

Hurricane Watch Apathy Is Greatest Danger

By John W. Macy, Jr.
Director
Fed. Emergency
Management Agency

The greatest threat of a large number of deaths in the United States I believe to be, not an earthquake, not a swarm of tornadoes, or not even a nuclear plant accident, but a hurricane.

We have the potential for a hurricane claiming 10,000 deaths because few people think that hurricanes pose that kind of threat. That attitude of apathy greatly multiplies the dangers of a hurricane.

The main killer will be the storm surges that accompany hurricanes. Storm surges are giant wind-driven waves that push ahead of a hurricane. The waves, which may be 20 feet or higher, plow inland until tamed by the contour of the land.

More than 6,000 people died when storm tides swept over Galveston Island in 1900. Storm surges caused 350 deaths near New Orleans in 1909; 240 deaths in Florida in 1926; 600 in Long Island and New England in 1938. Hundreds of people died when the storm surge in 1957 from Hurricane Audrey caused flooding in flat Louisiana coastal land as far as 25 miles inland. And the record goes on and on.

Instead of respecting the sea, people by the millions have moved like lemmings in recent years on to the spits of sand we call barrier islands. It is beautiful to live that near the ocean, but it is dangerous to consider your family and your dwelling safe from the wind and waves of a hurricane. Man has opted in favor of beauty and against prudent building and zoning codes that would recognize the danger of living

directly on the ocean. The populations of some beach areas have increased so fast in the last few years that it is now mathematically impossible to evacuate everyone within a day or so on the few roads that lead inland. If people have only 12 hours to evacuate in the face of hurricanes in some large population centers, it is impossible for everyone to leave by car. Some of these people may be caught by a hurricane on low, coastal highways, sitting bumper-to-bumper in traffic blocked by downed trees and flooded roads.

It has been suggested that some large coastal cities should plan to evacuate people vertically into high-rise buildings. But there has been little local planning and preparation for such hurricane evacuations.

Sooner or later, the United States will experience a horrible disaster from a hurricane. Thousands of people will die in their beach cottages, in high-rise condominiums with pilings buried in sand, and in their cars on coastal roads. The denseness of the coastal populations, coupled with people's lack of respect for hurricanes, add up to tragedy. We have ignored the teachings of history.

Historically, coastal-smashing hurricanes occur every one and one-half years in Florida; every four years in New England, North Carolina and Louisiana; every five years in Georgia and South Carolina; every six years in Alabama and Mississippi; and every 11 years in New York; and every 16 years in Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and New Jersey. The odds are against man.

Coastal regions are not the only ones threatened. Don't

overlook Mother Nature's wrath when it comes to hurricanes causing death and destruction far inland. Some of the nation's greatest disasters were caused by hurricanes that weakened into tropical storms over land.

The storms pick up tons of water while they move over the warm ocean. When they hit the colder land, they dump their loads of water in the form of rain that is sometimes measured in tens of inches. Hurricanes produce record floods, far from the salt air. For example, Hurricane Agnes caused over 100 deaths and billions of dollars in flood damage in 5,000 square miles of the interior of mid-Atlantic states in 1972.

Whether coastal or inland, communities that have flood hazards and agree to attempt to manage or mitigate their hazards, are eligible to join the National Flood Insurance Program. Under the Federal program, residents and businesses may purchase flood insurance protection at affordable rates.

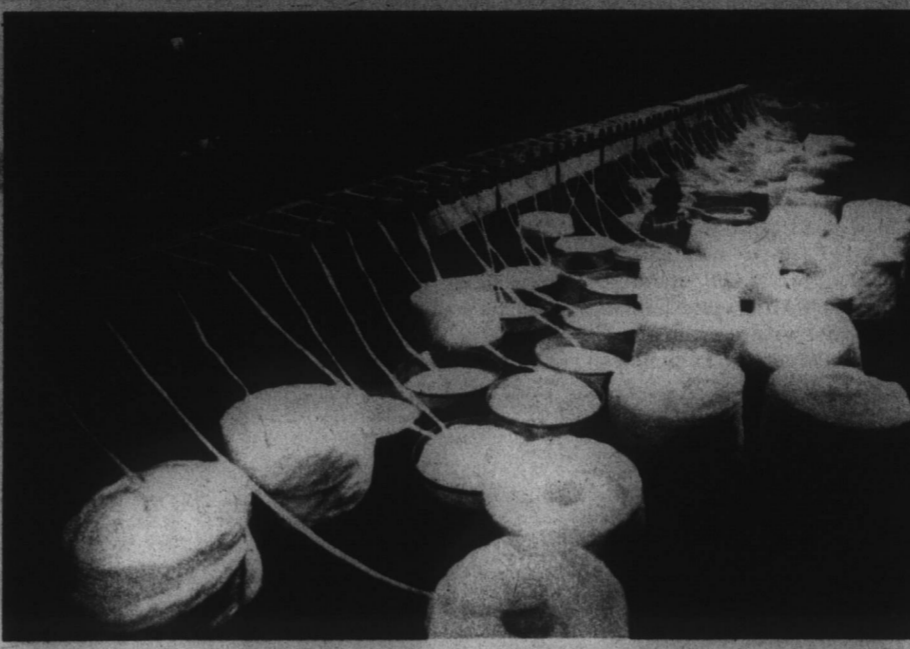
If you live in a flood-prone area, consult with your insurance agent or broker about purchasing flood insurance. You'll find that your homeowners insurance policy does not provide flood protection, but that you can purchase a separate policy for flood coverage on a building and its contents. Call your insurance agent or broker to find out what coverage you need, if you don't have a flood insurance policy.

You should hope that you'll never need to collect on your flood insurance policy, but if you need it, it may save you from total financial disaster. The program is administered by the Federal Insurance Administration within the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Just as a family should check on their flood insurance protection at the start of the hurricane season each year on June 1, the family should also consider other protective steps. You need to re-think each year what steps you would take if an evacuation of your area is ordered because of an approaching hurricane. If your home is in a relatively safe area, a hurricane may require some precautionary steps: check your household supply of non-perishable food, first aid kit, fire extinguisher, battery-powered radio, flashlights, and extra batteries.

Tips on safety precautions, details on the availability of purchasing flood insurance, and other suggested hurricane preparations are listed in FEMA materials being distributed this summer as part of a hurricane awareness campaign. A number of communities are conducting local hurricane awareness campaigns with the help of civil defense offices, fire and police departments, insurance agents, civic groups, and governmental agencies. Together, we are attempting to inform and educate the public on the dangers of hurricanes.

While leaflets may help educate people to the threat of hurricanes, I pray that it will not take a disastrous hurricane to break people away from their apathetic attitudes.



SKEINS OF YARN? No, these "skeins" are polypropylene fiber manufactured in the Bainbridge, Ga., plant of Amoco Fabrics Company, one of the nation's leading polypropylene fiber producers. The fiber is used for carpeting and industrial fabrics and is preferred over natural fibers because of lower costs and greater durability.

Cherokee Village Activities

Continued From Page 2-A guided tour of the historic Qualla Boundary with lectures, demonstrations and stops at historic and scenic sites. Included is admission to "Unto These Hills" outdoor drama, the Museum of the Cherokee Indian and Oconaluftee Living Indian Village. Bus transportation is provided. Food and lodging not included. Cost is \$35.

"Backpacking: How to Enjoy the Wilderness," June 27-28, July 18-19, Aug. 8-9, Aug. 29-30, instructed by James Jackson and Robert Harkness of Cullowhee Outfitters. You provide your own food, equipment and transportation to the trailhead and Camper College will lead you into the deep, dark Smokies and teach you how to cook in the wilderness and pitch a comfortable tent. You'll learn about first aid, wilderness sanitation and ecology ethics, how to read a topographical map and a compass. Cost is \$35.

"Appalachian Dancing," June 27-28, Aug. 15-16, instructed by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Park of John C. Campbell Folk School. Learn clogging, round and square dances as well as the origins of various folk dances. A fun course for all age groups. Cost is \$25.

"Whitewater Canoeing," July 4-5, August 1-2, August 29-30, instructed by Jackson and Harkness. Want to canoe a mountain river? Then this is the course for you. It will start with basic maneuvers in still water and progress as your skills improve to the more exciting white water. Classes emphasize the proper use of equipment and safety techniques. Transportation and rental of top

quality canoes are included. Enrollment is limited. Cost is \$65.

"Identifying Plants of the Smokies," July 4-5, July 25-26, August 15-16, taught by Dr. Dan Pittillo of the WCU biology faculty. This class begins with an introduction to the natural habitats of the Great Smokies and continues with a hike (About 4-5 miles to high elevation mountains, forest and balds. The first day concludes with overnight camping at a primitive campsite. Second day includes study of lower elevations with emphasis on plant identification and uses. Cost is \$35.

"Trout Fishing in Mountain Streams," Spinner-Fishing-July 11-12, August 8-9, August 22-23; Fly Fishing-June 27-28, July 25-26; taught by Jim Hamilton and Jack Galloway. Enrollment is strictly limited to 15 persons per class. Most of the meetings are held in the cool waters of the Oconaluftee River which is well stocked with trophy brown, brook and rainbow trout. Learn the best techniques and pointers from some of the best fishermen in the area. Cost is \$35.

"Indian Basketweaving," July 11-12, Aug. 15-16, taught by Juanita Wolfe, a native Cherokee Indian artisan. Learn to make decorative baskets from native white oak and other woods. Included is information and splitting wood, weaving, colors and dyes. Limited class enrollment. Course cost is \$35, plus a \$5 supplies fee.

"Homesteading skills and Knowledge," August 1-2, August 22-23, taught by Bob Perley of John C. Campbell Folk School.

Learn about becoming self-sufficient and homesteading. This class covers land acquisition, shelter, heating with wood, passive solar heat, tools and equipment and the basic skills needed to use hand and machine tools. You'll also learn how to avoid the major pitfalls. Enrollment is limited. Cost is \$45.

"Appalachian Folklore," July 25-26, August 29-30, instructed by Blanton Owen, folklorist at the WCU Mountain Heritage Center. Study the unique culture of the Appalachians and its contribution to the development of American Society. Visit with the traditional musicians in the area and hear their old-time tunes and rhythms. A relaxing look into the lives of Southern Appalachian people and their heritage. Cost is \$25.

"Kayaking on the Tuckasegee," July 18-19, August 15-16, instructed by Jackson and Harkness. Class begins with safety lectures and equipment check on dry land. Then kayakers take to the river to learn how to challenge the exciting white water. Pack a lunch and picnic alongside mountain streams. Transportation, fiberglass kayak, and equipment are included. Enrollment is limited. Cost is \$65.

Headquarters for all Camper College courses is the Museum of the Cherokee Indian, located in the heart of Cherokee across from the "Unto These Hills" box office.

For information and registration on any Camper College course, call or write, Camper College, Division of Continuing Education, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, N.C. 28723, telephone (704) 227-7392.

Registration requires a \$10 non-refundable deposit that will be credited to your tuition.

Candidate Speaks Leadership Is Stressed

Bill Cobey, Republican candidate for lieutenant governor, issued the following statement last week:

Inflation is a major concern of every North Carolinian, and is a problem which needs to be eliminated by good state leadership. Governmental bureaucrats in Raleigh, as well as in Washington are primarily to blame for the state of our economy. Needless spending by big government contributes to more and more inflation in our state.

North Carolina has seen a tax increase of 49 percent and an increase of 16,000 new state employees since 1976.

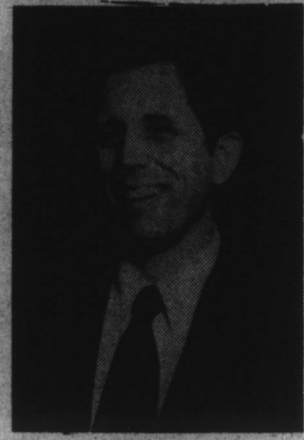
I believe that less government spending and lower taxes are the keys to obtaining improvements in our economy and giving economic relief to all North Carolinians. The current proposed state budget, which has been granted a tacit approval by the present Lieutenant Governor of North Carolina, only intensifies deficit spending and inflation. As lieutenant governor, I will work for tax reform and cautious government spending, so as to benefit North Carolina taxpayers.

Our state is a victim of too much governmental intervention from federal agencies such as Health, Education and Welfare, which threatens our tobacco industry and the University of North Carolina system. North Carolina needs leaders who will defend the interests of the people against governmental intervention and allow private industries to operate free from federal and state controls.

Moral leadership is vitally needed in the United States. North Carolina should set the pace for the rest of the nation by electing public office-men and women who are committed to principles of honest and quality leadership. We must return to the values and principles upon which our nation was founded.

I intend to serve the people of North Carolina as a lieutenant governor who will show vital concern for our state. I will provide North Carolina with

leadership that will decrease inflation by providing less big government and less wasteful government spending, which will result in relieving North Carolinians from the burden of heavy taxes. As lieutenant governor, I will defend North Carolina's industries and educational institutions from governmental controls. I will provide moral leadership for our state, so that North Carolina can regain a sense of integrity and well-being.



Bill Cobey

Roberts Is Graduate

WICHITA FALLS, Tx. — Airman First Class Vincent R. Roberts, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Roberts, Route 1, Edenton, N.C., has graduated from the U.S. Air Force medical laboratory specialist course at Sheppard Air Force Base, here. Graduates learned how to prepare and analyze biological specimens and earned credits toward an associate degree in applied science through the Community College of the Air Force.

Airman Roberts will now serve at Walter Reed Army Hospital, Washington.

The airman is a 1974 graduate of Chowan High School, Tyner, N.C.

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