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1987

120th year, No. 10

Carlisle, KY 40311-0272

MAR 5 1987 M

cents per copy

The Carlisle Mercury

Tornado Safety

March, April, May: The killer months

No one can stop a tornado, but there are precautions you can take to safeguard lives and property.

The peak tornado season in Kentucky is generally recognized as April, May and June.

One has to hear but one siren signal, 3 URS, to remember the fact of a tornado in our state.

There is little that can be done to avoid the properly destruction tornado being, but tornadoes do not have to be killers.

You can take precautions when a storm threatens and thereby save lives, reduce the threat of injury and lessen property damage.

A tornado is a severe storm. The winds in a tornado turn counter-clockwise with wind speeds that vary from under 100 miles per hour to approaching 300 miles per hour.

Tornadoes do their destructive work through the combined action of their strong rotary winds, flying debris and the partial vacuum that could occur at the center of the vortex.

Most tornadoes move from southwest to northeast. Generally, tornadoes occur in the spring in the late afternoon on a hot day. But remember, tornadoes can happen any time.

Rarely to recognize. You'll have no trouble recognizing an actual tornado! It is a funnel-shaped cloud extending down from the base of a thunderhead sky.

As it touches earth, it whirrs and tears, throwing up debris in all directions.

It is usually accompanied by hail, violent thunderstorms and wind. Its noise is like that of a freight train and the sound of crashing buildings and falling trees.

When the skies look threatening, listen to the radio. The National Weather Service and the Devereaux Weather Center track all weather systems with sophisticated radar and are usually able to give adequate advance warning of violent weather conditions that a tornado could develop.

A tornado warning means that a tornado has been sighted in your area.

A tornado warning means that a tornado has been sighted in your area. Warnings are usually accompanied with a description of the speed and direction of travel of the funnel.

Many communities have also arranged special warning systems such as sounding whirring sirens.

When a watch is issued, listen to broadcast advisories, and be ready to take cover. It is wise to collect battery-powered light and radio and have family members within earshot under watch conditions. Also, take your car keys, should a tornado hit your area, your car will may be operative, but keys could be lost in the rubble.

Immediate action saves lives. When a tornado threatens, immediate action can save lives.

Stay away from windows, doors, outside walls and protect your head.

In homes or other small buildings, go to the basement or a place in the middle of the house, like a closet, bathroom, or interior wall. Get under something sturdy.

In schools, be calm and follow the directions of your teacher. Stay away from auditoriums and gymnasiums with wide, huge roofs that could collapse easily.

In shopping centers or very large buildings look for a pre-designated shelter. If there isn't any, a middle hallway on the lowest floor is the next best place to take shelter.

In mobile homes or crabs, leave them and find shelter in a building. If there is no shelter nearby, lie flat in the ground, ditch, crevice or culvert with your hands shielding your head from flying debris.

AFTER THE STORM

If a tornado should hit, remain calm.

Most tornadoes are short-lived, lasting only four or five minutes and traveling on the ground for two miles or less.

Check suspect your property, including vehicles, for damage.

Check immediately for electrical problems and shut off gas and water if there is fire department if danger is imminent.

If you have extensive damage, contact your insurance company immediately. In the meantime, secure your property from further damage if that. Heavy rains often follow a tornado.

Take an inventory of the damage to provide your insurance adjuster.

Your policy may provide coverage for additional living expenses should you not be able to stay in your home.

There is also a policy provision for paying the expense of debris removal.

If you have not suffered damage, be a good neighbor and help those who need it.

But, do not telephone directly into a vital disaster area. Reports will be broadcast, so let the rescuers work unimpeded by spectators and curiosity seekers.

Do not enter a building damaged by a tornado until you are sure it is safe and will not collapse.

The only approved or authorized supplies of drinking water.

Check food supplies. Food may contain particles of glass or other debris. Discard canned goods with broken seals.

Get food, clothing, medical care or shelter at Red Cross Stations or from local communities if necessary.

Notify your relatives of your safe.

Local authorities may waste time trying to locate you if you do not want. Do not try to phone lines if they are needed for emergency calls.

Cooperate in the general clean-up of debris. You are responsible for cleaning debris from your own property.

Doing repairs and clean-up wear shoes and gloves. Glass, including thermos insulation, can injure unprotected hands and feet.

What if you are a victim? Do your best to protect yourself, your family and your neighbors from further damage.

Make sure authorities are notified that you are a tornado victim.

Be prepared to cooperate with trained and authorized officers and volunteers who will arrive to give you aid.

Do not sign contracts for repair work, removal of rubble, or new insurance without consulting authorities.

By thinking clearly and calmly and helping one another, Kentuckians can limit the injury and destruction tornadoes cause.



REMEMBER

TORNADO WATCH
MEANS THERE IS A POSSIBILITY OF ONE OR MORE TORNADOES IN YOUR AREA. CONTINUE NORMAL ACTIVITY BUT WATCH FOR TORNADOES.

TORNADO WARNING
MEANS A TORNADO HAS BEEN SIGHTED OR DETECTED BY RADAR AND AN EVACUATION IS BEING SHOWN IMMEDIATELY!

Dropping out

By Hank Bond
Of The Mercury Staff

This is the last of six parts

Dropping out of school has become a bad decision.

The lack of opportunities in our area, about all educators, potential employers, and dropouts from years past will tell a potential dropout to stay in school.

According to the most recent statistics available, only 82 percent of all students entering first grade this year in Kentucky will graduate from high school.

The number to educators is shocking.

Using simple mathematics: 10,000 first graders enter the school year in 1986... in their year of graduation, 1996, at this rate... only 8,200 will graduate from high school.

The State of Kentucky ranks at the top of the list nationally for the rate of dropouts.

This has been a great concern to educators across the state. Nicholas County's School Board and administration are no different.

Throughout the school system there are programs designed to keep children in school, along with helping those who might dropout, reconsider and possibly return.

At the elementary and high school levels, Nicholas County has tutoring programs to help those with academic problems stay current with academic loads.

In addition, at the high school level, each teacher has the responsibility to monitor attendance of students assigned to their homerooms.

Through this system, the high school principal, Greg Reid, can be kept informed of any potential high risk student.

Nicholas County Elementary School Principal, Gerald Hammons, also takes a visit where he helps students stay in school and on course.

The Nicholas County Board of Education has assisted school staff and administrators by backing programs to help identify high risk students, and offering assistance beyond the students in school.

At the board office level, Betty Lynn Corral, the system's director of pupil personnel, works in many of these areas to help support the efforts of others.

Consequently, the school system has been able to reduce the dropout rate by nearly one-half over the last three years.

For this year, the school system is running almost 2 percent below the state average for dropouts.

Along with the in-school programs, there is another alternative, which must often be handled through the court system.

A trip to nowhere

By Hank Bond
Of The Mercury Staff

The Sentenced to Read program has been put in place in Nicholas County.

The local program is directed by Vick Fleming.

As of February 1, there were nine individuals involved in the program. We work primarily with the high risk student, Fleming said.

Although most students come through the court, we do have some on referral from the local school system.

The Sentenced to Read program is administered through officers in Morehead.

The program is funded through private industry and some other sources of funding.

Once a student is assigned to the program, Fleming explained, it is not about one simple program.

"First we have an interview with the family to determine income level and other factors.

"Then we do determine the income level, it is not on hearing on participation in the program. Most of the students in the program are there because of court orders.

"We also make an appointment with the local department of social services to make certification of a family possible.

"The program is an alternative to jail," Fleming explained.

"It is for youth in trouble, not necessarily bad."

The program involves tutoring and working with students as classes begin in school.

In school, Fleming works with students to subjects where most help is needed. Sometimes one hour per week, sometimes three or four times a week.

Out of school, if there is potential for obtaining a GED, Fleming will work in areas to help prepare for that test.

"I have had three students receive a GED in just over a year. I have been working with the program," Fleming said proudly.

"In fact, I have a couple more working toward taking the test now."

Chamber to meet

The Carlisle - Nicholas County Chamber of Commerce will hold a general membership meeting.

The meeting will be held at Nicholas County Elementary School.

The general membership will be asked to vote on a new slate of officers, including a new president and vice president.

In addition, members will cast votes for three new members to be named to the board of directors.

Following the election of officers the floor will be opened for general discussion on what members feel the Chamber should do in supporting members and the community as a whole.

Other topics of discussion may include the planning of an annual banquet, along with proposals, which could be implemented by the Chamber.

Plans are underway for the annual Chamber luncheon, the 15th of July celebration in Carlisle.

At a recent board meeting, the Chamber donated \$100 to the Project Graduation Committee of Nicholas County High School for use during the graduation night celebration.

In addition, the board voted to allocate \$1,000 to the Carlisle - Nicholas County Industrial Authority for use in attracting potential industry to the county.

The group also voted, that for 1987, the Chamber would not supply funds for the fireworks display July 5th.

With City and State

Jockey meeting positive

By Hank Bond
Of The Mercury Staff

Carlisle City Council will be faced with the task of making some determinations concerning the Jockey facility in the near future.

Last Tuesday, several members of council, along with State Representative Michael H. Harlan and Nicholas County, who represents Nicholas County and Nicholas County's State Senator Ed Ford met with members of the Jockey meeting and representatives of the Kentucky Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection and the Kentucky Conservation Commission in Corbin.

The closed meeting in Frankfort, a person close to the Jockey officials said.

For the most part, the meeting was quite a while for all concerned.

Jockey officials listened as an alternative was sought to help the emission problems for the plant.

Carlisle has been forced to ship some of its drinking water from the Jockey facility to a plant in Perrowville, since emission standards prevent the local plant from using certain processes.

The meeting was designed to help Jockey officials explain their concerns, while city and state officials worked together to solve the water problem.

Jockey officials were very positive in speaking about the potential of using a waste treatment plant the company had constructed several months ago.

In addition, the state reaffirmed its commitment to making to 90 percent of the amount needed by the City of Carlisle to do the work for supplying Jockey.

There are two proposed solutions.

One is from which Carlisle City Council must choose.

The first would include supplementing the water flow into Perrow Plant.

Apathy concerns Myers

In response to his donation to help the Nicholas County Senior Citizens Center (NCCCC), February 23, G. C. Myers received personal acknowledgment from three people, not counting those from center employees and participants.

To date, \$75 in additional contributions has been received, according to Shirley Vice, NCCCC director.

"Some of that money was received by mail and some was from senior citizens themselves," said Vice.

Myers, visibly agitated, said, "I don't expect them to erect a statue of me on the courthouse lawn, but at least people could let you know they thought you did a good thing."

While many may have privately praised Myers' gesture among themselves, few did it personally. According to Myers, the only people were city councilmen, one



Forest Morris and Helen Klockner found this carrying several months ago while riding near the Donnie Hill farm, formerly owned by A. H. Morris, in the Rose Hill Section of Nicholas County. — Hank Bond