Journal of Civil Defense

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Inside this Issue

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TACDA™ REMINDS YOU TO

STUDY THINK OBSERVE PREPARE ™

STUDY - Learn as much as you can about the relevant threats that could affect you, your family, and your community, and research reasonable and practical mitigation and preparedness techniques and solutions.

THINK - Be creative. Take inventory of your current resources, and try to come up with new and innovative ideas specifically suited to your particular preparedness needs. Do not depend solely upon time-tested strategies of others. Remember, necessity is the mother of invention, and in many cases, it may be your own expedient preparedness idea that saves your life.

OBSERVE - Always keep your eyes and ears open. Be alert to your surroundings and learn to recognize possible warning signs of impending danger. Many potentially disastrous situations have been thwarted because one individual was alert and responsive to what was happening around them.

PREPARE - Now, take all that you have learned and turn it into action. If you skip this step, then all of your efforts are in vane. Implement your disaster plans. Secure the necessary supplies. Share what you have learned and done with others to help ensure that they are ready as well. Teach and promote reasonable and practical civil defense and disaster preparedness concepts and techniques to those around you. Establish a new or participate in an existing neighborhood preparedness group. Make the most with the resources that you have.

Presidential Address

Sharon Packer - TACDA President

Dear Members:

On behalf of the entire TACDA Team, the Board and our Advisory Council, we wish you all the happiness and safety this new year has to offer.

I'd like to start off this issue by welcoming and extending thanks to a few new people who have recently joined our TACDA family: Mr. Bill Perkins, our newest Board member, Mrs. Barbara Salsbury, our newest JCD contributor, and Mr. Trey Edwards, who has taken on the challenge of updating our image and has, amongst other things, created and worked with our own Alex Coleman in refining a new, high impact branding piece called **S-T-O-P**.

Our objective is to use this attention-grabbing promotional piece as the basis for building awareness of the basics involved in individual Civil Defense preparedness.

Please review our S-T-O-P concept and send any feedback to info@tacda.org. We look forward to your comments.

TACDA Reminds You To…

We are excited about the fresh new look of this issue of the Journal. We look forward to even more changes and additions in the near future. Please contact our Editor, Alex, with any ideas you may have for increasing the quality and value this publication will have for our members and those about whom they care.

Finally, our hearts and prayers go out to the friends and families of those who lost their lives in the recent Tsunami in Asia. Scientific leaders around the world have been and continue to work on development of even better, cost-effective "early warning" systems. As these early warning type technologies are developed and distributed, the damage, and more importantly, the lives lost are, and will be, significantly reduced. Placing a value on these life saving systems is difficult. Investing in the technology is invaluable. The challenge is that, in the real world, it usually takes years, if not decades, before the benefits of such advances are made available to the general public.

My goal today is to make you aware of another extremely valuable "Early Warning System," one that already exists out there today. This system provides daily, even hourly information on a large variety of threats and can be one of your greatest tools in making sure that you and your loved ones are best prepared for possible impending disaster. This system is called: The Media.

Everyday, in newspapers, magazines

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS UP CLOSE

Sharon Packard serves as President on the national board of TACDA (The American Civil Defense Association) and lectures widely throughout the United States on civil defense issues. She has written numerous preparedness articles, which are featured in TACDA's Journal of Civil Defense, and has been a regular speaker for DDP (Doctor's for Disaster Preparedness) for the past 12 years. She is also an amateur radio operator (N7NHJ) and serves as a nuclear weapons effects trainer for the U.S. Airforce Communications Command (MARS).

Sharon has been dedicated to civil defense and preparedness issues for most of her life. She became interested in civil defense at a very young age during the threat years of the cold war.

After receiving her bachelor's degree in mathematics and physics, she taught math in the public school system for a short period of time and then became a full time mother until her children were grown. She has been married to Edson Packer for 40 years and their 6 children and 13 grand children are the greatest joys of their life. She became an EMT and volunteered with the Wasatch County Ambulance Service for several years. Later, she returned to school and received a master's degree in Nuclear Engineering from the University of Utah. She is the author of 'Nuclear Defense Issues', a handbook of weapons effects and civil defense survival techniques. Additionally, she co-founded the Civil Defense Volunteers of Utah where she acted as the president of that organization for 12 years.

Sharon is currently the Vice-President of Utah Shelter Systems, Inc., in Salt Lake City, a company that manufactures special order steel shelters featuring a Swiss made chemical biological filtration system, and installs them on a national basis.

(Presidential Address continued)

and in broadcast media, there are indications of building or potential problems, dangers and threats. As part of my company's awareness and preparedness plan, we actually read and collect articles from several local, and a few national, newspapers everyday. It is amazing what is reported on a daily basis that goes unnoticed. In a recent issue of the USA Today, there were several separate and seemingly unrelated articles that addressed specific, important nuclear-related issues in Iran, Russia and China.

One article discussed irrefutable evidence that Iran was, with the aggressive work of innumerable scientists and the support of the Chinese government, rapidly acquiring the technology to produce intermediate-range missiles. Another article described Russian President, Vladimir Putin's proud announcement of their new TOPOL-M ICBM system's capability to "evade even the world's most sophisticated ballistic missile defense systems."

These two articles alone present an unsettling picture of which we should be aware. I am not aware of any broadcast journalists, who have made it their mission to research and keep us aware of these very REAL situations. Since they are not, we must keep our own eyes open and look out for ourselves. Another article, dated January 28, 2005, reports details of a new trade agreement between Syria and Russia. This agreement openly defines a "financially-oriented relationship" wherein the Russian government will provide military and energy related technologies and systems to the Syrian government and even provides for the "writing off" of significant past debt for earlier weapons systems provided to Syria by Russia. It's just a business deal.

Be proactive and read other parts of the paper besides just the sports, comics, etc. Set aside time each day to make note of what's happening here and abroad. We are responsible for our own self-sufficiency and being prepared. I hope that you'll take on the responsibility of using this inexpensive and highly available "early warning system," and commit to using it everyday.

I want to make one thing clear. We are not investing this "reading time" just to be "aware." Awareness is just the first step in helping us to better understand what proactive steps need to be taken to protect ourselves, and our loved ones.

Also, don't forget to SHARE what you learn with others. **TACDA stands ready, willing, able and committed to doing our part to continually educate our members toward being part of a prepared, competent and effective Civil Defense.** Please pass along what you learn so that others about whom you care can grow and be prepared as well. Encourage them to **S-T-O-P**.

Well, that's it for this issue**. Please don't forget that this is YOUR TACDA.** Please contact me with any and all feedback you're willing to share. We're here for you.

On behalf of the entire TACDA team, thank you for your continued support. May God bless you all, and may God bless the United States of America.

Sincerely,
Sharon Packer, TACDA President
spacker@tacda.org

Remember: If you're prepared, you have no need to fear.

Kathy Eiland - TACDA Executive Director

Dear Reader,

I would like to begin this New Year by expressing my sincere appreciation to all of our members and readers for your continued support over the years and for sharing in our vision of a prepared America. As a 501(C)(3) non-profit, it is only through your financial support that we are able to continue our mission to teach and promote civil defense and disaster preparedness across the country. Thank you for your membership renewals, for your tax-deductible gifts and donations, and for supporting our TACDA Store.

For those of you who may not be familiar with the history of The American Civil Defense Association (TACDA), it was established when the federal government decided to discontinue critical infrastructure funding for civil defense in America and to reallocate those funds to other "higher priority" budget items. In 1962, a devoted group of concerned doctors and professors from the University of Florida took it upon themselves to keep the concept of a prepared civilian defense alive in our country.

Since that time, we have been publishing the Journal of Civil Defense and using it as our main vehicle for educating the American civilian base about the threats that we face as a country. We offer practical and reasonable strategies and solutions to enable our readers to

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(Executive Directors Take continued)

prepare for these threats.

Through the years, we have seen and experienced many changes, not only in TACDA, but, in our country's resolve and overall vision related to civil defense, self-reliance and preparedness. While not all of these changes were necessarily for the better, I believe that we have learned a great deal and developed new insights that enable us and our families to better identify threats, potential solutions and to properly plan and be prepared, should a disaster strike.

We, as Americans, perhaps have even a greater need for civil defense in our homes, schools, businesses and communities today than we did when TACDA was originally established.

The events of September 11, 2001 and other disasters such as the 2004 Tsunami have and will forever change the way that we view security and preparedness. They are stark reminders that disaster can strike at any time, without warning. This uncertainty, though intimidating at times, coupled with the changing nature of the threats we face today and the requirement to divert significant defense-related funding to critical front line efforts, greatly strengthen the argument for re-building a structured civilian-based defense in America. This critical mindset and education must begin at home, with our families, neighbors and others in our communities.

I am excited about changes in the layout and content of the JCD. We are adding several new member benefits, one of which is the TACDA Academy. The academy will initially be set up as an online education center where students (that's you) can test and increase their competency levels in a number of civil defense and disaster preparedness categories. Once a student has successfully completed a course, they will earn a certificate from The American Civil Defense Association. This certificate asserts that the student understands and has mastered the course content, which will enable them to be better prepared in responding to challenges related to that subject area and to more effectively assist others in their preparedness efforts.

We will be announcing the formal launch date for the TACDA Academy in our next issue. If any of you are interested in being part of the Beta-testing group that will be providing feedback for our development team, please contact the project manager, Alex Coleman by writing him at alex@tacda.org.

We are working aggressively to increase the value of our TACDA memberships. This will include the addition of several new and invaluable benefits like the Academy, The TACDA Community Preparedness Program, TACDA Alert System, The CDNet (Amateur Radio System), the improved JCD, and much more. In order to achieve these goals, without increasing our fees, we must significantly increase our membership base and/or other means of support.

Please share TACDA with others that you believe would benefit from and share our vision of a prepared, competent and effective Civil Defense in America. Encourage those about whom you care to join TACDA and make a difference, by helping themselves, their loved ones and others to be prepared and increase their likelihood of survival, in the event of a natural or man-made disaster.

Also, please don't ever forget, TACDA belongs to you. We are of course grateful for any financial support you are able to send. Just as critical though are your contributions of time, feedback, suggestions and new ideas. These are extremely important to us in accomplishing our mission. Please feel free to write or call me at any time to discuss how you can help TACDA and how TACDA can better serve you.

Once again, thank you for your continued support. I look forward to serving you in both the near and long-term.

Most Sincerely,
Kathy Eiland, Executive Director
kathy@tacda.org

"American Civil Defense encompasses more than just disaster preparedness education. It is a political obligation to the American homeland, a strategic necessity, and most importantly, a moral imperative."

Alex Coleman - TACDA Journal of Civil Defense Editor

Dear Reader,

On behalf of The American Civil Defense Association (TACDA) and the Journal of Civil Defense (JCD), I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the 2005 Journal of Civil Defense publication year.

We are so excited about some of the new and upcoming things that we have in store for our readers and members during the upcoming months and are confident that you will be excited as well.

As you can see, one change that we have made is the total redesign of the Journal of Civil Defense. We are confident that you will enjoy the brand new look and feel of the publication as well as benefit greatly from the outstanding content that we have lined up for you.

We have put a great deal of effort into providing articles that will be both entertaining yet educational. It is our goal to make the Journal of Civil Defense the most comprehensive and useful preparedness publication available, and with your help, we will succeed.

Even though we have already implemented, and are currently staging, numerous content and design changes and increased benefits for TACDA members, we still rely heavily upon your comments and suggestions in order to continually meet your needs as our constituents.

With this in mind, we will be preparing a short survey and have it included in the next issue of the JCD.

This survey will act as a report card for the Association.

We want you to tell us what you think, where we should be headed, and what you'd like to see more of, and less of, in the JCD. This survey consists of approximately a dozen questions and should take no longer than five minutes or so to complete.

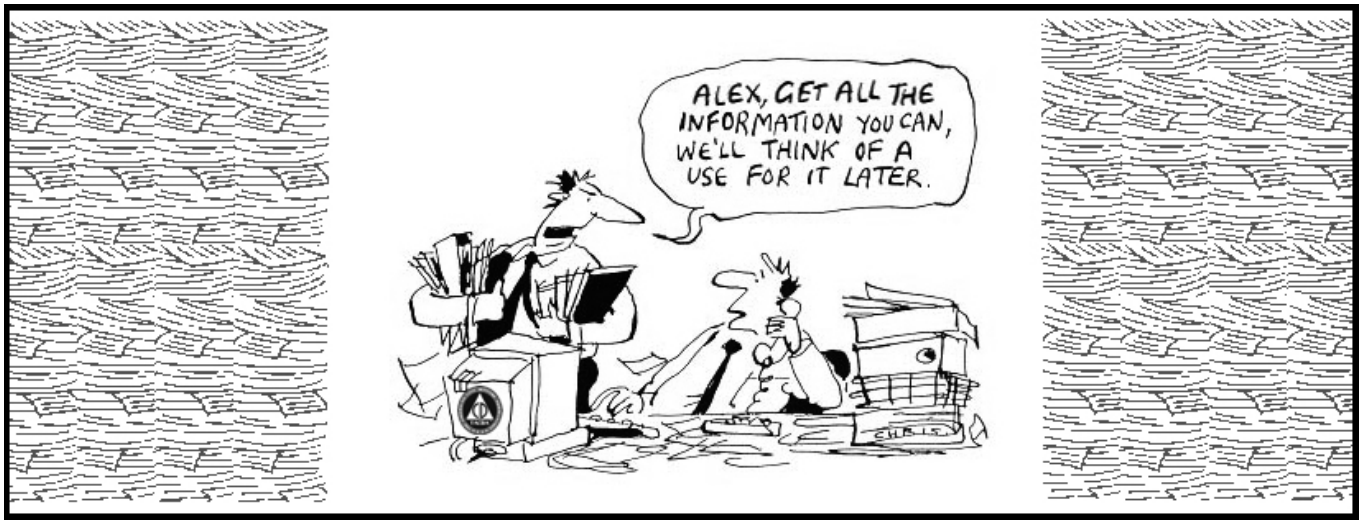
We strongly encourage you to take just a few moments to answer these questions honestly and objectively so that we can better serve you in the months and years to come.

If, at any time, you have comments or suggestions, please submit them to jcd@tacda.com.

As we all know, the world is an ever-changing place, and this includes the threats that we face, as well as some of the technologies that we implement in order to prepare for these changing threats. So we find ourselves on a continuous journey of change within the Association, and it is only through the implementation of your ideas, feedback and suggestions that we can successfully make this journey. As a TACDA member and supporter, your time and assistance with this ongoing project will be greatly valued and appreciated. We hope to hear from you in the very near future and are anxiously awaiting your feedback.

Once again, we sincerely do appreciate your support and are looking forward to serving you throughout the upcoming year.

Kindest Regards and best wishes,
Alex Coleman, Editor
alex@tacda.org



Barbara Salsbury - Author, Lecturer, Consultant

To open this column I thought it appropriate to offer some Food for Thought–to put in your preparedness cupboard.

As the New Year progresses, the headlines that cause fear and the struggles with the economy are not going away. All these things are affecting more and more of us. My son has been called to active duty. War and all of its horrors are in our own basket. And the failing economy continues to wreak its toll.

And so, I encourage you to do what you can, where you can, when you can. As an individual you or I cannot resolve the situations that are generating the fear from the headlines. Nor can we resolve situations in the city, state, or country. BUT, what we *can* do is resolve to do *something*, to create our own safe haven in attitude and action in our preparedness program. Even if you are in a small apartment there has to be one corner that you can set aside to hold a few things that will benefit you. If you can't create a "safe room", plan and create a comforting "safe corner."

Preparedness and provident living go hand in hand. You can help yourself deal better in the economic foray, and, at the same time, have things in your cupboards to get you through tight situations.

Remember you can get prepared without panic and hype, a little at a time – consistently, constantly and regularly.

Being prepared does *not* mean there is no crisis, as some would have you believe. I'm afraid my experience has shown that I personally cry a lot: tears of frustration, tears of fear and foreboding, and then tears of gratitude, as I plod along doing my best to cope, a little at a time.

The following ideas are presented to help you cope.

Your Preparedness "To-Do" List

Mother Nature is not alone as she lurks around the corner waiting for us to relax. Her companions are the twins "Les Power" and "Les Fuel." With the onslaught of winter affecting many parts of the world, perhaps you have recently had to use most of your preparedness commodities to get through a short-term emergency. Are you breathing a sigh of relief because you made it through this one? Don't allow complacency or careless forgetfulness to deter your consistent action plans. One of the most important priorities on your list should be to replace or obtain those necessary items to get you through the next power outage. That means food and non-food alike.

With cold and wet being a major factor this time of year, make sure that the gaskets, wicks, adapters, etc., that you are relying on to keep equipment functioning are where you think they are. *Locate, and pull together, in one easily accessible place,* all of the small but essential parts that will allow the larger pieces of equipment to function.

If you are relying on battery-operated equipment and have had to use it this season, the power capacity in the batteries may already be dissipated. Obtain and keep on hand a sufficient number of the various sizes of required batteries so that your equipment will work *each* time you need to use it. A rule of thumb is that if you change some of the batteries in a piece of equipment, you should change all of them. (Have you checked to see how many batteries **each** lantern or light uses at one time?) If you have had batteries in storage for a long time be sure to check the expiration date- before you need rely on them.

Remember, don't store batteries in the freezer. Freezing will cause them to expand and crack the seal or seams.

How many of the games, radios, CD players and other items in your household are dependent on batteries? Divide all of the battery-operated devices into categories of priority use in an emergency. Do you keep an emergency supply of batteries separate and *restricted* from those used for entertainment? If not, the supply you thought you could rely on to see you through an emergency might have dwindled to nothing.

What are the games and distractions in your pantry?

During a disaster, emergency or difficult times, it is helpful to have distractions for children and other family members to focus on. Make sure your preparedness pantry, as well as your emergency kit, includes scratch paper and pencils, board games, card games and the like. If lack of cupboard space is a problem, consider some of the smaller "travel sized games." It's a good idea is to have a few that are new, so that all of the critical parts and pieces are there. (That might prevent another mini-crisis while you are trying to get through a dark and stormy night.) These items are good for all family members, including you! Sometimes playing games together during rough times allows the atmosphere to relax enough so that "talk and solutions" become part of the time spent together.

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(Practical Personal Preparedness continued)

Comfort items such as blankets or stuffed animals are also important items to remember. These forms of "soft security" give a child (or anyone) something familiar to hold onto, as well as something to occupy their minds other than how hard things are or how scary the wind sounds.

Just a personal example: for our family, a short term, not-too-serious emergency used to be severe thunderstorms and power outages. This almost always meant getting out a board game to play on the floor, while the storm raged outside. During the storm season this could happen several days in a row. Many times it was the teenagers in the family who would comfort Mom, who for many years was terrified of lightening and thunder. The fear was real, and not to be trifled with. But so was the ability to recognize what had to be done, do it, and then wait it out with soft security. Now it's my granddaughter who needs the comfort during such emergencies. The fear is real. Being prepared with equipment, supplies and attitude will allow the smaller crisis to be manageable instead of chaotic. If we can use thunderstorms and lightening, or other manageable emergency situations, as a training ground, it can make a much bigger crisis easier to deal with should we ever have to.

Don't forget the popcorn

You may have staples and basics in your long-term preparedness pantry. Well, on that same shelf should be another kind of grain that you should consider a priority. That would be popcorn. Yes, popcorn! In our experiences of living with extremely difficult times, one of the things that bailed us out of the doldrums in many instances was popcorn. Did you know it can be part of a meal as well as a snack? A good-for-you lunch is a good-sized bowl of popcorn and a bowl of canned peaches. In fact, the *Wellness Encyclopedia of Food and Nutrition,* (University of California at Berkeley, Random House, 1992) details how nutritional popcorn really is.

"… Popcorn is a nutritional winner. It's high in both complex carbohydrates and fiber: Ounce for ounce, popcorn has about three times as much fiber as chickpeas, and about six times the fiber found in cooked broccoli. One cup of popped corn, prepared in an air popper, contains just 30 calories and virtually no fat."

Popcorn stores as well as any other grain. That's what makes it ideal as a morale booster for hard times. Unlike ice cream or chocolate, popcorn will last for years if you keep it in an airtight container, in a dark, dry, and cool area. Even in a regular cupboard or pantry, if you transfer it from its original packaging into a glass or plastic jar, it has wonderful keeping qualities. For long-term pantry purposes, regular popcorn is much better to stock than the microwave version. Microwave popcorn is usually loaded with fat and various other ingredients, that could turn rancid very quickly. Keep the microwave popcorn for everyday eating, if you want, but for long-term storage, choose the regular kind.

The economy of regular popcorn is high on its "reasons-to-buy" list. The ration of un-popped to popped kernels will vary with the kind of corn as well as its age. An appropriate rule of thumb is that ½ cup of dry corn when popped will fill a four-quart bowl. That's an overflowing **16 cups.** Sometimes stored popcorn will lose its "pop." That is because it has lost its moisture content. Simply put a cup or two of popcorn at a time into a glass or plastic jar that has a tight-fitting lid. Sprinkle *a few* drops of water into the corn, put the lid on tightly and shake it well. Let the popcorn sit at least several hours, or overnight. It will absorb the moisture and can then be popped. Don't add water to large amounts of corn at one time. Too much moisture will cause it to mold.

You can always season popcorn to taste with garlic or onion powder, a small amount of cheese powder or grated cheese, or a "Season All" type of spice combination. Or, you can even use cinnamon and sugar. You could try the combination of sugar and salt that has become so popular with the kettle-corn style of popcorn. Sometimes the spices or flavorings won't stick to the popped corn. If this happens, spray your popcorn with a quick spritz of "PAM"-type cooking spray, then add your seasonings. It doesn't change the taste or feel of the popcorn but it will make the flavoring stick.

Real People do get scared!

In a crisis or extremely difficult time, it is natural that you will feel anxious and scared. The important thing is to *try* to keep calm. Reassure your family members with phrases such as, "We are still together, I won't leave you alone" or "You don't have to worry I will look after you. We will get through this." Facts can be reassuring. Tell them what has happened, and let them know what you are doing about it, what you can do about it, and also what you can't do about it. It's okay to admit that there are some things you cannot control, resolve, or bring to an end. You just have to cope as best you can.

As the floor pitched and rolled under me during the Loma Prieta earthquake, I was beyond being scared silly. I still vividly recall the

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(Practical Personal Preparedness continued)

conversation I was having with myself: "Calm down Barbara," "You have to find your shoes Barbara," "Try to calm down Barbara," and so on. And so I repeat, you just have to cope as best you can. Communication is a key in such situations. Let your family members talk about what they are feeling. Listen to their worries and dispel as many as you can, while still allowing them to deal with reality. And it's fine to tell them it's okay to be afraid when you don't understand what is going on. Sometimes the most important thing is to just be able to talk. One of the best things to do is to try to stick to what is normal as much as possible. Fixing meals, washing hands, saying prayers, or reading stories: you can create calmness by emphasizing simple habits during difficulties. Decide before the need arises to make normalcy a priority.

Comments? Questions?

Please contact me via email at: feedback@tacda.org or direct mail:

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Just remember to be practical in your preparedness.

Barbara Salsbury
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MEET THE AUTHOR

BARBARA SALSBURY

Barbara is a nationally-recognized personal-preparedness expert, and one of the nations leading authorities on self-reliance. For more than twenty-five years, she has been teaching people how to get more for their money and be self-reliant.

She is the author of seven books, two national newsletters, and is the producer of three videos. Her books include Just In Case, Plan Not Panic, and the best seller, Just Add Water.

Barbara is listed in many directories such as The World's Who's Who of Women, The International Book of Honor, and The International Who's Who of Professional and Business Women.

She has lectured extensively and conducted many workshop/seminar discussions for civic, professional, and church groups, including teaching Education Week at Brigham Young University. She has had several weekly TV programs on consumer affairs, and has been a regular on a national cable-television program as the consumer specialist. She is a veteran of the national television and radio talk-show circuit. She has been an emergency-preparedness consultant for several cities, including San Francisco, CA. Currently, she is a Personal Preparedness consultant for the city of Sandy, Utah. Barbara was named one of the "Top Five Penny-Pinchers in America" in the November 2002 issue of Family Circle Magazine.

Active in church and community, Barbara served as Assistant Director for San Francisco Key Cities-Area Public Affairs for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She and her husband, Larry, live in Sandy, Utah. They have two children, seven grandchildren, and two spoiled dogs.

What to Expect on the Korean Peninsula from a Second Bush Administration
By Larry M. Wortzel, Ph.D.

The principled approach that President Bush has taken in foreign policy has been validated by the results of the election on November 2, 2004. President Bush won the election with more votes than any other president in American history, and his party, the Republicans, have gained seats in the House of Representatives and the Senate. In short, the majority of Americans have endorsed the direction of President Bush's foreign and domestic policies.

The President's policies with respect to the Korean Peninsula were set forth clearly during the first Presidential debate in Coral Gables, Florida, on September 30, 2004. President Bush said that he believes that North Korea and Kim Jong Il failed to honor the agreement it had signed with the Clinton Administration and with South Korea. He began a new round of multilateral dialogue with North Korea in his first administration and contrasted his multilateral approach to the bilateral approach taken by President Clinton between 1993 and 2000.

In the debate with Senator Kerry, President Bush emphasized the need to have five parties talking to North Korea: South Korea, Japan, Russia, China, and the United States. And he argued in the debate that it is

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(Spotlight continued)

important to have five voices talking to Kim Jong Il because if Kim decides again not to honor an agreement "he's not only doing injustice to America, he'd be doing injustice to China (and the other negotiating partners) as well." Finally, President Bush stated without equivocation that he thinks it is a mistake to open up a separate, bilateral dialogue between the United States and North Korea. Staying unified in a five-nation coalition is the most effective way to send a clear message to Kim Jong Il.

My view is that our allies in South Korea, and the negotiating partners in the Six-Party talks throughout Asia, can count on President Bush's firm resolve to follow the formula he outlined in the election campaign. As he has stated a number of times, President Bush will seek a peaceful, negotiated outcome to create a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula. He will try to ensure that there is some means to verify that, this time, Kim Jong Il honors any agreement he makes. The "Bush Doctrine" calls for the use of pre-emptive force to prevent an imminent attack on the United States, but President Bush has made it clear on several occasions that he wants a peaceful, negotiated settlement on the Korean Peninsula and has no intention of initiating the use of force against North Korea. I think the world can take President Bush at his word on this point.

There are a few things that America's allies in South Korea should expect.

First, expect a long, slow process.

I don't think that Kim Jong Il will rush immediately to the negotiating table for a new round of talks. Pyongyang will likely wait for President Bush's inaugural address on January 20, 2005, for any hints on future policies that may come from that. After all, at the State of the Union Address on January 29, 2002, President Bush used the term "Axis of Evil" to refer to North Korea, Iran and Iraq. Kim will wait to see how North Korea is characterized, if at all, in the inaugural address.

Second, expect adjustments in the second Bush Administration's appointed officials.

It will be some time before any changes or adjustments in the National Security Council staff and the foreign and security policy team are made. And after that, some officials will require confirmation by the Senate. Thus, there may be a set of working group talks with North Korea but a pause in full negotiations while the second "Bush team" is fully at work.

Third, expect a consistent approach. The patient, principled approach taken in the first Bush Administration will continue, a rush to the negotiating table will not replace it.

Finally, expect the multi-lateral talks to continue at a level below that of Secretary of State.

Do not expect to see Secretary of State Colin Powell, or his successor, doing "the Macarena" in a stadium in North Korea with Kim Jong Il like Madeleine Albright.

Meanwhile, the Bush Administration will move forward with other initiatives in Asia. There will be a military force posture adjustment under the Global Defense Posture Review that devotes more ships and aircraft devoted to maintaining the peace and security of the Western Pacific. At the same time we can expect to see an improvement in mobility and command and control in the region along with a reduction in ground forces on the Korean Peninsula. This will not weaken our allied defensive posture in Korea.

President Bush will move forward with the deployment of a layered system of ballistic missile defenses designed to protect deployed American forces, our friends and allies, and the United States from attacks by, or threats from, hostile ballistic missiles. The United States will continue to work closely with our allies in Japan on the development and deployment of such defenses and will encourage the government in South Korea to protect its own people with ballistic missile defenses.

American security policy will continue to deal with the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and delivery systems. I expect the second Bush Administration to pursue the Proliferation Security Initiative with vigor and to address future military threats with a combination of diplomacy, deterrence, strategic defenses, arms control and non-proliferation initiatives and capable offensive forces. President Bush will pursue the global war on terror and work closely with America's allies.

[Larry M. Wortzel, Ph.D. is currently Vice President and Director of The Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Institute for International Studies at The Heritage Foundation.]

Concepts of Emergency Sheltering
By Sharon B. Packer, Feb. 2005

In the last few years, locally and throughout the world, we have witnessed the increase in intensity and number of events from horrendous disaster situations. Tens of thousands of people are routinely being displaced and left without basic survival needs from natural disaster. Hundreds of thousands of people are being killed, injured or left homeless through the ravages of war.

Few, if any places throughout the world, are exempt from disaster. Earth changes have historically occurred and will continue to occur throughout the world.

DISASTERS REQUIRING SHELTER
a) Chemical-biological warfare
b) Conventional warfare
c) Earthquake
d) Explosions
e) Fallout
f) Fire
g) Heat wave
h) High winds
i) Home invasion
j) Hurricane
k) Meteor
l) Local nuclear attack
m) Nuclear power plant accidents
n) Pole shift
o) Power outage
p) Terrorist attack
q) Tornado
r) Winter storm

Under the control of the world's current governing powers, conventional and nuclear war will remain a threat to all of mankind. This legacy is part of our heritage and we must learn to deal with it.

Many of these emergencies require the use of shelters, until normal living conditions can be restored. In this article, I would like to investigate the various requirements for sheltering in the event of common natural and man-made disaster. I have limited this discussion to underground shelters. We will investigate above ground shelters in a later article.

Basic common requirements must be considered when building an underground shelter. Some requirements are typical for any situation. For example, all shelters should be located out of flood zones and above the water table and all ventilation systems should have both manual and electric function. Each of the following requirements will be matched to the list of potential disasters:

*** Depth of Cover:**

For the sake of simplification, all shelters are assumed to be covered in soil. If using concrete instead of soil, the depth of cover can be reduced by 25%. Four feet of dirt cover would, therefore, be equivalent to 3 feet of concrete.

Shelters for tornado, hurricane and high winds must have 2 to 6 feet of dirt cover. Tornadoes can pick up large objects such as power poles, cars, houses, and other large objects and drop them onto the sheltered area. Deeper shelters, therefore, are more capable of protecting against impact.

When sheltering against extreme heat and cold, a deep blanket of soil between 6 and 8 feet is required. In outside extremes from –20 degrees F. to 105 degrees F., you should expect inside temperatures between 45 degrees F. and 65 degrees F. Fire shelters should have at least 4 feet of cover.

Fallout requires only 4 feet of soil cover. However, initial radiation, which is very penetrating and occurs within 1 1/2 miles of a nuclear explosion, requires the equivalent of 7 to 8 feet of soil cover.

Blast protection is provided by deep soil layers. The use of round steel tanks is highly recommended for areas with high blast target potential or near obvious targets for nuclear or terrorist threat. These tanks should be covered to twice their diameter for the maximum blast protection of 200 psi. An 8 ft. diameter shelter would require 8 feet of soil cover. A 10 ft. diameter shelter would require 10 feet of soil cover. To gain this large overpressure protection the shelter must be installed with the proper fill. Installation will be addressed in a later article.

Flat roofed shelters are not recommended if blasts greater than ten (10) psi are expected. Flat roofed steel storage containers do not make good blast or fallout shelters, as they will not carry the load required for proper protection.

*** Entrances and Doors:**

All shelters should have two entrances and be secured with heavy steel doors. Heavy objects from blast or high winds can block entrance doors and flying objects such as steel T posts and poles can shatter wood, plastic and fiberglass doors. Doors should be placed for the least amount of wind resistance and should have no more than a 30-degree inclination to grade level.

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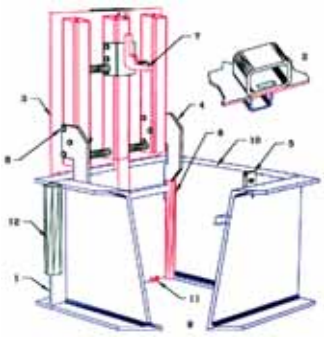

(Living a Sheltered Life continued)

Nuclear doors should open outward to provide maximum blast protection. All doors should be built to accommodate a heavy hydraulic jack in the event the door has been blocked. Vertical entrances that come directly onto the top or end of the shelter are adequate for most all threats, except nuclear.

Nuclear shelters must have entrances with both a vertical and horizontal component. Ideally, the vertical and horizontal runs should be no less than 10 to 12 feet long each and the diameter should not exceed 48". The 90-degree turn between the vertical and horizontal run will attenuate 90% of the gamma radiation and the horizontal run will reduce the remaining radiation to a small fraction.

Initial radiation is not significantly attenuated by turns. The horizontal run, therefore, should be filled with shielding materials after the occupants have entered the shelter. Water, rice or any other material containing large amounts of hydrogen make good shields against initial radiation.

*** Construction Materials:**

Consider dirt, wood, steel, concrete, fiberglass, and old tires as potential building materials for tornado shelters. Hurricanes, on the other hand, can produce copious amounts of moisture and a hurricane shelter should be constructed of waterproof materials such as steel plate, concrete or fiberglass.

Earthquake and nuclear shelters should be constructed from concrete, steel plate or corrugated steel. Corrugated steel, in particular, bends and moves with earth movement. It is very expensive to harden concrete beyond a 40-psi level. In overpressures over 40-psi, steel may bend or dent but concrete will spiel and crack and fiberglass can fail catastrophically.

*** Size & Length of Stay:**

Threats of relatively short duration can be weathered in fairly small shelters. Tornado and fire shelters need have no more than 4 to 10 square feet of floor space per person. The larger size will facilitate sleeping in the shelter in the event of a tornado 'watch'.

Hurricane and earthquake shelters should be slightly larger, providing 6 to 12 square feet per person. Space is needed for a minimum of 2 weeks supply of basic necessities, sleeping spaces for 1/3 the occupants, and a private toilet area.

Fire shelters require a 12 to 24 hour stay, depending on the amount of burnable material in the immediate area. This shelter must be sized to allow for breathable air in a shut down mode, for 3 to 6 hours. Consider storage and space taken by people when calculating free air volume.

NBC shelters should be sized for a minimum of a 3-week stay. Consider the possibility that this shelter may become your family's home. Enough bunk or hammock space should be provided to sleep each person in an 8-hour shift. Three people can use each bunk in a 24-hour period. Provide room for storage, living space, food preparation, and toilet area.

*** Ventilation:**

Tornado shelters can be ventilated with wind turbines or 12-volt fans. All other threats require the use of ventilators with both electric and manual function. Minimum air volume per person is 3 cubic feet per minute (cfm) for cool, dry conditions. High humidity and warm climates may increase this demand significantly. Fire and Shelters must not be ventilated during the burning period and as a result, the carbon dioxide levels will increase with time. Each person produces CO2 at the rate of .67 cubic feet/hour. The CO2 levels must not be allowed to exceed a 3% level. When the CO2 levels near the 3% level, supplemental air must be introduced. Six people would require 800 cubic foot of free air in a shelter to survive in the 'shut down' mode for 6 hours. You may wish to supply these shelters with a CO2 scrubber or compressed air canisters. Look for an article addressing CO2 in the next JCD issue.

*** Filtration:**

All NBC shelters should have certified HEPA and charcoal filters. Filtration is not required for most other threats. HEPA and charcoal filters will not filter smoke, carbon monoxide (CO) or carbon dioxide (CO2) from the air. Continual use filters are now available on the market.

*** Air Vents:**

Flying objects, earth movement and fire danger from most threats would dictate the use of heavy walled steel air vent pipes of 5 to 6 inch diameter. Most areas receive enough rainfall to require air pipes be placed well above ground. Place the pipes two

(Continued on next page)

(Living a Sheltered Life continued)

to three feet above grade with a 180-degree gooseneck. In areas with potential high impact or flying debris threats, the pipes should be protected on each side with concrete filled steel pipes. A discussion of below grade vent pipes will follow in another article.

*** Power:**

Redundancy is the rule for survival. If possible wire your shelter for both AC and DC use. Ventilation should be manually operated to save the battery power for lighting and communications. Carefully budget your amp hours and spend them wisely.

Look for articles in coming JCD issues focusing on air quality, shelter supplies, alternate power sources, communications, proper installation methods, concrete shelters, in-house sheltering, expedient sheltering and many other subjects. It should become obvious from this comparison of natural and man-made disasters that, by constructing your shelter for protection from Weapons of Mass Destruction, you will be preparing for protection from all of these other common threats as well. From my studies, I have concluded that Sheltering for Weapons of Mass Destruction is, in fact, 'All Hazard Sheltering', and I have prepared accordingly.

We encourage you to research the web for companies that build shelters. We would also suggest that you purchase survival books and subscribe to magazines such as Backwoods Home or Countryside.

In our next article, we will investigate the structural and installation requirements for 'All Hazard Sheltering'.

[Sharon Packer is currently serving as the President of TACDA and Vice-President of Utah Shelter Systems (www.UtahShelterSystems.com).]

U.S. to Expand Its Tracking of Radioactive Materials
By Eric Lipton and Matthew L. Wald

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31 - Fearing that the nation remains too vulnerable to a "dirty bomb" or nuclear weapon, the Bush administration intends to announce a significant expansion next month of federal efforts to monitor the importing of radioactive material and its movement around the country, officials said on Monday.

The office for domestic nuclear detection, set up at the Department of Homeland Security, would coordinate a growing but fragmented network of radiation detection equipment, administration officials said.

The security department is the biggest player in this field, installing more than 400 radiation monitors in the past two years at ports, border crossings and post offices that handle international mail. Cities like New York have also been buying detection equipment.

"The threat is very real," said Representative Heather A. Wilson, a New Mexico Republican who led a recent study that called for better coordination of nuclear security efforts. "The possibility of nuclear material falling into wrong hands may be small, but it would have devastating consequences."

The new federal office would coordinate research into new detection technologies, improve training on how to use them and help decide where to place them, administration officials said. If radioactive material is found, the office would also take charge of the federal response.

The program would include representatives from the Department of Energy, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the State Department and the Department of Defense.

Mr. Bush intends to include about $100 million of new financing for the program in the budget he is to release next week, along with another $100 million directed from other programs, an administration official said.

A Homeland Security spokesman, Brian Roehrkasse, said he could not comment on the effort until the budget was released. But even before the details have been disclosed, some people question whether the new spending will significantly enhance security.

"In theory, it is a great idea," said James Jay Carafano, senior fellow for defense and domestic security at the Heritage Foundation, a conservative research group based in Washington. "The real question is, Will this office actually have the authority to make budget decisions, set priorities and establish requirements for nuclear detection activities? It is a very open question."

Detecting radiation in shipping containers or trucks is fairly easy, experts say, but it is much harder to use that information as a clue to the presence of a nuclear weapon, or a dirty bomb, which is intended to contaminate a small area with radioactive material using a conventional explosive.

The most prominent recent case cited by the shipping industry involved a vessel called the Palermo-Senator, which Navy Seals and Energy

(Continued on next page)

(Focus on Public Safety continued)

Department technicians identified as a possible threat on the basis of radiation emissions when it was in port in Newark in September 2002.

The Coast Guard ordered the vessel back out to sea. Two days later, the source of the radiation was found to be naturally occurring trace elements contained in ceramic tiles.

Such false alarms are less frequent now but still occur. On Saturday, Customs and Border Protection officers at the Port of Los Angeles found cobalt-60 in an engine storage room on the container ship Toledo, which was under charter to Maersk Inc. An Energy Department team determined by noon on Sunday that the radiation posed no threat. The cobalt is used on board to test fire detection and suppression equipment, said John J. Hyde, security and compliance director at Maersk.

"Without a lot of knowledge, it's hard to make a judgment as to what risk level, if any, the stuff is posing," said Mr. Hyde, who three weeks ago was named by the Homeland Security Department to a maritime security advisory committee. He said inspectors at the ports had gradually gained expertise about what kinds of cargoes were likely to include naturally occurring radioactive materials.

The office of domestic nuclear detection would track any efforts to smuggle nuclear materials into the United States and set up a system for local authorities to transmit detection alarms instantly to federal response teams.

The Department of Homeland Security also plans to continue deploying radiation monitors, expanding detection at ports, borders and airports.

[Source: The New York Times, www.nytimes.com]

All About Tsunamis

[Editor's Note:]
To view additional online photos and Videos from the aftermath of the Indian Ocean Tsunami, please visit http://www.waveofdestruction.org

What is a tsunami?
Tsunamis (pronounced soo-ná-mees), also known as seismic sea waves (mistakenly called "tidal waves"), are a series of enormous waves created by an underwater disturbance such as an earthquake. A tsunami can move hundreds of miles per hour in the open ocean and smash into land with waves as high as 100 feet or more, although most waves are less than 18 feet high.

From the area where the tsunami originates, waves travel outward in all directions much like the ripples caused by throwing a rock into a pond. In deep water the tsunami wave is not noticeable. Once the wave approaches the shore it builds in height. All tsunamis are potentially dangerous, even though they may not damage every coastline they strike. A tsunami can strike anywhere along most of the U.S. coastline.

The most destructive tsunamis have occurred along the coasts of California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska and Hawaii.

Tsunamis are most often generated by earthquake-induced movement of the ocean floor. Landslides, volcanic eruptions, and even meteorites can also generate tsunamis. If a major earthquake or landslide occurs close to shore, the first wave in a series could reach the beach in a few minutes, even before a warning is issued. Areas are at greater risk if less than 25 feet above sea level and within a mile of the shoreline. Drowning is the most common cause of death associated with a tsunami. Tsunami waves and the receding water are very destructive to structures in the run-up zone. Other hazards include flooding, contamination of drinking water and fires from gas lines or ruptured tanks.

Take tsunami warnings seriously. Follow local instructions.

What to do before a tsunami?

1. Know the terms used by the West Coast/Alaska Tsunami Warning Center (WC/ATWC - responsible for tsunami warnings for California,

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(Threat Analysis Resource continued)

Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, and Alaska) and the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC - responsible for tsunami warnings to international authorities, Hawaii, and the U.S. territories within the Pacific basin).

* Advisory - An earthquake has occurred in the Pacific basin, which might generate a tsunami. WC/ATWC and PTWC will issue hourly bulletins advising of the situation.

* Watch - A tsunami was or may have been generated, but is at least two hours travel time to the area in Watch status.

* Warning - A tsunami was or may have been generated, which could cause damage; therefore, people in the warned area are strongly advised to evacuate.

2. Listen to radio or television for more information and follow the instructions of your local authorities.

3. Immediate warning of tsunamis sometimes comes in the form of a noticeable recession in water away from the shoreline. This is nature's tsunami warning and it should be heeded by moving inland to higher ground immediately.

4. If you feel an earthquake in a coastal area, leave the beach for low-lying areas. Then turn on your radio to learn if there is a tsunami warning.

5. Know that a small tsunami at one beach can be a larger wave a few miles away. The topography of the coastline and the ocean floor will influence the size of the wave.

6. A tsunami may generate more than one wave. Do not let the modest size of one wave allow you to forget how dangerous a tsunami is. The next wave may be bigger.

7. Prepare for possible evacuation. Learn evacuation routes. Determine where you would go and how you would get there if you needed to evacuate. See the "Evacuation" and "Emergency Planning and Disaster Supplies" chapters for information.

What to do during a tsunami?

1. If you are advised to evacuate, do so immediately.

2. Stay away from the area until local authorities say it is safe. Do not be fooled into thinking that the danger is over after a single wave - a tsunami is not a single wave but a series of waves that can vary in size.

3. Do not go to the shoreline to watch for a tsunami. When you can see the wave, it is too late to escape.

Do not let the modest size of one wave allow you to forget how dangerous tsunamis are. The next wave in the series may be much larger.

What to do after a tsunami?

1. Stay away from flooded and damaged areas until officials say it is safe to return.

2. Stay away from debris in the water, it may pose a safety hazard to boats and people.

3. Continue using a NOAA Weather Radio or staying tuned to a Coast Guard emergency frequency station or a local radio or television station for updated emergency information. The tsunami may have damaged roads, bridges, or other places that may be unsafe.

Is your community Tsunami ready?

Tsunami Ready is a program that promotes tsunami hazard readiness as an active collaboration among federal, state, and local emergency management agencies; the public; and the National Weather Service tsunami warning system. This collaboration supports better and more consistent tsunami awareness and mitigation efforts among communities at risk. The main goal is improvement of public safety during tsunami emergencies. More information is available at http://wcatwc.gov/tsunamiready/tready.htm.

To immediately obtain more in-depth and detailed information about tsunamis, the risks that they pose, as well as practical mitigation and preparedness strategies, please visit http://www.tacda.org/resources/tsunamis.pdf or contact TACDA to request a hard copy of this information.

Source: *The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the National Disaster Education Coalition (NDEC)*


August 14, 2002
Chennai (Madras), India
December 29, 2004

RADIO ACTIVE™

Getting Started in Amateur Radio
By Alex Coleman (KI4HPT)

*** A retired police officer in West Virginia makes friends over the radio with a ham in the United Kingdom.**

*** A Michigan college student uses his computer to upload a chess move to an orbiting space satellite, where it is then retrieved by another chess enthusiast in Australia.**

*** An aerospace engineer in Georgia participating in a "DX contest" swaps call signs with hams in 87 different countries in a weekend.**

*** In California, volunteers help to save lives as part of their involvement in an emergency communications net.**

*** And at the scene of a traffic accident on a Chicago freeway, a ham calls for help by using a pocket-sized hand-held radio.**

This unique mix of fun, public service and convenience is the distinguishing characteristic of the hobby called Amateur Radio.

Although hams get involved in Amateur Radio for many reasons, they all have in common a basic knowledge of radio technology, regulations and operating principles, demonstrated by passing an examination for a license to operate on radio frequencies known as the "Amateur Bands." These frequencies are reserved by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for use by hams at intervals from just above the AM broadcast band all the way up into extremely high microwave frequencies.

The rules for earning an Amateur Radio license varies, depending on what country you live in. In the US, there are three license levels, or "license classes". These include the Technician Class, the General Class, and the Amateur Extra Class. You may be asking yourself, "Why are there different license classes?" Well, the explanation is quite simple, actually. Just as the Department of Transportation offers various classes of drivers licenses, one for operating an automobile or motorcycle, another for operating a multi-passenger vehicle, and yet another for operating a certain size/weight of cargo vehicle, based on what driving privileges you desire or require, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has imposed a similar structure. Depending on what communications privileges you want or need as an amateur radio operator, you must earn the appropriate FCC license that will grant you those privileges.

For example, if you earn your Technician Class license, you will be qualified to operate on the VHF (very high frequency) bands and above. The Technician Class is the entry-level license into the world of amateur radio and will allow you to communicate on a somewhat local basis via simplex (communications directly between two radios) from 1 to 10 miles, and via repeaters (devices that take a radio signal and retransmit it over longer distances) from 50 to 75 miles, depending on weather and other atmospheric conditions and immediate surroundings.

The General Class and Extra Class are the second and third level of amateur radio licensing, respectively, and grant license holders privileges not only on the VHF bands and above, but also on the HF or high-frequency bands. HF transmissions are the ones that are responsible for long-range communications. With the proper transceiver, power amplifier and antenna system, an amateur operator with their General or Extra Class license can make contact with other amateur operators across the country or across the world, depending on a number of weather and atmospheric conditions. As opposed to UHF and VHF transmissions, HF transmissions are refracted by the upper layer of the earth's atmosphere (the ionosphere) and bent back to Earth, where they can be received several thousands of miles away. One way to picture this is to imagine a radio signal as a stream of water being sprayed into the air from a water hose. As the water comes out of the hose, it will make an arc in the air, before splashing to the ground a distance away. Similarly, once a high-frequency radio wave reaches the ionosphere several miles above the Earth's surface, after being transmitted from an antenna, it will be refracted (or bent) back toward Earth, and like the stream of water, will touch down a distance away and be received by someone else's antenna. However, whereas the stream of water in our example touched down only a few feet away, the transmitted radio signal may be received several hundreds or even thousands of miles away, making international QSOs or contacts possible.

To earn a Technician Class license, one must only pass a 35-question multiple choice exam. To earn a General Class license, you must first pass the Technician exam and a five-word-per-minute Morse Code test, and then a second 35-question multiple-choice General Class exam. To earn an Extra Class license, you must first pass all of the requirements for Technician and General Class licensing, and then complete a 50-question multiple-choice Extra Class exam.

These tests do increase in level of difficulty as you progress, but are all based on pre-existing question pools from which the exam questions are taken directly. So, with a modest

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amount of study and preparation, you should be able to move through the various levels with relative ease and success.

To find out more information on times and locations for taking your amateur operators exam, how to obtain question pools and other study materials and to learn about many other opportunities available to amateur operators, please visit the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) on the web at www.arrl.org or call 1-860-594-0200.

Who can be a HAM?

Amateur radio is viewed by some as a form of societal common denominator. It brings together the young and the old, the rich and the poor, the experienced and the novice, and has been the starting place for an infinite number of lasting friendships, crossing social barriers and uniting people of every culture and race.

Amateur radio is a friendly, high-tech hobby that's got something fun for everyone! You can become an Amateur Radio operator--no matter what age, gender or physical ability. People from all walks of life pass their entry-level exam and earn their Amateur (ham) Radio license.

They all share the diverse world of activities you can explore with ham radio.

There is absolutely no telling who you will come in contact with on the air waves:

Missionaries, house wives, children, students, teachers, mechanics, musicians, movie stars, policemen, firemen, business men and women, doctors, lawyers, scientists, engineers, astronauts, politicians, kings and queens ... and the list goes on.

But whether they prefer Morse Code on an old brass telegraph key through a low power transmitter, voice communication on a hand-held radio or computer messages transmitted through satellites, they all have an interest in what's happening in the world, and they use radio to reach out.

Not only is amateur radio a great hobby and pastime activity, but its usefulness goes far beyond that of providing enjoyment to those that participate. Amateur radio is the number one most reliable method of communicating in emergencies when traditional methods such as cell phones, land lines, the Internet, satellite imaging and television are non-operable or not available.

Currently, there are several amateur-based programs in place that enable ham operators to volunteer their time, equipment and expertise during disasters and emergencies, and to assist their communities, and far beyond, by performing specific communications-related duties and services. A few of these include:

ARES:

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes. Every licensed amateur, regardless of membership in ARRL or any other local or national organization is eligible for membership in the ARES. The only qualification, other than possession of an Amateur Radio license, is a sincere desire to serve. Because ARES is an amateur service, only amateurs are eligible for membership. The possession of emergency-powered equipment is desirable, but is not a requirement for membership.

SKYWARN:

SKYWARN is a concept developed in the early 1970s that was intended to promote a cooperative effort between the National Weather Service and communities. The emphasis of the effort is often focused on the storm spotter, an individual who takes a position near their community and reports wind gusts, hail size, rainfall, and cloud formations that could signal a developing tornado. Another part of SKYWARN is the receipt and effective distribution of National Weather Service information. The organization of spotters and the distribution of warning information lie with the National Weather Service or with an emergency management agency within the community. This agency could be a police or fire department, or often is an emergency management/service group (what people might still think of as civil defense groups). This varies across

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(Radio Active continued)

the country however, with local national weather service offices taking the lead in some locations, while emergency management takes the lead in other areas.

RACES:
Founded in 1952, the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) is a public service provided by a reserve (volunteer) communications group within government agencies in times of extraordinary need. During periods of RACES activation, certified unpaid personnel are called upon to perform many tasks for the government agencies they serve. Although the exact nature of each activation will be different, the common thread is communications.

CD NET:
Also, TACDA is currently planning a special Civil Defense net (CD NET) that will be designed for carrying out periodic radio communications with and among our members across the country. We will be providing more details in future issues of the JCD as well as on our web site concerning this program, but we do encourage everyone that is interested to keep watching for more information and to participate when the program begins.

In conclusion, I would just like to re-emphasize the importance of the amateur radio service to all of us as individuals as well as civil defense team members, and to encourage you to take part in this most exhilarating and rewarding hobby. If I can be of any assistance to you in pursuing your amateur radio license, please feel free to drop me an email anytime at jcd@tacda.org.

I'll be listening for you on the air waves...

[Alex Coleman currently serves as Senior Communications Officer for The American Civil Defense Association (TACDA), as well as editor for the Journal of Civil Defense]

Effectively Talking to Kids About Preparedness
By Alex Coleman

Editor's Note:
Although this column is designed with children in mind, the content herein is important for everyone to know and observe.

This passed Christmas, I received a pair of walky talkies as a gift from my wife and three small children. I had had my eye on these radios for the last year or so, but just never took the initiative to purchase them for myself. I thought that they would be nice to have for times when we all went camping or traveling together or just wanted to have a little fun around the house, etc.

Well, after I got them unwrapped and all charged up and ready to go, I began experimenting with them, just to see how much range I could get out of them. The kids and I would take short trips down the road on the ATV, carrying one of the walky talkies with us of course, while Mom would stay behind at the house with the other radio. We would then reach our destination (about 500 feet or so away) and try to make radio contact with Mom, back at the home station. Well, needless to say, this was a big hit with the kids, as well as with me, I might add, as I have always been a huge fan of radio communications (both large and small scale).

However, although I was quite impressed with the feature myself, I was somewhat shocked, to say the least, when I caught my 5 and 6-year-old son and daughter listening to the NOAA weather bands that were built into the radios. Sure. Sure. I can understand them having fun talking back and forth to each other around the house and in the yard, and I can certainly conceive of how they might get some enjoyment out of all of the nice beeps and other fancy sounds that the radios make, but who would have thought it? Two young children actually wanting to listen to the NOAA weather transmissions? Well, it's true. Although they do have a lot of fun playing with the walky talkies in the "normal" manner, they love to press that popular "WX" button and tune into the NOAA weather radio frequencies and just listen.

Now, I do realize that they do not have a complete understanding of the importance that the NOAA weather radio service plays in emergency and disaster preparedness and response, and they don't have all of the transmitting frequencies memorized, nor do they even have a clue why the computerized voice tells them about the weather when they push that little button, but they are definitely interested, which leads me to my next point.

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(TACDA 4 KIDS continued)

Sometimes, we as adults have a tendency to assume that children are not interested in some of the same things that we are, or that they are not capable of understanding certain concepts and ideas. I'm guilty of this myself. But, situations like mine tend to prove just the opposite is true. Although children may not fully understand all of the ins and outs of a given principle or situation, often times, they are more than able to comprehend more than we might think.

I say all of that, to say this:

Take time to talk with your children about important matters such as why it is necessary to be prepared for emergencies, ways that they can take part in the preparedness process, what to do and where to go if something bad happens, etc. Also, be able to identify windows of opportunity where you have a chance to explain these concepts and ideas to them in a way that they will understand and retain. For example, the fact that my children are showing an interest in the NOAA weather report transmitions is a perfect opportunity for me to explain why that little "WX" button on our walky talkies is important and how it could possibly save our lives in an emergency weather situation. I encourage you to seek out similar opportunities to share potentially life-saving information with your children as well.

So, until next time … have fun and be prepared.

Get the News About Your Weather - With A NOAA Weather Radio

Did you know there is a radio that broadcasts National Weather Service warnings and watches 24 hours a day - and warns you with an alarm of dangerous weather? It's true. It's called the NOAA Weather Radio network, and it's provided as a public service by the Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The NOAA Weather Radio network has more than 480 stations in the 50 states and in Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and U.S. Pacific Territories.

How does the radio work?
National Weather Service forecasters provide routine weather programming all the time to help you plan. The radios also send out a special alarm tone to alert you to a life-threatening situation. Why is that important? Sometimes, weather can turn deadly very fast. Tornadoes are the best example. Tornadoes may strike when people are sleeping or unaware of the forecast. Tornadoes can be deadly if people cannot seek an appropriate shelter - like a basement or an in-house safe room. With the NOAA Weather Radio, you will be alerted to dangerous weather with time to take shelter.

NOAA Weather Radios broadcast more than just warning about natural hazards. They also broadcast warnings and information and technological disasters, such as chemical releases or oil spills.

Every house should have a NOAA Weather Radio - just the way all houses should have a smoke detector. They can be purchased at stores that sell electronics. Most run on batteries or have battery back-up. Be sure to take it with you when you travel or are out boating or camping.

Be weather-safe. Have a NOAA Weather Radio!

Source: The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

[TECH TIP]

The National Weather Service (NWS) has approximately 900 NOAA stations throughout the U.S. and its territories. Although some scanners and other similar equipment already have the NWS stations preprogrammed into their memory presets, you can also input the NWS frequencies manually if necessary. To listen to NOAA weather broadcasts, please manually tune to one or more of the following frequencies:

* 162.400 MHz
* 162.425 MHz
* 162.450 MHz
* 162.475 MHz
* 162.500 MHz
* 162.525 MHz
* 162.550 MHz

For more information about this service, including a state-by-state listing of stations, please visit http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/nwrbro.htm.

THE NEWS STAND

A New Tool for Homeland Security

PIERCE SUPPLIES CUSTOM COMMAND VEHICLE TO FBI

Press Release, Jan. 17, 2005

APPLETON, Wis., -- Pierce Manufacturing has been awarded a contract from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to provide a first-of-its-kind, 34' custom command post vehicle. The unit has been delivered and was placed into service at the 2005 Presidential inauguration.

The deployable Pierce® stainless steel heavy duty command vehicle will then be used in national situations, such as terrorist activities, hostage situations and natural disasters. The vehicle's interoperability is a valuable asset when working in conjunction with the five counties and more than 40 police departments in the D.C. area.

"We're ultimately responsible for any major terrorist incident in the immediate area, and the state-of-the art Pierce command vehicle will serve our needs in many different scenarios," said Michael Mason, assistant director in charge of the Washington field office of the FBI.

"Eventually the mobile command vehicle and technology will assist the FBI not only in the Washington, D.C. area, but across the region as well, whenever the situation warrants the need."

The command vehicle includes a Detroit Diesel 60 12.L 500 hp engine, an Allison 4000 EVS PR automatic transmission, and three body slide outs with two side awnings. The interior includes a command center, galley and a conference area. The vehicle is equipped with landlines, Telular and satellite telephone systems, a camera system, LCD TV monitors, DVD/VHS combination decks, color printers, DSS receivers, two Will-Burt masts and a Pelco camera system.

"Pierce has a solid working relationship with the FBI, and continues to build and provide the highest quality products customized for different markets and applications," said Jim Parker, vice-president government sales and homeland security for Pierce Manufacturing.

Annually, Pierce builds more than 100 specialized vehicles, including command vehicles, hazardous materials mitigation units and bomb response vehicles.

Pierce Manufacturing Inc., a subsidiary of Oshkosh Truck Corporation [NYSE: OSK], is the leading North American manufacturer of custom fire apparatus. Products include custom and commercial pumpers, aerials, rescue trucks, wildland trucks, minipumpers, elliptical tankers, and homeland security apparatus. In addition, Pierce designs its own foam systems and was the first company to introduce the Side Roll Protection™ System to fire apparatus. To learn more about Pierce, visit www.piercemfg.com.

Grants for "Tornado Safe" Rooms Are Taxable, IRS Says

By Sarah Kahne and Steve Lackmeyer
Source: The Oklahoman

[Editor's Note:]
Currently there are two pending bills before Congress--HR5206 and S2886--that would eliminate taxation on mitigation grants issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) ... Individuals are strongly encouraged to contact their congressional leaders and express their support for either of these two bills.

Several thousand Oklahomans who received federal grants to build storm shelters at their homes may be facing an unexpected tax bill this spring. The Federal Emergency Management Agency is advising counties, cities and towns across Oklahoma that the IRS has determined the grants, dating back to 1999, are taxable. For the city of Moore, that means several hundred grant recipients will have to pay taxes on grants that averaged $2,000 per award.

"This is sure to generate a fair amount of ill will," Moore City Manager Steve Eddy said. "All I can say is, 'Don't shoot the messenger.'"

Statewide, 7,541 grants totaling $17.5 million have been distributed to residents who built safe rooms or storm shelters.

The program funds up to 75 percent of the cost of building a shelter. The grants were hailed by former President Clinton in 1999 as he toured tornado-devastated sections of Moore and south Oklahoma City.
Michelann Ooten, spokeswoman for the state Department of Emergency Management, said many of the grants went to homeowners hardest hit by the May 1999 and May 2003 tornadoes.

Some cities and towns have yet to be contacted. M.T. Berry, an assistant city manager who oversees Oklahoma City's public safety operations, was among those surprised by the decision.

Oklahoma City resident Laverne Schickedanz is due a rebate check this month for a shelter installed in her garage two months ago.

Schickedanz and her husband, Donald, waited months to get approved for the grant. She said a tax bill was never mentioned to her when she applied.

"We're not excited about it," Schickedanz said. "But we're retired, and our resources are at least better than some young couple starting out."

A letter sent to FEMA regional directors advised that the agency is lobbying Congress for a remedy, but so far, the law remains unchanged.

"The ruling hit us by surprise," FEMA spokesman David Passey said. "This program has been in existence for years."

The IRS is placing the blame on Congress.

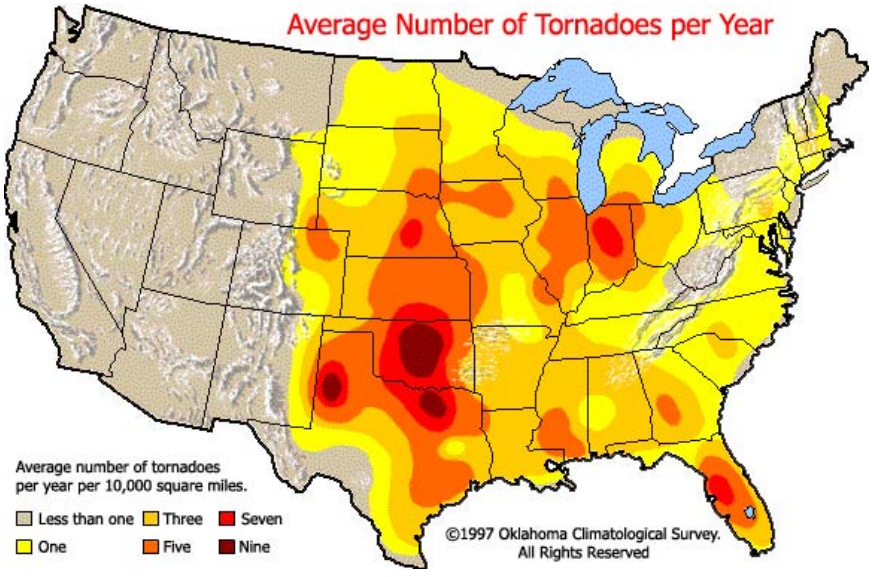
A statement authored by Robert M. Brown, IRS associate chief counsel, states that taxes also will be levied against hazard mitigation and flood relief grants.

"The combination of Congress' silence on the tax treatment of benefits received under these programs and its specific proscription on counting the value of the benefits as income for specified non-tax purposes, suggests that Congress intended the income tax treatment of such payments," Brown wrote.

Under the new ruling, grant recipients will need to file an amended tax form. Those who received money this year will receive the 1099 tax forms.

Ooten said all recipients will be notified of the IRS decision. Those affected include residents who applied for grants in Oklahoma City, Moore, Norman, Midwest City, Oklahoma County and Tulsa County.

"I would advise people to check with their tax preparer or contact the IRS," Ooten said.



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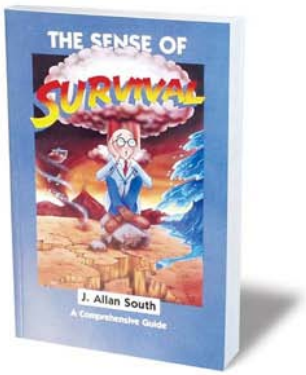

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