

Home-Installed Warning Devices Said Being Tested To Cut Down on Disaster Casualties

Washington—Former civil defense chief Val Peterson called today for a nationwide system of home-installed warning devices to prevent "needless" deaths from hurricanes and other natural disasters.

Peterson said the Civil Defense Administration already is testing such a device and that President Eisenhower is interested in its development and use.

Peterson called on Eisenhower to report on damage and casualties caused by hurricane Audrey in Louisiana and Texas. He made a survey of the stricken areas as the President's personal representative.

Peterson told reporters at the White House that "few, if any" of the people killed by the storm needed to die.

Deplores Needless Deaths
He said the Weather Bureau did a "superb" job of discovering, tracking and predicting the hurricane, which threw a devastating nine-foot tidal wave against Cameron, La. The death toll is expected to hit 500 by the time widely scattered bodies are recovered.

Peterson said it is "understandable" that many residents of the area did not respond to Weather Bureau warnings "because they're a pretty hardy breed of folks."

But he deplored the needless deaths which resulted from the local feeling that "it can't happen here."

"Nature can and will hit any place and every place," Peterson said. "We simply must get better organized."

Device That Squawks
He described the device as a "little thing" resembling an oversize double socket. He said a signal on power lines triggers a horn or a squawk from the gadget. That, he said, is a notice for residents to turn on their radios immediately for directions and information.

Peterson said civil defense expects to make a "final test" of the device and "then it would be ready to do." He said he hopes that the warning gadget can be purchased for a "nominal price" of about \$3 to \$5.

Peterson told Eisenhower that Louisiana's first request for federal aid funds probably will amount to about \$600 million, but he did not estimate the eventual total.

He said that rehabilitation work is progressing rapidly but that "it may be weeks or even months before they find all the bodies" that were hurled into ravines, trees and other places by the high waves that hit the coast.

Told To Leave Homes
A Coast Guard safety officer also said that many of those killed during the hurricane would be alive if they had heeded warnings to flee their homes.

Cmdr. James N. Schrader, Coast Guard search and rescue officer in New Orleans, told a press conference here Monday the Weather Bureau warned of the hurricane 36 hours in advance and "pin-pointed to the hour" its arrival time 14 hours before it hit.

"Most people had plenty of time to find a safe place," he said. "They simply refused to leave their homes."

Red Cross officials with long experience in rescue work confirmed that refusal of persons to evacuate threatened areas often multiplies casualties in natural disasters.

Helicopter Drags Sign
Schrader said newspapers and radio stations along the Louisiana coast carried the hurricane warnings, trucks were sent along the beaches urging people to get to high ground and a helicopter flew over isolated villages dragging a sign reading: "Hurricane approaching."

Messages were dropped on wooden blocks and coast guardsmen knocked on doors with their warnings.

More than 12 hours before Audrey arrived, Schrader said, the Weather Bureau predicted 8 to 10 foot tides.

"In most of those towns," he added, "the highest land is only six feet."

Body of Vancouver Man Located in Willamette
Portland—The body of Matt Jacobson, 79, missing since June 15, was found in the Willamette river here Monday, police reported. Jacobson, of Vancouver, Wash., had been listed as missing after he came here to attend the Rose Festival and did not return home.

He is a graduate of the Harvard Medical school and completed his surgical training at the Massachusetts general hospital, Boston, the Jefferson Davis hospital, Houston, Tex., and the Memorial Hospital for Cancer and Allied Diseases, New York City.

Before entering the Army in 1955, Dr. Rutter was associated with the Gundersen clinic in La-Crosse, Wisc. He is a diplomate of the American Board of Surgery and a fellow of the American College of Surgeons. Dr. and Mrs. Rutter and their three small sons are living at 132 Winema Way, Medford.

Dr. Thomas Rutter Opens Office Here

D. Thomas Rutter, physician and surgeon, recently announced the opening of his office for the practice of general surgery in the Medical-Dental building, 832 East Main st.

Dr. Rutter was discharged from the Army in April. He held the rank of major and served as chief of the surgical service at Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo.

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Mon Desir Listed in Magazine Article

The Mon Desir Dining Inn, Central Point, is among several roadside inns listed in a feature article for travelers, "Roadside Inns and Their Fine Food," appearing in the July 1 issue of Life magazine.

The article includes color photographs and brief descriptions of 10 dining places in various parts of the United States. The Mon Desir, which is operated by Julie Tummers, is listed on the last page of the article, along with 39 other dining places in the nation.

The item states, "Mon Desir, Central Point, Ore., is an old country home with landscaped gardens. Specialty is marinated prime ribs with home-grown herbs." The only other Oregon eating place listed in the article is The Crab Broiler, Seaside.

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