

Where will storm hit?

State readies for Anita

United Press International
AUSTIN — Gov. Dolph Briscoe and several other state officials yesterday announced emergency plans for the event Hurricane Anita strikes the Texas Gulf Coast.

"We are ready," Briscoe said. "At this point we have no way to know which direction the storm will go, but it is going to move, or whether or not it's going to hit the coast, but all precautions possible are being taken."

Briscoe said he had suspended regulations forbidding the movement of over-sized mobile homes in the coastal area so that persons living in the homes who wanted to evacuate would not need permits. The suspension was restricted to the Gulf Coast area.

Maj. Gen. Thomas S. Bishop of the Texas National Guard said 2,400 soldiers already were on alert in south Texas with a two-hour deployment capability.

George Hill, division manager for the Red Cross, said 60 workers already were manning 25 emergency shelters from Beaumont to Corpus Christi and that 35 emergency vehicles were ready to move into the

area behind the hurricane.

Officials in the State Department of Health said it had stockpiled medical supplies in the area and was prepared to move in sanitation equipment.

The Texas Railroad Commission indicated it was prepared to move in before the storm to check oil and natural gas pipelines to decide if they should be shut down.

Officials in the Parks and Wildlife Department said it had 70 wardens on the coast who were securing equipment. They also said 50 water safety boats were ready to move in behind the storm in case of lowland flooding.

Col. Wilson S. Speir, head of the Department of Public Safety, said 500 officers already were in the coastal area and that force could be expanded to up to 1,500 officers if necessary.

State Insurance Board chairman Joe Christie said he had asked insurance companies to be fully prepared for any emergency demands from Anita.

"I have been assured that insurance companies and their representatives have been preparing for any

situation that might develop with Anita," Christie said.

"It is my expectation that claims will be handled as fast and efficiently as possible, and that hardship cases will be considered a top priority."

An insurance industry spokesman said Texas insurance industry representatives have been monitoring

Anita's storm activity and have implemented emergency procedures. The spokesman said catastrophe offices for handling claims will be established if needed and extra personnel have been contacted.

"All insurance claims will be dealt with as expeditiously and as efficiently as circumstances allow," the spokesman said.

Anita 'dear' for oil companies in Gulf

United Press International
NEW ORLEANS — Each day Hurricane Anita lingers in the Gulf of Mexico, the nation's supply of natural gas is reduced by more than 2.5 billion cubic feet, and crude oil production is cut better than nine million gallons.

The petroleum cutbacks are the result of oil companies being forced to evacuate 7,000 workers from offshore drilling platforms in the Gulf.

the temporary loss of gas and oil production.

Before the drilling platforms were evacuated, workers completed "shut in" operations which halted the flow of natural gas and crude oil. Wells were closed to prevent pollution that could occur if the platform were damaged.

Several oil companies refused to reveal their production figures, but officials of four firms said they lost a combined daily total of 2.5 billion cubic feet of gas and 215,000 barrels of oil.

A barrel of oil contains 42 gallons of crude so the amount of petroleum being halted by just those four companies was 2.5 billion cubic feet of gas and nine million gallons of oil.

"But this isn't really 'lost' production," Toal said. "This is really deferred production. We're going to get the (oil and gas) back sometime during the life of the field."

Dave Tayrien of Amoco Production Co. said costs of the evacuation were high, but predictable.

"This is something you have to expect this time of year," he said. "This is part of the cost of doing business in the Gulf of Mexico."

Galveston business prepares for Anita

United Press International
GALVESTON — Veterans of other hurricanes took a few preliminary precautions yesterday, but otherwise played a waiting game as Anita, destination unknown, coiled for punch in the Gulf of Mexico.

Road closings, orders to evacuate low-lying areas and other harbingers of possible trouble affected restaurant and hotel business in this tourist town, but not always negatively.

"People who aren't natives are becoming alarmed, and they are leaving town," said Benno Deltz, manager of Gaido's Restaurant on the beachfront. "It's not alarming (to the natives)."

"It has helped our business. We'll keep on cooking. We're still kind of sitting and watching. We're fully prepared to go into boarding up procedures but right now we're as usual. . . just watching the coordinates."

Bob Cowan, resident manager of the 25-story Flagship Hotel, a seven-story concrete and glass structure perched on piers over the Gulf of Mexico, agreed. But, he said, he has experienced some cancellations.

In one two-hour span yesterday, Cowan said he had 20 of 200 rooms canceled, cutting into what was a fully booked Labor Day weekend.

"They (hurricanes) don't bother me too much unless they're like Carla," said Cowan. "That was 150-200 mile-an-hour winds (in 1961). This little one won't bother me."

"The thing that bothers the locals is the tornadoes (accompanying the hurricane). Winds we can stand, but there's nothing you can do about the tornadoes."

Cowan and his staff took preliminary precautions.

"We took down the equipment like the wooden chairs at the pool, garbage cans and such," Cowan said. "Anything that isn't tied down we have to put it up so it won't become flying missiles."

"We've got a lot of glass, but it's quarter-inch glass and it would take stronger winds than anticipated to break it."

"Unless it sits out there and builds up to 150-mile-an-hour winds," Cowan said he planned to ride it out. In the event of 150-mile

winds, "then I'll probably go to Houston (45 miles to the north)."

At the old Hotel Galvez, a giant frame 1920s hotel that has weathered many a storm, manager Charles Maurins was calm.

"We have made just preliminary preparations for a small storm, taping windows, securing flying objects, getting furniture off the ground and securing, eventually, leaks. That's about all," Maurins said.

"We have had several storms and this is one of the safest places in town. I have been through several hurricanes — the last big one — and never failed for one minute to do my job and I hope I will be doing that exactly also through this little storm."

'Hurricane parties' expected

(Continued from Page 1)

though, I'll just board up by shop (surfing equipment rental) and go home. I've got a pretty good home."

The National Weather Service has recommended evacuation of low-lying areas along the coast, but no wholesale move inland has begun.

Mike Yuras, salesman in a sporting goods store in Corpus Christi, said people were stockpiling gasoline and buying camp stoves, flashlights, lanterns, and batteries.

"After the storm hits, the electricity is always off for three or four days," he said. "The lumber companies are going crazy with business."

"About 80 per cent of the people here have been through one or two hurricanes. The people who haven't been through one are the ones that are panicking. They're calling everybody. Their fear is the fear of not knowing what to do."

"What they need to do is protect their investment and then get out of here."

Yuras said there is some evidence of hurricane parties and surfing in the high tides.

"That sort of thing always goes on, no doubt," he said. "Hurricane parties. Those people are fools, gambling with their lives. I think it's kind of sick."

L.C. Oldham, operator of a surf-

ing shop on the beach at Galveston, said many people are driving along the sea wall — which was built because of the devastating turn of the century hurricane with killed 6,000 to 8,000 — watching the waves.

"I'm not renting any surfboards, but just because I won't," he said. "These kind of waves, they just tear them to pieces."

"A lot of people are afraid of Galveston Island and they always have been since 1900. Me, I'm not looking for it to hit here. I'm looking for it to go south. But if it turns this way, I'll just board up and go home. I'm on high ground."

Yarbrough misses civil hearing

United Press International
HOUSTON — Former State Supreme Court Justice Donald B. Yarbrough failed to show up in court yesterday for trial in a civil suit alleging he failed to pay about \$190 to a personnel agency.

County Court-at-Law Judge Hugo Touchy, after a three minute trial, found that Yarbrough owed the money to Lyman Personnel Services, Inc. He ordered Yarbrough to pay the money plus \$75 in attorneys' fees. Yarbrough had denied owing the money.

Canteens opened

United Press International
DALLAS — Salvation Army canteen emergency centers were opened in nine cities yesterday to accommodate any evacuees of Hurricane Anita.

Maj. Raymond Cooper, state disaster director for the Texas branch of the religious organization, said facilities in Port Arthur, Orange, Beaumont, Galveston, Houston, Freeport, Corpus Christi, McAllen

and Harlingen would remain open "for as long as the emergency lasts."

Cooper said the Army's command center would be located at Corpus Christi.

Anita, which became a hurricane only Tuesday, was moving slowly westward toward the Texas coast yesterday at about 5 miles per hour. It was located about 350 miles southeast of Corpus Christi.

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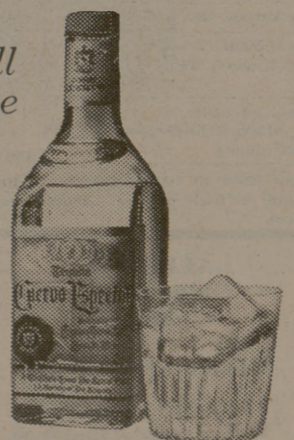


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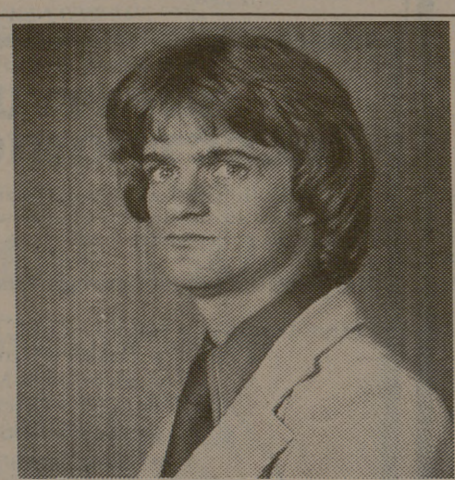
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Charles Thomas & Associates.
520 E. University Drive
College Station, Texas 77840
Telephone: (713) 846-7714

