Lafayette Area

Civil Defense

Center On Alert

The Civil Defense center of communications in Lafayette went into operation at 12 noon today to keep constant control of an eight-parish area in case of emergencies in the wake of Hurricane Hildia.

The net control center, located at 217 W. Main, coordinates civil defense operations in the parishes of Acadia, Evangeline, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, Iberia, Vermilion and Lafayette.

John E. Broussard, Civil Defense director for the city and parish of Lafayette, said all emergency operations and personnel had been alerted to be on stand-by. These include all law enforcement agencies, the Red Cross, and auxiliary police. Rescue units for land, water or air operations are also on stand-by, he said.

When a hurricane threatens, Broussard advised the following preparedness plans:

1. Keep radio or television on and listen to the latest Weather Bureau advice. Read your local newspapers for information related to your city.

2. Before the wind or flood have automobile in operating order. Also, have a supply of drinking water, foods that require no cooking or refrigeration. Have on hand flashlight and additional clothing packed in the event evacuation is necessary.

3. Store all loose objects that are out of doors.

4. When city or parish officials or Weather Bureau advises to move from low areas, do so immediately.

During the storm:

1. Stay indoors. Listen for the latest information on the storm.

2. Don't be fooled if the "eye" passes directly over — and don't be caught in the open when the hurricane winds resume from the opposite direction.

After the storm has passed:

1. Do not drive unless necessary because of dangers of undermined pavement or broken power lines.

2. Use extreme caution to prevent fires or injury from falling objects.

3. Use telephone for emergencies only.

4. Do not start rumors.