

AUTOMOTIVE

The Portland Observer

Drinking Water For Flood Victims

Two tanker trucks, each capable of holding 4,500 gallons of drinking water, leave this week from United States Filter Corporation's Illinois Water Treatment facility (U.S. Filter/IWT), bound for Des Moines, Iowa. The tankers are the first elements of aid that the water purification company is providing to Iowa's capital city, where damage to a water treatment plant has left 250,000 people without drinking water.

The tanker trucks will be used to transport water to Des Moines from nearby municipalities. "Initially, the trucks will be there for two weeks, but we may extend that, depending on the need," said Terry Hatfield, manufacturing manager at U.S. Filter/IWT, who has been coordinating relief efforts with the Iowa National Guard.

The company is also arranging to supply the National Guard with its Disaster Relief Reverse Osmosis unit, free of charge, for on-site water purification. The water treatment unit was designed and built by U.S. Filter/IWT personnel in the aftermath of

Hurricane Andrew's destruction in Florida. The water treatment unit was built by employees who donated their labor, using materials donated by U.S. Filter/IWT and some of its key vendors.

The reverse osmosis (RO) system uses hydraulic pressures to force water through a semipermeable membrane to remove contaminants. The skid-mounted unit will continually take in river or brackish water and pump out up to five gallons of drinking water per minute.

"The U.S. Filter/IWT Disaster Relief RO unit saves the time and cost of hauling water," said Richard Heckmann, U.S. Filter chief executive officer. "The unit can be shipped to a central distribution site where it will take in flood waters and provide a continuous flow of drinking water."

"This unit and the contributions are part of our commitment to providing and maintaining clean water throughout the world," Heckmann said. U.S. Filter is one of the largest U.S. companies in the water treatment

industry. U.S. Filter's facility in Davenport, Iowa, has not been affected by the flood waters which have crippled that Mississippi River community, except that many employees have to take alternative routes to work.

-0- 7/15/93 /EDITOR'S NOTE: U.S. Filter designs and manufactures a broad range of customized and pre-engineered systems and equipment for the water and wastewater treatment industries. The company's products and services are used

for the filtration and purification of water for municipal uses and industrial processes, as well as for the treatment of wastewater effluent before recycling or discharge.

Established in 1953, U.S. Filter has corporate offices in Palm Desert, Calif., with manufacturing and processing facilities located in Davenport; Minneapolis; Marlboro, N.J.; Redmond, Wash.; Rockford; Tarbes, France; Warren, N.J.; Warrendale, Pa.; and Whittier, Calif.

Prepare For A Disaster With Your Camping Gear

That camping equipment sitting in the garage could be the key to a household disaster plans, says a Stanford University emergency medicine physician.

Dr. Ricardo Martinez, assistant professor of surgery/emergency medicine, says that a variety of home service disruptions, ranging from power failures to earthquakes can be eased with the same gear and supplies that the family dusts off each summer for a day or two or a week at a campsite.

"Particularly if you have young children, you'll want to be able to provide warm meals quickly in the event of a power failure. And that gas stove that works so well in the mountains or by the lake will do just as fine a job at home. Just be sure to use it outside the house in a well-ventilated

area to avoid the possibility of carbon monoxide poisoning."

In the event of a major disaster, such as an earthquake, a supply of freeze-dried food-check the expiration date for freshness-can serve as a tasty supplement to the week or two of canned goods or other supplies that it is wise to keep in storage around the house. (Don't forget to rotate the canned goods every few months for freshness.)

Not part of the regular camping gear but a wise item to keep in the garage-perhaps near the camping gear-is a plastic drum of fresh water in case regular supplies are depleted or plumbing breaks down. Emergency water drums may be purchased commercially, and Martinez cautions that they should be drained approximately

yearly (use the old water on your lawn if you have one) and the water replaced to ensure freshness. Don't forget that water purification kit used for camping or backpacking can be used at home if the water quality there becomes compromised, he notes.

The same first kit you throw into the car before leaving for the mountains, seashore or lakefront, should be stocked and ready for the home emergency as well, Martinez suggests.

Lanterns and flashlights, along with a supply of matches kept with the camping gear can fight darkness after a power failure. Remember to store gas and kerosene in properly sealed containers which should be kept away from direct sunlight, electricity or extreme heat.

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