

Tornado safety outlined in health report

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Residents of Wichita Falls had such a long warning before a powerful tornado struck in April that many fled to their cars to outrun the storm. It was a dreadful mistake.

Of the 26 people killed and 30 injured by the storm while they were in vehicles, 77 percent had left the relative safety of buildings when they discovered the storm was approaching.

The homes left by 20 of these victims, including eight who died, suffered little or no damage.

A team of health investigators, reporting in the magazine Science, concluded that people in motor vehicles had a ten-fold greater risk of severe injury than those at home.

The researchers were on the scene shortly after the tornado struck, examining the causes of death and assessing the effectiveness of current safety warnings. The twister devastated an 11-square mile area, killing 47 people, injuring hundreds and destroying or severely damaging 3,000 homes.

Only five deaths occurred among 10,863 people who stayed indoors in the area affected by the tornado.

"Apartments and single family homes were the safest places to be when the tornado struck, and the risk of being killed in either location was only one per thousand," the report said.

"Other public buildings (for example, restaurants, churches, shops) were less safe. If the 1,768 people in their cars had sought shelter in single-family homes, we can estimate that they would have suffered roughly 80 percent and 90 percent fewer fatal injuries."

Other findings:
— Brick houses were safer than frame. Thirty-five percent of all brick houses and 50 percent of frame houses suffered major irreparable damage.

— People over 60 were injured seven times more frequently than those under 20. Above age 40, women were at greater risk than men.

— Lacerations, abrasions and bone fractures were the most commonly noted injuries.




























— 96 percent of all people surveyed felt they had been adequately warned. Sirens started sounding one hour before the tornado struck.

— 56 percent of people who were in single-family homes took shelter in an interior closet, bathroom or hallway while 24 percent waited the storm out in a basement or storm cellar.

In summary, the report said current recommendations that people at home should seek shelter in an interior location proved to be sound.

"People in motor vehicles, whether they be in the country or the city, should seek shelter immediately upon hearing a tornado warning and should not attempt to drive from the tornado's path.

"People in single-family homes in a tornado-prone area should identify and reinforce some interior portion of their home as a shelter. Mobile home parks should provide community shelters for their residents, and public buildings should designate shelter areas that are clearly identified."

WE GIVE  **WE GIVE**  **WE GIVE**  **WE GIVE**  **WE GIVE**  **WE GIVE**  **WE GIVE**  **WE GIVE**  **WE GIVE**  **WE GIVE**  **WE GIVE**  **WE GIVE**  **WE GIVE**  **WE GIVE**  **WE GIVE**  **WE GIVE**  **WE GIVE**  **WE GIVE**  **WE GIVE**  **WE GIVE**  **WE GIVE**  **WE GIVE**  **WE GIVE**  **WE GIVE**  **WE GIVE**  **WE GIVE**  **WE GIVE** 

Video cassette recorder sales in the United States totaled 402,000 units in 1978 and 475,000 units in 1979, according to industry figures. Analysts expect they will reach 600,000 to 650,000 units this year.

Last year, Sony accounted for about 30 percent of the American market. RCA Corp., which sells a competing system manufactured by Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. of Japan, accounts for roughly 35 percent.

Sony and Matsushita are the two major manufacturers of video cassette recorders — Betamax and VHS (video home system).

There are three types of home video systems — an optical system of Philips, a stylus method of RCA Corp. and the VHD (video high density) system of Victor Co. of Japan, which will be used by Matsushita. The three systems are incompatible.

Ohki said the problem with the video system is that you have to develop both hardware and software at the same time for introduction into the market. Sony believes the system is suitable for educational and institutional use but not for consumer entertainment.

On the other hand, he said, it has the merits as random access and the capacity for storing an enormous amount of information.

With video cassette recorders, you can use tapes time and time again just by erasing the previous recording and can record your favorite TV programs even if you are not at home by presetting the device.

The high price of the video cassette recorder is considered the biggest obstacle at present to a major market penetration. It runs \$1,200 to \$1,500 in the United States.

As for video-disc sales, Magnavox market-testing the optical video players in three American cities — Seattle, Atlanta and Dallas.

Magnavox has never released sales figures on the units, and an industry source said "everybody's guessing." Estimates range from a conservative 100,000 units by the Japanese to 100,000 units by a U.S. industry spokesman.

NEW YORK — Chase Manhattan Bank, the nation's third largest, yesterday announced a half-point leap in its prime lending rate to a record 17 percent, the first bank to pierce the 17 percent plateau.

Although the key interest rate charged on loans to a bank's most creditworthy customers has been extended to increase shortly above the 16 1/2 percent reached Friday, Chase's move was an immediate reaction to reported credit tightening by the Federal Reserve.

Chase said it was leading the way in the latest prime rate hike because demand for loans remains very strong and because of the general rise in market interest rates.

Big borrowers are most directly affected by prime rate hikes, but Chase also serves as a barometer for all interest rates, consumers will pay more for loans — if they find them — as a result of the increase.

WASHINGTON — Mitsuru Ohki, a spokesman for Sony Corp. of America, told UPI in a news conference that the company will not enter the consumer video-disc market until a unified video-disc standard is established and software development is complete.

However, he said, the firm has plans to manufacture a video-disc for institutional purposes, not for the general consumer.

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| \$ 50 | 150 | 150 | 300 | \$15,000 | 1 in 20,000 | 1 in 1,538 | 1 in 719 |
| \$ 20 | 225 | 125 | 350 | \$7,000 | 1 in 17,142 | 1 in 1,318 | 1 in 659 |
| \$ 5 | 500 | 500 | 1,000 | \$2,000 | 1 in 12,000 | 1 in 923 | 1 in 461 |
| \$ 2 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 2,000 | \$2,000 | 1 in 6,000 | 1 in 461 | 1 in 230 |
| \$ 1 | 58,500 | 58,500 | 117,000 | \$117,000 | 1 in 102 | 1 in 7.8 | 1 in 3.9 |
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