Civil Defense Is Ready For Acadiana Emergencies

If a hurricane or some other disaster hits Acadiana during the coming year, the busiest place in the area will be the Civil Defense communications room beneath the Lafayette Parish courthouse. A visitor, allowed in on official business, will thread his way through solemn-faced and purposeful people past a switchboard to a room full of static, teletype clatter and the steady murmur of nearly a dozen radio operators all on the air at the same time.

Center of Activity

In recent years the CD headquarters has always been the center of tremendous activity, but the installation during 1972 of additional radio communications equipment means the communications room will provide radio contact to a number of other agencies throughout the state.

At an estimated cost of some $18,000, radios have been installed which will provide contact with the state Civil Defense headquarters, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the state departments of highways and public works.

Emergency Generators

The disaster readiness of the area CD centers, based in surrounding parishes, were also increased with the installation of emergency generators which will allow the centers to remain on the air and in contact with the Lafayette headquarters in the event of local power outages.

The CD communications center will remain an auxiliary net control for the state police Troop I, Lafayette Parish sheriff's office, police department, and other municipal agencies such as public works, utilities, etc. Radio units tuned to the frequencies used by these agencies are already available in the center and each will supply personnel to maintain them in the event of an emergency.

State Network - Col. Oliver Fowler, regional Civil Defense director, tunes into a state CD radio network with one of the receiver-transmitter sets installed at the Lafayette courthouse headquarters last year. The installation of some $18,000 in equipment, including antennas, will allow authorities here to contact the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, the state Department of Public Works and the Department of Highways, in addition to the statewide CD network. (Advertiser Staff Photo)
STATE NETWORK — Col. Oliver Fowler, regional Civil Defense director, tunes into a state CD radio network with one of the receiver-transmitter sets installed at the Lafayette courthouse headquarters last year. The installation of some $18,000 in equipment, including antennas, will allow authorities here to contact the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, the state Department of Public Works and the Department of Highways, in addition to the statewide CD network. (Advertiser Staff Photo)

EMERGENCY SWITCHBOARD — Mrs. Earline Breaux, a Civil Defense employee at the Lafayette Parish courthouse, makes a routine check on the emergency switchboard used to patch calls from the sheriff's department, police department, city public works, etc., to their personnel stationed in the CD communications center during hurricanes and other disasters. (Advertiser Staff Photo)

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