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DAMAGE IN MILLIONS

Windstorm, Hurricane Season Now Approaching; Precautions Urged

With August less than a week away, many people begin thinking about tornadoes and hurricanes. Though Moore County is not in the so-called "hurricane" belt, it very easily could be. Windstorms, though rare, can pop up at any time.

Last year windstorms resulted in a record-breaking \$814 million property loss in the country and

the death of some 400 people, according to U. S. Weather Bureau estimates.

Such property loss and deaths can be avoided to a great extent if proper precautions are taken. Here are a number of suggestions on ways to protect yourself, your family and your property.

Tornadoes

Tornadoes, most destructive of all storms, may appear with little warning. Fast action is necessary to escape their fury.

Safest place to be during a tornado is underground in a storm cellar. Next best is within a reinforced concrete or steel-framed building, near an inside wall away from all windows.

At home, if no storm cellar is near, a corner of the basement nearest the approaching tornado is safest, particularly in wood frame houses. If in a basement-less house, seek shelter elsewhere—even an open ditch offers some protection.

Avoid auditoriums, gymnasiums, other buildings having large area roofs relatively lightly anchored. They may collapse.

If open country move at right angles to the tornado's path. Most tornadoes travel at 25 to 40 miles an hour. A person in an automobile can usually outrun one. If there is no time to escape, lie flat in the nearest ditch, ravine, or other depression. Don't stay in an automobile which may be rolled over and crushed.

Hurricanes

Hurricanes affect much larger areas than tornadoes, but their winds are not as strong. Adequate warning of their approach is usually available so that precautions can be taken to prevent injuries and damage. Measures which minimize hurricane damage are equally valuable in other windstorms of lesser, but none-the-less destructive, magnitude.

Here are a number of precautions to take:

Before A Storm

Before a storm, tune to radio and television broadcasts of latest Weather Bureau information. In case of power failure, a battery-powered radio will come in handy.

Go inland. Get away from beaches and the low waterfront which may be swept by storm waves. Hurricanes bring abnormally high tides, high waves.

If your passage to safety is

over a road likely to be under water, leave early. Otherwise you may be trapped by high winds and rising waters preceding the arrival of the storm center by several hours. Travel at the height of the storm is exceedingly dangerous.

If your house is out of danger of waves and is substantially built—anchored to strong foundations and with its roof securely fastened—it's possibly the best place for you to stay.

Put loose material and movable objects such as garbage cans and porch furniture where they cannot be blown against the building or through a window. Movable awnings should be raised and securely tied or removed entirely.

Keep trees pruned away from your home. Dead branches, overhanging branches, and those which may sway against windows or roof are the most likely to cause damage.

In seriously threatened areas board up windows or put storm shutters in place, at least on the sides exposed to the most violent winds. Shutters should be securely fastened several hours in advance of the expected arrival of the storm. They are difficult to handle in a high wind.

Use good lumber and attach it firmly to the building. Makeshift boarding or insecure shutters often blow loose, do more damage than none at all.

Garage doors and others having large exposed areas must be secured particularly well.

Sterilize and fill jugs, bottles or cooking utensils with fresh water. The water supply may fail. A tub filled with water may be useful, too.

One or more windows can be kept open on the lee side—the side opposite that from which the wind is coming—to provide some ventilation and, under certain conditions, to prevent wind damage.

If wind or flying objects make an opening on the windward side of the building, wind pressure will build up within the building. Having an opening on the lee side will allow this pressure to escape, minimizing the interior forces tending to lift the room or push out the walls.

Only small openings are advisable as long as the windward side remains intact. But as soon as windows are broken additional openings should be provided on the lee side to help equalize the pressure.

Have a flashlight in good working condition readily available. Be careful of fire. If oil lamps or candles must be used for emergency lighting, use them carefully. In an emergency a bucket of sand can be used to

absorb spilled fuel or smother a small oil fire. Better still would be a fire extinguisher of a type approved for use on flammable liquids. Be sure it is in good condition and you know how to use it.

Have extra food on hand, food that can be eaten with little or no cooking. Remember electric power failure may leave you without refrigeration.

Emergency cooking facilities should be in safe working condition. Be particularly careful with appliances in questionable condition because of long disuse. They may cause a fire.

After A Storm

After a storm, don't hinder first

aid and rescue work. Unless qualified to render valuable emergency assistance, stay away from disaster areas.

If you must drive immediately after a storm, drive carefully. Watch for fallen wires and tree branches. In coastal areas or near swollen streams, beware of washouts and undermined pavement.

Don't touch dangling or loose power lines or electric wires. In a storm the live power lines may become entangled with metal fences, telephone and other wires. Contact, in some cases, would be fatal.

Even after water service is restored, it may be wise to boil or sterilize drinking water until

otherwise advised by your local health department.

Be careful of fire at all times. Damaged communications may result in a delayed fire alarm; debris-obstructed streets can slow response of fire apparatus and low water pressure can make fire fighting difficult.

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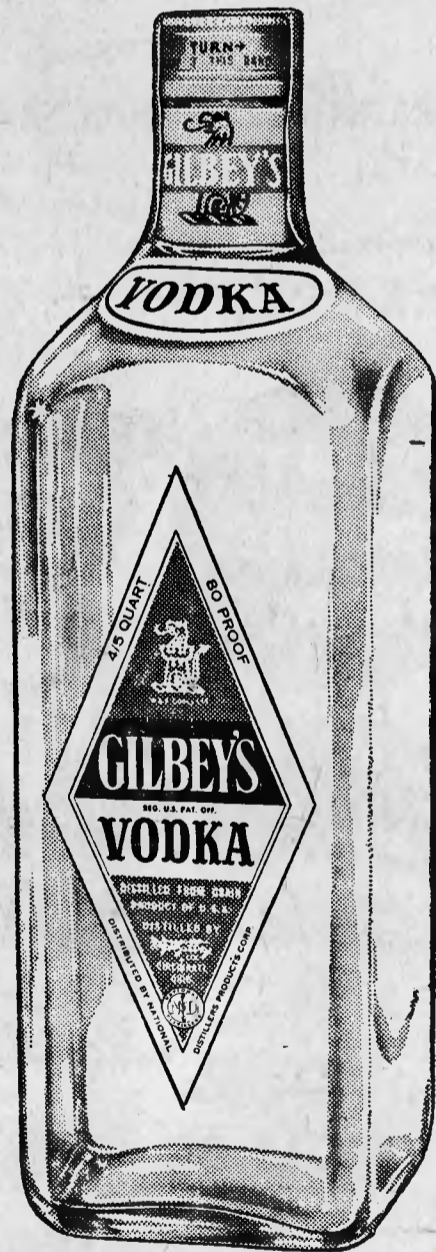
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