CENTER TO HAVE DISASTER ROLE

Control Unit Is Situated in Baton Rouge

For the first time Louisiana will have a central control unit for state agencies in time of disaster, announced Marshall T. Cappel here Tuesday.

The emergency center will be activated in the event of a hurricane or other statewide disaster, and at least 21 state and disaster agencies will have representatives in the center, which has been established in Baton Rouge.

He made the announcement at a meeting of government and disaster officials at the State Office Building.

"We could operate out of the center tomorrow if we had to," Cappel said, "but the final wiring and communications systems are being installed this week."

ONE-CALL AFFAIR

He termed the center a "one-call affair."

"Local officials will no longer be confused by which agency to call for assistance because everyone capable of helping will be centralized," he said.

The meeting was the first in a series of conferences on "Emergency Responsibilities in a Disaster" to be held in seven Louisiana cities during the next two weeks.

Conducting the sessions Tuesday were Cappel, Bill Ross, regional director of disaster services for the American National Red Cross; Verne Fisher, public health adviser, Louisiana State Board of Health; and Roy Westerfield, Dallas, Tex., regional coordinator for the Disaster services. American National Red Cross; Marshall T. Cappel, state director, Louisiana Civil Defense Agency, and Charles W. Erdmann, director of New Orleans civil defense.

MORE THAN 21 state and disaster agencies will be represented at the state emergency center, the establishment of which was announced here Tuesday. Participants in a discussion at the State Office Building were (from left) Bill Ross, regional director, Disaster services. American National Red Cross; Marshall T. Cappel, state director, Louisiana Civil Defense Agency, and Charles W. Erdmann, director of New Orleans civil defense.

BEING UPDATED

Fisher said that 18 of the 47 packaged hospitals in the state have increased their operating capacity from four to 30 days within the past year. The other 29 hospitals are being updated now.

These hospitals can be stored in a room 30 by 40 feet and include enough equipment to assemble a 200-bed hospital with facilities for three operating rooms, he said.

Panel members at Tuesday's meeting were John Tucek, director of Disaster Services, New Orleans Chapter; Charles W. Erdmann, New Orleans civil defense director; Mrs. Arlene Johnson, director of the St. Tammany Parish Department of Public Welfare; Dr. Andrew Hedmeg and Dr. E. M. Gordon, State Board of Health; and Miss Miriam Harris, director of food services for the Orleans Parish School Board.