

Water Bertha

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from the water is separated and reused.

"It (the system) takes oil out, the oil is thickened in the separator and is burned again," Esmond said.

The sand removed from the recycled water is used at a land farm to treat contaminated soil.

Dr. Christopher Mathewson, a professor of geology, said there are two reasons to recycle water.

Conservation is one obvious reason, but the removal of contaminants — such as oil — is equally important.

Mathewson said there is little controversy over the amount of water used at the training center because the realistic training helps save human lives.

"The operation is a good way of solving environmental problems and meeting society's needs," Mathewson said.

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those islands, but were canceled for the U.S. and British Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

Two surfers who challenged Bertha head-on were her first apparent victims. Lilton Jones, 35, of New York City drowned off Puerto Rico, and a second, unidentified surfer died in the U.S. Virgin Islands, Gov. Roy L. Schneider said.

Authorities also blamed the hurricane for two traffic deaths on Puerto Rico, in which a car ran off a rain-slick road and hit a tree.

Despite an intense search with ships and aircraft, the Coast Guard was unable to locate a ship that amateur radio operators reported adrift in the hurricane. While the Coast Guard was unable to contact the ship directly, radio operators said they picked up reports that half of the 42 people on board were missing in the storm.

At 11 p.m. EDT Monday, Bertha was 100 miles north of San Juan, Puerto Rico, still packing 90 mph winds.

Forecasters gave Bertha no more than a 30 percent chance

of hitting Florida, but the U.S. Hurricane Center in Miami told southeastern coastal cities to keep an eye on the storm.

Although Bertha isn't the strong hurricane, its size makes it formidable, hurricane center director Jerry Jarrell in Miami said.

"This is a huge storm — it's more like Hugo in '89 or Gilbert in '88," Jarrell said. "It's one of those great big ones that in a lot of ways it does more damage than an Andrew, because it spreads thinner damage over a much bigger area."

Evidence of that was all around St. Thomas.

A blue tarpaulin shot through the air in downtown Charlotte Amalie, followed by two pieces of lumber, as Bertha turned someone's temporary roof into lethal projectiles.

"At 90 miles an hour, a person is turned into a leaf" by hurricane winds, said forecaster Matt Bragaw.

An iguana clung desperately to a rocking Flamboyant tree branch on Blackbeard's Hill in Charlotte Amalie, the main city on St. Thomas.

On St. Croix, rising winds whipped up garbage cans and tree branches, whirling trash into the streets.

Clinton offers computer system to track gun sales to youth

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton pledged today to go after the "single shadowy supplier" in each neighborhood who illegally puts guns into teen-agers' hands, announcing a 17-city program to trace weapons by computer.

The president met in the White House's East Room with law enforcement officials from 17 cities who will provide information on guns confiscated from juveniles so they can be traced to the seller.

"We have to give the future back to all of our children," Clinton said. "We cannot ... keep allowing our young people to die before their dreams ever have a chance to take shape."

Republican Bob Dole's presidential campaign said today's announcement is a rehash of a Clinton administration proposal from November 1993 and accused Clinton of staging the event as a campaign ploy.

And a spokeswoman for Sen. John Ashcroft, R-Mo., who sponsored juvenile crime legislation, said Clinton's proposal does not adequately address prosecuting juveniles who commit gun crimes. "It's sort of looking at one side of the coin," spokeswoman Doreen Denny said.

Under Clinton's plan, information on confiscated weapons will be entered into the federal computer system run by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and traced back to the original seller

through documents and serial numbers.

Gun traffickers will then be prosecuted, Clinton said. "We owe that much to fine families like the Cherys," he said, referring to Joseph and Tina Chery of Boston.

Their 15-year-old son, Louis Brown, was killed by a stray bullet in December 1993 while on his way to a Christmas party sponsored by a local anti-gang group.

"Louis dreamed of becoming the first president of the United States," Chery said. "Were he alive today, Louis would be very proud of the current residents of the White House."

Clinton said the number of teen-agers committing crimes without guns has not changed since the 1970s, but the number of homicides committed by teens with guns has tripled.

"We know gangs often buy in bulk from a single shadowy supplier," Clinton said. "We need a national campaign to cut off the flow."

The cities involved in the program were selected in part to have participation from cities of various sizes and from various regions. They are: Atlanta, Baltimore, Birmingham, Ala., Boston, Bridgeport, Conn., Cleveland, Inglewood, Calif., Jersey City, N.J., Memphis, Milwaukee, New York, Richmond, Va., St. Louis, Salinas, Calif., San Antonio, San Diego and Washington, D.C.

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