

Officials of the four towns on Bogue Banks -- Atlantic Beach, Emerald Isle, Indian Beach and Pine Knoll Shores -- met at the PKS Town Hall August 13 and made plans to act in unison if evacuation of the island is deemed necessary when a hurricane threatens.

PLANS MADE

Mayors of the four municipalities agreed that when the county recommends an evacuation, the notification would be issued simultaneously and all residents would be strongly urged to leave the island and seek shelter on the mainland.

FOR STORM

EVACUATION

Andy McNally, the PKS civil preparedness director, said that because of the length of time needed to evacuate the island, calls for evacuation would be issued at least 24 hours before the storm was expected to strike. McNally said since it is impossible to predict that far in advance the exact path a storm would follow, there likely would be times when the town's residents would leave their homes only to find out later the storm had swerved in another direction. He said he hoped the people would not be lulled into a false sense of security after this happens a time or two and decide to remain at home on the third go-round. That might well be when a storm would strike in all its fury.

It was also agreed at the meeting that all residents, property-owners and other persons having valid reasons for being on the island would be issued passes they could present at checkpoints on the bridges to permit them to return after a storm. The purpose would be to keep sightseers off the island during a time of emergency. The passes will be numbered serially and will be in different colors for the four towns. Residents and property owners will be informed when the passes are ready and will be told how to obtain them.

The meeting of the town officials followed a luncheon session at Morehead City at which George Eichler and Associates, an Atlanta consulting firm reported on a study it had made at the behest of the state, Carteret County and six municipalities on storm preparations.

Among other things, Eichler told the group that while Pine Knoll Shores is doing an excellent job of storm preparation, it is "susceptible to significant storm damage from a hurricane or a storm of similar magnitude."

"If a storm hit this summer, there would be a bottleneck at the (Atlantic Beach) drawbridge," Eichler told the group. "In the best of circumstances, it would be hard to meet the county's current plan of evacuation within four to six hours. That would be under ideal circumstances. But there are going to be accidents."

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Jack Thompson, PKS fire and police commissioner, said that lightning probably caused a fire that caused damage estimated at \$25,000 to the Carl William Franks summer home at 109 Juniper Road on August 11.

LIGHTNING

Thompson said that the Franks, who live in Garner, were not at home and that the fire probably smoldered for hours before breaking into flames which were spotted by neighbors around 7:30 a.m. Thompson said flames were breaking through the roof when firemen arrived but that they laid hose lines and had it under control within 10 to 15 minutes.

IS BLAMED

FOR FIRE

About half the town's volunteer firemen answered the alarm as well as the Rescue Squad and Janet Birkel and May Mead of the Fire Department Auxiliary who brought doughnuts and cold drinks for the firemen.

"The men did an excellent job," Thompson told the PKS Board of Commissioners at their meeting August 14. He also praised members of the Rescue Squad and the Auxiliary.

Mayor Ken Haller, who also answered the alarm, said the Franks' next door neighbors were very complimentary. They had been worried until the fire was brought under control.

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