

MEETING HELD AT RED CROSS HEADQUARTERS SATURDAY, MAY 29, 1948

Attended by: Representatives of Housing Authority, County Commissioner, County Sheriff, State Coordinator for Disasters, Red Cross Disaster Committee, Chapter Manager, Chapter Chairman.

RESPONSIBILITY OF HOUSING AUTHORITY IN DISASTER DISCUSSED:

Housing of evacuees:

The housing authority cannot take care of all tenants of Vanport if there is need to evacuate them. There are some units in University Homes, small number; a few in Guilds Lake - approximately 400 units. In all the authorities could house from 1000 to 15000.

TRANSPORTATION:

Housing Authority representative stated that Traction Company had been called regarding arrangements for transportation. A great number of buses could be available in 15 minutes after notice. Would load buses off Columbia Blvd. If water comes in slowly the pumping facilities would take care of a lot of the water. If a great rush of water enters, pumps would be of no use.

Responsibility for transporting evacuees out of Vanport lies with the County and Housing authority. Only mass transportation would be buses. Suggested that all private cars leaving be fully loaded. People without cars would walk to loading places. Three lanes of highway could be used for traffic away from Vanport, to be directed by county police. One lane going in.

At request of County, Red Cross would assist on request with evacuation, by supplementing normal facilities.

The responsibility of mass transportation lies with county agencies, it was stated. Basic responsibility of housing authority - to warn the people. The Housing Authority has no reserve funds; no access to federal funds, their representative stated. There would be between 20,000 to 22,000 people to move from Vanport.

HOUSING: -- RED CROSS RESPONSIBILITY

Mr. Oliver, of the Red Cross disaster committee stated that school gymnasiums, city auditorium, armory would be available for emergency shelters. Approximately 4000 - 5000 could be handled this way.

If the Governor declares an emergency, the personnel of the National Guard would be available.

Mr. Jack Hays, state coordinator for disaster, stated that the county would give use of all buildings. Armories in adjacent counties could be used. Mr. Hays will submit a copy of all facilities available in the county and vicinity.

It was decided that approximately 7500 could be given emergency housing in Multnomah County.

It was suggested that the Housing Authorities set up a registration of all people moved from Vanport if the emergency arises. All people to be registered at shelters. After further discussion it was concluded that the potential load of 10,000 people could be housed in Multnomah County.

Mr. Hays will check with state schools on available shelters. Red Cross to be responsible for maintenance and operation of state buildings used for emergency shelters.

The Chapter has about 5000-6000 blankets on hand and approximately 2000 cots. Possibility of getting some from War Assets in Seattle; Mr. Hays will check on supplies available in state military camps.

POLICE PROTECTION:

Police protection responsibility of Sheriff. If people are moved to city, city police responsible.

MEDICAL AID:

Medical aid responsibility of county. Red Cross renders assistance on request such as recruiting nurses, doctors, etc. when county authorities needs go beyond their means.

Dr. Weinzirl stated that all hospitals are full. The following items to be taken up by county health office were suggested by Dr. Weinzirl.

1. Check communicable disease in disaster area
2. Check load of other types of illness.
3. Consider how emergency injuries will be handled that might occur in process of evacuating.

Mr. Berentson stated that lay personnel could be recruited for first aid stations.

Dr. Weinzirl stated that supply houses to be checked for medical supplies.

DISCUSSION REGARDING EVACUATION:

Coast Guard boats available. Other boats available.

Temporary evacuation possibility until after threat passed suggested. Dr. Weinzirl asked possibility of evacuating disabled veterans and sick people now or before others. Discussed bulletin re temporary evacuation. The representative from housing authority said a bulletin could be sent to all tenants asking them to try to find places to stay until after any danger or threat had passed. It would be sent out with the understanding that it was a precautionary measure, and not sent out to alarm people. Housing authority asked for volunteers to help register evacuees. Red Cross can help with staff aides, Mr. Berentson stated, on request to carry on registration of those being evacuated or any tenants who leave the area for other locations.

Meeting of the group to be held Monday at 10:00 a.m.