

# These Tips Can Help Cut Chances of Storm Injury

Typhoon-force winds which batter the landscape and leave death and injury in their wake happen rarely in Oregon — but they do happen.

And should they happen again — even if they're not quite so high-powered as the Oct. 12 storm which caused five deaths and some 50 injuries in Lane County — observance of several safety suggestions can considerably reduce the chances of being hurt or killed.

The Register-Guard interviewed officials of the American Red Cross, Oregon State Police, Lane County Civil Defense and the Eugene Fire Department for advice on how best to safeguard persons and property during a severe storm. The results:

- "Stay indoors," is the cardinal rule. The air outside was thick with flying debris during the recent storm, and numerous persons were injured — and one killed — when struck by wind-whipped glass, limbs and other debris.

- Stay away from windows during a wind storm. Glass shattered by a tremendous wind can be deadly. Close draperies or venetian blinds to cut down on flying glass in case windows should break.

- If you're in a car when a windstorm hits and you're far from home, park in an open field or other location away from trees which may topple or power lines which may snap. Park facing into or away from the wind; high winds may tip over a vehicle parked broadside to the wind's full force.

- Stay off the streets and highways unless it's absolutely necessary.

- If you have advance warning of a storm, try to secure your house and surrounding area. Be sure garage and screen doors are tightly fastened. Bring your garbage can inside (flying garbage can covers can cause injury or damage). Pick up loose items around the yard.

- Don't call the fire or police departments or the weather bureau unless it is absolutely necessary. They will already be swamped with real emergency calls.

- Avoid any fallen wires; they might be "hot." If possible, and you can do it safely, erect a barricade or other warning around them so someone else won't blunder onto them.

- Practice "home preparedness"—keep candles on hand in case power is knocked out, and perhaps a small "Sterno" or camp stove for cooking purposes. Try to be prepared for a 24-hour power outage.

- In a pinch, meals can be prepared on a camp stove, barbecue grill or in the fireplace. Another excellent emergency item: a battery-powered radio.

- In case of a power outage, it's a good idea to disconnect any appliances containing electric motors. Sometimes, when power is restored, there is a period of low voltage, which can cause electric motors to burn out.

- Have a first aid kit handy.



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## Role of Civil Defense Unit Explained

By **DON ROBINSON**  
Of the Register-Guard

After last week's storm the mayor of Eugene and a Portland newspaperman, among others, asked: "Where was civil defense?"

It is a question that prompts another: "What is civil defense?"

In Lane County the formal civil defense organization has an office in the basement of the courthouse. The only paid employees are County Civil Defense Director James Koepke, Deputy Director Ernest Norris, both full-time, and a full-time secretary.

The budget of the office is about \$11,500 a year. About 55 per cent of this is paid by Lane County and the rest by the city of Eugene. Eugene began participating in its financing about three and a half years ago.

The county CD office takes directions from the Oregon Civil Defense Agency in Salem. The chain of command moves from there to the regional office in Everett, Wash., and thence to the Office of Defense Mobilization in Washington, D. C.

Koepke pointed out last week the local civil defense organization is not a large, separate unit with a big staff and a store of emergency equipment.

"We are not a battalion of engineers camped on the hillside waiting for someone to push the button," he stated. "We are a composite of existing services."

By this he meant that the various functions of civil defense would, in any emer-

gency, be carried out by already existing services. These include the fire, police and public works services of the various cities and the county.

Some private agencies would perform civil defense functions, such as the Red Cross. And there are other special CD functions that would be taken care of by special volunteers such as the men who would serve on radiological monitoring teams in case of nuclear attack.

Each year, explains Koepke, from two to four of these volunteers are sent to the civil defense western training school in Alameda, Calif., for special training in such subjects as radiological monitoring or shelter management.

The job of the civil defense office itself in an emergency would be to help direct and coordinate these multiple agencies and services to see that they got where they

were needed when they were needed.

Koepke explained, however, that no civil defense office begins this task of direction and coordination on its own. It begins only when the heads of government involved declares a state of emergency and request civil defense to step in.

During last week's storm there was no declaration of emergency or request for help from local heads of government.

But there is some confusion as to the meaning of what was reported as a declaration of "state emergency" by Gov. Mark Hatfield. If it were a true declaration of emergency, that would ordinarily be the signal for civil defense office to begin operating on their emergency plans.

But Koepke said the Lane County CD office, at least, received no word from the Oregon CD office that this kind

of declaration had been made, or that the governor asked civil defense offices to be activated.

Koepke mentioned that his office did go ahead on its own to this extent during the storm:

- It did aid and cooperate with local physicians in setting up the disaster plan at Sacred Heart Hospital to care for persons injured in the storm.

- And, at the request of the physicians, it did arrange for extra ambulances to be made available in case these were needed. Koepke did this by asking the Eugene postoffice to keep a half-dozen of its trucks available for possible emergency ambulance service.

Koepke worked with the Lane County sheriff's office radio communications during the hours of the windstorm Friday night, Oct. 12.

## Biographer to Discuss Bill of Rights at UO

Irving Brant, one of the foremost biographers of James Madison, and authority on the Bill of Rights, will speak at a University of Oregon assembly Tuesday.

He will discuss "The Bill of Rights and the Radical Right."

The latest Encyclopedia Britannica, recognizing Brant's knowledge of the Bill of Rights, contains a contribution from him. The July, 1962, issue of "New Republic" also carries an article by him relative to civil rights entitled "Schools Prayer Decision."

Brant's career as a writer began while a newspaperman on the Iowa City Republican in

1909. He later wrote for the Clinton Herald, St. Louis Star, Chicago Sun and served as editor of the Des Moines Register and Tribune. At one time he was a foreign news correspondent.

He is author of nine books, primarily biographies of James Madison.

His daughter, Miss Robin Brant, is a catalog librarian in the University Library.

Earl Pomeroy, professor of history at the university, will introduce the speaker. The assembly, open to the public, will be held at 1 p.m. in the ballroom of the Erb Memorial Union.

## Seven Injured In Bomb Blasts

VERONA, Italy (AP)—Bombs exploded Saturday in two north Italian railway stations, injuring at least seven persons and causing extensive damage.

Officials feared it might herald a new period of agitation among German-speaking residents who seek greater autonomy in the troubled South Tyrol.

One bomb went off before dawn in the baggage room of the Trent station, on the edge of the troubled region. Police said a time bomb was used and one person was hurt.

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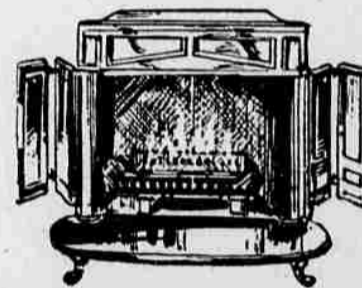
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