep broadcasting--we think you are great.

Sincerely,
Katharine D. Brooks
Hilstead Farm
Glyndon, Maryland"

MINUTE MAN ANCHORS, a leader in the mobile home tie-down industry has provided NWS with their findings after Hurricane Eloise hit. Here are a few excerpts:

"There were several mobile home parks on the beach (Reids Trailer Park, and Seagull Trailer Park) where most of the mobile homes were tied down in some fashion. Few of the homes were tied down according to the Florida State Code. Some were tied with home-made devices, and some not tied down at all. In almost every instance, the homes that had no ties were blown over or were destroyed. The mobile homes that were tied down according to the state code almost always survive the winds with very little damage.

One mobile home park located about 15 miles inland (Shalimar Mobile Home Park - a park of approximately 300 mobile homes) lost only one home, which was not tied down and blew over. The remaining homes were largely tied down according to the state code, and showed very little damage.

In Dothan, Alabama, where 88 m.p.h. winds occurred, very few homes were tied down. A good example of how even minimal tie downs could have saved mobile homes from blowing off their blocks was Ridgewood Estates, a park of about 70 mobile homes. Approximately 75% of the homes were blown off their blocks and four homes were destroyed in the park. None of the anchored homes moved."

A NEW ROSTER of community preparedness is included in this issue of the CP Report. The CP Staff thanks John Mayer, Randy Racer, Ken Huckabee, Darrell Martin, Randy McKee, Richard Hagen, Joe Czarniecki, and Larry Mooney for their contributions to the Community Preparedness Program. All have recently changed jobs.

THE EMERGENCY BROADCAST SYSTEM, a nationwide radio and television broadcasting network designed to alert the country to a nuclear attack is being expanded for use in short-fuse natural and man-made disaster situations. Using a model plan developed in West Virginia, the Federal Communications Commission, Defense Civil Preparedness Agency, and the National Weather Service are now developing a national plan that could be used in 490 operational regions at the state and local levels.

Self-appointed weatherman keeps watch over Chrisney

CHRISNEY, Ind. — When the National Weather Service issues a severe storm warning for this area, rest assured that Eldred Duncan of Chrisney, Ind., is going to be on the lookout from his 25-foot weather tower.

The tower, built from donated materials, is equipped with an emergency power supply, weather instruments, citizens band (CB) radios — and even a public-address system to warn the townspeople of Chrisney.

Long before the tower was constructed on Duncan's property he and a group known as REACT (Radio Emergency Association Citizens Team) of Spencer County, voluntarily kept track of developing weather conditions.

The tower not only gives them a seven-mile visibility range "in nearly all directions," but also provides a base of operations for the REACT team.

"We do a little more than watch the weather," Duncan said.

"If somebody is in need of help in this area, all they have to do is call and

someone will be there," he added.

As a first-aid and communications team, REACT has helped in many disaster situations where they "were often the first to arrive and the last to leave," Duncan said.

The tower itself was Duncan's idea and, with an application to the National Weather Service, it is recognized as an experimental approach to Skywarn — a National Weather Service program.

As a CB operator, Duncan has voluntarily served many hours over the years working with the Spencer County Sheriff and the Indiana State Police to alert surrounding counties — including Daviess — of threatening weather conditions.

Truckers wheeling across Kentucky and Indiana can depend on Chrisney's weather tower for information on storm conditions.

If they need help in any way, it is Duncan they call for assistance. And, should truckers spot bad weather heading toward Spencer County, they faithfully notify the tower.

Known in the CB world as "Meat Cleaver," Duncan also receives weather advisory broadcasts from the National Weather advisory broadcasts from the National Weather Service in Evansville.

Duncan derived his nickname from his former occupation as an independent meat packer.

Now retired, the 65-year-old Duncan is constantly on the alert for tornado conditions in the area, depending mainly upon his CB radios for information.

"I have one in the tower, one at the house and another in my car," Duncan said. "And no matter where I am, I can hear any alert that is heading our way."

If he does happen to miss anything, his wife, Madelene, works as a radio operator at the Spencer County sheriff's office in Rockport. She too receives weather reports from Evansville.

Without help from friends, Duncan's idea would never have gotten off the ground, he says.

"And because (of their help), I think that we are better prepared to look out for ourselves," he said.

CENTRAL REGION'S NEWS AND VIEWS carried this gratifying item:

"Harry Spohn, OIC, North Platte, NE, was requested to present the Tornado Safety in Schools slide presentation to two architectural firms in North Platte. These two firms will be involved with a 9.5 million dollar project to build five elementary schools, a junior high school and extensive remodeling of the present junior-senior high school complex. The presentation was well received and the firms remarked that the slides and tornado statistics were most persuasive."

TORNADO, FLASH FLOOD, THUNDERSTORM, AND HURRICANE slides for use by television stations during official watch and warning periods have been developed by the Emergency Warning Branch, CP, and NOAA Public Affairs. They'll be distributed early in 1976.

RANDY RACER FORMER CPS AT WSFO BOSTON gave a big assist to the Massachusetts' Disaster Preparedness Program in developing Federally-funded natural disaster plans for the State. A very fine publication called Community Guide to Hurricane Preparedness was printed to assist individual communities in developing a functional plan for hurricane preparedness.

THE STATE OF DELAWARE has prepared for all school administrators, a tornado slide-tape presentation "Safest Places in Delaware Schools," based upon NWS Community Preparedness slide series. The material has been made very effective by the introductory statement by the Governor of Delaware and the endorsement of Delaware's School Administrator.

WARNING DISSEMINATION BY TELEVISION. The FCC has authorized KMEG-TV in Sioux City, Iowa, to proceed with a voice override system on its low-powered TV translator located in the Norfolk, Nebraska area. The system will be designed so that Norfolk officials can override the voice portion of the TV signal to broadcast warnings for the local area. It is understood that this is the first non-cable TV in the United States to be granted this authority.

SLIDE-LECTURES on hurricanes and tornadoes will soon be joined by a flash flood set. All are and will be on deposit at the National Audio Visual Center. Their address once again is: Acquisition and Disposal Officer, National Audiovisual Center (GSA), Washington, D. C. 20409. The checks must be made payable to: National Archives Trust Fund (NAC). Here are the prices of those now on deposit:

Safest Places in Schools	\$14.00
Hurricane Preparedness	7.50

EVERY ISSUE OF DCPA'S splendid publication "FORESIGHT" seems better than the last. If you're not receiving this bi-monthly gem, let us know. The July-August issue carried details of the mobile home shelters in Kansas that CP Report referred to in our last issue.

COLUMBIA, MISSOURI has added 16 sirens to its present system of 7. George Hughes, the city's disaster preparedness chief says the sirens will be installed in time for next spring's tornado season.

WSFO OMAHA WAS AWARDED a NOAA unit citation for demonstrating an unusually high degree of warning capability when a powerful tornado struck the city on May 6. The award was made by Regional Director, Charles Knudsen, along with 22 Public Service Awards to individuals, groups, and institutions whose efforts kept the death toll down.

THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION is supporting a study on the economic and social benefits of warning systems. The CP Staff is cooperating with Dr. Friesema of Northwestern University in the study.

ALABAMA HAS JOINED the growing number of states requiring tornado drills in schools. Birmingham WSFO and especially Joe Wheeler, CPS deserves congratulations for this very significant accomplishment.

A NEW FILM will be available before the 1976 tornado season. A 14 1/2 minute, color, tornado preparedness film will be completed soon. It documents the community actions and planning taken by city and county officials of Neosho, Missouri. It's not intended as a replacement for the still very useful film "TORNADO!"

OWLIE SKYWARN will soon roll off the presses. Designed for use by fourth or fifth graders, the two-color, 16-page booklet on tornadoes was written by Dr. Franklyn Branley, renowned children science author and beautifully illustrated by Len Kessler. It will be distributed and promoted widely in the school systems in the tornado-prone states. Hurricane Owlie won't be far behind.

HURRICANE PUBLICATIONS are getting a thorough review and a fresh look. Herb Groper of the CP Staff is working with NOAA, PA, on the project which includes a new pamphlet on storm surge, reconstruction of hurricane safety rules, revision of "Greatest Storm on Earth," and creation of a single page tracking chart. If anyone in the field wants to add or comment on the hurricane package, please feel free to contact Mr. Groper.

A contract for a new hurricane film has been let by NOAA PA.

PRICE OF PUBLICATIONS are almost out of sight already. We're in the awkward position of curtailing the distribution of the important natural hazard safety pubs. The CP Staff and WSFO Jackson, Mississippi, are working with the State of Mississippi Department of Education on a pilot project that may be the way out. We're providing the State with negatives of NOAA pubs and the State will print them using Mississippi facilities. We'll keep you informed of our progress.

FLASH FLOOD AND COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS SPECIALISTS training slides and tapes have been distributed throughout the field. They're intended for internal training use. A Flash Flood Preparedness slide lecture suitable for showing to local authorities and other community groups will be available early in 1976.

NOAA AND DCPA have developed a joint position paper on Use of Sirens for Disaster Warnings. It has been forwarded to the Office of Telecommunications Policy for coordination with the National Association of State Directors for Disaster Preparedness and the U.S. Civil Defense Council.

Basically, the two agencies fully support a policy for maximum use of sirens for disaster warning purposes and have drafted joint policies for actions and implementation.

HAMS AND REACT AID CINCINNATI WSO

Many Weather Service Offices have the cooperation of amateur radio operators who serve as tornado spotters, observers, and backup communicators. Other weather offices are aided by Radio Emergency Associated Citizens Teams (REACT) groups equipped with special Citizen-Band Radios (CB's).

John Robinson and his staff of the NWS at Greater Cincinnati Airport are blessed with both.

After the April 3, 1974, tornado outbreak, about 200 members of the Cincinnati Repeater Association, a ham radio club, volunteered their services to the NWS. There was no real central direction until Jack Klosterman, a 25-year veteran in the communication field and himself a ham, organized the Weather Amateur Radio Network Inc. (WARN). The Cincinnati office of the NWS approved the plan and placed heavy emphasis on a formal training program to teach the ham radio operators weather observation and reporting procedures.

More than 40 hams attended a 5-week training program conducted by the NWS staff. WARN is composed of all volunteers equipped with mobile, hand-held, and fixed location radio transmitting and receiving equipment.

The program at Cincinnati was designed to receive the most information with the least amount of time during a severe weather situation. The reports are collected from the HAM radio frequencies at one central point. This is called the WICC - Weather Information Control Center (located in Klosterman's basement). The reports are then relayed to the NWS. The WICC is a subscriber to the Ohio NOAA Weather Wire. If a watch is issued that includes part of Cincinnati's area, the WICC will "bring up the weather net," and then read the watch over the HAM frequency. The WICC uses a tone alert frequency to activate the net. Cincinnati radar summaries, available on the NOAA Weather Wire, are broadcast over the HAM net to keep the spotters up-to-date on the possibility of severe weather development. The amateurs have a copy of the Cincinnati 125-mile radar overlay, enlarged to a size about 3 feet square. All members of the weather group have a copy of this map. This gives a common reference to locate data.

WARN makes use of a radio repeater. The Cincinnati Repeater Association has five radio repeater transmitters for voice and teletype transmission.

The repeaters are atop radio towers around the Cincinnati area. Using a small hand-held radio transmitter with one watt of power or from a base station in his home, the ham can transmit to the repeater that re-transmits the signal with 1000 watts of power.

The repeater also has an auto-patch capability. The repeater has a telephone connection and number. An amateur without radio capability, can dial the telephone number of the repeater, and the amateur on the frequency will answer. Therefore, an amateur in the WARN group, without his radio, can call in a weather observation. The NWS also has

use of this number by dialing the telephone number, read a warning, give radar information, or request information from an area of concern. The auto-patch also will work from a radio to a telephone. With a touch tone telco dial pad built into the radio transceiver (hand-held or base station) the amateur can dial through the repeater telco connection to a telephone number. He can then talk for example, from his hand-held radio in his car along Hwy. I-75 to give a report to the weather station, or to call his wife about dinner.



Jack Klosterman receives warnings on NOAA Weather Wire

In April 1975, a REACT club (Citizen-Band) associated with the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) volunteered their services to Cincinnati WSO. While REACT using CB has limited range and is affected by weather interference, its great advantage is the number of people they can draw upon. There are more than 40,000 people in the Greater Cincinnati area who have citizen-band radios in their cars and homes.

The REACT group is organized in much the same way as the HAMS. Information is collected at one central point, then relayed to the NWS. They're contacted by dialing a telephone number that will activate a one-way Motorola Pagecom, and leaving the message: "Call NWS." The director of the REACT, Fred Simon, or his designated officer in charge returns the call. The watch or request for information about a certain area is given to him.

The REACT information is collected via CB radio using emergency channel 9. The reports are filtered and cross-checked by using the police department in the area of the report. Several CB radios have been installed in police departments for relay of information. The REACT group has a very good working relationship with all police departments in the area. They also have a radio monitor on the HAM frequency and have access to the information broadcast from NOAA Weather Wire. REACT then broadcasts this information on the CB frequency. 7

ALL FTS NUMBERS UNLESS
INDICATED OTHERWISE

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*UNLISTED