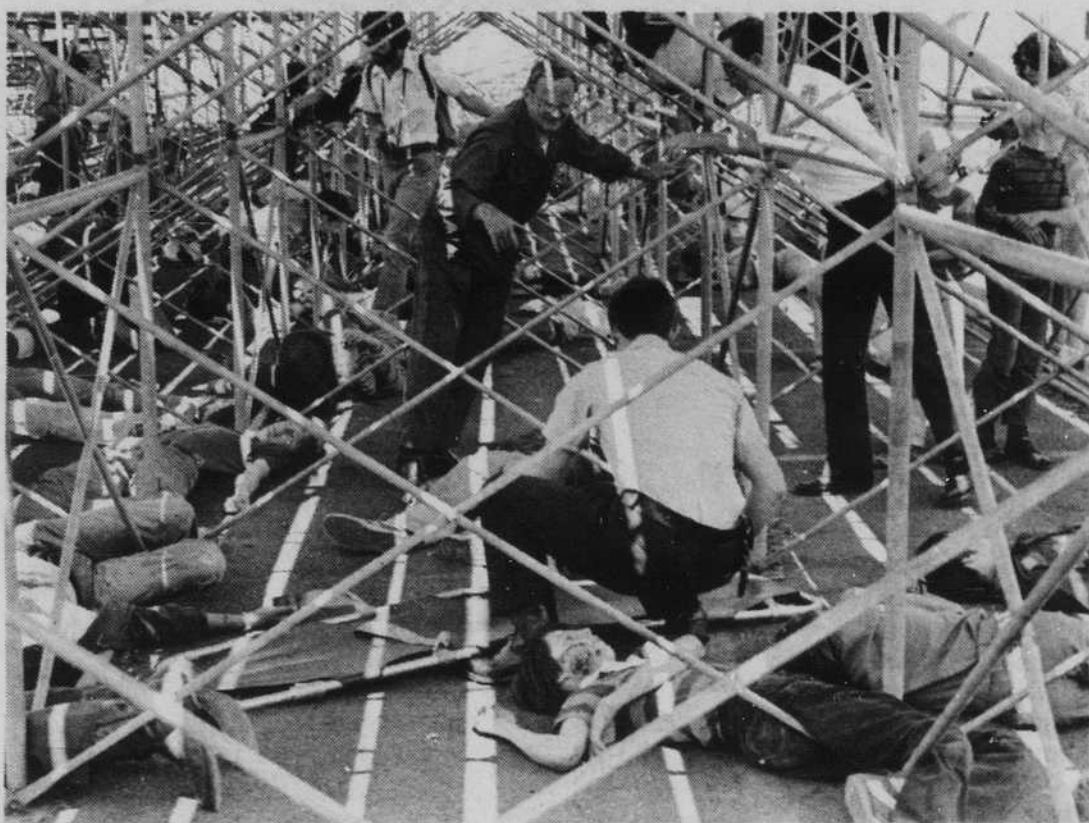




Bloody bodies were all over the place Wednesday, in the bleachers, on stretchers and in the hospital, as the State Health Division sponsored a mock disaster to test the responsiveness of

local emergency vehicles to a disaster situation. Volunteers were given assorted plastic wounds and fake injuries for the disaster.

(Continued from Page 3)

Disaster

"Please, he's over there."

"Okay, buddy," the paramedic answered, leading him away. "What seems to be the problem?"

The number of victims under the stand began to thin out, and the number of victims lined up on stretchers in the sun began to increase. Few victims left the disaster site. Communication radios crackled. Huge numbers of emergency personnel weaved their way through the bodies while official observers of the exercise attempted to blend into the back-

ground with their notepads and paper.

"You've got to help my mother, she's all I've got in the world," said the hysteric who, moments earlier, had been crying for her purse. "Hmmm," said the paramedic looking at the girl's mother, Sliwinsky. "I see she has a fractured jaw."

One paramedic accidentally grabbed a patient's plastic bowels trying to diagnose the lumpy gauze on the patient's stomach.

Victims were sent to three hos-

pitals: McKenzie-Willamette Hospital, Sacred Heart General Hospital and Eugene Hospital and Clinic. But it was more than two hours before patients labeled "immediate" reached Sacred Heart, only three blocks away.

"It's too bad we couldn't have gotten them sooner," lamented Walt DeMarre, Sacred Heart operations director, as he watched the first critical patients being unloaded.

Victims were transferred from their ambulance stretchers to rolling beds and taken into the hospital emergency room. "What's your name boy?" a doctor yelled into the ear of one unconscious victim as he was wheeled into an operat-

ing room. "Are you asleep?"

"This one needs an I.V. Get him upstairs to a vascular surgeon," ordered the doctor of Will Cress, 15. Cress had a rubber arm injury with the bones showing through. "It keeps bleeding doctor. He must have severed an artery."

"This patient should never have been sent here," said a doctor of victim Robin Chort, who had been waiting in a hospital corridor for more than a half-an-hour. Chort was said to be in shock, and had sustained a rubber head wound in the disaster. "Send him up to intensive care."

Asked if most of their patients

wouldn't be dead if the disaster had been real, a nurse replied, "Of course not, you'd be surprised what the human body can take."

The exercise, which began at 1:30 p.m., terminated at 4 p.m. "Walking wounded" were transported by bus to the hospitals so as not to unnecessarily distract the entire county's ambulances from their normal duties.

Two other mock disasters took place Tuesday in Lane County. Both were bus accidents.

Although final results on the disaster will not be available until later today, Zimmerman termed the disaster a success.

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Media join the Hayward fun

By KEVIN HARDEN
Of the Emerald

There were groans and moans, screams and hysteria, blood and guts and contorted bodies flung everywhere, and you can bet the media captured it all. With radio sound, television celluloid, reporters' pens and Nikon cameras, every incident was recorded.

Wednesday's mock disaster at the University's Hayward Field was more than a drill for Lane County's emergency services — it became a media event.

According to Lee Zimmerman, regional manager for the State Health Division and coordinator of the disaster, a news release sent to the area media was designed to attract attention and, through the coverage, show the community that there were systems for handling such a situation.

"One of the reasons that we have these exercises is to get the community involved and show them we have some degree of preparedness for just such emergencies," Zimmerman explained.

But the press coverage may have been too much. At one time there were more reporters than paramedics at the disaster scene.

In addition to 80 volunteer victims, nearly 20 news media representatives flooded the drill area, blocking emergency traffic and recording every moment of the disaster from the first grisly plastic wound to the last ambulance loading.

Almost every area news agency was represented. The Emerald, reporting on its home ground, had two reporters and three photographers wandering through the theatric rubble. Eugene's two television stations, KVAL and KEZI, sent reporters and camerapersons to pan the action.

The Eugene Register-Guard had a photographer snapping pictures from every angle with the two cameras slung over his neck.

The Springfield News sent one photographer-reporter while the Oregonian, though stationed 100 miles away, was also represented.

The area radio stations also sent delegates, with KPNW sending not only a cassette-toting reporter, but also (for unexplained reasons) a photographer.

Lane Community College radio station KLCC's reporter wandered in and out of the fictitious wreckage, microphone in hand, recording victim's moans and groans and occasionally taking a statement from some disheveled body.

Cameras were everywhere. From instamatics to Nikkormats, photographers caught the action from every conceivable corner.

One photographer who seemed to enjoy focusing on the ambulances explained that he was taking pictures for Medical Services, Inc., a large supplier of emergency vehicles. His brother had called early that morning and told him to cover the event for the company.

Amateur Radio, a group of novice radio operators helping to coordinate communication channels, was also represented with a photographer.

Not all the media coverage was welcome. "Some of the people with the services said that toward the end of the exercise the press and the bystanders were definitely getting in the way," Zimmerman explained.

In case of a real disaster, he said, the city police would seal the area off to the press and bystanders.

"We wanted the press to get their own coverage of the event," Zimmerman said. "But we really didn't expect that many people."

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