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EC67-765 Emergency Preparedness... Communications

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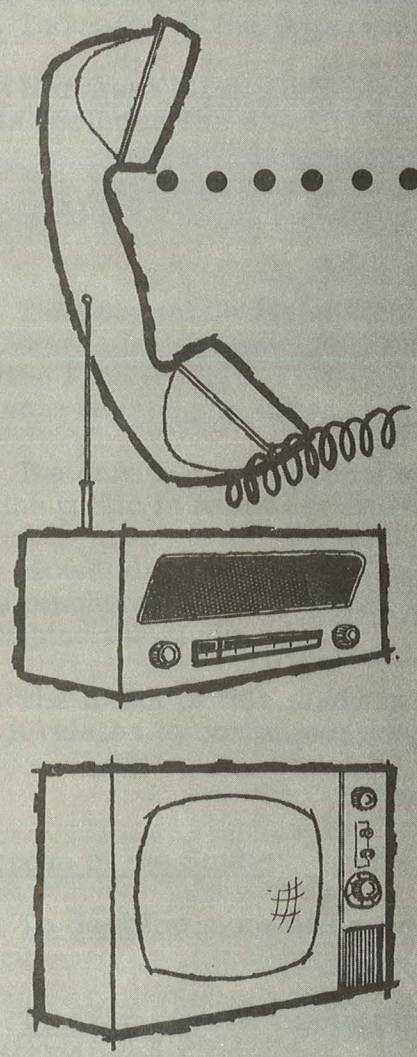
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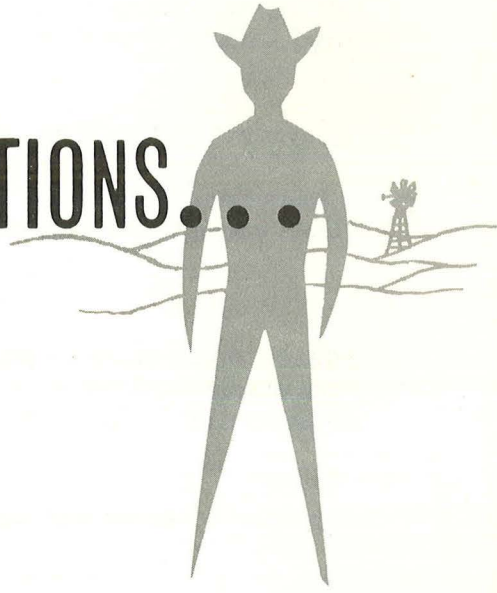
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COMMUNICATIONS



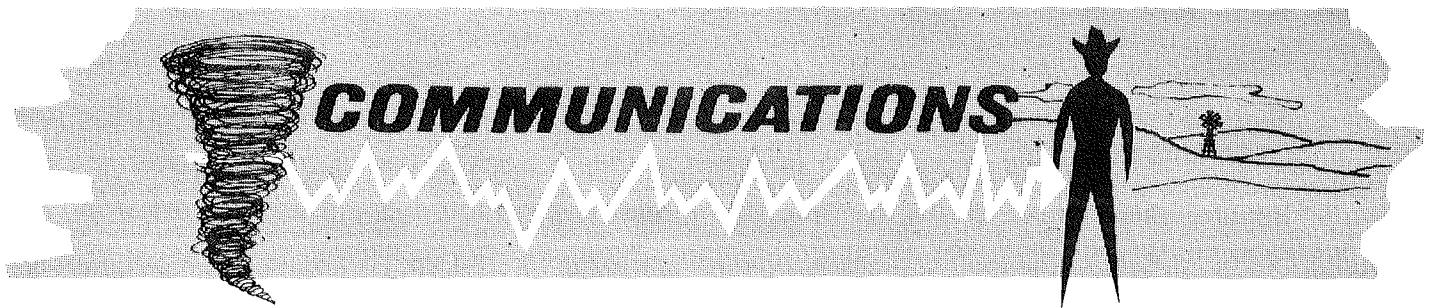
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UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS
EXTENSION SERVICE
AND U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COOPERATING
E. F. FROLIK, DEAN J. L. ADAMS, DIRECTOR



INTRODUCTION

There appears to be a lack of effective information for, and means of communication with, the general public preceding and following man-made or natural disasters.

Several studies are under way in the field of communications and transportation by the University of Nebraska College of Medicine in Omaha under the supervision of Dr. Lynn W. Thompson of the Department of Surgery.

Nebraska Civil Defense has a program outlined for the Defense Warning Network. This includes the sheriffs' network, which covers all 93 Nebraska Counties.

The Nebraska Roads Dept. is working on an Emergency Plan for "emergency call" capability for rural freeways.

The Automobile Manufacturers Assn. (AMA) has announced plans to encourage establishment of a nationwide communications network to be called Highway Emergency Locating Plan (Help). This calls for the use of Citizens Band two-way radio equipment in private passenger cars.

The general trend appears to be toward "communications"--getting the word or message to the public in natural or man-made disaster.

However, the problem of getting information to rural people, especially farmers and ranchers, when they may be out in the fields or on the range away from their homes, prompted the study.

The intent of this study is to cope with the needs of the rural population of Nebraska as it relates to communications and facilities before, during and after a disaster.

Rural Civil Defense - Special Project

Purpose of the Study:

To develop more effective means of communications with all segments in disaster work.

To examine and exploit existing means of communications through an aggressive, systematized program.

To evaluate the number of farm tractors equipped with radios.

To cope with the needs of the rural population of Nebraska in getting information to them in time of disasters.

Procedure:

Analyze recent disasters, to evaluate the cause, its extent, the degree of warning and public information.

Send questionnaire to rural people throughout the selected counties, determining the warning equipment they may have.

Hire a part-time student to mail out and tabulate returns.

Send letter with questionnaire, explaining purpose of project.

Summary.

The special project in regard to communications and emergency services has been completed and the summary of the results are as follows:

The counties selected were those that have had a large number of disasters during the past 5 years. These counties were also in "tornado alley."

Saline County was the first to receive the questionnaire. Norris Public Power District furnished the mailing lists. The District has 1140 subscribers of the 1200 farms in the county.

Madison, Antelope and York Counties, in that order, were mailed questionnaires. The county auto license directory was used for the mailing lists for these counties. This would, of course, include all urban residents who owned automobiles.

<u>County</u>	<u>County Population</u>	<u>Largest City</u>	<u>No. of Returns</u>
Saline	12,766	Crete - 4,334	460
Madison	28,345	Norfolk - 15,176	412
Antelope	9,186	Neligh - 1,766	405
York	13,943	York - 6,435	265

The following means of communications that appeared to be most common among those answering the questionnaire were:

1. TV
2. Telephone
3. Radio

It was interesting to note that a range of 7.5% to 36.6% had radios on their tractors.

From 69% to 96% of the rural population of the four counties had battery type radios in their homes.

The most common warning device appeared to be town sirens. From 64% to 72% indicated they would rely on the siren. However, only 35% to 46% indicated they could hear a siren from their homes.

If there was an accident on the farm, 79% to 85% said they would use the telephone to call for help.

If power lines and telephone lines were down due to a disaster, 23% to 55% said they would drive the car to go for help. From 14% to 23% said they would walk for help.

There appears to much more information and education needed to develop a better understanding of the Emergency Broadcast System (EBS) as to its purpose and use.

One of the weakest areas of warning is between the home and the field or ranch land. From 87% to 94% indicated they had no warning system between home and field.

QUESTIONNAIRE ON COMMUNICATIONS

1. Do you have a telephone? _____ Yes _____ No
2. Number of electric television sets in your home. _____
3. Number of portable television sets in your home. _____
4. Number of electric radios in your home. _____
5. Number of battery-powered radios in your home. _____
6. Is your tractor equipped with a radio? _____ Yes _____ No
7. Do you have a radio in your pickup? _____ Yes _____ No
8. Do you have a radio in your car? _____ Yes _____ No
9. Are car or pickup radios _____ one-way, _____ two-way?
10. Do you belong to a Citizen's Band radio club? _____ Yes _____ No
11. Does your nearest town have a warning system? _____ Yes _____ No
12. Kind of warning signal. _____ siren _____ whistle _____ other.
13. Can you hear the signal under ordinary conditions? _____ Yes _____ No
14. Do you have a warning signal between home and field?
(This can be a flag or lighting system) _____ Yes _____ No
15. How would you receive warning in case of disaster?
16. If a local warning system is in operation, who would you receive the warning from?
17. If you had an accident on your farm, how would you call for help?
18. If, after a severe storm, all telephone and power lines were down, how would you call for help? _____
19. Are you familiar with Emergency Broadcasting System in case of emergency?
_____ Yes _____ No
20. Do you have some other type of emergency communication not listed on the questionnaire? If so, please give brief description.

SPECIAL PROJECT RURAL CIVIL DEFENSE PERCENTAGES

	Saline	York	Madison	Antelope
1. Telephone Yes	87.25	96.0	94.5	95.25
Telephone No	12.75	4.0	5.5	4.75
2. Electric TV	105.0	113.8	104.2	102.0
3. Portable TV	6.6	14.0	6.0	8.0
4. Electric radios	151.6	163.7	160.2	145.0
5. Battery radios	90.2	90.1	96.0	69.0
6. Tractor radio Yes	9.8	36.6	16.75	7.5
Tractor radio No	86.4	73.0	80.0	88.5
7. Pickup radio Yes	23.4	36.6	25.25	23.25
Pickup radio No	70.0	69.3	66.25	69.5
8. Car radio Yes	80.5	90.0	85.0	81.5
Car radio No	1.85	14.0	13.0	17.0
9. Two-way	4.0	4.0	6.25	2.0
One-way	66.4	90.9	18.0	76.75
10. Citizens band Yes	2.7	2.2	3.75	1.1
Citizens band No	92.0	96.0	94.5	98.7
11. Warning system Yes	88.0	91.2	92.0	91.5
Warning system No	7.4	14.0	5.5	7.0
12. Kind of signal (Siren)	64.0	72.5	69.5	69.5
(Whistle)	26.0	18.3	23.75	21.25
(Other)	.7	.4	.7	1.0
13. Can you hear signal? Yes	46.0	36.0	43.3	35.25
Can you hear signal? No	46.0	62.3	61.5	60.0
14. Warning between home and farm Yes	9.3	7.0	6.5	4.0
Warning between home and farm No	87.4	90.4	90.5	94.0
15. In case of disaster warning (Radio)	40.2	38.1	16.75	35.75
(TV)	26.4	13.7	8.0	10.0
(Telephone)	25.0	14.0	16.0	24.25
(Siren)	6.4	5.1	6.0	20.0
(Car)	2.1	2.2	1.5	2.75
(Whistle)	1.6	4.0	----	1.0
(2-way)	1.8	----	2.75	6.5
(Personal Contact)	5.4	----	3.25	6.0
16. Rec'd warning from radio station	.9	20.5	----	8.25
Citizen's band radio	5.2	20.5	22.25	
Town warning system	21.0	16.0	21.5	22.5
Authorized personal	3.2	7.0	5.0	3.0
TV	2.7	1.8	1.5	2.5
Unknown	26.0	8.0	9.5	12.25
Telephone	6.6	5.3	10.75	7.0
17. Call for help/farm accident Telephone	79.0	85.0	79.75	84.75
Car	11.4	8.0	8.25	7.0
Walk	1.6	1.1	1.0	.75
Unknown	6.6	----	3.0	2.0
Radio	.7	3.7	6.25	.5
(Personal Contact)	7.5	.4	7.25	3.5
18. Call for help if power gone Car	53.0	55.0	23.0	45.5
Truck	2.3	----	----	2.5
Tractor	2.3	.8	4.25	7.0
Horse	2.3	----	1.1	1.1
Walk	14.0	23.4	14.5	16.5
Shortwave	4.0	4.7	6.75	2.5
Unknown	12.0	----	9.25	6.5
(Personal Contact)	9.3	23.4	10.5	8.25
19. Emergency broadcasting system Yes	18.4	60.8	90.5	30.0
No	78.4	43.6	29.5	41.5
20. Other	less than 1%	.8	.7	.5