

# Public works director sees Andrew first-hand

By Amitabh Pal  
Municipal Editor

After seeing the destruction caused by Hurricane Andrew, Charles Derrick's advice to Brunswick County residents is to get out of the area at once when faced with such a storm.

The Long Beach public works director spent a week in south Florida along with two other public works employees, Bill Montgomery and David Duckett, helping clean up the debris in the aftermath of Andrew.

Derrick volunteered to go to Florida after seeing the destruction caused by the hurricane and watching a town manager lament on television the near-total destruction of his town.

Comparing Hurricane Andrew with Hurricane Diana, the last major hurricane to hit this area in 1984, Derrick said that compared with

what Hurricane Andrew did, Diana only broke a couple of twigs.

Derrick's advice to residents in case of an Andrew-type situation is, "If the public officials ask you to evacuate, then please do exactly that. I may ruffle some county officials' feathers by saying this, but in the case of a category 4 or category 5 storm don't even stop at the local evacuation centers. Just get the hell out of here."

"People need to heed evacuation warnings. You better get out, because if you don't then your chances of dying are pretty good."

Derrick also advised local residents to board their windows with plywood in case of a storm, and not just to lock or tape them.

"A lot of water damage was done because the residents didn't board their windows up and then everything got ruined inside the home," he said.

Derrick said that he wouldn't

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Charles Derrick

know what changes to recommend in the building standards.

"I think you eventually reach a point of no return, and category 4 and 5 are past the point of no return as far as what you can build to withstand something," he said.

"We saw every type of construction make it through the storm and we saw every type of construction you can imagine that failed," he said. "There is no rhyme or reason as to what makes it through this type of storm and what doesn't.... I saw no type of construction that consistently seemed to be sturdy."

"When you get to a certain

category and certain wind speeds, then building codes and who your contractor is becomes irrelevant."

Derrick was initially shaken by the storm damage he saw.

"What struck me most as we went past Miami (toward Homestead Air Force Base) was the quickness the storm damage picked up," he said. "It got bad so quick that I got cold chills. It was overwhelming to say the least."

Derrick saw, among other things, 12-inch concrete poles and 24-inch steel utility poles broken off at their bases, and a steel pole wrapped around a fence.

"I sort of got the impression that a nuclear bomb went off," he said.

Derrick worked all the time at the air base and in a neighborhood a mile south of the base. He said that the only governmental agency he and his fellow workers interacted with was the City of Homestead, through the public works department.

Derrick naturally didn't find the work very uplifting.

"The first couple of days it was depressing that we were clearing up right-of-ways and literally throwing away people's lives," he said. "It was kind of overwhelming that we

were doing that, but after a few days we got kind of numb to it and it was just something else you had to throw in the back of the truck and go and burn somewhere."



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## Beach plan Continued from page 1

post-emergency damage assessment teams to help get the town functioning again.

One portion of the document deals with approaching hurricanes and tornadoes and sets up three stages according to the proximity of the approaching storm, classifying the situations as "green," "yellow" and "red alert" stages and detailing steps about what to do in each circumstance.

Durr said he feels strongly that the program is feasible under actual disaster conditions.

"I have just set up an outline for various department heads, and the detailed plans for each department are up to them," he said.

"This is just somewhat of a checklist," he added. "If you are a department head it's nice to know what other officials are responsible for."

Durr emphasized that even though he holds the title of emergency preparedness coordinator, he has no directive authority.

"That's the way it should be," he said. "The coordinator should not have the power to make things happen. The

town manager and the mayor should have the power to make things happen."

"My task was to put together the plan and coordinate all activities within the town," he added. "In fact, at some point in time we'll be talking with other communities in the area."

The major responsibility of coordinating the effort in case of an emergency situation has been given to the town manager, whose duties include setting up the Emergency Operation Center and acting as liaison between elected officials and town departments.

"The town manager is the real key individual in this program," Durr said. "There is no question as to how important the town manager is."

Tim Johnson, Long Beach town manager for less than a month, said he is satisfied with the report.

"It's a very thorough document," Johnson said. "A considerable amount of thought has been put in preparing it."

Johnson said the program was as practical as a document could be and that the responsibilities assigned to the town manager were doable under emergency situations.

The town manager has also been given the responsibility of informing the public about what to do in case of an emergency.

The job of evacuating the public has been assigned to police, who are expected to draw a detailed plan. "Given the history of Florida, I think you'll find a good deal more cooperation (from the public) with regard to evacuation," Durr said.

Other town officials are encouraged about the document. Long Beach police chief Danny Laughren said the plan was a good one and covered about everything that should be done, thus serving as a checklist.

## Four hurt in Indigo mishap

Four people were injured, one seriously, in a two-car accident Saturday night in Indigo Plantation.

Drivers of both cars were charged in the incident.

Southport police said Michelle Marie Martin, 19, of 303 Crowell Street, Yaupon Beach, was driving east with two passengers on Dutchman Creek Road around 9:30 p.m. and Kara Shea Spencer, 18, of 1020 West Beach Drive, Long Beach, was westbound with two passengers.

The cars collided on a curve near Spikerush Trail when both crossed the center line, patrolman George Stanley reported.

Shelly Kessler, a passenger with Martin, was seriously injured, police said, and fellow passenger Debbie Talley received minor injuries. Spencer and Joshua Hight, a passenger, were also injured, the report said.

Martin was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol, underage drinking, driving without insurance and driving left of center.

Spencer was charged with careless and reckless driving, exceeding a safe speed and driving left of center.

## Southport clean-up underway

Southport residents are doing some fall cleaning this week.

The city's beautification committee is encouraging residents to pick up trash around their homes and in their neighborhoods. The clean-up will culminate this Saturday, September 26, when a group effort will be organized at 8:30 a.m. at Waterfront Park. Assignments will be passed out along with garbage bags. The first 50 people will receive T-shirts. Following the clean-up, hot dogs and drinks will be provided to those who helped.

Individuals and groups interested in participating in the clean-up can contact committee chairman Gwen Midyette at 457-9560 for more information.

## CP&L

Continued from page 1

lems in the diesel generator building, but other work items were added to the CP&L fix list, and the company pledged to raise the plant, which traditionally has rated low in NRC assessments, to a level of "excellence."

Restart of nuclear power generation at Brunswick will be with the concurrence of the NRC.

Friday's session, open to the public, will be at 10 a.m. in the assembly building at the CP&L visitors center.

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### WHEN TO CROWN

If you have a tooth that is so badly damaged or decayed that a simple filling will not protect adequately, your dentist will probably recommend that it be crowned. He may also recommend a crown if the tooth has already had several fillings that are badly worn and the tooth is in danger of fracturing.

One of the advantages of crowning a tooth is that it completely encircles the tooth, giving it full support. Another reason is to improve the appearance of your teeth. There are many materials available that can be used to give a crowned tooth a natural look as well as superior strength.

Once a tooth has been crowned, you will still need to practice good oral hygiene and have regular

checkups to protect the tooth from decay. Like other restorations, crowns will eventually show signs of wear. Depending on the type of material used, they will usually last a long time before they need to be repaired or replaced. If you have a badly damaged tooth that could benefit from crowning, ask your dentist what he would recommend.

Prepared as a public service to promote better dental health. From the office of: LARRY HEMBY, D.D.S. 621 Fodale Avenue Southport, N.C. 28461 (919) 457-5026